

The

# Gravel Gossip

Volume 2022

Number 6



**Next "Outdoor" Meeting:**  
**Saturday, June 18th, 2022**

**11:00am to 2:00pm**

**At Iron Hill Park**

**1335 Old Baltimore Pike**

**Newark, DE 19702**

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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Incorporated Since 1988

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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  
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

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Marty Ziegler  
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## ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page  
\$100/Year  
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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!

We are now on our summer schedule and will hold the next three meetings (June, July and August) outside at Iron Hill Park. Meeting will start at 11am until around 2pm. The auction will start between 12:30 and 1:00pm. We will have plenty of free refreshments and door prizes, members-only drawing and a raffle. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair!

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 **Saturday, June 18th, 11am till 2pm** outdoors at Iron Hill Park!

**Marty Z**

CP: 302-363-6902

Email: [reefzig@verizon.net](mailto:reefzig@verizon.net)

***We have a tentative location and date for our annual auction!  
Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.***

***Wilmington Lions Club, 320 N. DuPont Hwy, New Castle, DE  
19720 (behind Wilmington University on Rt 13).***

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

***For our summer meetings, June, July, and August, we will meet outdoors at Iron Hill Park in Newark, DE. There will be a raffle drawing, members-only drawing and door prizes. Free refreshments and our monthly auction at the end of the meeting.***

***Bring your own lawn chair and have a great time!***

## Memberships Due

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

## Welcome new Members!

**Efren Jorge**

**Lauren Frey &  
Family**

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

Jul 23\*  
Aug 20\*

- tentative date for outdoor meeting at Iron Hill Park (from 11am to 2pm)

**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.



## Directions for Iron Hill Park in Newark, DE

896

From I-95 at exit 1A, take ramp right for DE-896 “South” toward Middletown. (from I-95 north, you will go under the 896 bridge before looping around on the ramp.

From I-95 south, you will bear off to the right onto 896)  
1.0 mi

Turn right onto Old Baltimore Pike  
0.9 mi

**Arrive at Old Baltimore Pike. Iron Hill Park will be on the right side of Old Baltimore Pike,**

*Third side street, turn right onto **Robert L Melson Ln***

(If you reach Whittaker Rd, you've gone too far)

### **Iron Hill Park**

**1355 Old Baltimore Pike,  
Newark, DE 19702**

**Keep following the (long) Robert L Melson Lane to stop sign, turn right. We should be the next parking lot on the left.**

## Door Prizes

Everyone that arrives by 7pm gets a door prize each meeting.

## Raffle Prizes

Tetra Whisper Air Pump – Donna G  
DSAS T-shirt L – Raymond R  
Marineland Blue LED Bubble Wand – Wade F  
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Al H  
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 2.89 oz – Jim H  
Marineland Color-Enh Trop Flk 3.35 oz – Charlie W  
Topfin Large Cichid Pellets 5.6 oz – Donna G  
Instant Ocean Reef Accelerator 8.45 oz – Marty Z  
Topfin Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk 2.1 oz – Rhett F  
Ken's Premium Super Tropical Flake ¼ lb – Joe K  
Ken's Ultra Meat Wafers – Raymond R  
Ken's Premium Catfish Pellets ¼ lb – Wade F  
Penn-Plas Deluxe Airline Tubing 20 ft – Wade F  
SFBB F/D Mysis Shrimp 1.7 oz – Jim H  
Saltwater Aquarium Woolen Hat – Al H

## Members Only

DSAS T-shirt – Vincent D  
OSI Cichlid Flake – Marilyn K  
OSI Cichlid Flake – David M  
Cobalt Aquatics Brine Shrimp Flk – Marty Z  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Bill S  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Scott K  
Tetra Nibblers – David K  
Tetra Nibblers – Joe K  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Joe S  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Jim H  
Aqua-Life Infra-Red Fish Net 5 in – Dave K  
Lee's Airline Control Kit – Donna G  
Penn-Plax Wizard Algae Scrubber Pad – Scott S  
Marina Air Stone Sphere – Jeff Mey  
Marina Air Stone Square – Al H  
Marina Aquarium Floating Thermometer – Jeff W

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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, 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

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## **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.

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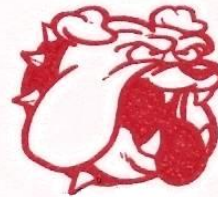
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Brine Shrimp Direct welcomes Diamond State Aquarium Society and its members to our new Club Discount Program.

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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, *June 12, 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).