

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2025

Number 1



Next Meeting:

**DSAS January Meeting, 7pm
Monday, January 13th, at
Wilmington Manor Lions Club
“Freshwater Fishes of Costa Rica”
Speaker: Dan Fromm**

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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Incorporated Since 1988

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Jeff Mey
(302) 562-8975

VICE PRESIDENT
Donna Goff
(484) 753-2285

SECRETARY
Marilyn Kurman
(484) 477-7399

TREASURER
Marty Ziegler
(302) 363-6902



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—\$25/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.

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WEBSITE: <http://dsas.online/>
<http://dsas.club/>

Gravel Gossip Editor

Marty Ziegler
(302) 363-6902

ADVERTISING RATES

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\$100/Year
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\$50/Year
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Quarter Page
\$30/Year
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The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

Elections were held at the December meeting. **Welcome to our new President, Jeff Mey, new Secretary, Marilyn Kurman, and new board member, Scottie Schmidt!** Donna Goff remains as the Vice President and Marty Ziegler remains as the Treasurer. Board members David Krah, David Mitchell, Charlie Walls, Joe Solge, Bill Smith remain with the addition of former President, and former Secretary, Dolly Ziegler.

Happy New Year DSAS Club Members and Guests!

As your new President, I'm looking forward to kicking off our first meeting of the year with our speaker, Dan Fromm, who will be sharing "**Freshwater Fishes of Costa Rica**".

A special thank you to everyone who joined us in December and enjoyed a delicious meal, fellowship with fish enthusiasts and loads of sweet desserts!

As I committed in my "campaign speech" in December, our goal will be to start and end on time, focusing on starting promptly at 7 and ending by 10 p.m. Our speaker this month has a one-hour long presentation that he will be sharing, so follow-up questions will need to be submitted by email.

Please watch for information pertaining to our by-laws as we begin a renewed effort of continuous improvement to our club's mission for growth.

See you **Monday night at 7 p.m., January 13th**, at **Wilmington Lion's Club!**

Jeff Mey – DSAS President

Motto from your President: Take time to enjoy your fish!

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.

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

Memberships Due

**2025 memberships are
due now!**

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

Welcome new Members!

**Rose Marie Burke
Art Zimmerman**

Future Meeting Dates:

Feb 10th
Mar 10th
Apr 14th
May 12th
Jun 9th

DSAS Annual Auction
Event on Saturday,
September 13th, 2025

****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

(For our annual picnic in July)

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 100wt Submersible Heater – Marilyn K
Hagen Marina Battery Air Pump – Marilyn K
Ken's Ultra Color Max Mini Sticks ¼ lb – Marilyn K
Ken's Premium Veggie Wafers ¼ lb – Marilyn K
Hagen Marina 6" fish net – Mike T
Telescoping Aquarium Fish Net – Marty Z
Abcore Krill-Spirulina Crumble Bits 3.75 oz – Jeff M
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flakes 1.0 oz – Marty Z
Lee's Black Flexible Airline Tubing 25 ft – Charlie W
4-Outlet Metal Air Valve – Dave K
Sera Polo Shirt – Lrg – Omar R
ASI Aquarium Sealant Tube 10.2 oz – Donna G
Vitalis Tropical Pellets 4.94 oz – Joe S
Coiled flexible tube cleaning brush 155 cm – Marilyn K
Sera pitcher – Omar
Aquarium Décor Fish Cave – Dave K

Members Only

XY-2835 aquarium sponge filter – Scottie S
Digital TDS&EC meter – Khumar S
Wizard Algae Scrubbing Pad for Glass – Mike T
Hagen Marina 4" fish net – Jim H
Hagen Marina Airstone Cube – Dave K
Hagen Marina Airstone Sphere – Marty Z
Hagen Marina Glass Thermometer – Judy W
Fritz Complete Water Conditioner – Donna G
Aqua Ultraviolet Cap – Stu O
Lee's Airline Control Kit – Art Z
Floating Rectangular Fish Feeding Ring – Rose B
Sera Nature O-Nip Treat Tabs – David M
DSAS Coffee Mug – Jeff W
Blue Ribbon Polyester Filter Floss – Al H
Sera Nature Insect Food – Phil S
Ken's Ultra Spirulina Sticks – Jeff M

Aquatic Services

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Alternate Future Meeting Location (TBD)

**Asbury United Methodist Church
300 E Basin Rd (Rt 141)
New Castle, DE 19720**

**Take the I-95 exit to Rt 141 towards New Castle.
Rt 141 in New Castle is Basin Road. Cross bridge over
Rt 13, next light, make u-turn, church is on the right,
the church second driveway is the entrance, turn right
follow to back part of building, parking lot and
entrance on back right side or back door to hall.**

The following **MANUFACTURERS** and **RETAIL STORES** donate product to our club for our annual events and/or monthly meeting raffles

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Fritz Industries, Inc.
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Small World Aquatics

Aquarium Store Sponsors:

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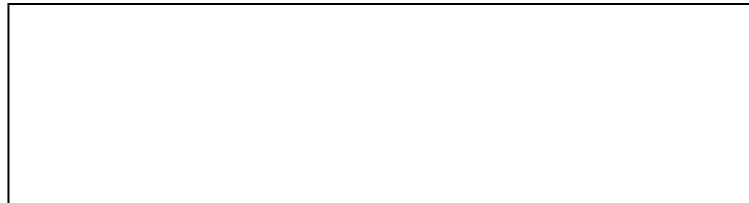
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Brine Shrimp Direct welcomes Diamond State Aquarium Society and its members to our new Club Discount Program.

All members placing orders online will save 5% off of their order when entering your new affiliate ID#* in the promotional code box. Group Purchases over \$250 (excluding brine shrimp eggs) will receive a 7.5% discount. Brine shrimp eggs will receive a maximum discount of 5%.

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Plus Flake, Zoo Plankton Plus Flake and Mariner Plus Flake. (\$9.95)

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 Tuesday, *January 20th, 2025*, 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.