

# Texas Area Killifish Organization

12 October 2014

Volume 3, Issue 4

## FOTAS

**TAKO** will be participating in the Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies extravaganza in Schertz, Texas in October.

In conjunction with the FOTAS Convention October 24th-26th, TAKO will be hosting an AKA sanctioned show, with eight (8) classes only due to the expected lighter

support for this fall event as it conflicts with the well established WAKO show the following weekend that will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Nevertheless we are hopeful that the local killie keepers will bring out several pairs of their finest for display and judging at the show.

Also associated with FOTAS are a Cichlid and Catfish Show; a Photo Contest; a Beta Show; a Planted Bowl Show; a Young Aquarist Endangered Species Poster Contest; a Saturday banquet and a Sunday auction.

For full information contact Greg Steeves at [gasteeves@gmail.com](mailto:gasteeves@gmail.com).

[aleuterman@slb.com](mailto:aleuterman@slb.com)

com.

Currently listed speakers include:

- Pam Chin
- Jose Gonzales
- Steve Edie
- Kathy England
- Chris Lewis

We look forward to seeing many of you at the event

and should you be able to enter any fish in the show or show and auction portions please contact Art Leuterman in advance if possible so as to ensure the small issues that make an event go smoothly, such as labels for tanks, correctly entered and spelled names of both the fish and the person entering the items, occur. This also allows for those volunteers doing the actual work to have some time to enjoy the event as well.

Special points of interest:

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



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## TAKO—Hill Country Chapter

Doug (J D Austin) has been exceedingly busy since the July show and has, through Facebook and other communication means, managed to find Killie enthusiasts in the San Antonio to Austin I-35 Corridor. They held their first meeting in September.

The meeting was held at 6:00pm at Salty's Fish Aquarium 5535 Brewster St., San Antonio, TX 78233.

Doug Austin gave a short presentation on beginner killifish. There was a social time, and a swap and shop among members. There were several members who were able to acquire

their first killifish or added to their existing collection.

Congratulations to Doug and his cohorts over there, including Chris Lewis for getting this kicked off.

Hopefully the group will have several pairs entered in the killie sanctioned portion of FOTAS.

Only eight classes will be offered at FOTAS event.

## Killifish Classes at FOTAS

The following classes are planned for the FOTAS event.

- Class 1—New World Annuals
- Class 2—Rivulus
- Class 3—New and Old World Annuals

- Class 4—Fundulopanchax
- Class 5—Aphyosemion
- Class 6—Chromaphyosemion
- Class 7—Archi-

aphyosemion, Scriptaphyosemion, and Callopanchax

- Class 8—All Other Old World

For all you old timers that means that Classes 1, 2, 6 and 7 will

look the same as a full fifteen class sanctioned show whilst the remaining classes are combinations based upon expected entrants. Note that there will be no breeding pairs class

at FOTAS.

The first three places will receive certificates as awards and a Best-of-Show will be awarded as well.

Judging will occur early Saturday morn-

ing and thus any fish entered must be benched either Friday afternoon/evening or prior to 0630 hrs on Saturday.

## Confessions of a Passive Killifish Breeder by Doug Austin

Back when I first became associated with the Texas Area Killifish Organization, in the late 80's or early 90's (editor's note—it was early 1990's) I had a conversation with Ray Cromer about fishkeeping. For those of you who do not know Ray, he was one of the leaders of TAKO in the early days. Ray explained to me how he was a hands

-on aquarist. For example, he liked picking eggs from mops and storing peat. That 'hands-on' approach was what Ray liked about killifish.

I was still a Cichlid person back then and I explained to Ray how I liked to watch Cichlids raise their fry. I did not want to collect eggs and husband the fry

from the smallest size. We decided that Ray was an active fish breeder and that I was a passive fish breeder. The terms active and passive were popular back then.

At TAKO meetings I would bid on the easy to keep killifish. My ears would perk up when a species came up that would let

"We decided that Ray was an active fish breeder and that I was a passive fish breeder."

their young grow up in the tank with the parents.

I got a pair of what was labeled *Aphyosemion gardneri* Aquarium Strain (now *Fundulopanchax gardneri*). I put my

new fish in a bare bottom, 20 gallon long with a lot of Java Moss and some PVC tubes. I fed them brine shrimp nauplii and did a 25% water change every week or two.

The idea was that they would lay their eggs in the Java Moss and the eggs would be big enough that I could see them. I never saw the eggs, but I would see fry

swimming around the tank after a few weeks. I did not know if the fry were big enough to eat the newly hatched brine shrimp or if they started with the microfauna on the Java Moss, but it worked.

What I am calling Passive Killifish

breeding is now termed a permanent set-up or colony breeding. Today I am into planted aquariums so I would use a tank with gravel and I would have the moss attached to the wood. Today there are more species of aquatic moss

to choose from than just Java Moss.

There are many species of killifish that would work in a permanent set-up. I would use a bigger tank than for a single pair. Remember to do your water changes and feed a nutritious diet.

Editor—A.J. J. Leuterman, Ph.D.

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Want a by-line—  
submit an article!

Photo below right—  
S. Rabke— a  
breeding setup  
(very inexpensive)  
for *Rivulus ornatus*,  
a hard, alkaline,  
shallow water  
*Rivulus* from Peru.

## Message from the President

Our sincerest congratulations to Doug Austin in recognition of his establishment of the San Antonio Hill Country chapter of TAKO. It took a good deal of communication on the part of Doug and his friends to get this kicked off and we all extend our new 'killie fanatics' a very warm welcome to TAKO and killies.

It has been a long time coming, i.e. the establishment of a second chapter, in the Lone Star State. Hopefully this bodes well for the fish hobby as well as killies in particular. Should any of our newest members have questions feel free to reach out to any TAKO members in the email listing, regardless of physical location, in an effort to discuss an issue.

Best regards,

!The Rabke Ghost Writer!

