

The

# Gravel Gossip

Volume 2022

Number 3



Next Meeting:

**Monday night, 7pm, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Joel Antkowiak presents:**

***“Intro to Rainbows & Blue-Eyes”***

**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.

# William's Greenbank Aquarium

(302) 994-1707

107 Greenbank Rd.

Wilmington, DE 19808

10% Discount on all fish

Show your DSAS membership card

## INDEX

General Information	2
Message	3
<i>Speaker Info</i>	<i>4</i>
Prizes	5
Other Clubs	6
Manufacturers	7
Trading Post	8
Advertising	9-10
ABC #24	11
<i>Monthly Board Meetings</i>	<i>12</i>



FRESHWATER • SALTWATER • REEFS • PLANTS • PONDS • AND MORE

# TROPICAL FISH

HOBBYIST

THE WORLD'S AQUARIUM MAGAZINE SINCE 1952 • [www.tfhmagazine.com](http://www.tfhmagazine.com)

# Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 10443, Wilmington, DE 19850-0443

Founded 1963, Reorganized 1981

Incorporated Since 1988

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Omar Reyes  
(302) 310-1858

### VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Trzonkowski  
(302) 738-0425

### SECRETARY

Dolly Ziegler  
(302) 322-8187

### TREASURER

Marty Ziegler  
(302) 363-6902



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  
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.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Brian Witkowski  
David Krah  
David Mitchell  
Harry Bratton  
Charlie Walls  
Jeff Mey  
Joe Solge  
Julie MacRae  
Eric Howell  
Bill Smith  
Donna Goff  
Vince DiGiulio

Julie MacRae – Facebook  
Marty Ziegler - Webmaster  
**WEBSITE:** <http://dsas.online/>

## Gravel Gossip Editor

Marty Ziegler  
(302) 322-8187

## ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page  
\$100/Year  
\$12/Month

Half Page  
\$50/Year  
\$6/Month

Quarter Page  
\$30/Year  
\$4/Month

# The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

*The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.*

Hi all!

For our March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will have Joel Antkowiak do a presentation on “*Intro to Rainbows & Blue-Eyes*”. Joel has been involved in the aquarium fish hobby for over 45 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, March 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](mailto:reefzig@verizon.net)

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

***Upcoming Speakers:***

***April 11<sup>th</sup> – Mike Trzonkowski presents “Aquarium Beautiful”***

***May 9<sup>th</sup> – David Kraak presents “Live Foods for your Fish, Part 1: Worms”***

## Memberships Due

Harry B.	Victor S.
Eric K.	Tom L.
Charlie W.	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:

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> 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

Aqeon 10 gallon Glass Aquarium Tank – Joe S  
DSAS T-shirt L – Lynn M  
Marineland Blue LED Bubble Wand – Al H  
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Jeff M  
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 2.89 oz – Olivia K  
Marineland Color-Enh Trop Flk 3.35 oz – Bill S  
API MelaFix 4 oz – Bill S  
Topfin Small Cichid Pellets 8.8 oz – Lynn M  
Cobalt Aq Ultra Col Prem Flk 1.2oz – Dave K  
Instant Ocean Reef Accelerator 8.45 oz – Khumar S  
Topfin Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk 2.1 oz – Donna G  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Donna G  
Micro Floating Betta Pellets – Vince D

## Members Only

API Stress Coat Plus 4 oz – Al H  
OSI Cichlid Flake – Joe K  
Marineland Col-Enh Trop Flk – Joe S  
Marineland Col-Enh Cichlid Pell – Jeff M  
Cobalt Aquatics Brine Shrimp Flk – Dave K  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Mike T  
Cobalt Aq Ultra Trop Preb/Prob Pell – Marty Z  
Micro Floating Betta Pellets – Vince D  
DSAS T-shirt – Donna G

## Aquatic Services

**Fresh and Saltwater  
Aquarium Maintenance**

Call for Free Estimates  
(302) 479 -5747

### 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, 1<sup>st</sup> exit on Rt141, at bottom of ramp at  
traffic light, go straight, church is on right, turn right  
into parking lot.**

The following **MANUFACTURERS** donate products for our raffles, auctions, and door prizes every month

Academic Press  
Aqueon Products  
Aquadine Nutritional System  
Aquaria / Marineland Aquarium Prod.  
Aquarian Flake Foods/Kal Kan Foods  
Aquarium Fish Magazine  
Aquarium Systems  
Aquatic Promotions / "Cichlid News"  
Aquatronics  
Aqua Ultraviolet  
Blue Ribbon Pet Products  
Boyd Enterprises  
Cobalt International, Inc.  
Danner Mfg/Pondmasters  
DirectAquarium.com  
Doctors Forrest and Smith  
Dr. Tim Aquatics  
Duro-Test Corporation  
Ecological Laboratories Microbe-Lift  
Ecosystem Aquarium  
EcoSystems  
Florida Aquatic Nurseries  
Freshwater & Marine Aquarium Mag  
Fritz Industries, Inc.  
Ginger Products Company  
Glow Light Aquatics  
Hagen USA Corp.  
Hartz Mountain Corp.  
Hawaiian Marine Imports  
Hikari Sales USA, Inc.  
Hydor USA  
Jungle Labs  
Kens Fish  
Kent Marine  
Lee's Aquarium & Pet Products  
Marine Enterprises  
Mars Fishcare  
Maryland Aquatic Nurseries  
Miracle Koi Food  
Novalek / Kordon . Oasis  
Ocean Nutrition

Oceanic Systems  
Omega Sea, Ltd.  
OSI Marine Lab, Inc.  
Penn-Plax Plastics  
Perfecto Manufacturing Co.  
Pet Solutions  
Premium Aquatics  
Python Products  
Quality Koi / The Nisei Koi Farm  
Rainbow Lifeguard Aquar. Products  
Red Sea Fish Pharm  
Reefs2Go  
St. JON Laboratories  
San Francisco Bay Brand  
SeaChem Laboratories  
Seagrest Farms  
Sera North America, Inc.  
Tetra  
T F H Publications  
Tetra Sales  
Tom Aquarium Products  
Tropical Science Biolabs  
Two Little Fishes  
Ultra Balance Premium Koi Foods  
United Pet Group  
Vitakraft Pet Products Co.  
ZOO Med Laboratories

**Aquarium Store Sponsors:**

ARMCO Aquatics, Elsmere, DE  
<http://armcoaquatics.com>  
Aquarium World, Boothwyn, PA  
[www.aquariumworldpa.com](http://www.aquariumworldpa.com)  
William's Greenbank Aquarium, Prices Corner, DE  
J&J Aquatics, Dover, DE <https://jjaquatics.com>  
Reef to Rift Aquarium [www.ReeftoRift.com](http://www.ReeftoRift.com)  
The Wet Spot <http://wetstottropicalfish.com>  
Pets Plus

# The Trading Post

**For Sale:** Show Piece Quality **Driftwood**

Ready for immediate use - **Sterile**

Call **Ed** at (610) 586-7250

**Looking for** a few Meridian Automatic Water Changers.....It was made by Aquarium Products and discontinued several years ago. Call Walt @ 302-834-4138 or e-mail: [waltwiso@aol.com](mailto:waltwiso@aol.com).

## **For Sale: "Almost Natural Tropical Fish Food"**

For many years now as most of you know, I have been making my own frozen fish food. It has changed over the years to the point that I am using mostly fresh and naturally found seafood - it contains NO fillers - absolutely NONE! Anyone who has been to my home and seen my fish can attest to the fact of how well this food has been for them. The tremendous size they put on at such a young age and the colors are both astounding, not to mention the overall health of the fish. I attribute it to my homemade "Almost Natural Frozen Tropical Fish Food". With basically all of the same ingredients, I am proud to offer "Almost Natural Tropical Fish Food" in flake and pellet form to other hobbyists.

\*\*\*\* **FRESHWATER FLAKES** \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* **SUPER COLOR FLAKES** \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* **SUPER COLOR BALLS** \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* **SHRIMP PELLETS** \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* **FREEZE DRIED BLOOD WORMS** \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* **SUPER GREEN FLAKES** \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* **ALGAE DISCS** \*\*\*\*

## **"Breeders Delight Tropical Fish Food"**

In addition to the Freeze Dried Blood Worms, the following flake foods are extremely wonderful foods for conditioning your fish for breeding.

\*\*\*\* **EARTHWORM FLAKES** \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* **BEEF HEART FLAKES** \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* **PLANKTON FLAKES** \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* **TRIO SPECIAL BLEND FLAKES** \*\*\*\*

**FOR MORE INFO AND TO PLACE AN ORDER, VISIT:**

[www.AlmostNaturalTropicalFishFood.com](http://www.AlmostNaturalTropicalFishFood.com)

**Aquarium Hobbyist**  
[aquariumhobbyist.com](http://aquariumhobbyist.com)

**The Pond Guy**  
[www.thepondguy.com](http://www.thepondguy.com)

**DirectAquarium.com** is a top supplier of aquarium lighting supplies, including hard to find fixtures and bulbs. We also stock pumps, skimmers, aquariums and more!

<http://www.directaquarium.com>



# Advertisers

## Leon's Garden World

Annuals • Perennials • Herbs • Shrubs  
Water Gardening • Christmas Trees  
Gift Shop



Leon Silicki

137 South DuPont Hwy.  
New Castle, DE 19720

(302) 325-2440  
Fax (302) 325-4199

## MDZ Service Enterprises, LLC

### Tax Preparation Service

By Appt Only: (302) 363-6902

Individual and sole proprietorship

returns prepared

## WISO'S CRABS & SEAFOOD

WE SHIP ACROSS THE U.S.A.

### FRESH DAILY FROM OUR BOATS

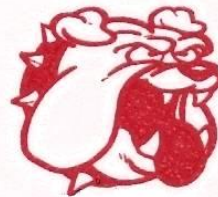
101 FIFTH STREET-ROUTE 9  
DELAWARE CITY, DELAWARE 19706

302-836-0224

[www.Wisocrabs.com](http://www.Wisocrabs.com)  
[Wisocrabs@aol.com](mailto:Wisocrabs@aol.com)

CAPTAIN BOB WISOWATY - OWNER

Now Featuring  
Crabs - Shrimp  
Clams - Soup  
Gourmet Crab Cakes  
Retail-Wholesale



## Pet-Kare

We Care About Pets

Pencader Plaza - Rts. 4 & 72  
Newark, DE 19713

Phone: (302) 733-0740  
Fax: (302) 733-0745

201 Governor's Square S.C.  
Bear, DE 19701

Phone: (302) 832-8775  
Fax: (302) 832-8776

Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-9 p.m. • Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

## Visit

## Aquarium Consultant

[www.aquariumconsultant.com](http://www.aquariumconsultant.com)

## MICROWORM CULTURES

For sale

[www.microworms.com](http://www.microworms.com)

## For Aquarium Lighting Information

<http://www.AquaLighting.net>



# Brine Shrimp DIRECT →

PRODUCTS TO MAKE YOUR TANK THRIVE!

Online at [www.brineshrimpdirect.com](http://www.brineshrimpdirect.com)

Brine Shrimp Direct welcomes Diamond State Aquarium Society and its members to our new Club Discount Program.

All members placing orders online will save 5% off of their order when entering your new affiliate ID#\* in the promotional code box. Group Purchases over \$250 (excluding brine shrimp eggs) will receive a 7.5% discount. Brine shrimp eggs will receive a maximum discount of 5%.

We are always available by phone and email to answer member questions about our products or take phone orders for customers who prefer the personal touch.

We have recently added a number of new products including:

Live Brine Shrimp!

Live Copepod starter cultures. (\$9.95)

Enriched Brine Shrimp

Frozen Daphnia

Frozen Krill Pacifica Plankton

Frozen Mysis

Frozen Rotifers

Frozen Bloodworms

all of the above in convenient cube trays.

Plus Flake Sampler

Flake Diets Plus 4 Pack which contains 1 ounce jars of our Garlic Plus Flake, Phyto Plankton

Plus Flake, Zoo Plankton Plus Flake and Mariner Plus Flake. (\$9.95)

Group Purchases will need to be made via phone ( 800-303-7914 or 801-782-4700), email ([sales@brineshrimpdirect.com](mailto:sales@brineshrimpdirect.com)), or fax ( 801-782-4200)

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, **March 20<sup>th</sup>, 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).