

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2023

Number 12



Next Meeting:

Monday Night, December 11th, 7pm
Wilmington Manor Lions Club
320 N DuPont Hwy, New Castle, DE 19720
"Holiday Party"
Bring your appetite!!

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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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
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13 Saratoga Drive
New Castle, DE 19720-4224

Newsletter Exchanges
should be sent to the above address.

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\$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!

Julie did a lovely presentation of her Indonesian scuba diving trip. There were lots of colorful slides and videos of the creatures of the sea.

December is our holiday party! DSAS will provide hot roast beef, meatballs, fried chicken, rolls, condiments, beverages, snacks, paper goods and utensils. Members are asked to bring a dessert or side dish (if bringing a side dish, please coordinate with Dolly at dollyz51@verizon.net). Bring your appetite!!

We will have our normal door prizes, members-only drawing, raffle, 50/50 drawing, and live auction, along with a special raffle for a brand new Aqueon glass 40-gallon breeder tank!

Tickets for the 40-gallon breeder tank are on sale now for \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Drawing will be on our December 11th meeting. Ticket holder need not be present to win. Winner can pick up the tank at the January meeting or make arrangements to pick it up at Mike's or Marty's house.

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 December "Holiday" meeting on December 11th, 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

***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 Christmas party, Monday night, December 11th, 7pm, at the Wilmington Manor Lions Club. Members please bring a dessert, appetizer or side dish.

Memberships Due

2024 membership renewals are now due!!

Welcome new Members!

Jessica Short

Future Meeting Dates For 2023/2024:

Dec 11th (Christmas party)

Jan 8th, 2024

Feb 12th, 2024

Mar 11th, 2024

Apr 8th, 2024

May 13th, 2024

Jun 10th, 2024

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.

Directions for Iron Hill Park in Newark, DE
For the DSAS Annual Picnic

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

Aqueon 10 gal Glass Aquarium Tank – Jeff M
Ph Digital tester – Tyler F
Ken's Premium Super Brine Shrimp Flake ¼ lb – Mike T
Antartic Krisp Thick Flake 1.75 oz – Mike T
Pneumatic Water Goblin Large sponge filter – Matt M
Fritz Guard 16 oz – Khumar S
Digital LCD Temperature Gage – Tyler F
Complete airline kit – Marty Ziegler
Shrimp King Color Granules for shrimp 35 g – Al H
Ken's Premium Krill Pellets 6 mm ¼ lb – Tyler M
Deluxe airline tubing 10 ft – Matt M
Penn-Plax Wizard Heavy-Duty aquar clnr & scrpr – Matt
JBJ 8" fish net – Khumar S
Tube cleaning coiled brush 155 cm – Khumar S
Aquarium Décor ceramic fish cave – Tyler F
Aqua Ultraviolet tote bag – Mike T
Ken's Premium Super Tropical Flake ¼ lb – Marilyn K

Members Only

OSI Cichlid Flake – Julie M
OSI Cichlid Flake – Waunita C
Cobalt Aquatics Breeder Prem Flk – Dolly Z
Cobalt Aquatics Breeder Prem Flk – Jeff W
Cobalt Aquatics Color Prem Flk – Frank I
Cobalt Aquatics Color Prem Flk – Dave M
Tetra Tank Nibblers – Mike T
Digital Temperature Gage – Charlie W
Tubing cleaning brush 10-pc set – Al H
Marina air stone sphere – Marty Ziegler
Algae scraper – Khumar S
Lee's Airline Control Kit – Tyler F
Buoyancy Feeding Rectangular Ring – Scott K
JBJ 5" fish net – Jeff M
Sera Vipar Family – Matt M
Este's Spectrastone Prem Aquar Gravel 5 lb – Alyssa K
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Dave K
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Tim Z

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The Trading Post

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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.

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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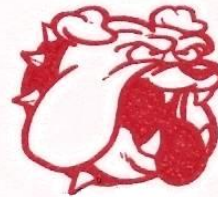
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Please remember to include DSAS's ID#

*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, January 16th, 2024***, 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. (There is no board meeting in December).

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).