

The

# Gravel Gossip

Volume 2025

Number 2



Next Meeting:

**DSAS Meeting, 7pm  
Monday, February 10th, at  
Wilmington Manor Lions Club  
“Mystery Snails – Solving the Mystery”  
Speaker: Scottie Schmidt**

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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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.

## BOARD MEMBERS

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Quarter Page  
\$30/Year  
\$4/Month



# The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

*The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.*

Hi all! Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our January meeting. Our speaker was Dan Fromm, sharing his 1986 fish collecting trip to Costa Rica. This month our speaker will be Scottie Schmidt on Mystery Snails... solving the mystery. We will also have our door prizes, raffles, drawings, live auction and refreshments.

We are currently in the process of updating our club by-laws for DSAS. Please make sure we have your current email, so you will receive the original and proposed updates to our by-laws. In one of our upcoming monthly meetings, all club members in good standing will be asked to vote on the upgrades once the board has developed a draft proposal.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our February monthly meeting that will be held on **Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**, starting promptly at **7 p.m.** at the **Wilmington Manor Lions Club** (behind Wilmington University), 320 N. DuPont Hwy (Rt 13 N), New Castle, DE. 19720.

*Jeff Mey – DSAS President*

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

***March Meeting Presentation "Harvesting Brine Shrimp: by David Kraß***

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

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.

## Memberships

### Due

Liz A	Kate D
Lauren F	Jim H
Frank I	Scott K
Paul M	Dave M
Amy O	Shawn R
Wayne R	Scottie S
Jessica S	Phil S
Joe S	Dean V
JoAnn V	Tim Z

## Welcome new Members!

### Future Meeting Dates:

Mar 10<sup>th</sup>  
Apr 14<sup>th</sup>  
May 12<sup>th</sup>  
Jun 9<sup>th</sup>  
July 26<sup>th</sup> Picnic at Iron Hill  
Park Pavilion  
Aug 11<sup>th</sup>  
Sep 8<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 13<sup>th</sup>

DSAS Annual Auction  
Event on Saturday,  
September 13<sup>th</sup>, 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](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

*(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 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 40 Air Pump – Marty Z  
Aqua Ultraviolet T-Shirt Large – Dave K  
Ken's Premium Veggie Wafers ¼ lb – Joe S  
Hagen Marina 5" fish net – Tom R  
Sm Wrld Aqtics Telescoping Aquarium Fish Net – Efron G  
Abcore Omnivore Spirulina Crumble Bits 3.75 oz – Tom R  
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Gran Prem Sink Fd 2.7 oz – Joe S  
Airline Tubing 15 ft – Charlie W  
3-Outlet Metal Air Valve – Charlie W  
Sera Veggie Food 4.6 oz – Efron G  
Vitalis Tropical Pellets 4.94 oz – Marty Z  
Blue Ribbon Filter Floss – Mike T  
Ken's Ultra Meat Wafers ¼ lb – Joe S  
XY-180 Super Biochemical Sponge Filter – Joe K  
Digital Ph Meter – Charlie W

## Members Only

XY-2835 aquarium sponge filter – Joe K  
Digital TDS meter – Khumar S  
Wizard Algae Scrubbing Pad for Glass – Mike T  
Hagen Marina 5" fish net – Rick Y  
Hagen Marina Airstone Cube – Paul A  
Hagen Marina Airstone Sphere – Tom R  
Hagen Marina Glass Thermometer – Julie M  
Fritz Complete Water Conditioner – Amanda D  
Sera Yellow Polo Shirt medium – Stu O  
Lee's Airline Control Kit – Scottie S  
Floating Rectangular Fish Feeding Ring – Roberts F  
DSAS Coffee Mug – Judy W  
Ken's Ultra Earthworm Mini Sticks – Rose B  
Cobalt Aquatics Cichlid Flakes – Joe S  
Vitalis Anemone Pellets – Dave K  
Cobalt Aquatics Towel – Marty Z

## 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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# The Trading Post

**For Sale:** Show Piece Quality **Driftwood**

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Call **Ed** at (610) 586-7250

**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](mailto: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.

\*\*\* **FRESHWATER FLAKES** \*\*\*

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\*\*\* **SUPER GREEN FLAKES** \*\*\*

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\*\*\* **BEEF HEART FLAKES** \*\*\*

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\*\*\* **TRIO SPECIAL BLEND FLAKES** \*\*\*

**FOR MORE INFO AND TO PLACE AN ORDER, VISIT:**

**[www.AlmostNaturalTropicalFishFood.com](http://www.AlmostNaturalTropicalFishFood.com)**

**Aquarium Hobbyist**  
**[aquariumhobbyist.com](http://aquariumhobbyist.com)**

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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%.

We are always available by phone and email to answer member questions about our products or take phone orders for customers who prefer the personal touch.

We have recently added a number of new products including:

- Live Brine Shrimp!
- Live Copepod starter cultures. (\$9.95)
- Enriched Brine Shrimp
- Frozen Daphnia
- Frozen Krill Pacifica Plankton
- Frozen Mysis
- Frozen Rotifers
- Frozen Bloodworms
- all of the above in convenient cube trays.
- Plus Flake Sampler

Flake Diets Plus 4 Pack which contains 1 ounce jars of our Garlic Plus Flake, Phyto Plankton

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](mailto: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, *February 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 Monday, 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.