

The

# Gravel Gossip

Volume 2023

Number 1



## Next Meeting:

**Monday, January 9th, 2023, 7pm**  
**William Penn High School, 713 E. Basin Rd**  
**(Rt 141), New Castle, DE 19720**

## **Q&A Panel**

## ***"Questions You Were Afraid to Ask"***

Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of every month, beginning 7:00PM 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  
should be sent to:**

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\$4/Month

# The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

*The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.*

Hi all!

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a great holiday! There was plenty of goof food to go around. No one went home hungry. Elections were done: President: Mike T., Vice-President: Donna G., Treasurer: Mary Z., Secretary: Dolly Z.

Besides our normal activities and socializing, we had a holiday Mystery Bag raffle. Five bags were set up and special raffle tickets were sold. One bag had a breeding pair of live fish, another bag had two pairs of fish, a third had a new tropical fish book (\$100 value), a fourth had a trial subscription to Amazonas Magazine, and the last bag had a free two-year DSAS membership renewal.

For our January meeting, we will have a 3-member Q&A panel consisting of Mike Trzonskowski – Pres DSAS, Joe Kurman – Pres DCAS, and Peter Bruce – DCAS, set up for members to ask any questions about the hobby, entitled “Questions You Were Afraid to Ask”. Come prepared with plenty of questions, there will be a wealth of knowledge and experience on this panel.

Tickets go on sale at this meeting for the new Aqueon 40-gallon breeder tank for \$5 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$10. Drawing will be at our March meeting. Winner does not have to be present to win. Winner can pick up the tank either at the March or April meeting or at Mike’s house.

Please remember the meetings start at 7pm sharp, doors open at 6:30pm. Door prizes and members-only drawing will begin no later than 7:10pm. The speaker will start at 7:30pm and the raffle and auction will begin around 8:30pm.

We will have plenty of free refreshments! Along with our door prizes, members-only drawing, raffle, and live auction.

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, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 7pm sharp*, at the *William Penn High School*.

**Marty Z**

CP: 302-363-6902

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

## 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!

## Future Meeting Dates For 2022/23 indoors at William Penn High School:

Feb 13<sup>th</sup>  
Mar 13<sup>th</sup>  
\*\*Apr 10<sup>th</sup>\*\*  
May 4<sup>th</sup>  
\*\*Jun 12<sup>th</sup>\*\*

**\*\* - Alternate meeting  
location at Wilmington  
Manor Lions Club  
320 N. DuPont Hwy  
New Castle, DE 19720**

**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

DSAS T-shirt L – Joe K  
Marineland Blue LED Bubble Wand – Timmy R  
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Gib G  
Marineland Color-Enhanced Trop Flk 3.35 oz – Dave K  
Topfin Large Cichlid Pellets 5.6 oz – Connie R  
Ken's Premium Super Tropical Flake ¼ lb – Marilyn K  
Ken's Premium Krill Pellets ¼ lb – Omar R  
Aqua-Life 5" Fish Net – Mandy G  
Super Bio Chemical Sponge Filter – Mandy G  
Cobalt Aquatics Micro Ceramic Rings – Timmy R  
BSD Aquanix Cool Collor Flk 3oz – Vince D  
BSD Aquanix Cool Earth Flake 3 oz – Marty Z  
Seachem Neutral Regulator 250 g – Vince D  
Penn-Plax Aqua-Mist Bubble Wand 12in – Khumar S  
Blue Ribbon Polyester Filter Fiber 4 oz – Mandy G  
10 gal Aquarium Tank – Charlie W  
Aqua Ultraviolet t-shirt – 4XL – Connie R  
Marineland Color-Enhanced Cichlid Pell 2.89 oz – Dave M  
Digital Thermometer – Mandy G  
Fluval Ultra-Flex Blk Airline Tubing 20 ft – Khumar S  
BSD Artic Copepod Powder 200 microns 1 oz – Marty Z  
BSD Golden Pearls for Reef & Larval Fish 2 oz – Julie M  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Vince D  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Connie R  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – David M

## Members Only

DSAS T-shirt – Charlie W  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Mike T  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Dave M  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Jeff W  
OSI Cichlid Flake – Connie R  
OSE Cichlid Flake – Marilyn K  
Penn-Plax Wizard Algae Scrubber Pad – Joe K  
API Betta Fix 1 oz – Gib G  
Cobalt Aquatics Color Prem Flk – Dave K  
Cobalt Aquatics Color Prem Flk – Tim Z  
Cobalt Aquatics Pro Breeder Prem Flk – Vince  
Cobalt Aquatics Pro Breeder Prem Flk – Marty  
Marina Air Stone Sphere – Khumar S  
Marina Air Stone Cube – Dolly Z  
Marina Aquarium Floating Therem – Al H  
Aqua-Life 4" Infra-Red Fish Net – Liz A  
Tetra Smart Goldfish Flake – Gerry R  
Tetra Tank Nibblers – Omar R  
Sera Nature Insect Food – Julie M  
Acurel F Water Conditioner – Donna G

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**Alternate Future Meeting Location (TBD)**

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Aquatronics  
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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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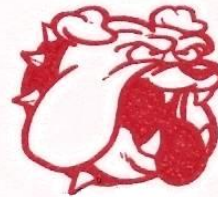
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Please remember to include DSAS's ID#

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

# 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, January (TBD), 2023*, at **7:00pm**, 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).