

# Motor City Aquarium Society Breeder Award Program (BAP)

The MCAS Breeders Award Program was established to recognize outstanding achievement in the breeding of various aquarium organisms. The program is non-competitive; no one wins and no one loses. Each aquarist moves at their own pace to the award goal of their own choosing. To qualify for awards, an aquarist should follow the schedule outlined below:

Breeder Award – 50 points

30 points from Class A

20 points from Class B

Advanced Breeder Award – 100 points

Complete the Breeder Award requirements

30 or more points from Classes C or D

The remaining points to reach the 100-point mark may be selected from any Class

Expert Breeder Award – 300 points

Complete requirements for both Breeder and Advanced Breeder Awards

The remaining points to reach the 300-point mark may be selected from any Class

## REQUIREMENTS

Questions often arise as to WHY fishes were assigned to certain classes. The classes were determined by consideration of many factors including: 1) difficulty in husbanding the adults, as well as rearing the fry for at least 60 days; 2) problems feeding the fishes; and 3) compatibility of breeders and other problems encountered by the first successful breeding in MCAS. A few fishes have been strangely evaluated – for example, the Rift Lake cichlids were considered difficult in the 1960's and 70's but once it was realized that they were colony spawners, as opposed to being mated pairs as in the familiar American cichlids, it became apparent that they were originally over-evaluated for points in most cases.

Nonetheless, each aquarist benefits the SAME POINTS from any successes with a particular species.

### Class A

The aquarist must spawn and raise at least 10 fry to 60 days of age. (Sixty days after hatching for egg-layers.) Another club member must witness these fish after they are 60 days of age. This may be done at the breeder's own home or at a general membership meeting.

### Class B

The aquarist must spawn and bring to a club meeting at least 10 living fry reared to 60 days of age. The fry must be fully labeled as to age, identification, and breeder's name.

## Class C

All requirements as Class B fish, plus

Either a Breeders Award Committee member or a MCAS Officer must visit the aquarist's home to witness conditions under which the fish spawned. Entrants must also submit a summary of spawning procedure written for publication in the *Tropiquarium* or by special arrangement when accompanied by visual aids for an oral presentation at a club meeting. Written summaries must be at least 350 words in length for an article on a single species and at least 500 words in length if written on two related species. Because many articles have been written on the more common 15 and 20-point fishes, often authors are discouraged in their attempts to be original. To address this issue; if a species' spawning has previously been reported in *Tropiquarium* – and then only if the BAP's chairman or editor has given approval – the aquarist may use a report of 350 words minimum on any 5- or 10-point fish or some relevant subject to the hobby to satisfy the BAP requirements for the species spawned. Talks and/or articles should be completed within six months of the meeting at which the fish are verified as being 60(+) days old.

## Class D

All requirements as Class C fish, plus

A Breeder Award Committee member must be notified within 48 hours of spawning time. Special petitions to extend the above time will be considered.

## Point Classification of Fishes Spawned

### Class A – 5 Points

- Any livebearer not listed in Classes B, C, or D
- Any mouthbrooding Tilapia (*Sarotherodon* or *Oreochromis*) or *Haplochromis* not in Class B
- Any Danio and *Brachydanio*
- Any cichlids not in classes B, C, or D
- White Clouds and any Australian rainbows including *Pseudomugilids*
- All anabantids not listed in Classes B, C, or D
- The following killifish:
  - *Aphyosemion gardneri*
  - *Aphyosemion australe*
  - *Aplocheilichthys lineatus*
  - *Aplocheilichthys panchax*
  - *Epiplatys dageti*
  - *Pachypanchax playfairii*
  - *Rivulus* species
- Any *Oryzias* not listed elsewhere
- The following unisexual snails:
  - Apple Snails (*Ampullaria* sp.)
  - Hardy live-bearing snails (*Vivipara* sp., *Campeloma* sp.)
  - Assassin Snail (*Clea helen*)
  - Rabbit Snails (*Tylomelania* sp.)
  - Colombian Ramshorn (*Marisa* sp.)

- The parthenogenetic Marbled Crayfish
- The small shrimps of the Caridinidae

## Class B – 10 Points

- All barbs not in Classes C and D
- The following cichlids:
  - *Pterophyllum scalare*
  - *Cichlasoma festae*
  - *Cichlasoma festivum*
  - *Cichlasoma dovii*
  - *Cichlasoma labiatum*
  - *Cichlasoma managuense*
  - *Cichlasoma friedrichsthali*
  - *Cichlasoma severum*
  - *Cichlasoma urophthalmus*
  - *Cichlasoma umbriferum*
  - *Cichlasoma nicaraguense*
  - Any *Hemichromis* sp.
  - *Anomalochromis thomasi*
  - Any non-mouthbrooder in genus *Tilapia*
  - *Haplochromis euchilus*
  - *Haplochromis polystigma*
  - *Haplochromis livingstonei*
  - *Haplochromis compressiceps*
  - Other large species
- The following gourami:
  - *Trichogaster leeri*
  - Any *Colisa* sp.
  - Any *Belontia* sp.
- All characins not in Classes C and D
- Halfbeaks
- *Belonesox* sp.
- Any member of family Goodeidae
- *Brachyrhaphis* sp.
- *Jenynsia* sp.
- Sticklebacks, sunfishes, and American minnows
- Any top-spawning killifish not in Class A
- Any *Badis* sp.
- Madagascar, New Guinean, and Celebes rainbows
- Goldfish and koi carp
- Unisexual crayfishes
- Shrimps with planktonic larvae – e.g. *Halocaridina* sp.

## Class C – 15 Points

- Any African Cichlid not in Classes A, B, or D
- Any *Etroplus* sp.
- All *Apistogramma*, *Geophagus*, *Crenicara*, and *Crenicichla* sp.
- Pencilfish and headstanders
- Congo, phantom, and glowlight tetras

- *Barbus arulius*
- *Barbus filamentosus*
- *Barbus everetti*
- All *Corydoras* including *aeneus*, *hastatus*, *paleatus*, and *pygmaeus* – not listed in D
- *Aspidoras* sp.
- Loaches of genus *Acanthopthalmus*
- All soil-breeding killifish
- *Pseudepiplatys annulatus*
- Glassfish and bumblebee gobies
- African clawed frogs
- Kissing, moonlight, croaking, and the true gouramies (*Osphronemus* sp.)

### **Class D – 20 points**

- *Anableps*
- *Pantodon*
- *Monodactylus*
- *Symphysodon*
- *Astronotus*
- Any *Rasbora*
- Asiatic algae eaters
- Old World “sharks”
- Tin Foil Barbs
- Neon and cardinal tetras
- Any hatchetfish, silver dollars, and piranhas.
- Chocolate gourami
- *Ambystoma mexicanum* (axolotl)
- All catfish and loaches not included in Class C – including *Scleromystax*
- All Syngnathid fishes that bear live young after having been previously maintained in the breeder’s tank past the gestation period of one spawn
- Needlefish (*Belontiidae*)

## Acknowledgement of Achievement

- 1) Certificates of merit will be presented at the annual banquet to each award level attained.
- 2) Expert Breeders will receive an award and a Lifetime Membership. This latter shall not be construed as divesting its possessor of any obligation to the MCAS. The Society may require certain evidences of continuing interest in membership privileges, the least of which is to contact the Membership Chairman at the beginning of each year for renewal.
- 3) For each additional 300 points accumulated, the Lifetime Membership will be extended to cover one additional family member who participated in the B.A.P. and who has been a paying member.

## Specialist Classes

The Specialist Classes have been designed to give additional incentive to members of the Breeders Award Program to diversify their efforts into as many interest areas as feasible. Additional classes may be added in the future. To achieve any Specialist Class, an aquarist must breed a group of organisms whose assigned BAP values total 300 points and which fulfill the requirements of the particular class.

### Catfish Specialist

The fishes bred must represent five (5) different genera and three (3) different families and total 300 BAP points.

### Killifish Specialist

The fishes bred must represent at least ten (10) soil-spawners (not including switch-spawners) and ten (10) mop-spawners; at least ten (10) Old World species and at least ten (10) New World species; at least ten (10) genera; and total 300 BAP points.

### Cichlid Specialist

The fishes bred must represent at least fifteen (15) New World species from five (5) different genera including Symphysodon; at least fifteen (15) Old World genera including Etroplus and five (5) from western Africa; and total 300 BAP points.

### North American Native Fish Specialist

The fishes bred must represent at least two (2) species from each of at least five (5) families (or the sum of ten [10] reached by computing two [2] points for each family in which two or more [2+] species have been recorded and one [1] point for each additional family); no more than 150 points of the required 300 can be from any one family.

### Livebearer Specialist

The fishes bred must represent at least fifteen (15) genera in at least four (4) families; no more than 150 points of the required 300 can be from any one family.