

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2022

Number 4



Next Meeting:

Monday night, 7pm, April 11, 2022

Mike Trzonkowski presents:

“Aquarium Beautiful”

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
Family—\$20/Year

PLEASE NOTE

**Donations & Correspondence
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Quarter Page
\$30/Year
\$4/Month

The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

Hi all!

For our April 11th meeting, we will have Mike Trzonkowski do a presentation on “*Aquarium Beautiful*”. It will cover natural, modern, and setups in-between. Mike has been involved in the aquarium fish hobby for over 61 years and has many years of experience in the field. His 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, April 11th, 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:

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

Memberships Due

Victor S.	Tom L.
Eric K.	
Bill K.	
Dennis W.	Greg H.
Phil S.	Dio C.
Dennis D.	Alexa F.
Darius H.	

Welcome new Members!

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

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.

Mike Trzonkowski

Newark, DE

e-mail: miketriz@comcast.net

Phone: 302-738-0425

Bio

Mike Trzonkowski is retired Chemical A.C.A. of 37 years. I have been keeping fish for over 64 years. I joined the Diamond State Aquarium Society in 1964. During the 70's and 80's I was the President or VP . I had to drop out as a officer when I opened up Delaware Aquatic Imports in 1984 and the largest aquarium (Newark Tropicals) in 1996. I am now fully out of the business and just maintain 100 aquariums for fish breeding. I have bred over 150 varieties of fish over the years. I now breed mostly long fin plecos , dwarf cichlids , killies , rainbows and long fin White Clouds. I am now VP of our club and an active member of all our nearby aquarium clubs.

Program for April 11th Meeting

“Aquarium Beautiful”

It will cover natural, modern, and setups in-between

Door Prizes

Raffle Prizes

PetKare \$20 Gift Certificate – Joe S
DSAS blue t-shirt L – Domino
Marineland T-shirt – XL – Omar
Marineland Blue LED Bubble Wand – Tyler
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Joe K
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 2.89 oz – Joe S
Marineland Color-Enh Trop Flk 3.35 oz – Khumar S
Topfin Large Cichid Pellets 5.6 oz – Doninic
Instant Ocean Marine Stabilizer 8.45 oz – Marty Z
Topfin Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk 2.1 oz – Beth H
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Raymond
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Omar
SFBB Freeze-Dried Bloodworms - Tim

Members Only

API PimaFix 4 oz – Al H
OSI Cichlid Flake – Marilyn K
Marineland Col-Enh Trop Flk – Joe
Cobalt Aquatics Brine Shrimp Flk – Jeff W
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Tim Z
Tetra Nibblers – Scottie S
TopFin Flake 3-pak – Sarah M
DSAS T-shirt – Donna G

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Alternate Future Meeting Location (TBD)

**Peniel United Methodist Church
115 East Market Street
Newport, DE 19804**

**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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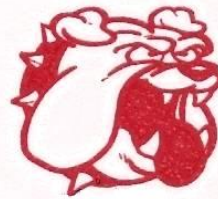
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Please remember to include DSAS's ID#

*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, **April 24th, 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

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).