

MASI Breeders Award Program

Established January 1, 1971
Revised and Approved by the MASI Executive Council
September 6, 2024



I. PURPOSE

1. To encourage members of the Missouri Aquarium Society to breed fishes.
2. To share information concerning their spawning and rearing.
3. To make available to the hobby a wider variety of fishes.
4. To recognize achievements by members concerning the breeding of fishes.
5. To promote greater participation by members in the activities of MASI.

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. A BAP Committee consisting of a BAP Chairperson, nominated by the President and approved by Council, and 1 to 2 additional members appointed by the BAP Chair shall administer the BAP.
2. The BAP Chair shall set up and maintain a record system containing all pertinent data, along with a file of spawning reports submitted. The BAP Chair shall be responsible for preparation and presentation of awards, and for submission of information to the Editor for publication.
3. The BAP Chair shall be responsible for the placement of fishes into point classifications, and shall maintain a list of these classifications. From time to time, it may be necessary to reclassify certain fishes. In case of reclassification, all previously reported spawns shall receive the current point value if the point value increases. In the event a classification point value decreases, points for the entry will be adjusted to the new point level, and an equivalent point value to the old level will be assigned to the "species" "Adjustus grandfatheri". Once awarded, points will not be withdrawn, even if re-classification deems the fish spawned to no longer be a valid species. Nomenclature changes will be determined in accordance with the California Academy of Science, currently the most complete reference available.
4. The BAP Chair shall keep a record of participating members' point totals, to be published on the MASI website at least once a year.
5. All decisions of the BAP Committee relative to this program shall be final and binding.

III. GENERAL RULES

1. Participants must be MASI members in good standing.
2. All fish entered by a member into the BAP must be conditioned and maintained by the member in his/her own tank, tub, or garden pond. The breeding of the fish and raising of the fry must be done in the same manner. The member must be materially involved in the daily care, feeding, and maintenance of both the breeders and the fry.
3. Points will be assigned in the name of a couple (i.e. John and Mary Doe), a family (i.e. Doe family), or an individual (i.e. John Doe).
4. In order to be credited with spawning any species, the member must spawn and rear to at least 60 days of age at least 5 - 8 fry, depending on the class of fish. The fry shall be presented at the first general meeting following their having reached 60 – 90 days of age. In certain situations, the member may, at the discretion of and with the prior approval of the BAP chair, present fry up to 120 days old.

The spawning date is defined as the date egg layer fry hatch, the date a mouthbrooder releases the fry for the first time, or the date of birth of a livebearing species.

Special rules apply to Class "D" fishes, as noted below.

Since certain species produce fewer than the required number of fry for their Class, the chairman may, with prior notification and given time for further research, wave the minimum fry requirement and require a lesser number of fry. Notification of this exception will be published in the chairman's message in the Darter for future members to reference.
5. In order to further the stated purposes of the program above, some fry from each spawn (5-8, depending on the class of fish) are to be donated to the club at general meetings, to be auctioned to the club membership.
6. Donation Skip. In the case of very rare, valuable or non-prolific species, a member may present the fry and turn in in the spawning paperwork and not donate any fry under the following conditions: It can only be utilized once per year per member. The member must have donated fry from at least 5 spawns in the same year prior to the skip. It cannot be applied to commonly bred fish. It will only apply to 15 or 20 point species. An article or short presentation about the spawn will be required.
- 7 To further the stated purposes of the program above, all spawning reports must be filled out completely and submitted upon approved BAP forms to the BAP chair for verification at the time of presentation of fry for credit.

III. GENERAL RULES (CONT)

8. Hybrids of any type are not allowed, with the exception of established domestic livebearer strains (mollies, swordtails, variatus, and platies).

9. In order to further the purposes of the program, for each 2500 points earned, members are required to make a presentation to the club about how they breed fish in order to share their knowledge, tips and tricks with other members. This can be in the form of a meeting length program, a video, a minimum 2500 word article for the Darter, a Q & A session of some sort or something similar arranged with the BAP Chair and the appropriate committee chair.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR SPAWNING CREDIT ACCORDING TO CLASSIFICATION

1. Species will be classified according to four levels of difficulty, Classes "A", "B", "C", and "D". Requirements for receiving credit for spawns from the various classes are as follows:

Class "A" (5 Points) - raise and donate 8 fry. General Rules apply.

Class "B" (10 Points) – raise and donate 8 fry. General Rules apply.

Class "C" (15 Points) - raise and donate 5 fry. General Rules apply.

Class "D" (20 Points) – raise and donate 5 fry. General Rules apply. In addition, a member of the BAPC must be notified and given the opportunity to witness the spawn and spawning conditions within two weeks after spawning.

Articles are required for class “D” spawns in order to qualify for Master Breeder or above awards. Articles should provide details and insight on the care and conditioning of the breeders, spawning conditions and insight on the raising of the fry that resulted in a successful Class “D” spawn. The article shall be submitted to the BAP Chairman for approval, who will then send it on to the Editor for publication.

With prior approval of the BAP Chair, an article about a Class “C” spawn that was a MASI First Species may be substituted for a Class “D” article. However, once a second spawn of that “first C” species has been submitted, the class “C” article option will not apply.

2. MASI First Spawn Bonus (5-15 Points) to promote the raising and sharing of rare species, a bonus point system has been implemented. For the first MASI spawn of any Species, a 5 point bonus will be given, in addition to the standard points given for its class. An additional 5 points will be given for the first MASI spawn in any Genus and any Family.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR SPAWNING CREDIT ACCORDING TO CLASSIFICATION (CONT.)

3. Color Variety Bonus (1-4 Points) In the BAP, full points will be awarded only once (to each breeder) for any species or subspecies, regardless of variety. Subsequent spawns of the same species (but of different color or finnage varieties) will be awarded reduced points. (i.e. Black Angelfish = 10 points; then later, Silver Veil Angelfish = 2 points)

4. C.A.R.E.S. Bonus (5 – 20 points) The C.A.R.E.S. preservation program (Conservation, Awareness, Recognition, Encouragement, Support) has been incorporated into the MASI BAP program to encourage members to focus efforts on the many endangered species that we are in danger of losing if hobbyists don't get involved. To qualify, species must be listed on the C.A.R.E.S. priority list website.

As new species are added (sadly) to the C.A.R.E.S. list, the C.A.R.E.S. bonus will be added retroactively for five years prior. They didn't become endangered overnight.

The C.A.R.E.S. bonus will be equal to the point value of the species. (Example; a 10 point species on the C.A.R.E.S. list will receive a 10 point C.A.R.E.S. bonus for a total of 20 points).

In addition, to encourage long term maintenance of C.A.R.E.S. species, additional spawns may be turned in annually for an additional C.A.R.E.S. bonus, provided fry are donated to club membership.

Commercially mass produced species that are well established in the hobby will not receive C.A.R.E.S. bonus points. (Examples: white clouds and cherry barbs are under no danger of disappearing from the hobby, and need no special incentive).

V. ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

The following achievement levels will be recognized upon accumulating the listed requirements:

Novice Breeder - Only Novice Members of MASI may receive this award. Spawn any 3 species, from 3 different genera, must include both egglayers and livebearers.

General Breeder - (50+ Points)
at least 2 species from Class "B" or higher
at least 2 different families

Advanced Breeder - (100+ Points)
at least 2 species from Class "C" or higher
at least 3 different families

V. ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS (CONT.)

Senior Breeder - (200+ Points)

at least 3 species from Class "C" or higher
at least 4 different families

Master Breeder - (300+ Points)

at least 1 specie from Class "D"
at least 5 different families
at least 1 article regarding Class "D" species

Grand Master Breeder - (500+ Points)

at least 2 species from Class "D"
at least 6 different families
at least 2 articles regarding Class "D" species

Advanced Grand Master Breeder – (1000+ Points)

at least 3 species from Class "D"
at least 8 different families
at least 3 articles regarding Class "D" species

Senior Grand Master Breeder – (1500+ Points)

at least 4 species from Class "D"
at least 10 different families
at least 4 articles regarding Class "D" species

Supreme Grand Master Breeder – (2000+ Points)

at least 5 species from Class "D"
at least 12 different families
at least 5 articles regarding Class "D" species

Ultimate Grand Master Breeder – (2500+ Points)

at least 6 species from Class "D"
at least 14 different families
at least 6 articles regarding Class "D" species and a presentation on breeding fish as described in section III, rule 9 above, shall be presented to MASI

Most Exalted Grand Master Breeder – (3000+ points)

At least 7 species from Class "D"
At least 16 different families
At least 7 articles regarding Class "D" species

Illustrious Grand Master Breeder – (3500+ points)

At least 8 species from Class "D"
At least 18 different families
At least 8 articles regarding Class "D" species

V. ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS (CONT.)

Most Excellent Grand Master Breeder – (4000+ points)

At least 9 species from Class “D”

At least 20 different families

At least 9 articles regarding Class “D” species

Loftiest Grand Master Breeder – (4500+ points)

At least 10 species from Class “D”

At least 22 different families

At least 10 articles regarding Class “D” species

Grand Poobah Grand Master Breeder – (5000+ points)

At least 12 species from Class “D”

At least 24 different families

At least 12 articles regarding Class “D” species and a presentation on breeding fish as described in Section III, rule 9 above, shall be presented to MASI

Jedi Master Grand Master Breeder – (5500+ points)

At least 14 species from Class “D”

At least 26 different families

At least 14 articles regarding Class “D” species

El Loco Grand Master Breeder – (6000+ points)

At least 16 species from Class “D”

At least 28 different families

At least 16 articles regarding Class “D” species

Tremendousest Grand Master Breeder – (6500+ points)

At least 18 species from Class “D”

At least 30 different families

At least 18 articles regarding Class “D” species

Biglyest Grand Master Breeder – (7000+ points)

At least 20 species from Class “D”

At least 30 different families

At least 20 articles regarding Class “D” species

A presentation on breeding fish as described in Section III, rule 9 above, shall be presented to MASI for each subsequent 2500 points earned.

VI. AWARDS

All awards will be presented to recipients at the regular general meetings, and notice will be published in the society publication in recognition of the member's accomplishments. Awards for Master Breeder and higher will in addition be recognized publicly at the Annual Show banquet.