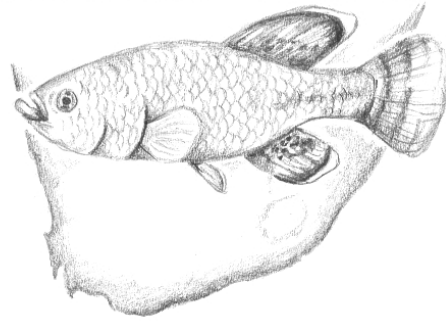


SOUTHERN AFRICAN KILLIFISH SOCIETY



Dear Killi Keeper

Congratulations on receiving this first newsletter of the *Southern African Killifish Society*! This letter is going out not only in South Africa but Zimbabwe and Canada too (we can't neglect our famous expatriate, Dr. Watters).

We (Ryan and myself) hope the arrival of this simple but crucial collection of papers will become a regular event (at least quarterly) and that the number of people we have to send to will increase such that we may have to enlist a third coordinator.

We have kind of jumped the gun with the formulation of a name and emblem for the organisation. If anyone really has strong feelings about it let me know and modifications can be made. I (TG) chose *Nothobranchius orthonotus* as the fish to display to the world, as it is a really special little fish. They are a real bugger to keep alive (they constantly try to kill each other) and breeding it is full of surprises (eggs eye up anywhere from three to six months and just because 100 eggs went in does not mean 100 fry will come out). In spite of this it is in high demand overseas and actually has a certain appeal. It is also distinctly South African as opposed to *N. rachovii* that is now almost global. We have also set up a website at <http://www.geocities.com/safrkilli> with an email address: safkilli@yahoo.com that will forward all mail to Ryan and myself. We have also set up a Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/safrks>. These have proven very popular and effective. Those of you familiar with the SAA E-group can attest to the productivity of the group. I ask you all to join up as it will expedite communication between members and will serve as an excellent forum to discuss how we are going to administrate this society.

In this edition we will briefly discuss the perceived goals of the society and how we hope to administrate it for the time being. A pricing system for fish and eggs will also be raised for reasons discussed further on. The membership fees issue will also be raised.

Our Goals and Administration

For now we think the goals of this publication will be to create an environment where we will be able to get to know each other and what killi species are in the country. We hope to publish a registry of members along with what killies they maintain in the next edition. Also on the cards is a census of killifish species in Southern Africa. If everyone contributes we can have this in the next edition. We understand that some members may want to withhold their contact details and this is fine but given the size of our group we think this type of behaviour unnecessary. As the goal is also to exchange species contact details would have to be listed eventually if you want to contribute.

Each newsletter will be posted on the society website a month after it was sent out. The electronic edition will go out one week after the paper edition. This is to allow local members first pick of any available fish or eggs. At this point we will totally withhold contact information unless you want to be known. From experience I (TG) know that once your name and contact details are on the net the volley of emails from people looking for eggs does not stop! On the whole we strongly believe in a policy of freedom of information and hence the web posting of the newsletter.

All details should be sent to the area coordinator. All information originating from people along our coast (Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KZN etc...) and all foreign members (including Zimbabwe) should be forwarded to myself (TG). All individuals in the Free State and exTransvaal should send all relevant information to Ryan Reisinger. Dues of members receiving the electronic newsletter can be sent to myself (TG) while members receiving the paper edition should send the moneys to the relevant coordinator.

Trading eggs and Fish

A pricing policy will have to be adopted. While it may be justified to charge \$20 for a packet of notho eggs or even \$50 for a perfect pair of *Aphyosemion cameronense* this is impractical locally. The pricing will be up to individual members but we ask that you avoid extravagant prices. I would like you to list two prices for the eggs and fish-trading list: one price in Rands for local members and one in Dollars for overseas individuals looking for eggs/fish. The Rand and Dollar price need not be equivalent; e.g.: R20 locally and \$8 international. The Dollar price will be published on the net while the Rand price will circulate in the member's edition as a special subsidy for Southern Africans. I'm sure everyone will be glad to get some dollars in exchange for eggs.

Membership Fees

We are currently looking at membership fees being about R20 per year for a printed copy but it may increase in future depending on response, frequency and the size of each newsletter sent out. While in principle we don't want to charge for the electronic issue (what most of you are getting this round) we do not want to foster any unfairness between those paying for the printed issue, so if you wish to contribute to the fish and egg listing we feel an "advertisement" fee should be worked into the fees. As postage is the major cost contributing to the fees we would think a payment of R10 would justify the time that goes into preparing each newsletter (with trading list) and the maintenance of the webpage. This R10 covers the "advertisement" fee. Also, people who have not paid the membership fees by the beginning of May will not receive the next issue except by downloading it in June and paying the egg/fish prices in Dollars. A detail financial record will be kept and published in every 4th edition of the newsletter.

I ask that all local money be mailed as a postal order rather than cash. Foreign members are asked to do like wise where possible or send cash tucked between multiple pieces of paper in a normal nondescript envelope. Cashing a cheque for R10 is impractical in a country where banks charge R3 for a transaction fee. I am reluctant to calculate life time membership fees before we have a clear indication what the operating cost will be.

Closing

As already mentioned we hope to publish quarterly. We plan to have the first trade list in the next issue as well as a registry so we all know who we are and who is in which area. For the moment just a name, area and contact number would be needed.

If anybody as article they would like to publish or a few comments we would gladly accept them for publication in the newsletter. Helpful suggestions are also most welcome.

Ryan and I also hope we will have the first killi show in a few years time. We hope you will all be there. Thanks for your support and please forward this to anybody you know who keeps killies!

Kind Regards

Tyrone

Coastal and Overseas Coordinator

Tyrone Genade
tyronegenade@yahoo.com
<http://www.geocities.com/tyronegenade/>
45 Rotterdam Road
Monte Vista
7460
R.S.A.
Ph: +27-021-558-1753 (home)
Ph: +27-021-808-5876 (work)

Inland Coordinator

Ryan Reisinger
erimages@mweb.co.za
P.O Box 11537
Queenswood
0121
R.S.A.

