

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2024

Number 10



Next Meeting:

**DSAS October Meeting, 7pm
Monday, October 14th, at
Asbury United Methodist Church
Speaker: Julie MacRae**

“The Magic of Thailand - Underwater & Above!”

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

Please note: WMLC is located in the Wilmington University New Castle complex. Upon turning at the light on Rt 13 into Wilmington University entrance road, the WMLC driveway is the first left at the first main building on the left. The entrance to the club will be on the other side of the main building.

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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
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PLEASE NOTE

**Donations & Correspondence
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Quarter Page
\$30/Year
\$4/Month

The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

Please note!!!

Our October and November Monday night meetings will be held at our alternate meeting location at Asbury United Methodist Church, 300 E Basin Road (Rt 141), New Castle, DE 19720, in the Friendship Lounge at 7pm. WMLC is closed on both Monday meeting nights due to the Columbus Day and Veterans Day holidays.

Hi Fellow Fishkeepers!

Summer is over, school is back in session and it's getting darker earlier by the day. Time to look at that aquarium in the corner of the room and pay a little more attention to it. Maybe a new light, decorations and some new fish. How about seeing old and maybe new fish friends. Time to attend your local aquarium society meeting. Over a two hour period you can find all of the above.

Our meeting night is the same but the location is different for the month of October and November. The location is only minutes away (**see above note**). Nothing else has changed, we will have all our raffles, 50/50, program and auction. We will also be discussing our upcoming election of officers and board members.

Julie MacRae will be presenting "The Magic of Thailand – Underwater and Above!".

See you all at the **October 14th Monday night 7pm** meeting at **Asbury UMC!**

Mike Trzonkowski – DSAS President

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.

DSAS Annual Auction Event at **Wilmington Manor Lions Club** is scheduled for **Saturday, September 28th, 2024.**

Please note: Alcoholic beverages are NOT allowed inside or outside at any DSAS events or meetings!!

October's presentation: "The Magic of Thailand – Underwater & Above!". Join Julie MacRae on a whirlwind tour of temples, elephants, night markets, scuba diving and more in a trip to the beautiful country of Thailand. Experience the thrill of seeing exotic marine fish and critters through the eyes of a passionate diver. I promise I won't make you eat crickets but see if I was brave enough to do it!

Memberships

Due

2025 memberships are due now!

We are now on a calendar year renewal

Welcome new Members!

Richard Yale

Future Meeting Dates:

****Oct 14th**
****Nov 11th**
Dec 9th
Jan 13th
Feb 10th
Mar 10th
Apr 14th
May 12th
Jun 9th****

DSAS Annual Auction
Event on Saturday,
September 28th

****Alternate Meeting****

Location

Asbury U.M.C.
300 E Basin Rd
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 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 3rd 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*

Door Prizes

Raffle Prizes

Marineland Precision Subm Heater 100wt – Charlie W
Aqueon 10-gal glass aquarium tank – Jim H
Hagen Marina Battery Air Pump – Rosemarie B
Airline Supply Kit – Joe K
4-output metal air valve – Mike T
Digital temperature gage – Donna G
XY-180 Super Biochemical Spong Filter – Mike T
Ken's Premium Ultra Meat Wafers ¼ lb – Jim H
Ken's Premium Floating Cichlid Pellets 3.5mm ¼ lb – Jim H
Ken's Premium Veggie Wafers ¼ lb – Rosemarie B
Hagen Marina 5" fish net – Jim H
Blue Ribbon Polyester Filter Floss – Mike T
Digital pH meter – Charlie W
Sera polo shirt – XL – Tim Z
Coiled Tubing Cleaning Brush 155cm – Mike T
Marineland Aquarium Sealant 2.8 oz tube – Marty Z
Crayfish Empire Spirulina Shrimp Sticks – Mike T
Northfin Cichlid Premium Food – Marty Z

Members Only

XY-2833 aquarium sponge filter – Dave K
Digital TDS&EC meter – Al H
Sera Catfish Food – Julie M
Cobalt Aquatics Betta Pellets – Judy W
Lee's Glass Algae Scrubbing Pad – Mike T
5-pk air stones – Paul A
Hagne Marina 4" fish net – Dolly Z
Hagen Marina Airstone Cube – Charlie W
Cleaning brush set 10pc on ring – Donna G
Airline Tubing 15 ft – Marilyn K
Hagen Marina Glass Thermometer – Jeff W
Sera O-Nip Nature Treat Tabs – Tim Z
Crayfish Empire Food Sample Pack – Marty Z
Fritz Water Conditioner – Khumar S
Aqua Ultraviolet Tote Bag – Scottie S
Tetra Aqua Safe Plus – Stu O
Cobalt Aquatics Goldfish Flakes – Jim H
Betta Bites – Amanda D
Fish Socks – Tom H

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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, 1st 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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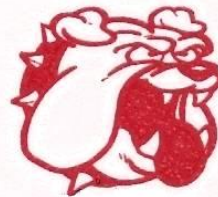
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Group Purchases will need to be made via phone (800-303-7914 or 801-782-4700), email (sales@brineshrimpdirect.com), or fax (801-782-4200)

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 Monday, **October 21st, 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.