

Texas Area Killifish Organization

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It's Official—July Show Next Month

The show—TAKO BELLE REVUE—is now just a single month away. Time



to go through those aquarium corners in an effort to locate 'show worthy' or simply 'auction only' fish and start the 'little more often'

routine, i.e. feeding them a little more, changing the water a little more often and culling them a little more often.

Mr. John Nicholson, our featured speaker, is raring to go. Heck, even our club pres', Stephen Rabke, claims that he has some fish ready to win—who knew!

Stephen is also hard at work sending out the 'support

letter' to vendors in the hopes of obtaining some very worthy extras for the participants.

As usual, Stephen's magic fingers will be creating the duplicate labels needed for all you entering fish. So, please make an effort to get as many of your entries emailed to myself as early as possible so that the vast majority of the la-

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ble may be created well in advance of Friday night or early Saturday morning. Your continued courtesy prevents Stephen from going completely crazy and allows us to think we have everything under control! This allows for last minute walk-ins from others and minor changes from your good selves to

be processed in time for judging to begin.

The 2013 Show will again be held at the Thornwood Clubhouse on Turkey Creek Drive, on your right as you enter the subdivision. It, and the subdivision, shows up on Google Maps and the Garmin Map devices that are currently availa-

ble in the marketplace. Should you have issues locating the site feel free to contact me via my cellular number.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you that can make it as possible.

However, please make an extra effort to drive a little more safely so we do get to see you!

Special points of interest:

- Set up opens Saturday morning at 0600 hrs.
- All mail-ins to arrive no later than Friday, July 13th.
- Receiver of mail-ins:
 - Arthur Leuterman
 - 742 Bison Drive
 - Houston, Texas 77079-4401



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2013 Nationals in Portland, Oregon

This past month I was fortunate enough to convince my wife to accompany me to the AKA Convention. We went out on Wednesday and spent the first afternoon at the large fish store in Portland — The Wet Spot—ordering fish for both the office display aquaria at the Company and my own personal tanks. The Wet Spot is a real hob-

Judging began at 0417 hrs on Saturday with two judges handling five classes.

the computers well into the night. This Convention, hosted by the Northwest Killies club needed, and was ably supported, by numerous volunteers from other killie clubs. It was a demonstration of brotherhood not always

The lineup of speakers this year was well planned and they delivered entertaining and well received presentations. Ken Normandin spoke on collecting in Panama, a much enjoyed talk by a number of us since there are

byists' store, much like the old Village Tropical; only on a grander scale as they have eight times more tanks and import directly from global sources.

Their basement tanks hold numerous fishes only seen in magazines and/or dreamed of.

The remainder of Wednesday and all of Thursday was spent exploring 'non fish relat-

seen at past shows. Bill Stone and associates were busily attempting to bench nearly 250 show fish plus some of the new and rare species.

Judging began at 0417 hrs on Saturday morning with two judg-

lots of 'little brown fish', i.e. *Rivulus*, present in Panamanian waters.

Ken, in cooperation with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), had started a biogeography project in 2002 entitled "The

ed' places in the cold and drizzle of Portland. The Oregon Zoo in Portland is set nicely in a hilly area with the local environment being utilized for many of the enclosure sidings for the animals. It is one of the top five zoos on my long list.

The Convention, and the work, began in earnest on Friday with Jayne and Max working

es handling five classes. At 0700 hours the remainder of the volunteer judges 'hit their knees and their assigned tanks!' Judging was completed just prior to the first presentation at 1100 hrs.

Distribution of *Rivulus* and *Brachyrhaphis* in Panama". He addressed the aspect of distribution throughout the areas of collection during his talk. His work has been partially funded by the George Maier Fund (AKA based)

He was followed by Richard Pierce, who delivered on Lampeyes. Richard, the current AKA President, took those present on a pictorial and verbal tour of these mostly small, slightly iridescent, schooling killies. The natural history and distribution of the group was covered as were many varieties not commonly seen in the

His second presentation was the “banquet talk” and was entitled “Adventures of Collecting Killies in Africa”. Complete with photos, he traversed encounters and subsequent

large to fit into the dip net. Numerous native and non-fish wildlife were displayed in his photographs to great advantage.

The Belgian, Marc Bogaerts, was also a featured speaker. He has spent a great deal of time exploring West Africa and his presenta-

hobby.

Bela Nagy delivered two talks to the membership during the event. The first was on the distribution and biogeography of *Nothobranchius*.

This presentation highlighted the Northern Zambia and Katanga Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo regions. In the talk he

experiences while collecting in East Africa. Those of us that have collected outside of the United States could relate and empathize with his described adventures. The talk was

tion confirmed his knowledge of his subject—“The Search for *Aphyosemion camerounense*”.

The audience was treated to a tour of Gabon and Cameroon as well as a fish hunt as Marc provided a running commentary on the wildlife.

proposed a biogeographical hypothesis derived from drainage evolution evidence for how geological processes would and could potentially have allowed ancient links between the presently known distribution of Nothos occurring in the area. It stirred up a number of questions from the audience.

well suited to an “after meal presentation”. He, like the other speakers, had some fabulous photographs of vividly colored specimens; some like the croc, just a wee’ too

The other featured speaker at the Portland 2013 AKA get-together was our TAKO friend, Frans Vermuelen. The first “Frans Show” was literally that. It was a video based interview revealing his passion, his start with killies and his intense knowledge of those that have pre-

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Want a by-line—
submit an article!

ceded him in collecting in many regions of South America. Additionally, the videographer treated us to a tour of Frans' Aruba fish room and more informatively featured Frans demonstrating techniques of breeding, egg collection/handling/storage.

The other opportunity to hear Frans involved his delivery of "The Moroa Killifish Expedition 2012" to search for heretofore unknown killies. It was, as normal with FV, a delightful, educational and thoroughly entertaining interlude to the audiences' day.

Next year's show will be held in Syracuse, New York so start saving up those frequent flyer miles!

Next year's
show will be
held in
Syracuse,
New York...!

Rhododendrons in bloom in
Portland near hotel. (Photo by
A. Leuterman)



Photo above—Bela Nagy and Marc Bogaerts;
below—Lisa and Ken Normandin. (Photos by
A. Leuterman)

