

# Texas Area Killifish Organization

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## 2016 News

### Howdy,

Well it is that time of the year again to start reviewing your specimens and selecting who goes to Nationals (Memorial Day Weekend in Denver) and who ought to be big enough and good-looking enough to go to the TAKO show July 16th & 17th in Houston.

I missed last year's Convention because our oldest son got married that weekend and a family wedding trumps a fish show every time! I do hope that there will be other TAKO members traveling to the big show as well.

Even if you make Denver please set aside

the July weekend for the TAKO show. If you cannot make the show but want to help support the group by purchasing fish at the auction in absentia let me know as early as possible as we will have proxy bidding available again this year.

If you are sending fish please make sure they arrive

### Special points of interest:

- Arthur Leuterman
- 742 Bison Drive
- Houston, Texas 77079-4401

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at the Leuterman abode no later than Friday the 15th (preferably by Thursday so they can acclimate and get a good meal in them before judging on Saturday morning.) If you are bringing fish make sure that they are benched prior to 0900 as judging begins at 0930 hrs.

For newcomers, benching means your fish are registered as entered, have labels and are in their respective tanks (out of the bags). This is not a 'magic wand' process; it takes time so do not come at the last minute and expect a miracle. They happen but not very often!

It is better to send a list of what you believe you will be entering via email early in the week so some of this may be completed prior to Saturday morning.

The Show Flyer will also be emailed to all those receiving this newsletter.



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## Aquatic Plants for the Killifish Aquarium by D. Austin

### Attaching Epi-phytes & Mosses

Now you are dedicating your tank and you want to attach plants to your pieces of driftwood. What is the best technique? You have three basic choices. Something permanent, such as fishing line or rubber bands, is popular and when the plant becomes firmly at-

tached cut the rubber band or fishing line off.

Method two is to attach the plant with something that will eventually dissolve in the water. 100% cotton thread is the best choice here and is very popular for attaching mosses.

The third technique is to glue the plant to the desired surface.

Super Glue Gel is a good choice here.

### Leafy & Stem Plants

Leafy plants with big leaves make good mid-ground plants. Stem plants frequently have small leaves and grow tall thus making good background plants. Thus they create a sense of depth and provide a place for

This is Part II of Doug's two-part article.

Thanks Doug for the contribution.

fry to hide. *Aponogeton* is a genus that grow from bulbs. *A. undulates* can grow in low to medium light. 'Back in the day' you could buy bulbs for fifty cents or less at the fish store and they would grow to

the top of the tank and frequently bloom.

*Cryptocoryne* has to be the most popular genus of the commonly available water plants. Most come from rain forest areas and thus will tolerate

shade (low light). *C. wendtii*, *C. balansae*, *C. beckettii* and *C. lucens* are easy to grow.

The smaller amazon sword plants, genus *Echinodorus*, are a good choice as well. I really like the Osce-

lot Sword with its spotted leaves.

The first stem I will mention is Water Wisteria—*Hygrophila polysperma*. Unlike most stem plants it has big, oak-shaped leaves. This will contrast well with other

plants.

Most stem plants require fertilizer and lots of light. There are some exceptions - *Elodea canadensis* (Anacharis), *Najas guadalupensis* and *Rotala rotundiflora*.

My first plant was Anacharis and grew just fine while the Guppy Grass (*Najas*) almost took over my guppy tank. I do not recommend putting it in a pond as it will take over.

I hope this has been helpful to those of you that are starting with plants in your killie tanks. And for those of you that keep 'fish only tanks' consider doing a beautiful tank for the living room with easy plants.



1—*Cryptocoryne wendtii*

2—*Najas guadalupensis*

3—*Rotala rotundiflora*

4—*Elodea canadensis*



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Want a by-line—  
submit an article!

**Remember  
to support  
Hagen  
whenever  
possible!!!**

## **Message from the President**

Dear All,

The TAKO Belle Revue is only three months away! I do hope that as many of you as possible will make an attempt to come down and meet with us; share some fish stories; listen to our speakers and pick up some killies at the Sunday auction.

I hope to see our newer TAKO and AKA members so that we may get to know you all better; as always, am looking forward to seeing old friends.

See you all July 16th & 17th.

Sincerely,

S. Rabke (President for Life)

## **Member Profile Anita Schiller**

Another one of your newest members is Anita Schiller. She works in the North Harris County Mosquito Control District; but her job is not to kill mosquitoes but to breed them! The trick is that the mosquitoes that she is breeding are a species that actually eats other mosquitoes. You can see a news report of some of the work she is

doing at [http://  
legacy.khou.com/videos/  
news/  
lo-  
cal/2015/05/21/27740791/](http://legacy.khou.com/videos/news/local/2015/05/21/27740791/).

We look forward to seeing her at this year's show.

