

KILLIE NEWS

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

July 2008

Minnesota Killie Keepers Association Board of Directors

President: Milo Squires 952 448-4153 **Secretary:** John Aldrich 651-214-8963
 email: milosquires@chaska.net email: killifisher@msn.com

Treasurer: Craig Rees 612-345-1512 **Editor:** Robin Engelking 763-560-5038
 email: killifish777@comcast.net email: raqbe@usinternet.com

General Member: Carter McAninch 763-784-4937
 email: _carter_mc@excite.com

Committee Positions: Show Chairs: Milo Squires & Craig Rees
 Web Master: Robert Carter email: fishkeeperbob@comcast.net

Web Site: www.mkka.net

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From the Editor:

We have a new section in the newsletter called club communications. This is meant to help club members share information and to help people get things they might need from other club members, such as plants or fish, and to let others know what you have that you would like to sell or trade, or just share as information. Please email me at raqbe@usinternet.com with anything you'd like to see included.

If you have any ideas about something you'd like to see in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to let me know. Articles, pictures, artwork and general information that other members might find interesting are always welcome. Email me at raqbe@usinternet.com. This newsletter is for the entire club and I welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Happy fish keeping!

Robin

The June 19th meeting was at the home of Milo Squires. We want to thank Milo for his hospitality.

Present at the meeting were: Jason Albers, Bruce Cameron, Bob Carter, Robin Engelking, Frank Grund, Margie & Russ Johnson, Mike Kromrey, Jen Kruckenberg, Carter McAninch, Craig Rees, Craig Squires, Milo Squires and Pat Whitney.

Our new member from New Jersey, Steve, sent three pairs of fish in lieu of cash to pay for his membership. (*N. guentheri*, *Scriptaphyosemion etzeli* Lungi LOL 99/10, *Rivulus deltaphilus* Tucupita) Craig auctioned them off during the meeting.

*******News Bulletin- Noah's Ark Sinks*******

by Bob Wolter

..... and the animals came two by two. Soon it would rain for 40 day and 40 nights and the firmament would be covered with water. But wait a minute; our killies swim for a living.

At our most recent auction, I noticed a fellow who was buying so much he could have filled the ark. Every bag of fish he was familiar with was purchased, and when he didn't recognize a fish he would ask others around him to describe it - then he bought those too! He filled the two boxes he had brought with his new charges. As he explained, he had made replacement purchases for all those fish that had died from last year's auction. ...***And they had all died!***

This was sobering to say the least and brings up several thoughts:

1. In the short term, yes, it was good for the club sales.
2. In the long term, will he return next year to buy more or will he become disgruntled with another failure and either never return or possibly return to shoot us all? ***We all know the power of a disgruntled Postal Employee.***
3. In the long term, for the good of the club, wouldn't it have been better for him to have joined the club and gotten some good information so he could keep his new charges alive. He was quite young and could have been the future of the club, returning year after year to sensibly buy even more fish. ***When asked to join, he replied that he didn't have the time!***
4. And now dear reader a question needs answering - what will become of his new charges? If you foresee doom, then your grasp of the obvious is astonishing.

To paraphrase in the words of Dickens's hero Carleton, "It is to a far better place they go than they have ever been before" – DEATH.

Regrettably, he was not alone! On the opposite side of the room were a couple of enthusiastic young fellows from a western suburb that were doing the same

thing; the exuberance of youth – or in the words of former fed Chairman Allen Greenspan – “irrational exuberance”.

How were our savvy fellow club members behaving during the auction? In a few words – with great restraint!

1. Buying “new Blood” for already existent strains they had.
2. Making a purchase of fish they wanted for an empty community tank.
3. Looking for new and expensive rare fish and willing to pay “what ever it took” to procure them.
4. Looking for a new line to add to production.

Our club is very fortunate to have such a wonderful age mix: the wisdom of the elders is mixed with the vigor of youth. We have many greatly enjoyable people in the club. I must confess: for a number of my years of association with the club - *I had absolutely no killies at all. Honestly!! I was there because of the Great People.*

Your Club can last far into the future, far outliving any of us. Future members can enjoy the same camaraderie that we have enjoyed. While grateful for the number of nice young couples and ladies that we already have, clearly more must be done. And the three young fellows that bought far too many fish? – One fine day they will meet a young lady and settle down. Hopefully she will share her husband’s interest – and the club can add another nice young couple to the roster. We must seek out youth for both the good of your hobby and the good of your club.

In the words of Washington Redskins venerable coach George Allen-

“The Future is NOW!”

Killie Egg Storage Containers

by Craig Rees

Frequently I am asked by hobbyists what kind of containers I store my killie eggs in. Well, many years ago I found some round Variflex film containers that were 6 1/2" in diameter and 2" high. They are medium gray in color and do not let any light pass through the container. The eggs are constantly stored in the dark.

Killie eggs must be stored in the dark. Killie eggs are light sensitive. If light is allowed in the fry in eggs that are nearing full development can break through the egg casing and hatch prematurely. Many will still have the egg sack attached and many of the fry will not survive if hatched out prematurely.

Any plastic or glass container (although glass can be broken easily) will work for storing killie eggs; whether you are incubating your eggs in liquid or on top of peat. Here are a couple of things to keep in mind to make your egg storing a lot easier. Use a container that has a least a 6" diameter. You want to spread the eggs out so they do not touch each other. The reason is that fungus on dead eggs will send out filaments that spread. This will infect the good fertile eggs and will kill them too. If you are storing eggs on top of peat, the same thing goes. Spread out your eggs! You also want a shallow container. 2" to 3" is plenty deep. The deeper the container, the harder it is to get out newly hatched fry when you're chasing them around with a pipette. Use containers that have a top that comes off easy. After having gone in and out of several egg containers thousands of times, you'll know what I mean. Last but not least is to use containers that stack on top of each other. That will save you space.

You will want to check your eggs on a daily basis, if possible, and every week or so, change out some of the water. Eggs give off pollution just like any living creature. Think of it as a water change. Eggs on peat have very little maintenance. Just keep the peat moist so it does not dry out and pick out the fungused eggs.

I recently discovered a container by Sterilite at Target. It is the medium size 11"x 6 5/8" x 2 3/4" clip box for \$1.99. It is, however, a clear box. Stored in a cupboard or dark area, it would be fine. They stack nicely, and have lots of egg storage space. Best of all, the clip top is nearly friction free. I'm going to add some of these containers to my collection. I'm going to store them in my cupboard. When I take them out to check the eggs the light will come in from the top and sides to make it quick and easy to check the eggs, and hopefully healthy hatched-out fry too.

July Club communications:

Club Business:

The club trip to visit Tom Kean is still on for August. Bruce Cameron, Robin Engelking and Jen Kruckenbergh are going. Tom offered a free pair or two of fish to club members. He has *Aphyosemion georgiae* and *Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus* right now. He has offered to let those attending bring back fish for those who can't go. Let one of those going know if you would like some fish. There is still room in the vehicle if anyone else is interested in going.

Craig is trying to have blackworms available at the killie meetings. If you are interested please email him at killiefish777@comcast.com. They are \$10.00 for a half pound and \$20.00 for a full pound. Please bring a styro or cooler with ice in it to transport your worms home.

MKKA will print cards with your name& email address if you want some business cards. That way when you talk to hobbyists about killies, you can give them a card with the club information on it and spread the word around about MKKA. Robin will bring some sample cards to the July meeting and you can place your orders then. We have a number of nice killie pictures for the front of the card.

Mike at Something Fishy is offering a free "membership" plus 10% off any purchase to MKKA members; just show one of our business cards at the store and ask for the discount.

There are still club shirts available. We have *Fundulopanchax gardneri* Misaje and *Aphyosemion elberti* N'tui. If you are interested in getting a shirt email Craig at killifish777@comcast.com and he can tell you if we have your size available.

Craig Rees was working with Greg Simpson on putting together a Gary & Andy cartoon 2009 calendar. Unfortunately the price was too much, so the calendar is tabled for now.

Kudos:

Fish and Plants Available:

Upcoming Affiliate Shows:

Wanted:

Websites of Interest to Killie Keepers:

If you are interested in Rivulus and South or Central American killies check out www.itrainsfishes.net/content

Class sponsors 2008

Class 1	Shannon Fought	paid
Class 2	open	
Class 3	open	
Class 4	Bob Carter	paid
Class 5	open	
Class 6	Jenny Kruckenberg	not paid
Class 7	Carter McAninch	not paid
Class 8	Craig Rees	paid
Class 9	Mike & Erin Kromrey	paid
Class 10	Milo Squires	not paid
Class 11	open	
Class 12	John Aldrich	not paid
Class 13	Milo Squires	not paid
Best of Show	MKKA	

Some MKKA 2008 show class sponsorships' are still available. Sponsorships are \$20 for each class. Your name will be on the award as class sponsor. Sponsorships will help offset some of the show costs. If interested, email Craig Rees at killifish777@comcast.net.

Directions to Mike and Erin's house

Take Highway 65 north to 219th Avenue. Turn left at 219th avenue and follow to the stop sign at 217th lane. Turn right onto 217th lane. Mike's house is the second one on the right.

1069 - 217th Lane
East Bethel
763-434-3456

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 was at the home of Bob Carter

Social time started at 7:00 pm and the meeting started at 8:00 pm. 651-633-4351

Thursday, June 19, 2008 was 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 will 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).

Friday September 12, 2008 is the day we will be doing the show set-up.

Saturday September 13, 2008 is the 15th annual MKKA killifish show.

Sunday September 14, 2008 is the fish auction and show teardown.

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.