

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2025

Number 10



Next Meeting:

DSAS Monday Night Meeting

October 13th, 7pm

Asbury United Methodist Church

**Brian from Fish2Coral will be sharing his 20+
years of experience in the hobby**

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

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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.

The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

Please note: We will be meeting at our alternate meeting location: Asbury United Methodist Church due to the college being closed on Monday.

Address is in the lower right corner of this page.

I want to thank everyone for all your help in making our Annual Auction so successful! We had 16 volunteers working to ensure everything ran smoothly. This was the first time we used the on-line auction.fish website, enabling us to auction off over 400 items! There were over 40 people in attendance at this year's auction. We are looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming October meeting where our speaker, Brian from Fish2Coral, will be sharing his 20+ years of experience. The by-laws are ready for club review! Please note the meeting location change for our OCTOBER Meeting! Look for additional details in the Gravel Gossip.

The November meeting will be dedicated to candidate nominations of Board Members and Officers, and Q&A discussion of the by-laws. A vote on acceptance of the changes to our by-laws and voting for open Board and Officer positions will be included as part of our Annual meeting / Christmas Party in December.

We continue to welcome your feedback on ideas for future meeting speakers. Please let me know which topics you'd like to learn more about!

Looking forward to seeing you all at our ***October 13th Monday night meeting*** at ***7pm*** at our alternate location at ***Asbury United Methodist Church***.

Jeff Mey – DSAS President

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

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

Kate D

Lauren F

Frank I

Paul M

Amy O Shawn R

Wayne R

Jessica S

JoAnn V

Welcome new Members!

Future Meeting Dates:

****Oct 13th ****

Nov 10th

Dec 8th

Jan 12th, 2026

Feb 9th

Mar 9th

Apr 13th,

May 11th

Jun 8th

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

****Alternate Meeting****

Location

**Asbury U.M.C.
300 E Basin Rd (Rt 141)
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 over and past the 896 bridge onto Rt 896.

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

AquaTop 50wt submersible heater – Charlie W
Aquatop Classic Aqua-Flow sponge filter – Joe K
TetraMin Tropical Flakes 2.2oz – RoseMarie B
Vitalis Tropical Flakes 4.94oz – Richard Y
ZooMed Flora Sun Max Plantht Grow T8 – Khumar S
Blue Ribbon Filter Floss – Joe K
Hagen Marina 5” fish net – Richard Y
Fritz Catappa Leaves 10pk – Richard Y
ZooMed Pleco Banquet Block – Khumar S
Fritz-Zyme 7 live nitrifying bacteria 8oz – Khumar S
Fritz Crystal Clear water clarifier 8oz – Khumar S

Members Only

XY-2835 Aquarium Sponge Filter – Donna G
Aquarium Stick-on Thermometer – Al H
Hagen Marina Air Stone Sphere – Richard Y
Blue Ribbon filter floss – David M
ZooMed Reptisafe water conditioner – Marilyn K
TetraMin Tropical Flakes 1oz– Julie M
Vitalis Tropical Flakes 2.47oz – Jeff W
Rectangular feeding ring – RoseMarie B
Hagen Marina 4” fish net – Judy W
ZooMed Floating Betta Exercise Mirror – Amanda D

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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.
Hikari Sales USA, Inc.
Sera North America, Inc.
Small World Aquatics
ZooMed 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.

* * * * FRESHWATER FLAKES * * * *

* * * * SUPER COLOR FLAKES * * * *

* * * * SUPER COLOR BALLS * * * *

* * * * SHRIMP PELLETS * * * *

* * * * FREEZE DRIED BLOOD WORMS * * * *

* * * * SUPER GREEN FLAKES * * * *

* * * * ALGAE DISCS * * * *

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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.

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Frozen Bloodworms

all of the above in convenient cube trays.

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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 Monday, ***October 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. Google Meet link is:

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 one 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.