

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2024

Number 1



Next Meeting:

**Monday Night, January 8th, 7pm
Wilmington Manor Lions Club
320 N DuPont Hwy, New Castle, DE 19720**

Speaker: Mandy Goan

“Natural Bug Control with Help of Fish & Plants”

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.

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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

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The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

Hi all!

Hope everyone had a great holiday season!

We had a great holiday meeting with plenty of good food, raffles, door prizes, auction and lots of socializing. Everyone had a great time.

For our January meeting, Mandy Goan will present "Natural Bug Control with the Help of Fish and Plants". Her presentation will begin approximately 7:45pm.

We are in the process of setting up speakers and activities for the 2024 year. Are there any suggestions for a particular topic or interest? If you are familiar with a speaker at another event and would like to see them at one of our meetings, please let us know. Are there any activities that you would like to see us do at our meetings? Just let one of the officers know via email or phone or at one of the meetings.

We will have our normal door prizes, members-only drawing, raffle, 50/50 drawing, and live auction at every monthly meeting.

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 January meeting on January 8th, 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 Annual Picnic, Saturday, July (TBD), 12 noon, at Iron Hill Park pavilion. Members please bring a dessert, appetizer or side dish.

Memberships Due

2024 membership renewals are now due!!

Welcome new Members!

Shane Ramsey

Future Meeting Dates For 2024:

Feb 12th

Mar 11th

Apr 8th

May 13th

Jun 10th

DSAS BBQ – Jul (TBD)

Aug 12th

Sep 9th

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

Tetra Whisper Power Filter 40 – Tim Z
Aqua Ultraviolet T-shirt – Jim H
Digital Ph & TDC/EC Tester 2-pc set – Jeff M
Ken's Premium Super Tropical Flk ¼ oz – Jim H
Antartic Krisp Thick Flake 1.75 oz – Mike T
Pneumatic Water Goblin Large Sponge Filt – Mike T
Fritz-Zyme Monster 360 Bio Conditioner 16 oz – Donna G
Digital LCD Temperature Gage – Jeff M
Complete airline kit – Tim Z
Shrimp King Snow Pops for shrimp 40 gr – Mandy G
Ken's Premium Veggie Wafers ¼ lb – Marty Z
Fluval 20 ft Ultra-Flex Black airling tubing – Mandy G
Marineland Plant Mat – Liz A
JBJ 8" Fish Net – Jim H
Tube cleaning coiled brush 155 cm – Mike T
Ken's Ultra-Color Max Mini Sticks ¼ lb – Dave K
Cobalt Aquatics Trop Gran Prem Sink Fd 2.7 oz – Marty Z
Airline 2-way valve – Marty Z
10-pc Tubing brush set on ring – Mandy G
Fritz Glass & Acrylic Cleaner 8 oz – Marty Z
Ken's Ultra Spirulina Garlic & Paprika Flk ¼ oz – Mandy G
Aqueon 10 gal Glass Aquarium Tank – Jim H

Members Only

Cobalt Aquatics Trop Gran – Jim H
Cobalt Aquatics Betta Pellets – Dave K
Cobalt Aquatics Breeder Prem Flk – Julie M
Cobalt Aquatics Breeder Prem Flk – Jeff W
Cobalt Aquatics Color Prem Flk – Donna G
Cobalt Aquatics Color Prem Flk – July W
Tetra Tank Nibblers – Stu O
10 ft Deluxe airline tubing – Gerry R
10-pc Tubing cleaning brush set on ring – Paul M
Marina air stone sphere – Dolly Z
Algae scraper – Khumar S
Lee's Airline Control Kit – Charlie W
Buoyancy Feeding Rectangulare Ring – Lynn M
JBJ 5" Fish Net – Vince D
Marina Aquarium Thermometer – Mandy G
Airstones 3-pk – Marty Z
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Tim Z
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Liz A
Ceramic fish cave – Jeff M
Champion Ltg & Sply micro cleaning towel – Al H
API BettaFix – Gibb G
Driftwood – Marilyn K
Aqua Ultraviolet Tote Bag – Dave M
DSAS T-shirt – Connie
DSAS T-shirt – Mike T
DSAS T-shirt – Tranas H

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The Trading Post

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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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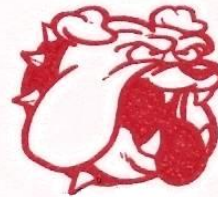
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Please remember to include DSAS's ID#

*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 ***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).