

**The**

# **Gravel Gossip**

Volume 2023

Number 8



**Next Meeting:**

**Monday Night, August 14th, 7pm  
Wilmington Manor Lions Club  
320 N DuPont Hwy, New Castle, DE 19720  
"Aquarium Plants 2.0"  
By Mike Trzonkowski**

Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of every month, beginning 7:00PM at  
Wilmington Manor Lions Club  
320 N DuPont Hwy (Rt. 13 North)  
New Castle, DE 19720

Please note: Doors open at 6:30pm. Entrance is located back of first college building upon entering entrance road.

**INDEX**

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



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# Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

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

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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:**

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**Newsletter Exchanges**  
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## Gravel Gossip Editor

Marty Ziegler  
(302) 322-8187

## ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page  
\$100/Year  
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Quarter Page  
\$30/Year  
\$4/Month

# The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

*The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.*

Hi all!

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual BBQ at Iron Hill Park was a great time for all! We had a good turnout with lots of good food and socializing. And the weather could not have been more perfect. The door prize winners were Joe S – air pump, Khumar S – heater, Al H – power filter, Paul M – 10 gal tank.

For our August meeting, Mike will present “Aquarium Plants 2.0”. This is a continuation of his series on aquarium plants. Should be some good info for all.

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

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.

*Hope to see you all at the DSAS August monthly meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, at the Wilmington Manor Lions Club (behind Wilmington University), 320 N DuPont Hwy (Rt 13 N), New Castle, DE 19720.*

**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.  
Be sure to check your email or DSAS website, or our Facebook page for further details.*

[Upcoming events:](#)

**DSAS 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction, Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at WMLC.**

## Memberships Due

Laura H

Ted B	Keith D
Cabeb H	Sherrie M
Kevin M	Raymond M
Larry O	Anita P
Gerry R	Alan R
Karen H	Luke S
Donavon S	Lorie T
Dennis D	

## Welcome new Members!

## Future Meeting Dates For 2023:

August 14th

Sept 11th

Oct 9th

Nov 13th

Dec 11th (Christmas party)

**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

Ken's Prem Super Trop Flake ¼ lb – Rose B  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Joe S  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Bill S  
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Dave K  
Ken's Premium Krill Pellets ¼ lb – Liz A  
Aqua-Life Infra-Red 5" Aquarium Fish Net – Jeff M  
Pneumatic Water Goblin Filter – Donna G  
DSAS T-Shirt – Jim H  
Ken's Ultra Color Max Flake ¼ lb – Jim H  
Cobalt Aquatics Micro Ceramic Rings – Marty Z  
Deluxe Standard 10 ft Airline Tubing – Lynn M  
Blue Ribbon Polyester Filter Fiber 4 oz bag – Mike T  
TDS + EC Digital Tester – Lynn M  
Air Pump Accessories Kit – James O  
Digital LCD Thermometer – Mike T  
2-way Airline Shut-off Valve – Mandy G  
Tube Cleaning Coiled Brush 61" – Paul M

## Members Only

TetraMin Tropical Crisps – James O  
OSI Cichlid Flake – Alyssa K  
OSI Cichlid Flake – Lynn M  
Cobalt Aquatics Color Prem Flk – Bill S  
Cobalt Aquatics Color Prem Flk – Joe S  
Cobalt Aquatic ProBreeder Prem Flk – Al H  
Cobalt Aquatic ProBreeder Prem Flk – Julie M  
Marina Air Stone Sphere – Jeff M  
Marina Aquarium Floating Therem – Tim Z  
Tetra Tank Nibblers – Jim H  
Sera Koi All Seasons Probiotic – Charlie W  
API Betta Fix – Khumar S  
Essentials Aquarium Salt 5.2 oz – Dave K  
Sera Spirulina Veggie Tabs 0.5 oz – Dolly Z  
Aquarium Tank Décor – Mandy G  
Buoyancy Feeding Rectangulare Ring – Liz A  
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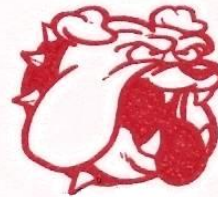
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Please remember to include DSAS's ID#

\*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 ***Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 Tuesday 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).