Markita began her employment with the *Xiphophorus* Genetic Stock Center as a Grant Specialist in 2005 and was promoted to Operational Manager in 2008. Markita has since been in charge of all daily operations of the Stock Center including *Xiphophorus* species maintenance as well as maintenance of Japanese medaka (*Oryzias* *latipes*) lines housed at the center. Prior to working at the Stock Center, Markita was a volunteer aquarist with the Dallas Zoo & Aquarium for 4 years where she was responsible for shark interaction, education, and feedings for the public. Markita graduated from Texas State University with a B. S. in Marine Biology and also has a B. S. in Criminal Justice from University of North Texas.

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