

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2021

Number 12



Next Meeting:

Monday night, December 13th, meeting is indoors in main cafeteria (Café I) at William Penn High School, 713 E. Basin Rd (Rt 141), New Castle, DE 19720 Meeting starts at 7pm sharp!

Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of every month, beginning 7:30PM at William Penn High School - Main Cafeteria
713 E. Basin Road (Rt. 141 South)
New Castle, DE 19720

Please note: Alternate meeting area is 2nd cafeteria on left side of building by 2nd set of doors, or from the front entrance, turn left and go down the hall and follow around to an intersection of the halls. The 2nd cafeteria will be on the right corner.

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Gravel Gossip is the official publication of the Diamond State Aquarium Society, of the state of Delaware. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to the education and advancement of the tropical, marine, and aquatic hobby. The information contained in the articles appearing in this publication should not be construed as 100% factual. It may, however, be accepted as information that has been proven successful for the authors.

Notice

Items to be published in the Gravel Gossip **MUST** be received by the editor two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date.

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Junior (under 18)—\$10/Year
Adult—\$15/ Year
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\$100/Year
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Quarter Page
\$30/Year
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PLEASE NOTE

**Donations & Correspondence
should be sent to:**

Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc
c/o Marty Ziegler
13 Saratoga Drive
New Castle, DE 19720-4224

Newsletter Exchanges
should be sent to the above address.

The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

Hi all!

Hope all are well. Our first indoor meeting at William Penn High School main cafeteria was well attended. Our annual election was held at this meeting. Julie got the last of the orders for the new DSAS shirts and will place the order later this week. Had a great auction. Plenty of free refreshments were had by all.

We are finally back at our regular meeting location at William Penn High School, main cafeteria (Café I). Newly elected officers for 2022 are Omar Reyes for President, Mike Trzonkowski for VP, Marty Ziegler for Treasurer, and Dolly Ziegler for Secretary. There will be free refreshments, along with door prizes, a raffle and a live fish and plants auction. Doors open at 6:30pm and the meeting will start at 7pm sharp!! So make sure to mark your calendar for Monday night, December 13th.

The December meeting will be our Christmas Holiday meeting with plenty of food to eat. Members are asked to bring either an appetizer, side dish or dessert. The Club will provide fried chicken, roast beef, meatballs and rolls, along with beverages. Requests from the members included bean casserole, mac & cheese, and mashed potatoes. Please email if you plan on attending and how many in your party, and email Dolly at dollyz51@verizon.net on what you are planning to bring.

Colonial School District has strict rules for access to the building for security reasons. Unless someone is at the door, doors will be locked at all times. So if you arrive and doors are locked, please knock on the door hard or call my cellphone 302-363-6902. Facemasks may be required, so please bring one just in case as the covid protocol at the high school can change.

Be sure to visit us on Facebook and on our new website, <http://dsas.online> or <http://dsas.club>. The site is updated monthly with any presentations scheduled for future meetings. Please check our website for any updates.

See you all at our next meeting on Monday night, December 13th, 7pm sharp, at the William Penn High School main cafeteria (Café I).

Marty Z

CP: 302-363-6902

Email: reefzig@verizon.net

Please continue to check our website for future updates and meetings.

Memberships

Due

2022 memberships are due now!

We are now on a calendar year renewal

Welcome new Members!

**Richard Lloyd
Jim Harkin**

Future Meeting Dates For 2021/22 indoors at William Penn High School:

Dec 13, 2021

Jan 10, 2022

Feb 14

Mar 14

Apr 11

May 9

Jun 18*

•- tentative date for outdoor meeting at Iron Hill Park

Note: All past articles are available from our archives. They are posted on our web site. If you want a copy please email the editor at: martyz50@verizon.net or write to DSAS at our address or see a Board member at a meeting.

***Please email if you plan on attending by contacting Marty at:
302-363-6902 or reefzig@verizon.net***

Door Prizes

Raffle Prizes

DSAS T-shirt L – Marilyn K
Aquarium T-shirt XL – Marilyn K
Marineland Blue LED Bubble Wand – Jim H
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Dave K
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 2.89 oz – Dave K
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Topfin Large Cichid Pellets 5.6 oz – Jim O
Cobalt Aq Ultra Col Prem Flk 1.2oz – Brian W
Instant Ocean Marine Stabilizer 8.45 oz – Marty Z
Instant Ocean Reef Accelerator 8.45 oz – Jim H
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TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Omar R
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Donna G

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Alternate Future Meeting Location (TBD)

**Peniel United Methodist Church
115 East Market Street
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**Just off the I-95 exit to Rt 141 Newport,
Stay to right, 1st exit on Rt141, at bottom of ramp at
traffic light, go straight, church is on right, turn right
into parking lot.**

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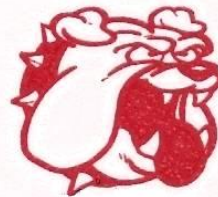
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Please remember to include DSAS's ID#

*The Club ID # can be obtained from Marty, or Bob

IT'S AS EASY AS A B C . . .

AQUARIUM BASIC CONCEPTS . . .

Article in the *ABC Series*

By Ed Keene, DCAS

Part #27 in This Series

By Ed Keene, DCAS

Why Quarantine?

Have you ever heard of anyone who had a very well established show aquarium with beautiful, happy, and healthy fish? Well one day they decided to go acquire another fish to add to their aquarium. They brought it home and after having gone through the new fish acclimation process, added it to their aquarium. Within a week several fish had died and several others were looking pretty bad. Turns out a disease was running wild in the aquarium and it all originated from the newly acquired fish. This scenario happens often, more especially with beginning hobbyists. This problem can be prevented and one of the best ways is by the use of a quarantine aquarium.

One of the main purposes of the quarantine aquarium is to hold newly purchased or otherwise acquired fish in an aquarium for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. Keeping a fish separated from any future aquarium mates allows for easy disease detection and other observation. Many times an infected fish will not show any signs of the disease for 10 to 14 days. By keeping a fish in a quarantine aquarium you allow for the disease to proceed through its cycle and finally show itself. If during the quarantine period, the fish should show signs of parasites or other disease, you can medicate it with absolutely no risk of impacting the fish in your show aquarium. It is also very cost effective to medically treat a small quarantine aquarium rather than a much larger aquarium.

The size of your quarantine aquarium will be based upon the size of fish you are going to acquire. For the average sized fish, say up to 4 or 5 inches, a 10 gallon aquarium will serve the purpose well. The quarantine aquarium does not have to have the best and the fanciest equipment on it. In fact, quite the opposite is the suggested way to go and the preferred way of the more experienced hobbyist.

Keep it simple! The standard equipment for the quarantine aquarium is the aquarium with a cover of some type, a heater, a low tech filter without carbon, a light, and a decoration of some type. The decoration, which does not have to be anything fancy, is simply to give the fish a feeling of security, knowing that it has something to hide behind or inside of. A piece or two of plastic PVC pipe will work just fine. This is all you need. It is basically a bare aquarium - no gravel, no plants, no nothing -other than what I previously mentioned. Keep in mind the quarantine aquarium is established to aid in the cure of any fish which might be infected with some type of disease. It is not one which is being entered into the world's greatest looking aquarium contest.

Most any type of filter is adequate provided carbon or charcoal is not used. Remember, carbon adsorbs chemicals in the water, i.e. medication. If you end up medically treating the quarantine aquarium, the carbon will defeat your attempts. Power filters, corner box filters, even canister filters can be used. Just remember - no carbon. Because several of the aforementioned types of filters are expensive and not really being used to their full potential, many hobbyists turn to sponge filters for quarantine aquarium use. The sponges are inexpensive and will provide good bacterial filtration. The sponge filter can be operated with an air pump or with a power head attached to it.

If medical treatment of your fish is necessary, you should allow for another 2 to 3 week period of quarantine after your last treatment. This will assure that a subsequent disease cycle is not in progress. Once this period has been completed, you can begin the acclimation process of moving your fish to your show aquarium.

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In conclusion

If you have the space available for a quarantine aquarium, it would be a wise decision on your part to have one and put all future fish acquisitions through the quarantine process. Of course on the other hand, if you reject the idea of a quarantine aquarium and a disease completely terminates the life of all your prize fish, you have the dubious distinction of being able to go out and spend lots of money to purchase all brand new fish! The choice is yours.

DSAS Monthly Board Meetings

DSAS monthly board meeting scheduled for Sunday, ***December 19th, 2021***, at **7pm**, in-person at my house or via video conferencing through ***Google Meet***. Invitations will be sent via email a day or two prior to the meeting. Please respond whether or not you are able to attend in-person or via Google Meet.

All DSAS board members are requested to attend and confirm if they are able to attend.

Other members are welcome to attend.

These monthly board meetings will normally be scheduled on the Sunday one week after the general monthly meetings each month, including the summer months, except during a holiday. The meetings will be used to discuss future club activities, scheduling of speakers, field trips, and planning for the annual auction.

Directions: (for in-person board meetings) 13 Saratoga Dr, Penn Acres South/Pennwood, New Castle, DE 19720

Same side of Basin Road (Rt 141) as WP High School, shared development entrance with Penn Mart Shopping Center (Big Lots, Save-a-Lot, Rainbow stores, PNC Bank).