

# KILLIE NEWS

A Publication of the Minnesota Killie Keepers Association  
An affiliate of the American Killifish Association (AKA)

May 2008

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### Table of Contents:

Page 2      Article: Have a Nice Trip      By Bob Wolter  
 Page 3      Club communications  
 Page 3      Meeting Notice      Page 3      Calendar of Events

### **From the Editor:**

We have another article by Bob Wolter. This one is timely because many of us have trips, both short and long, coming up throughout the summer months. Many are starting with the upcoming AKA convention.

If you aren't able to attend the convention but still want to support the hobby, Craig is going to get a box together and send them some fish and a couple of our t-shirts. I know Craig would really appreciate it if anyone had a pair or two of fish they would be willing to send.

If you have any ideas about something you'd like to see in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to let me know. This newsletter is for the entire club and I welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Happy fish keeping!

*Robin*

The April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was at the home of Bruce and Sally Cameron. We want to thank the Cameron's for their hospitality and the yummy food that Sally made.

Present at the meeting were: Jason Albers, Randy Bates, Bruce & Sally Cameron, Bob Carter, Robin Engelking, Kelly Huesmann, Russ & Margie Johnson, Jen Kruckenberg and Craig Rees.

We want to welcome new members **Randy Bates, Kelly Huesmann and Russ & Margie Johnson** to the club. We look forward to seeing you at many more meetings!

## Have a Nice Trip By Bob Wolter

Everything is going to be all right so...have a nice trip. Fish, as we all know, are cold-blooded creatures. In the wild, a ruined fly hatch up- stream, does not spell doom for all of our finned friends living downstream. They will survive until the next fly hatch.

Cold bloodedness is a wonderful adaptation for survival. Humans need to burn fuel in our cells to maintain a constant body temperature of about 98 degrees. This allows our metabolism to remain constant and allows us to remain active in very cold weather. This luxury, however, comes with a price. We need a constant supply of food to maintain our metabolism. Fish do not!

But wait; doesn't this contradict what we observe in our fish tanks? Please be aware that the fish watch us as much as we watch them. So... enter Mr. or Mrs. Fish Keeper in close proximity to the tank. Our fish recognize us as the purveyors of happiness. Our woebegone little charges pleadingly attempt to elicit a response. "Please feed me you big Meany!"

If they have properly conditioned us, we will get them food. After all, they are starving. To further induce us to rationalize our response, they will greedily gobble up every delicious morsel in site and beg us for more. Why?

Paradoxically, in nature, fish are conditioned to accept a fast to famine regimen. When food is available, they will bulk up because they don't know when they will get their next meal. Who knows? - It might be weeks! And this, my friends, is exactly the point. ***If you go on vacation, it will be weeks!***

What to do? Should you have Uncle Joe come over to feed them while you are gone? More fish are killed by over feeding than any other cause. Repeat after me- ***more fish are killed by over feeding than by any other cause.*** Decaying and rotted food pollutes their fragile environment and smaller aquariums do not have the buffering factor that larger aquariums do. In plain English, a smaller tank will go sour much quicker. So take your warm blooded Dog to the kennel, and let Uncle Joe stay home.

What can you do then:

1. Temperature - it is a well known fact among Japanese Goldfish fanciers that temperature plays a major role in food requirements. Above 75 degrees, fish get full rations. Above 60 degrees, and the fish get ½ rations. With the temperature above 40 degrees Fahrenheit and the fish get ¼ rations. If the temperature gets below 40, the fish are simply not fed at all.

They know that fish are cold blooded and as the water temperature drops, so do their goldfish's metabolism. Obviously, our killies can't survive under the ice, but how about lowering the temperature to about 68 degrees or so. Lower temperature = lower metabolism = lower food requirements. The Japanese have known this for centuries and have the fancy goldfish to prove it!

2. Give you fish a feast before the famine - "fatten" them up good several weeks before your trip.
3. Nice clean water - give them a nice 50% water change right before your trip. Be sure to siphon up all detritus from the bottom.
4. Provide lots of hiding places and place the potential bullies in solitary confinement.

Personally, I have been gone for as long as three weeks and the fish have been fine. There, now your fish are ready and you are too! Have a nice trip

## Club communications:

There will be a topic workshop discussion at the next meeting at Bob's house. Topic to be announced.

1. At the May meeting there will be 20 new sponge filters available for sale for \$4.00 each. This size can be used for 2-1/2, 5-1/2, & 10-gallon tanks.
2. Craig Rees set-up the club's first shipment of blackworms to land at his apartment on Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> which is the day of the MKKA meeting to be held at Bob Carter's house in New Brighton. We are bringing in 5 lbs. to start with. If need be, we can increase our order to the next level which is 8 lbs. Craig will be dividing the shipment into 1/2 & 1 lb. bags.  
If you are planning on purchasing blackworms, please bring a small styro or plastic container with ice to keep them cold and to transport them home. We are planning on bringing blackworms in on a monthly basis. The delivery will always be the same day as the MKKA meeting so they can be distributed easily.
3. If anyone needs any other live food cultures, email Craig at [killifish777@comcast.net](mailto:killifish777@comcast.net) before the next meeting and let him know what you need.  
Available: wingless fruit flies, banana worms, walter worms, & vinegar eels.
4. MKKA shirts will be available at all MKKA meetings, but not all sizes are available. If there is a particular size you need, email Craig so he can bring that size shirt to the meeting. We have *A. elberti* N'tui & *Fp. gardneri* Misaje shirts. *Epiplatys annulatus* MKKA shirts coming soon! This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ken McKeigan Jr design.
5. The MAS show was held the weekend of April 26th & 27th. There were a fair number of killies in the show. Hats off to everyone who hung out around the killifish area to answer questions.  
About 150 MKKA pens, 50 MKKA business cards & 50 2008 show flyers were taken by hobbyists visiting the show. Four AKA Beginner's Guides, one AKA Epiplatys book, & one Ed Warner book were sold. MKKA donated two t-shirts to the raffle.

6. Craig is planning on sending a box of fish to the AKA Convention. If anyone has something they would like to send, let him know. The AKA is asking for some not-so-common killies, probably due to the number of pairs they have in the auction on Sunday.
7. The American Killifish Association (AKA) BOT has voted & approved for Craig Rees to get the AKA emblem t-shirts printed. (Artwork & design by Susan Stacey). He will bring them to the printer soon for production.

For sale, email Craig Rees at [killifish777@comcast.net](mailto:killifish777@comcast.net) if interested.

<i>Fundulopanchax gardneri mamfensis</i> Faishang, quad(1 male & 3 females)	\$12.00
<i>Epiplatys singa</i> CI-2004, pair	\$ 8.00
<i>Rivulus uroflammeus seigfriedi</i> Jardin Gaia CR 03, pair	\$ 8.00

Bob Carter is looking for a female Blue Gularis. He needs one that is three to four inches long if possible. Email him at: [fishkeeperbob@comcast.net](mailto:fishkeeperbob@comcast.net).

### Directions to Bob Carter's home:

Follow 694 to Silver Lake Road. Turn North on Silver Lake Road. Continue to Mississippi Street (4th Stoplight-approximately 1 mile). Turn right (EAST) onto Mississippi Street. Continue straight through the stop sign at the top of the hill. . Bob's house is on the right side of the street two driveways before you get to Long Lake Road.

1821 Mississippi Street  
New Brighton, MN 55112  
**651-633-4351**

### MKKA 2007 Calendar of Events:

#### MKKA 2008 Calendar of Events:

Saturday April 19, 2008 was at the home of Bruce Cameron.

Social time started at 7:00 pm and the meeting started at 7:30 pm. 651-633-6484

Thursday, May 15, 2008 is scheduled to be in the home of Bob Carter

Social time starts at 7:00 pm and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. 651-633-4351

Thursday, June 19, 2008 is scheduled to be at the home of Milo Squires.

Social time starts at 7:00 pm and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. 952-448-4153

Saturday July 12, 2008 is scheduled to be at the home of Mike and Erin Kromrey  
Social time starts at 4:00 pm and the meeting starts at 4:30 pm.

**Saturday August 9, 2008** will be a road trip to visit Tom Kean in Minot ND. We would leave Saturday August 9th and return Sunday August 10th. Tom has been a member of our club for many years and has a special fondness for the Diapterons and for Nothobranchius. Put it on you calendar (or at least keep the trip in mind for now).

Thursday, September 18, 2008 is scheduled to be at the home of Robin Engelking  
Social time starts at 7:00 pm and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. This is the post-show meeting.  
763-560-5038.

Thursday, October 16, 2008 is scheduled to be at the home of Craig Rees.  
Social time starts at 7:00 pm and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm 952-403-6038.

Thursday, November 20, 2008 is scheduled to be at the home of Jen Kruckenberg. We will take nominations for Board members for the 2009 year. 651-457-2302.

Thursday, December 18, 2008 is scheduled to be at the home of Milo Squires. We need to elect officers this month.  
952-448-4153.