

The

# Gravel Gossip

Volume 2024

Number 04



## Next Meeting:

**Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, at  
Wilmington Manor Lions Club  
New Castle, DE 19720  
Speaker: Chris Diaz  
"Killifish 101"**

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:**

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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## Gravel Gossip Editor

Marty Ziegler  
(302) 363-6902

## ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page  
\$100/Year  
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Half Page  
\$50/Year  
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Quarter Page  
\$30/Year  
\$4/Month

# The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

*The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.*

Hi Fellow fish lovers!

April's meeting will have many items new items in our raffle. Our guest speaker will be Chris Diaz. His program will be "Killifish 101". Several pairs and eggs will be offered in our auction. Our monthly 50/50 drawing has been very successful and will continue at each meeting.

Motto from your President: ***There is always room for one more aquarium !***

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.

***Mike T.***  
***DSAS President***

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

DSAS Annual Picnic at Iron Hill Park Pavilion tentatively scheduled for ***Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 (this is a tentative date until county approval)***

DSAS Annual Auction Event at Wilmington Manor Lions Club is scheduled for ***Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

## Memberships

**Due**

**2024 memberships are due now!**

**We are now on a calendar year renewal**

**Welcome new Members!**

**Amanda DuAime  
Phil Simpkins**

## Future Meeting Dates:

Apr 8th  
May 13th  
Jun 10th  
Aug 12th  
Sep 9th  
Oct 14th  
Nov 11<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 9<sup>th</sup>

DSAS Annual BBQ  
Jul 21<sup>st</sup> at Iron Hill Park  
Pavilion

**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 Pavilion 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.**

(The entrance is on Robert L Melson Ln, the 3<sup>rd</sup> right turn road)

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

### **Iron Hill Park**

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

**Keep following the (long) park road until you come to a stop sign and tee in the road. You can only go "right" to continue. Follow road all the way to the end. You will see the pavilion on the hill to your right. If can't find us, call me on my cell at 302-363-6902. *Please email if you plan on attending by contacting Marty at: [reefzig@verizon.net](mailto:reefzig@verizon.net)***

## Door Prizes

## Raffle Prizes

Tetra Whisper Power Filter 20 – Marilyn K  
Digital pH tester – Phil S  
Ken's Prem Super Tropical Flk 1/4lb – Jeff M  
Deluxe airline tubing 10ft – Marty Z  
Ken's Prem Super Brine Shrimp flk 1/4lb – Phil S  
Ken's Ultra Spirulina Sticks 1/4lb – Dave K  
Cobalt Aquatics Cichlid Prem Flk 1.0oz – Marilyn K  
Aqua-Life Infra-Red 8" net – Matt M  
Tube cleaning coiled brush 90cm – Joe S  
Ken's Prem Veggie Wafers ¼ lb – Marty Z  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62oz – Matt M  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62oz – Tim Z  
Jehmco Jumbo Round Box Filter w/media – Phil S  
Blue Ribbon Poly Filter Fiber 4oz bag – Charlie W  
XY-2835 Aquar Sponge Filter up to 10gal – Marilyn K  
Ceramic Fish Cave – Charlie W  
Digital Temperature Gage – Jim S  
Crystal Skim 600 – Phil S

## Members Only

DSAS t-shirt – Tim Z  
Cobalt Aquarics Breeder Prem Flk 0.5 oz – Jim H  
Cobalt Aquarics Breeder Prem Flk 0.5 oz – Dolly Z  
Cobalt Aquarics Color Prem Flk 0.5 oz – Charlie  
Cobalt Aquarics Color Prem Flk 0.5 oz – Marty Z  
API Betta Fix – Tyler F  
Cobalt Aquatics Betta Pellets – Joe K  
Cleaning brush set on ring – Stu O  
Digital temperature gage –  
Marina aquarium thermometer – JoAnn V  
OSI Cichlid Flake – Jeff Woessner  
Penn-Plax Wizard Algae Scrub Pad – Al H  
Digital TDS Meter – Scott K  
Nano Tank Sponge Filter up to 3 gal – Donna G  
5" Fish Net – Phil S  
Airstones 3-pk – Joe S

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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.

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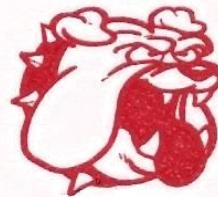
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Brine Shrimp Direct welcomes Diamond State Aquarium Society and its members to our new Club Discount Program.

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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.

Continued on page 11

**Continued from page 10**

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

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, *April 16<sup>th</sup>*, **2024**, at **7pm**, at my house (see directions below) 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.

All DSAS board members are requested to attend and confirm if they are able to attend in-person or via Google Meet. Other members are welcome to attend.

Board meetings are a week after the general meeting on Tuesday, 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 to 13 Saratoga Dr, Penn Acres South/Pennwood, New Castle, DE 19720.

From I-95, take New Castle exit Rt 141 South (Basin Rd) to first traffic light after crossing bridge over Rt 13 (Same side of Basin Rd as WP High School, shared development entrance with Penn Mart Shopping Center (Big Lots, Save-a-Lot, Rainbow stores, PNC Bank). Turn right at the traffic light and then bear left into the development. Take second left (Rebel Hill Rd) and another left (Saratoga Dr). I am right on the corner of Saratoga Dr and Rebel Hill Rd.