

# **Madison Area Aquatic Hobbyists Breeder Award Program**

**Updated June 30, 2016**

## **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.

## **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, confer on the placement of species into the BAP Species Point Table, and obtain awards for distribution at the end of the BAP season. The BAP committee has the final word on any changes that may occur after the program is initiated, unless said changes require the club to enter into a contract or expend funds from the treasury.

## **Submitting and Verifying Eligible Spawns**

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

- 5 or more healthy fry
- free of any defects
- between 45 and 120 days of age after hatching/birth
- minimum standard length (SL) of 3/4"

Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis for species with extremely slow growth, low hatch numbers, very small size 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 or fish room.

Submitted 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 at <http://madisonaquatichobby.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](http://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

The class for a specific species may be found on the official Species Point Table that can be seen at: <http://madisonaquatichobby.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
- length of time for fish to become sexually mature
- 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 or 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 kribensis* geographic variants from Moliwe, Ndonga and Nyete may each be submitted as separate spawns.
- The ruling of the BAP chairperson regarding the validity of strains, cultivars or geographic variants is final and irrevocable.

#### Special Point Awards

5 additional points will be given for the first-time submission of a species in the club.

#### **Ornamental Fish and Hybrids**

Ornamental and hybrid fish are a part of the hobby, but the MAAH does not encourage the purposeful crossing of species to create new hybrid strains. Ornamental fish and hybrids will be accepted according to the following guidelines:

- the strain of fish is not a deformity... example, the 'balloon' body form is a deformity and is not accepted
- the strain of fish is established and recognized in the aquarium hobby and will breed true... examples, colored swordtails that are *Xiphophorus sp.* hybrids are accepted; the offspring of an experimental hybridization are not accepted; offspring from a pair of 'red Texas' cichlids are accepted, because the strain 'red Texas' is established in the hobby.

Ornamental strains of fish that are known to be variants/strains of one species will be considered to be that species. For example, the color forms of angelfish, *Pterophyllum scalare*, are all variants/strains of that species; fancy guppy varieties that are line bred from *Poecilia reticulatus* are all variants/strains of that species.

Ornamental strains of fish that are known to be hybrids or are NOT known to be of one species will be listed as an ORNAMENTAL STRAIN of their known or suspected genus.  
Examples of ORNAMENTAL STRAINS:

- *Poecilia sp.* 'ornamental' will include *P. wingei x reticulatus* guppy hybrids, *P. velifera x latipinna* molly hybrids, and any other hybrid or suspected hybrid involving the genus *Poecilia*.

- *Aulonocara* sp. ‘ornamental’ will include OB peacock (known hybrid), German Red, red dragon, strawberry and any other color form of Lake Malawi peacock that are known hybrids or are not known to be a specific species.
- *Xiphophorus* sp. ‘ornamental’ will include all of the color strains of *X. helleri* x *maculatus* hybrids.

Cross-genus hybrids that have many source species and are not identifiable to a specific genus will be designated as hybrids of a family. For example, flowerhorn cichlids will be designated as ‘Cichlidae hybrid – ‘flowerhorn’.

The BAP Chairman will have the final word as to the designation of an ornamental variant or strain.

### **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 according to the current meeting auction rules.
- 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.

### **Individual Advancement in BAP**

Participants in BAP will advance through a series of levels based upon the number of species they spawn and the difficulty of the species.

**Levels 'Junior' through 'Grand Master 4'**

BAP Points for Rank Advancement Level	Total Points Needed	Total number of C or D spawns needed
Junior*	30	0
Senior	60	0
Advanced	120	1
Expert	180	2
Master	240	4
Grand Master 1	350	7
Grand Master 2	500	11
Grand Master 3	750	16
Grand Master 4	1000	22

**Level '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)

### **Individual Advancement Recognition and Awards**

- 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.

### **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 or clerical error (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.

### **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. Multiple infractions may result in the member being banned from participation in BAP for a period of time. The following dishonest practices will result in the submission not being accepted into the program:

- Purposefully inventing or misrepresenting a strain in order to submit the same type of fish multiple times. For example, legitimately submitting an *Fundulopanchax gardneri* 'Misaje' one month and dishonestly submitting the same fish as *Fundulopanchax gardneri* 'Madison' (not a valid location) later.
- Submitting fish that are too young or too old without approval from the BAP chair.
- Submitting fish that are not healthy.
- Obtaining fish that are gravid (livebearers) or holding eggs/larvae (mouth brooders) 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 or hatched 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.

### **Breeder of the Year Competition (BOY)**

The first day for submission in a BOY contest will be the August general meeting of that year. The last day for submissions in a BOY contest will be the June general meeting of that year.

There are two levels of participation in BOY:

- Breeders with 20 or less active tanks
- Breeders with 21 or more active tanks

A plaque will be awarded to the breeder earning the highest number of BAP points in each level of the contest. The award will be given at the July Summer Potluck event.

It is the responsibility of the BAP Committee to obtain and present all awards.