

Madison Area Aquatic Hobbyists

Breeder Award Program

Initial Document May 18, 2009

Updated August 31, 2010

Purpose:

To encourage members of the MAAH to:

- Breed fish.
- Share knowledge of the spawning and rearing of fish.
- Distribute fish among club members.
- Become active in the club, expanding the experience of membership.
- Recognize the achievements of program participants.

General Program Description

MAAH members breed fish for points, which are accumulated to reach individual achievement levels and for annual awards. Point values for each species vary depending upon the difficulty of spawning and raising the fry. Fish that are submitted for BAP are donated to the club for auction at the general meetings, and the proceeds from those auction sales support MAS programs.

Submitting and Verifying Eligible Spawns

To be a BAP-eligible spawn the following must be met:

- There must be 5 or more healthy fry, free of any defects, between 45 and 120 days of age after hatching/birth. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis for species with extremely slow growth, low hatch numbers, or a very short lifespan.
- The member must possess the parent fish and their spawning must occur under the direct care of the member in their home.

- The fish must be properly bagged and brought in for verification and auction at any general meeting. The bag must be labeled with the scientific species name, number of fish in the bag and the name of the member submitting the spawn.
- A spawning report must accompany the fish, and be in printed form on a standard sheet of paper. Spawn submission forms are available for download on <http://madisonaquatic hobby.com/breeder-award-program/>, or are available at the general meetings.
- All effort must be made to register fish on the spawning report by its current scientific name and collection point or tank strain variation; if a collection point or tank strain variation is not provided (or obvious, as in the case of an albino or longfin variety) the fish will be designated as tank strain – wild type (See rules for submitting varieties of the same species). MAAH will use the database at www.fishbase.org to determine the validity of a name in any dispute over taxonomic nomenclature. Fish that are undescribed by scientists (unnamed) may be submitted under their temporary name.

Point Values, Special Point Awards, Species Classes, and Multiple Spawns of the Same Species

- The BAP point values per class are:
 - Class A – 5 points
 - Class B – 10 points
 - Class C – 15 points
 - Class D – 20 points
- Special Point Awards
 - 5 additional points will be given for the first-time submission of a species in the club.
- The class for a specific species or genus may be found on the official Species Point Table that can be seen at: <http://madisonaquatic hobby.com/breeder-award-program/>
- Not all species are listed on the table. If there is a question about the correct class in which to place a species, the breeder should attempt to have that determination made prior to submitting the species. Designation of class for a species new to the BAP program is determined by the BAP committee and/or chairperson. Criteria for the level of difficulty include, but are not limited to:

- rarity of the species
 - difficulty of inducing a spawn
 - difficulty of rearing the fry
 - water chemistry requirements
 - aggression management
 - space requirements
- Different tank-strain cultivars/color variations and wild-type geographic variants of the same species may be submitted by the same member for points according to the following rules:
 - The tank-strain cultivar may NOT be a physical deformity other than fin length (for example, the 'balloon' body is a physical deformity that is not allowed)
 - The tank-strain cultivar accepted in the hobby as a verified strain, and the breeder set up the spawn specifically to obtain that strain. For example, silver, marble, gold marble and koi are all valid color forms of the angelfish *Pterophyllum scalare*.
 - Multiple submissions may not result from one spawn. For example, if a breeder spawns two silver angelfish and gets some gold angelfish in the offspring, only one of the two color forms in the spawn may be submitted. Honesty should guide the breeder to submit the color form the spawn was expected/intended to produce.
 - A geographic variant of a species is one that is recognized as being unique in features as compared to other variants of the same species, and is described in scientific and/or hobbyist literature. For example, *Pelvicachromis taeniatus* geographic variants from Moliwe, Ndonga and Nyete may each be submitted as separate spawns.
 - The first spawn of a species will earn the breeder the full point value for the class. Each subsequent spawn of a different form of the same species will earn the breeder 5 points, regardless of the class of the species. There is no limit to the number of valid forms of the same species that a breeder may submit.

- Subsequent submission of a valid form of the same species still qualifies for credit under the respective class (A, B, C, or D).
- The ruling of the BAP chairperson regarding the validity of strains, cultivars or geographic variants is final and irrevocable.

Hybrids

Hybrid fish are a part of the hobby, but the MAAH does not encourage the purposeful crossing of species to create new hybrid strains. With that in mind no offspring from crosses between different taxonomic species will be accepted into the BAP program except for the following cases:

- Established tank-strain livebearers that are the result of the following crosses between the species *Xiphophorus helleri*, *X. maculatus* and *X. variatus* (some tank strain platies and swordtails).
- Established tank-strain color forms of the genus *Symphysodon* (discus). The taxonomic database at www.fishbase.org recognizes two valid species within the genus (*S. discus* and *S. aequifasciatus*). Since the actual origins of most of the tank-strain discus color forms are not known, it is possible that some are the result of hybridization between the species, but it is also possible that they are not. Since the tank-strain color forms are so significantly different from wild-type and each other, they will be accepted as valid cultivars for BAP.

Hold-back Rule

A member may submit one spawn per year without donating the fish to the club for auction. All other submission rules apply. If the member can have the spawn verified in person by a member of the BAP committee or its agent, then the fish do not have to be presented at general meeting along with a submission form.

High Monetary Value Species Rule

Species that regularly sell in the online retail market for \$30 per fish or more have some special rules to encourage breeders to submit them to BAP. When breeders want to

submit such a species, they must consult with the BAP Chair who can authorize on a case-by-case basis any, some or all of the following accommodations:

- Reduce the number of fry required for submission.
- Set a reasonable minimum bid for donated fish (approximately ½ a current online retail value), and if the fish get no bids the breeder gets to keep the fish and still earn the points.
- Allow the fish to be placed into the split auction so that the breeder gets a portion of the proceeds.
- Permit an alternate donation submission from the breeder (a different species to be auctioned as a donation).

The breeder and the BAP Chair will discuss the options and decide which option(s) will be used. The BAP Chair has the final decision. One of the goals of the BAP program is to encourage the distribution of fish into the club, so the breeder and BAP Chair need to keep that goal in mind when deciding upon a course of action. Examples of High Monetary Value Species that are commonly bred in captivity are *Hypancistris zebra* (zebra pleco), *Betta macrostoma*, and *Potamotrygon sp.* stingrays.

BAP Point Schedule for Rank Advancement

| Level | Total Points Needed | Number of C or D spawns needed from the previous level |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|
| Junior* | 30 | 0 |
| Senior | 60 | 0 |
| Advanced | 120 | 1 |
| Expert | 180 | 1 |
| Master | 240 | 2 |
| Grand Master 1 | 350 | 3 |
| Grand Master 2 | 500 | 4 |
| Grand Master 3 | 750 | 5 |
| Grand Master 4 | 1000 | 6 |

Ultimate Breeder

To achieve the level of Ultimate Breeder, one must:

- Finish the requirements for achieving Grand Master 4.
- Accumulate additional 500 points in spawns from any class.
- At least 120 of the required 500 points must come from Class C and D fish.
- The spawns submitted for the 500 points must include at least one spawn from each of the following groups:
 - Anabantoids
 - Catfish
 - Cyprinids
 - Killifish: Dirt spawner
 - Killifish: Mop spawner
 - Livebearers
 - Rainbows
 - Characins
 - Central American Cichlids
 - South American Cichlids
 - Dwarf Cichlids
 - Lake Malawi Cichlids
 - Lake Tanganyika Cichlids
 - Lake Victoria Basin or related Haplochromine Cichlids
 - Malagasy, West African, or Asian Cichlids
 - Other (a species that does not fall into any of the other categories)

Honoring ALL BAP Points

- MAAH members never lose their BAP points due to inactivity and can return to active participation at any time.
- Points that have been awarded for a spawn submission may not be changed for any reason other than dishonesty (see section on dishonest practices and consequences).

- If a fish that is undescribed at the time of submission is awarded points and later determined by science to be a species the member has already spawned, there will be no change in points.
- If a member submits additional variants of the same species for 5 points, and a variant is later elevated to its own species, the point values for the spawns will not be changed, but the database record of the spawn will be changed to reflect the new species.

Prizes and Awards

- There are two levels of participation in BAP:
 - Breeders with 20 or less active tanks
 - Breeders with 21 or more active tanks
- Merit Prizes are awarded at year's end to
 - The breeders with the greatest accumulation of total spawns during the BAP year (July to June).
 - The breeders with a greatest BAP point totals during the BAP year.
- Participants achieving the Junior (junior members only), Senior, Advanced and Expert levels are awarded a Breeder's Certificate.
- Master Breeders are awarded an upgradeable plaque.
- Grand Master Breeders 1 through 4 receive plaque upgrades.
- Ultimate Breeders receive an upgradeable plaque.
- It is the responsibility of the BAP Committee to obtain and present all awards.

BAP Committee

The Breeders Award Program Committee will consist of a chairperson and additional members appointed by the chair. The responsibilities of the committee are:

- Maintain records, report tallied standings to the webmaster, verify spawns at general meetings and confer on the placement of new species into the BAP Species Point Table.
- Have the final word on any changes that may occur after the program is initiated.

Dishonest Practices and Consequences

Whenever there are awards there are invariably going to be cheaters. The hope is that everyone will participate in BAP honorably, because in reality the only person being cheated is the cheater. BAP is primarily an individual accomplishment program, so a dishonest person is in effect lying to themselves. In cases where purposeful deceit can be proven, there will be consequences. In any case of dishonesty discovered after the points have been awarded, those points will be removed from the offender's totals. The following dishonest practices will result in the submission not being accepted into the program. Multiple infractions may result in the member being banned from participation in BAP for a period of time.

- Purposefully inventing a strain in order to submit the same type of fish multiple times
 - For example, legitimately submitting an *Aphyosimion gardneri* 'Misaje' one month and dishonestly submitting the same fish as *A.gardneri* 'Madison' (not a valid location) later.
- Submitting fish that are too young or too old.
- Submitting fish that are not healthy.
- Obtaining fish that are gravid (livebearers) or holding eggs/larvae (mouthbrooders) and submitting those fry to BAP. The act of spawning must take place under the care of the member.
 - Livebearers: The honest practice is to determine the gestation period of the species and not count any fry born during that time period from the day the fish are obtained. For example, if a fish has a gestation period of 20 days, and they give birth on day 10 after the fish were obtained, do not submit those fry.

The following dishonest practices will result in the member being banned from participating in BAP for one calendar year.

- Submitting fish that were not born under the care of the member
- Obtaining eggs, hatching them and submitting the fry (the eggs were not laid under the care of the member).
- Obtaining fry or juveniles from another source and submitting them.