

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2022

Number 2



Next Meeting:

Monday night, 7pm, February 14th, 2022

Julie MacRae presents:

“Reef Life of the Caribbean - Belize”

William Penn High School

Main Cafeteria

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.

Membership Fees

Junior (under 18)—\$10/Year
Adult—\$15/ Year
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PLEASE NOTE

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The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

Hi all!

For our February 14th meeting, we will have Julie MacRae do a presentation on “*Reef Life of the Caribbean - Belize*”. Julie is a scuba diver who has traveled to various locations around the world to photograph sea life. This is just one chapter of her collection. Her presentation will begin around 7:30pm.

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, February 14th, 7pm sharp** (doors open at 6:30pm), 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.

Upcoming Speakers:

March 14th – Joel Antkowiak presents “Intro to Rainbows & Blue-Eyes”

April 11th – Mike Trzonkowski presents “Aquarium Beautiful”

May 9th – David Kraak presents “Live Foods for your Fish, Part 1: Worms”

Memberships Due

Harry B.	Victor S.
Eric K.	Tom L.
Joe K.	Charlie W.
Jeff M.	Dennis W.
Phil S.	Dio C.
Bill S.	Dennis D.
Alexa F.	Darius H.
Bill K.	Greg H.

Welcome new Members!

Jeffrey Woessner

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

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.

Joel Antkowiak

East Earl, PA

e-mail: mrkillie@comcast.net

Phone: 845-406-1917

Bio

Born on the Southside of Pittsburgh in 1962, Joel's first brush with the organized [hobby](#) came in 1976 when he found an ad for the American Killifish Association in an old aquarium hobby magazine. Having always appreciated the beauty of these fishes from the color plates in the old "Innes book", and not seeing them in local stores, he joined in order to acquire some. A few years later Joel found the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, where he was a member for a few years before graduating from the University of Pittsburgh and moving out of the area. Joel is now living in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania where he is an active member of the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County. Joel has earned many of the club's annual awards, and was the FAAS Author of the Year for 2012. Joel has been awarded the club's annual "CARES Member of the Year" award for each year from 2011 thru 2016, and in 2019. Joel was recently honoured with lifetime membership in the ACLC for completing the highest level of the club's Writer's and Artist's Award Program. Joel has maintained anywhere from a few to about 60 tanks at any one time throughout his adult life and has kept many different species of fish. He is often amazed at how some species were once very common and now seem to be non-existent despite their attractiveness and ease of care and husbandry, seemingly pushed out of the hobby by the "next great thing." Joel has most recently been added to the official CARES speaker list and is honoured to be able to work with some of the greats in the hobby in this capacity.

Program for March 14th Meeting

Introduction to Rainbows and Blue-Eyes

This program introduces the audience to the care and breeding of the various species of rainbowfishes and the blue eyes of the genus *Pseudomugil*. I share some of my experiences with these fishes.

Door Prizes

Raffle Prizes

DSAS T-shirt L – Dave M.
Omega One T-shirt XL – Omar R
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Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Joe S
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 2.89 oz – Jim H
Marineland Color-Enh Trop Flk 3.35 oz – Dave M
API Bottom Feeder Shrimp Pellets 4 oz – Liz A
Topfin Small Cichid Pellets 8.8 oz – Jim H
Cobalt Aq Ultra Col Prem Flk 1.2oz – Omar R
Instant Ocean Marine Stabilizer 8.45 oz – Jim H
Topfin Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk 2.1 oz – Jim H
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Dave M
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Liz A
Cobalt Aquatics Marine Ultra Pell Prob 2.3 oz – Liz A

Members Only

Starting with our February 14th, 2022,
meeting for all “paid-up” members only!

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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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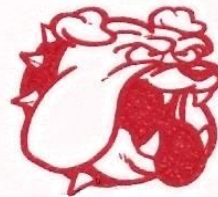
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Please remember to include DSAS's ID#

*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.

Continued page 11

Continued from page 10

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, *February 20th, 2022*, 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

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