

*KILLIE NEWS*

A Publication of the Minnesota Killie Keepers Association

An affiliate of the American Killifish Association (AKA)

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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](mailto:raqbe@usinternet.com) with anything you'd like to see included.

I hope you've been feeding up some of your killies for the show. If we all entered just one fish we could have the show be 25% bigger than last year. Killies are very easy to show. You just put one male and one female into a critter keeper. The club even supplies the water and the tank to put them in! Please consider entering at least one pair this year.

Email me at [raqbe@usinternet.com](mailto:raqbe@usinternet.com). This newsletter is for the entire club and I welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Happy fish keeping!

*Robin*

The Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was at the home of Mike Kromrey. Thanks for having us into your home, Mike!

I was unable to attend and no one sent me any notes, so I don't know who was in attendance. Sorry! – Robin.

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## **The Lamottei King Minnesota's Very Own**

By Bob Wolter

Ah yes, conjuring up images of Darkest Africa and the fabled Ape and Lion Kings is Minnesota's very own Lamottei King. Hey- wait a minute! What is a Lamottei?

A Lamottei would pose absolutely no threat to the powerful Gorilla, nor would it even tickle the palate of the mighty Lion King. The Lamottei, you see, is a teeny tiny little fish that lives in the uppermost reaches of Africa's Niger River. The Lamottei King isn't even from Africa. Where is he from? Stay tuned!

*Epiplatys* is a relatively recent fish – named after its collector M. LaMotte. Daget described it in 1954 as *Epiplatys fasciolatus* Lamottei. Radda describes it as 70 mm for male length. The location is listed as the upper Niger River drainage. The fish is a wee bit larger than the more common *Epiplatys dageti*. The male has a beautiful iridescent light blue to purple sheen on the body with a contrasting red band on the dorsal, caudal, and anal fins. In both the Lamottei king's and your author's opinion, this is truly the best of the genus.

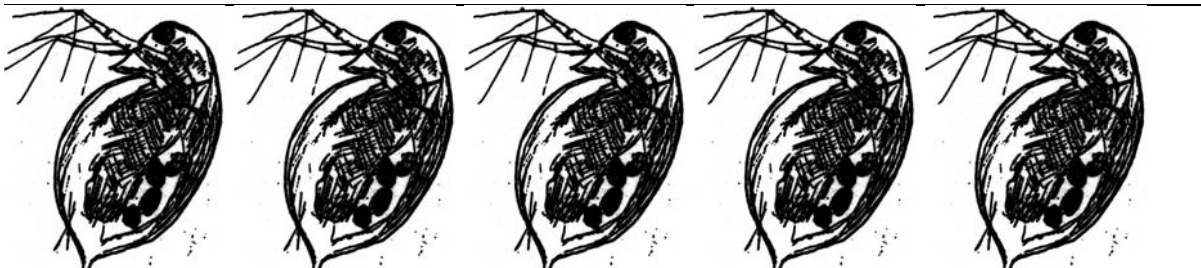
Although Wildekamp describes the fish as easy, your authors experience suggests otherwise. Last November, I had received both a group of young fish and some eggs from "the king." The eggs all hatched, but the young were hard to raise on micro worms. Green water seems to be the prescription for the tiny young. Four fry were produced from one pair placed by themselves, but after changing water and returning the fish into the mops, the adults must have eaten them. Strike one! The other adult fish were so shy that I almost never saw them when I put them into a single species community tank. Strike two. I gave up in frustration until seeing about 5 ½ inch fry last month. Thankfully these little guys swim out in the front of the tank, while their parents hide. This experience is hardly a resounding success, but each Killiekeeper has success with a few species (of the hundreds available). What are your "success" fish?  
**You will NEVER KNOW unless you try!**

My “success” fish are Blue Gularis, *Dageti*, *Spoorensbergi*, and Jos Plateau *Gardneri*. No wrong can be done with these guys and they are great in single species tanks (55 Gallon for about 20 Gularis, and 20 gallon long for others).

Absolutely no one I know has anywhere near the success with *Lamottei* as the “Lamottei King”. Forget what you may read – this is not an easy fish. The King has maintained and bred them for nearly 2 decades, and was one of the Upper Midwest’s firsts. He cautions that the fish is very shy and needs a dark tank with lots of hiding places. Since the King is from Minnesota, and a fellow club member, perhaps he will write an article about the fish that he is so highly skilled with. Who is THE LAMOTTEI KING? Minnesota’s own CRAIG REES!



Photo of Craig Rees and Darlene Weisman taken at WAKO in November 2007.



*Daphnia longispina*

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## Yummy-Yummy By Bob Wolter

### **“There can be no breeding**

Without your great feeding” – village idiot

*A corporate tropical fish CEO implored his sales force to sell lots of their newly launched Fish Food. He pleaded with his employees, “who has given you attractive new containers, several million dollars worth of research, struck a deal with multi store retailers, a multi-million dollar ad campaign, great new product literature, and a wonderful commission incentive program for selling this new product?” They retorted in unison “You have!” The CEO paused, and angrily asked “Then why the hell aren’t you selling more?” A dead palling silence fell over the room. Finally a salesman called out, “With all due respect sir, the fish won’t eat it.” The room broke out with laughter and applause. He, of course, was fired and with all due respect neither his name nor the name of the company will be reveled – but I’ll just bet you know the name of the company!*

Flake Food – should form the staple base of your Killie diet. Please spend the extra money and buy Tetramin. The fish love it and it has been scientifically formulated to meet their nutritional needs. We must recognize that we cannot possibly replicate the diet in the wild, but this is a good starting point.

How do we feed? Observe your fish for openers! Through the process of evolution, nature has adapted our killies to specific feeding niches- just like Darwin’s finches.

Let’s observe them! Are they occupying the top aquarium layer like the *A. lineatus*? Are they occupying the middle layer like *Fp. Gardneri*? Or are they occupying the Mid-Bottom layer like the Blue Gularis? Are their mouths turned near to the top of their heads to top feed on fallen insects and Floating flake food? Are their mouths turned toward the middle to eat swimming fish and insects and Falling soaked flake food?

Look at the position of their eyes relative to their mid body lateral line. Are they high or lower? Unseen food is generally not eaten. We must deliver the flake food to where the fish can see and eat it. That makes sense doesn’t it?

For the *lineatus* types, let the flakes float at the top. For the Gularis and *gardneri* types, place the flakes in a container and run water on the top to Pre-Soak them. Then pour the now soaked flakes immediately into a front center area of their tank to condition them as to where they may expect to be fed. You can expand on this with a mid-level food delivery using a turkey baster. If we leave the Flakes pre-soak too long we will notice that the water becomes stained with the vitamins leaching out. Feed immediately AND FEED TETRAMIN ONLY. Uneaten food soon becomes spoiled food, so feed sparingly and more often.

WAKO Club member Erny May has a different solution. Erny uses clear flexible tubing, available at Home Depot or Menards. He then forms it into a circle, adds an inside plastic “joiner”, and voila- a feeding ring! The fish easily recognize their friend Erny and congregate under his feeding ring.

### Live Food –

1. Mosquito Larva – the fish love them but always seem to miss a few that hatch to fly around and bite me in my sleep. With the arrival of West Nile Virus, this is a definite no-no.
2. Daphnia – can be collected with a cheesecloth dip net on a sunny calm water-park pond near a sewage outlet. We risk bringing in minute voracious predators in the process. This is a no-no!
3. Wingless Fruit flies – soon mutated after several generations – now flying around your home. Ich!
4. Worms – come in several sizes:
  - a. Micro worms – great baby fish food. Cook some oatmeal and place in a plastic shoebox. I get Sterling Brand shoeboxes at Target for less than \$2. They are great and stackable for convenience. Add a little of your culture, and sprinkle a little powdered yeast on top. In a few days, they will begin to climb up the sides. Please use a plastic McDonald’s knife to scrape them off. (I once saw a fellow using his finger. He was also often seen scratching his posterior. I couldn’t help thinking perhaps his posterior was providing an ideal worm environment – warmth, darkness and moisture.) After several months, your culture will turn dark brown and sour. Start a new culture with just a little bit of your old culture.

Now dispose of your old culture.

This can pose a bit of a problem. Your micro worms are actually a member of the nematode genus. Nematodes are nefarious

underground plant pests. These worms, contained in your plastic shoebox, are really nice well-fed and behaved little guys. When their oatmeal is taken from them and they are summarily dumped into the environment, problems may occur. Definitely keep the spoiled culture away from your plants.

I dispose of mine at night on a small section of my neighbor's lawn. He's real old and goes to bed early. He can't quite seem to figure out why a certain patch of his lawn has been killed off, though.

b. White Worms – great for killie fry and medium size killies. For the larger fellows though, baby red worms are needed. Trying to put bulk on our bigger killies with white worms is akin to you trying to subsist on a diet of *Petis-Fours*. Get our friend, the plastic shoebox, and fill with mix of ½ Canadian peat and ½ good potting soil. Now Just Add Worms from your culture. Feed with milk-soaked white bread or a little oatmeal. Place a small peace of clear glass or Plexiglas over the top of the food and *voila!* In a week or so you will have worms to scrape off with your McDonalds plastic knife and feed your fish. Please don't use fingers to do this. *No-No Mustn't, Mustn't!*

There was a really good article in your newsletter a few months ago on a culture method using 5 Scotch Pads laid flat inside of your Plastic Shoeboxes, A few cat food kibbles, a piece of plastic or glass on top of kibbles, and water enough to cover 3 of the five scotch pads used. Now add a few white worms and replace the shoebox cover. Do not add air holes to your plastic cover or surely these will become entry holes for pesky flies. I would add that the water would become smelly after several weeks, so change it with AGED WATER.

c. Baby red worms – actually this is a topic that merits a complete forth-coming article for next month.

5. Frozen Food – Adult frozen Brine Shrimp is the easiest obtainable food for your Killies. There is an “A Killies Heal” however – not a whole lot of food value per cost. Scientists call this problem an exo-skeleton. Ever eat crab legs? Then you know all you need to know about exo-skeletons. Some creatures, like most of us, have a skeleton inside. Some creatures, like crabs and shrimp, have their skeleton outside. This exo-skeleton can also be called a shell. Baby Brine Shrimp, shortly after hatching, begin to develop this shell. As they grow, they develop this

chitin material, or shell around themselves. Chitin is kind of like your fingernail.

Now let's go back to the Crab legs table. You must crack this shell to get at a little teeny tiny bit of delicious meat contained inside.

Got it!

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## **August Club Communications:**

**The road trip to Tom Kean's has been cancelled.**

### **Club Business:**

1). The killie program Jim Gasior will be presenting at the MKKA 15<sup>th</sup> annual show on Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup> is a power point talk that includes a very extensive (40 plus pages) handout on breeding individual killies.

The seminar is entitled "Breeding Tips for Both Annual and Non-Annual Killies". General breeding and maintenance requirements of various fish will be reviewed as well as detailed information on specific species and families of fish. Both those who are new to killies and those who have worked with these fish will find information that will increase their chance of success. In order to have this information available for later reference, an extensive chart on the breeding and maintenance requirements for hundreds of individual killies will be provided to the audience.

2) Due to conflicting schedules, members out of town, MAS BOD meeting, open dates on my party room, I scheduled the MKKA August pre-show meeting for **Tuesday August 12th**. The meeting will be at the usual 7:00 p.m. If you want to show up 1/2 hour early that is okay too.

3). Everything for the show is pretty much in place. We just need to find out who can help set-up on Friday, the day before the show. We will pickup all the racks, tanks, & show equipment on Thursday. This pre-loading will make it easier on Friday. Then all we will have to do is unload the vehicles & trailer at the Canterbury Inn Friday morning. As most members know, we have carts and 2- wheelers, and the Canterbury has carts for us to use. Along with an elevator there is very little carrying involved. Canterbury also sets up the tables in place for us in the show room. So it's pretty much down to a fine science.

4). Just an FYI, the AKA Blue Gularis emblem t-shirts should be ready at the time of the August MKKA pre-show meeting. These will be printed by the same printer who did the MKKA shirts. We will be having printed pocket tees & polo shirts (w/collars) in the future. This first batch will be tees only in sizes L, XL, & XXL.

### **Kudos:**

Bob Wolter has been certified by the AKA to judge Blue Gularis, *Fundulopanchax* and *Aphyosemion*. He has volunteered to help with show judging this year. Thanks Bob!

### **Fish and Plants Available:**

1). Anyone interested in *Nothobranchius korthausae* red? I hatched some eggs out a couple of months ago & these guys are sexing out & ready to go.

If you like red, korthausae are a deep red color, they will rival salt water species. If you haven't tried spawning any nothos, here's your chance. This species is not aggressive as some males nothos are with each other. If you need some help with nothos, just ask. I would be glad to help. If interested in the korthausae red, let me know.

Craig Rees email [killifish777@comcast.net](mailto:killifish777@comcast.net)

2). MKKA has 2 cases of the soft cover AKA book, The Killifishes Master Index, 4th Edition by Ken Lazara. This book is an annotated checklist, synonymy & bibliography of recent oviparous Cyprinodontiform fishes. The book is 8 1/2" x 11" & 624 pages. All books are brand new and sealed in plastic for only \$5.00 a book. Email me and I can bring one to any of the killie meetings. They will also be available at the September MKKA show.

Craig Rees email [killifish777@comcast.net](mailto:killifish777@comcast.net)

## **Upcoming Affiliate Shows:**

## **Wanted:**

## **Miscellaneous:**

7/12/2008

Open Letter to Chris Butcher on his most recent Killietalk AKA website article – cc to Robin Engelking for publication in Minnesota Killie News

Hi Chris,

....was a perfect bull's-eye. Would you believe that at one time the AKA was full of young, energetic, knowledgeable people like yourself? Back in the 1980's, nearly 30 years ago, I first met BOT member Jack Heller at the St. Louis convention. Jack, who looks young for his age, even today, looked even younger then. In fact, I thought he was some attendee's kid. Then when I next saw him marshalling people for activities, I thought he was somebody's kid- acting smart. We still laugh about it today.

Your dad was, and still is today, one of those highly energetic young guys. Ask him about the Motor City Convention, where we visited Belle Isle – and its aquarium etc; Or St. Louis where we saw the Arch, Beldt's Wholesaler Fish shop, River Cruise Activities etc-etc.

Yeah Chris – young Guys. We are, at this juncture, getting old and calcifying.

Our AKA Conventions have "morphed" into a visit with your old cronies (your geezers in the balcony) at the convention. Not so with the ACA (cichlids) where we have a bunch of young guys in their 20's and 30's, like Ted Judy ( who also likes Killies), on the board. The ACA has so many activities, that I am left breathless from their conventions. Young people like yourself and your wife, like to attend a convention and HAVE FUN!!! We need to get young families in attendance, like we once had. You and more young people need to be on the board.

Yeah, I have to admit as a "geezer" I do enjoy visiting with old friends and talking fish. But for the good of the organization, we need to step aside from our positions of leadership ( as they have done in the ACA) and give the young people their turn- for the very survival of the AKA.



Talk with dad, he can tell you how energetic the AKA once was – we were young then! My young friend, you need to be on the AKA board!

Sincerely,

Your Friend, Bob Wolter

### Class sponsors 2008

Class 1	Shannon Fought	paid
Class 2	Gary Greenwood	not paid
Class 3	open	
Class 4	Bob Carter	paid
Class 5	open	
Class 6	Jenny Kruckenberg	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](mailto:killifish777@comcast.net).

### Directions to Craig Rees' apartment:

Take I 494 to the Penn Avenue exit. Go south on Penn to 102<sup>nd</sup> street. (This is the last street before Old Shakopee road.) Turn right on 102<sup>nd</sup>. Craig's apartment is set back from the corner. Look for the Pennbrook Apartment sign. Park at the south end of the building.

2400 West 102<sup>nd</sup> Street Apartment 123  
 Bloomington  
 952-888-1806

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 19, 2008**.was 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** cancelled

**Tuesday August 12, 2008**: will 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.

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

**Saturday September 13, 2008** is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.