



# Membership Handbook

*- Revised and Updated February 2016 -*

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# Some of the Benefits of MEMBERSHIP in MASI

Anyone interested in the keeping and breeding of Tropical and Marine fish; goldfish; ponds; water gardens; aquatic plants; or other Aquatic life is encouraged to become a member of the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. (MASI). Our members range from the inexperienced beginner to the advanced aquarist, and new members are always welcome. Individual, Family, Professional, and Corresponding Memberships are available.

## MEETINGS

MASI meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, at 7:30 PM at the Dorsett Village Baptist Church, 2240 Bennington Place, Maryland Heights, MO 63043. There is no admission charge, and visitors are always welcome to attend.

Our monthly meetings feature hobby-related educational programs, films and lectures; question-and-answer sessions; fish show competitions; contests; door prizes; a monthly raffle; refreshments; access to the club Library; a mini fish and aquatic plant auction (100% donation to the club); and an opportunity to exchange ideas and information with fellow hobbyists. The meeting room is open a half hour before and an hour after the meeting to encourage members to stick around, visit with friends, and exchange information and ideas. Members are also allowed to trade/sell hobby related products, fish, and plants; as long as it doesn't interfere with the meeting.

## ACTIVITIES

MASI sponsors many activities throughout the course of the year.

**Auctions:** In addition to the monthly mini auctions, MASI hosts four all species fish Auctions each year and two Swap Meets each year.

**Shows:** In addition to the monthly bowl shows, MASI also holds competitive fish shows every month except December, where members can show off their fish and compete toward annual awards. For almost 45 years, MASI has sponsored a large Annual Show.

**Programs:** In addition to the monthly speaker program, MASI hosts an Annual Workshop, held in the spring each year, which offers an entire weekend of hobby activities in which our members and members of other aquarium societies from throughout the country participate.

**Banquet:** MASI hosts an annual Award Banquet in conjunction with the Annual Workshop where annual awards are presented.

**For Families:** To encourage family participation, MASI hosts an Annual Picnic in June that is purposely non-fish focused so that families can join in. In December, MASI hosts an Annual Christmas Party and dispenses with the formal meeting. Families are welcome and encouraged to participate.

**Fishroom tours:** Each month, the Executive Council meeting is hosted in the home of one of our members. Any member is welcome to attend, but they are requested to contact the hosts to let them know they are coming. Every two or three years MASI members conduct a series of

“Open Fishrooms” where members open their fishrooms to other club members for the afternoon.

**Q & A forums:** In addition to the time at each monthly meeting, members of the club can participate in FishHeads, our online discussion group. Here they can post questions and answers, offer items for sale or trade, post want lists, etc.

**Travel:** Many members travel to hobby-related auctions, shows, workshops, and conventions around the Midwest (and even the country) and are always looking to share rides. This is a great way to get to visit other clubs, find fish and plants that aren't available locally, and get to know your fellow club members.

## LIBRARY

MASI maintains an excellent reference library of books, periodicals, and videos pertaining to the aquarium hobby. Members may check out these books and other literature from the Library at monthly meetings. There is no charge for borrowing these books, provided they are returned to the Librarian at the next monthly meeting. A small deposit is required.

## PUBLICATION

The official Publication of the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. is *THE DARTER*, which is published six times a year on a bi-monthly basis. Members receive a copy of each issue of *THE DARTER* by mail. Everyone is encouraged to submit articles to the Editor for publication in *THE DARTER*. We also participate in an exchange program through which *THE DARTER* is exchanged with the publications of many other aquarium societies throughout the U.S. and Canada.

## Breeder's Award Program and Horticultural Award Program (BAP) and (HAP)

In order to encourage those who breed fish and propagate aquatic plants to share their successes with other members, to disseminate information about the breeding of fish and propagation of aquatic plants, and to encourage distribution of same to other members, MASI offers both a Breeder's Award Program for fish and a Horticultural Award Program for aquatic plants. Refer to detailed rules below for more information.

For current point values and member statistics, consult the relevant page on our club website: [www.missouriaquariumsociety.org](http://www.missouriaquariumsociety.org)

# Bylaws of The Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. (MASI)

*Incorporated 1959, Revised 2002*

- Article 1: Name:  
The Society will be called the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc.
- Article 2: Purpose:  
The corporation is formed and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes as set out in Paragraph 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any subsequent corresponding provision of the Internal Revenue Laws of the United States; more particularly, for the propagation and care of tropical and marine fishes; the instruction and dissemination of information on the propagation and care of tropical and marine fishes to the public; the purchase of supplies and equipment for the maintenance and operation of aquaria for educational, charitable and scientific purposes, and to promote the keeping of aquaria for purposes of occupational therapy.
- Article 3: Membership:  
The Society shall be composed of Charter Members, Honorary Members, Regular Members, Family Members, Professional Members and Corresponding Members as shall have been admitted to the membership hereafter in accordance to the provisions of the by-laws.
- Article 4: Officers:  
The officers of the society shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Term of office shall be one year.
- Article 5: Executive Council:  
The affairs of the Society shall be charged to an Executive Council composed of 13 members:  
1) The four Officers of the Society  
2) The Show Chairman, appointed by the President at the first general meeting of tenure in office  
3) The Editor of the publication of the Society, appointed by the President at the first general meeting of tenure in office  
4) The Auction Chairman, appointed by the President at the first general meeting of tenure in office  
5.) Six (6) members at large elected from the floor.
- Termination of tenure:  
Failure of an Executive Council member to attend 3 council meetings (unexcused absences) in any one year shall be deemed neglect of duty and grounds for expulsion from the Executive Council.
- Article 6: Affiliation:  
Affiliation with other Societies is allowed when desirable and approved by the Executive Council and the membership.
- Article 7: Dissolution:  
If for any reason it becomes necessary to dissolve this corporation, the assets held for charitable, educational and scientific purposes shall be applied so far as feasible toward carrying out the purposes stated in the articles of incorporation, excluding similar societies not incorporated.

Article 8: Amendments:

These By-laws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds plus one majority of all voting members present, if a quorum is present. (A quorum shall consist of two-fifths of all voting members.) The proposed amendment shall be first submitted in writing to and approved by a majority of the entire Executive Council. The proposed amendment shall be published in the bulletin prior to voting.

Article 9: Membership:

Section 1) Eligibility: Any person interested in tropical fish and related subjects.

Section 2) Regular Members: Admittance to membership shall be subject to the following:

a) Prior to membership a prospective member shall attend at least one regular meeting.

b) Membership shall be considered valid after a donation is made.

c) Any member who joined the Society prior to June 1, 1960, shall be considered a charter member, as long as membership has been continuous.

Section 3) Honorary Members: Honorary membership may be conferred on any individual for outstanding contributions to the Society by:

a) Recommendation of the Executive Council.

b) Recommendation of a member and approved by the Executive Council.

Section 4) Charter Membership: Membership to be fixed according to paragraph c, Section 2. Anyone admitted after that time will be considered a regular member.

Section 5) Family Membership: Family membership shall be limited to 2 adult votes (15 years of age or older).

Section 6) Professional Membership: a professional member shall be considered as one actually engaged in the buying and selling of tropical fish and/or aquarium supplies for resale as a means of livelihood.

Section 7) Corresponding Member: a corresponding member is one who receives the club publication. A corresponding member shall not have a vote concerning club elections or functions.

Section 8) Privileges: The right to vote shall be restricted to members of the Society (except as defined in Sections 5 & 7). A member must be present to vote.

Section 9) Termination of Membership: Membership in the Society may be terminated at any time by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Council. Failure to donate prior to the close of the February general meeting will be deemed sufficient cause to suspend privileges.

Article 10: Membership Donations:

Annual donations shall be set by the November Executive Council Meeting and published in the club bulletin prior to the January general meeting.

Article 11: Officers:

Section 1) Eligibility and Tenure of Office: Any member of the Society is eligible for nomination and election to any office of the Society. Professional members are eligible for all offices except for President and Vice-President. All newly elected Officers shall take office at the first July meeting.

Section 2) Nominations and Elections: Nominations shall be made by a Nominating Committee appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Council. At least 2 candidates shall be presented for each Office open for election, or, the Nominating Committee may, with the approval of the Executive Council, present a single name for any Office. Nominations shall be entertained from the floor during the new business portion of the May general meeting annually. Elections will be at the June meeting, annually. A simple majority is required for a valid election.

Section 3) Executive Council: The Executive Council shall manage the affairs of the Society in the best interest of the Society and in accordance with its purpose as expressed in the By-laws and the Statutes of the State of Missouri.

There shall be a meeting of the Executive Council prior to each regular meeting of the Society.

Any member of the Executive Council can convoke a special meeting whenever it is felt the affairs of the Society require it.

Article 12: Meetings:

The Society shall have one (1) regular meeting each month. The order of business at all meetings and the program of any meeting shall be determined by the Executive Council, or an officer or committee designated by the Executive Council. *Roberts Rules of Order Revised* shall be used in conducting the meetings. The President or the Executive Council shall have the authority to invoke these rules whenever necessary, and to appoint a Sergeant at Arms to enforce them.

Article 13: Financial:

The Treasurer shall deposit all Society funds in a federally insured organization in the Society's name. The Treasurer may only issue checks for Society expenses. The Treasurer will submit a financial report once a year. A yearly audit of the Society's account will be made (subject to State and Federal laws) by an Auditing Committee appointed by the Executive Council at the last meeting of the fiscal year. All bills are paid by check. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all funds of the Society. All expenditures shall be approved by the Executive Council. All expenditures so approved must be submitted to the Treasurer within 60 days of incurrence of said expenditure. Checks written on Missouri Aquarium Society account may be signed by the President or Treasurer.

Article 14: Committees:

Each committee authorized by the Executive Council shall be considered

automatically discharged at the close of the term (June meeting), unless the Council or membership take specific action to continue the committee.

Nominating Committee: Refer to Article 11, Section 2 and shall consist of the Chairman and other appointed members as seen fit. They shall submit a roster of candidates at the Executive Council meeting prior to the May general meeting.

Show Committee: Refer to Article 5 and shall consist of other appointed members as the Show Chairman sees fit. They shall be responsible to conduct the Annual Show or Shows and the Super Bowl Show or Shows in the best interest of the Society.

Article 15: Registered Agent and Historian:

The President is to be the Registered Agent of the corporation, and is responsible for timely execution of all governmental filings regarding corporate status of the organization. The Historian shall be appointed by the President and shall be responsible for maintaining an Archive of all Society activities, as directed by the Executive Council. All officers will turn in a complete record of their tenure to the Historian by the second meeting of each year.

Article 16: Duties of Officers:

The President will preside at all meetings according to the By-laws. The President has the authority to fill any vacated office to complete the unexpired term.

The Vice-President will preside at all meetings whenever the President is absent, or in the event of the President's inability or refusal to act. The Vice-President will also be the Program Chairman and head the Nominating Committee.

The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings, regular or special, and submit same at any meetings whenever the President so requests.

The Treasurer's duties are outlined in Article 13. Also, the Treasurer will notify the Membership Secretary of all additions to the membership, and will notify all members who are delinquent in the payment of donations. The Treasurer shall in general perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be assigned by the President or Executive Council.

Article 17: Corresponding Secretary and Membership Secretary:

The Corresponding Secretary shall be appointed by the President solely for the purpose of conducting such business assigned by the President and Executive Council. The Membership Secretary shall keep an accurate and current roster of all classes of members, and intervals of every three months compare records with those of the Treasurer.

Article 18: The Editor:

The Editor of the publication of the Society shall be appointed by the Executive Council and must mail announcements of the meetings, dates and places as directed by the Executive Council. The Editor shall be responsible for the publication and all duties connected with said publication as is in the best interest of the Society

Article 19: Librarian:

The Librarian shall keep the Society's books and magazines in good order. Any funds derived from the Library's use will be used to better the Society. The Librarian shall give a quarterly financial report to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will keep an accurate account of the Library funds.



Article 20: Rules of Order:

*Roberts Rules of Order Revised* shall be the authority in all transactions of the Society not provided by these By-laws and/or articles of incorporation. (Refer to Article 12)

Article 21: Motions from the Floor:

Motions made and seconded from the floor at a general meeting concerning the regular business of the Society shall be first approved by the Executive Council. If approved by the Executive Council, the motion will be brought before the next regular meeting for discussion and voting by the regular membership.

Article 22: Voting:

All voting concerning changes or additions to the By-laws and Elections shall be by secret ballot.

Article 23: By-laws:

These revised by-laws of January 25, 2002 supersede all previous by-laws and amendments. Any additions or amendments to these By-laws shall be distributed to all members.

# Annual Awards:

## **NOVICE OF THE YEAR and HOBBYIST OF THE YEAR**

Each year the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. recognizes the outstanding contributions of those members performing services for the Society during the calendar year (Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31). Points are awarded for service and involvement in the activities of the Society. At the Annual Awards Banquet of each year, *Novice of the Year Award* and *Hobbyist of the Year Award* are presented to the members accumulating the most points during the preceding year.

The minimum following requirements must be satisfied to qualify for these awards:

1. A minimum of eight (8) points must be earned for attendance at the general meetings.
2. A minimum of ten (10) points must be earned for service to the society other than listed above. These points do NOT include any meeting attendance points earned.

Service points will be awarded to individuals only (Mr. Smith, Mrs. Smith, Child Smith, etc.) and NOT to families (Mr. and Mrs. Doe, Doe Family, etc.)

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### PARTICIPATION AND SERVICE POINTS SCHEDULE FOR AWARDS OF *NOVICE OF THE YEAR* and *HOBBYIST OF THE YEAR*

SERVICE	POINTS
Attendance at any meeting	1
Officers of the Society (President, VP, Secretary, & Treasurer)	3/mo.
Member of Executive Council (excluding Officers)	2/mo.
Committee Chairperson (as listed in THE DARTER)	2/mo.
Publication Editor	5/mo.
Society Printer	2/mo.
Bowl Show Judge	1/mo.
Donating Refreshments	1/mo.
Donating Door Prize	1/mo.
Working for an Auction (assigned by Auction Chairperson)	up to 10
Working for Annual Show (assigned by Show Chairperson)	up to 15
Working for Super Bowl	up to 3
Programs given (no points given for programs required by BAP rules.)	5
Published original article or original artwork for THE DARTER One page in length or longer Half page minimum length (A maximum of 30 points per year will be credited for articles. Committee reports are considered a responsibility of the chairperson and will not earn points. No points will be awarded for articles required by BAP rules.)	5 2
Collating THE DARTER	1/issue
Advertisements sold for THE DARTER (new ads only)	1
Special Services	As awarded by Executive Council

If you have any questions, contact the Points Tabulator.

(Effective 1/88)

# POINTS SYSTEM FOR SHOW CHAMPIONS

## ***NOVICE SHOW CHAMPION and HOBBYIST SHOW CHAMPION***

The Society offers friendly competition and the chance to display your fish in the form of an Annual Show, a Super Bowl Show and monthly bowl shows. Points are awarded for entering these competitions and for placing First, Second, Third. At the end of each calendar year the points are tabulated and awards are presented to the novice and hobbyist members who have earned the most show points during that year. The minimum eligibility requirements to qualify for these awards are as follows:

1. You must enter the Annual Show.
2. You must enter Super bowl.
3. You must enter at least five (5) monthly bowl shows, not including Super Bowl.

Show points will be awarded either to an individual or family unit, as indicated by the entrant(s) at the time of their first showing. However, it will be the entrant(s) responsibility to continue to enter under the same name(s) throughout the rest of the year.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SHOW POINTS SCHEDULE FOR AWARDS OF ***NOVICE SHOW CHAMPION and HOBBYIST SHOW CHAMPION***

Monthly Bowl Show Entries (Entries are limited to three (3) per member per class each month.)

1st. Place	5 points
2nd. Place	4 points
3rd. Place	3 points
Non-placing entry	1 point

Annual Show and Super Bowl Show Entries (unlimited entries)

1st. Place	15 points
2nd. Place	10 points
3rd. Place	5 points
Non-placing entry	2 points

(Only 5 entries will be credited to the entrant, those which receive the highest points.)

In addition, recipients of Best of Show, Judge's Award, and Best Novice Exhibit will receive a bonus of 5 points for each major award received.

If you have any questions, contact the Points Tabulator.

(Effective 1/88)

# MASI Breeders Award Program (BAP)

*Revised Jan 2005*

## 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, appointed by the President, and 2 to 3 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 spawnings shall receive the current point value. In the event a classification point value is lowered, the breeder's current point total will not be lowered. Nomenclature 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 in ***The Darter*** 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 in his/her own tank or pond. The breeding of the fish and raising of the fry must be done in the same manner.
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 4-10 fry, depending on the class of fish. The fry shall be presented at the first general meeting following their having reached 60 days of age, except where noted for Class "D", in which case special rules apply.

5. In order to defray the cost of award plaques, and to spread various fish species through the club, some fry from each spawn (2-10, depending on the class of fish) are to be donated to the club at general meetings, to be auctioned to the club membership.

6. All spawning reports must be submitted upon approved BAP forms to the BAP chair for verification.

7. In all Classes, the date of spawning shall be considered to be the date the eggs hatch, and the date of birth for livebearers.

8. Hybrids of any type are not allowed, with the exception of established domestic livebearer strains.

#### 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 spawnings from the various classes are as follows:

**Class "A"** (5 Points) - raise 10 fry; donate 10 fry or a pair. General Rules apply.

**Class "B"** (10 Points) - raise 8 fry; donate 5 fry or a pair. General Rules apply.

**Class "C"** (15 Points) - raise 6 fry; donate 3 fry or a pair. General Rules apply.

**Class "D"** (20 Points) - raise 4 fry; donate 2 fry or a pair. 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

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.

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)

#### 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

**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

Articles should provide details and insight on the spawning conditions that resulted in a successful Class "D" spawn. The article shall be submitted to the MASI Editor for publication in *The Darter*. With prior approval of the BAP Chair, an article on a Class "C" that was a MASI First Species may be substituted for a Class "D" article.

## 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.

# *Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc.*

## **Horticultural Award Program**

(HAP)

Founded January 1, 1992

- Revised February 1, 2016 -

### **Purpose:**

To promote and encourage the keeping and captive propagation of Aquatic Plants

To gather and disseminate information about Aquatic Plants, their cultivation, and propagation methods

To insure the availability of a variety of Aquatic Plant species for future generations of Aquarium Hobbyists

### **Definition:**

An Aquatic Plant is a plant species which, in the wild or natural state, can be found growing wholly submersed; growing emerge with its roots submerged; or floating; as a regular, normal occurrence required for its survival at some time during the course of one complete growing season.

### **HAP Committee:**

The HAP chairperson shall serve at the discretion of the President and the Executive Council, and shall be appointed by the incoming President at the start of each MASI fiscal year (the beginning of the first General Meeting in July) for a term of one year. Said Chairperson shall be charged with the responsibility of maintaining and complying with the Rules of the HAP as set forth herein. This Chairperson shall maintain accurate and complete permanent records. These records shall be maintained in a paper and/or an electronic file at the discretion of and within the means of the Chair; with an accurate, complete record available to the general membership upon written request either via a paper copy or through electronic media such as the club Website. If an electronic file is kept, separate accurate and up to date copies must be maintained to prevent the loss of all records. The Chairperson shall assign Points as specified in the Rules, and shall review (and amend, as needed) these Rules and Points. The Chairperson is empowered to appoint trusted MASI members as HAP verifiers to help out as needed. Any disputes will be settled at the discretion of the Chairperson, with advice of the Executive Council if necessary. All such decisions rendered will be considered final. Submission of a propagation to the program signifies agreement with all rules below.

### **Identification:**

Proper identification is the responsibility of the entrant. There are a wide variety of accurate sources for identification of Aquatic Plants. Christel Kassermann's 2003 Edition of *Aquarium Plants* is a recommended source for Aquarium Plant identification, and a copy is provided for the general membership in the MASI Library. Varietals, Hybrids, and Cultivars will be identified by the Cultivar name such as *Nymphaea sp. 'Rembrandt'*, etc. Any plant identified shall require literature cited as a source for said identification. Websites may be cited, but are not considered acceptable primary sources, except for the *Tropicos* database and certain other sites as approved by the HAP Committee. New species will be assigned Points by the HAP Chairperson, with the input of the entrant. All species identification will be verified in the Missouri Botanical Garden *Tropicos* plant database.

## **Requirements:**

Entrant must be a member in good standing of MASI

As a matter of ethics, plants must be *OWNED* and *MAINTAINED* by the entrant for at least 60 days at the time of vegetative propagation. Any plant submitted for the HAP *MUST BE PROPAGATED IN THE ENTRANT'S OWN TANK OR POND*. *NEW GROWTH* must be submitted for credit. For blooms, the entrant must own the plant for at least three weeks before the plant begins to bloom. In the case where plants are purchased with blooms, fruits, or seeds, those growths are ineligible for submission.

Entrant must identify the plant and include a citation for their identification. The HAP Chairperson will only confirm the identification and guide the entrant to sources for proper identification.

A completed HAP Report, including references cited for identification, must be filled out and both the plant (or photo in the case of blooms) and form submitted at the time of verification for each submission.

To receive Points for a Vegetative submission, entrant shall be required to donate their submission to MASI for auction at a general meeting or at one of the club sponsored public Auctions. For vegetative credit to be issued, stem plants should be submitted as a group of at least 5 stems 5" or longer. For floating plants, at least one cup of plants shall be submitted. For others, at least one identifiable plantlet shall be submitted. For vegetative credit for the genus Aponogeton, see special rule below. Blooms and Seedlings need not be donated for Points to be earned, but donations are always strongly encouraged. Blooms and seedlings may be submitted by photo.

All submissions shall be verified one time, except for submissions of a Seedling where the entrant shall submit entry for verification twice; once for the Bloom, and once when the Seedling has grown enough to be easily identifiable. All Seedlings submitted shall have roots, leaves, and be identifiable as to genus, at least.

No plant species deemed a non-indigenous invasive or nuisance species or a noxious weed by the State of Missouri Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be allowed for submission. Any entrant submitting such species *BEFORE* the plant is placed on such list will not have points or credit for propagation taken away, but no further submissions will be accepted. Refer to list of prohibited species later in this document for any questionable species.

## **Propagation:**

Each species, Cultivar, Hybrid, or Varietal shall be eligible for up to 3 submissions – once each For Vegetative (V), Bloom (IB or OB), and Seedling (S) as defined below:

***Vegetative (V):*** The asexual reproduction by natural means or human intervention. The Vegetative propagated plant must be able to survive on its own without the parent plant. Rhizome plants must include new growth with healthy rhizome, leaves and roots capable of surviving on its own. This includes, but is not limited to

- a. Cuttings (from leaves, roots, stems, etc.)
- b. Budding (plantlets and bulblets)
- c. Division
- d. Runners
- e. Layering
- f. Micro propagation
- g. Aponogeton special rule: A photo must be submitted of the plant prior to division, plus a second photo of the plants three weeks after division. Both



plants must have leaves, corm and roots, and be capable of surviving on their own.

**Blooms (IB or OB):** Points are earned by bringing any Aquatic Plant into flower. Points for Blooms shall be awarded at the following rate

- a. Indoor Blooms (IB) shall be awarded Points at the next Point level above the Point level assigned for the Vegetative propagation of the entry, save for the genus *Aponogeton*, which shall be awarded 10 points, regardless of species or location.
- b. Outdoor Blooms (OB) shall be awarded Points at the same Point level assigned for the vegetative propagation of the entry, save for the genus *Nymphaea*, which shall be awarded 10 points for an Outdoor Bloom.
- c. All *Class D* (20 Point) plants shall be awarded only 20 Points for a Bloom, Indoor or Outdoor, save for the genus *Nymphaea* as outlined in 'b' above.

**Seedlings (S):** Points are earned by raising plants from seeds (Seedlings) produced from Blooms grown by entrant and submitted for HAP verification. Blooms must be grown at least three weeks *AFTER* entrant has acquired plant. As a matter of ethics entrant cannot submit Seedlings grown from flowers either budded or opened on the plant at the time of purchase. Due to time constraints of the live of a Bloom, photos (either electronic or hard copy) or dried Blooms are acceptable for verification of a submission of a Bloom. For seedling credit, entrant must submit four photos: a photo of the bloom, the fruit, the seed and the sprouted seedling; plus submit a minimum 250 word article to the Editor and the HAP chairman about how the entrant produced the seedling.

### **Prohibited Species List:**

Certain plant species have not only become established in the wild, but have actually done so well that they are now considered a noxious weed or a nuisance species. Local, State and Federal Government agencies spend many millions of dollars every year trying to control them. No responsible hobbyist should ever keep, distribute, or discard any of these species in the wild or even down the drain. In fact, interstate distribution or sale and/or interstate transport of these species is illegal. These plants should be destroyed by burning. Composting is not an acceptable way to dispose of these plants. The species below are on the Federal list. Currently, as of February 1, 2016, the State of Missouri List of Noxious Weeds only lists Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, and snout algae or *Dydimo*, *Didymosphenia geminate*, as prohibited Aquatic Species. Possession, sale or any other type of distribution of either species, either whole or any part, is prohibited.

For the most up-to-date list, check the MASI auction page Banned Species list.

## **Achievement Levels:**

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

### **Novice Aquatic Horticulturist – (30+ Points)**

*Only Novice or Junior Members of MASI as defined by the Membership Secretary are eligible to receive this award.*  
at least 4 species with at least one from class "B" or higher

### **General Aquatic Horticulturist - (50+ Points)**

at least 5 species with at least one from Class "B" or higher

**Advanced Aquatic Horticulturist** - (100+ Points)  
at least 10 species with at least two from Class "B" or higher

**Senior Aquatic Horticulturist** - (200+ Points)  
at least 20 species with at least two from Class "C" or higher

**Master Aquatic Horticulturist** - (300+ Points)  
at least 30 species with at least 1 specie from Class "D"  
at least 1 seed reproduction

**Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist** - (600+ Points)  
at least 60 species with at least 2 species from Class "D"  
at least 2 seed reproductions  
write a series of at least 6 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for *The Darter*,  
or present one meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care

**Advanced Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist** – (1000+ Points)  
at least 100 species with at least 3 species from Class "D"  
at least 3 seed reproductions  
write a series of at least 7 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for *The Darter*,  
or present two meeting length programs on some aspect of aquatic plant care

**Senior Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist** – (1500+ Points)  
at least 150 species with at least 4 species from Class "D"  
at least 4 seed reproductions  
write a series of at least 8 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for *The Darter*,  
or present three meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care

**Supreme Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist** – (2000+ Points)  
at least 175 species with at least 5 species from Class "D"  
at least 5 seed reproductions  
write a series of at least 9 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for *The Darter*,  
or present four meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care

**Ultimate Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist** – (2500+ Points)  
at least 200 species with at least 6 species from Class "D"  
at least 6 seed reproductions  
write a series of at least 10 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for *The Darter*,  
or present five meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care

## Definition of Article and Program:

Articles or programs should provide details and insight on the husbandry conditions that resulted in a successful reproduction of an aquatic plant species, or on some aspect of maintaining planted aquaria or a water garden. An article of minimum 250 words is required for each seed reproduction. The article shall be submitted to the MASI Editor for publication in *The Darter*. The program may be presented to the MASI membership at a general meeting or at the Annual Show/Workshop, as approved by the Program Chair and/or Show/Workshop Chair.

## Awards:

All awards will be presented to recipients will be awarded at the Annual Banquet.

# **MASI HISTORICAL DOCUMENT**

## **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF MISSOURI AQUARIUM SOCIETY**

We, the undersigned, being natural persons who are citizens of the United States, and over the age of twenty-one (21) years, for the purpose of forming a corporation under the general not for profit corporation act of Missouri, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation.

- ARTICLE I: The name of the corporation shall be Missouri Aquarium Society.
- ARTICLE II: This corporation is formed and shall be operated exclusively for pleasure, recreation and other non-profitable purposes related to the hobby of tropical and marine fish keeping.
- ARTICLE III: The duration of the corporation is perpetual.
- ARTICLE IV: The names and addresses of the incorporators are:
- Glenn P. Tomlin, Sr.  
5334 Blow St.  
St. Louis 9, MO.
- Harry U. Rhoads  
4986A Oleatha Ave.  
St. Louis 9, MO.
- Thomas C. Boeger  
116 Woodstock  
Ferguson 21, MO.
- ARTICLE V: If for any reason it becomes necessary to dissolve this corporation the assets held for charitable, educational and scientific purposes shall be applied so far as feasible toward carrying out the purpose stated in these Articles; excluding similar aquarium societies not incorporated.
- ARTICLE VI: The number of directors constituting the first Board of Directors is three (3), and the said incorporators whose names and addresses are shown in Article IV above constitute the first Board of Directors.
- ARTICLE VII: The address of the corporation's initial registered office in the State of Missouri is 5334 Blow Street, St. Louis 9, Missouri, and the name of its registered agent at such address is Glenn P. Tomlin, Sr..
- ARTICLE VIII: No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propoganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office, nor shall it engage in subversive or un-American activities. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands as of this 16th day of May, 1959.

(SIGNED)  
**GLENN P. TOMLIN, SR.  
HARRY U. RHOADS  
THOMAS C. BOEGER**

# MASI CLUB OPERATION POLICY

and

## Member Code of Conduct

1. MASI encourages members to join and be active in other aquarium-related organizations in addition to MASI.
2. There is NO SMOKING at any indoor MASI event.
3. MASI will neither purchase nor supply alcoholic beverages to its members or guests.
4. Accepting and publishing advertising in the Darter or accepting donations from businesses does not constitute an endorsement of said product or company.
5. All opinions expressed in the Darter and any other club publication, including Speakers at meetings, shows, and other special events, are strictly those of the Authors or Speaker. MASI does not endorse any writer or opinion, including those of its Officers, unless they are speaking with the official endorsement of the majority of the Executive Council.
6. All transactions between members, or between members and donors or advertisers, are strictly between those two parties. MASI will not guarantee performance, provide any warranty or refund, or make any payment to settle any dispute between said parties. MASI remains strictly neutral in such disputes.
7. Anyone with outstanding overdue books or videos from the Library, or any other "lost or misplaced" MASI property, must reimburse the Club for said item at the current retail price or with a replacement of equivalent value BEFORE their membership privileges will be renewed at the beginning of the New Year.
8. All MASI members will endeavor to conduct themselves in the proper manner, and with the best interest of the club coming before their own personal interest when representing the club in the public eye.

## MASI Library Policy

1. The Librarian shall make available a list of all books, videos, and periodicals available at all general meetings of the Society
2. Title and author of book wanted for check-out is to be given to the Librarian and book will be brought to the next general meeting. Magazines and books designated as "Reference material" will be made available at all meetings
3. Material may be withdrawn only by members-in-good-standing
4. The Library will be open and material may be returned and/or withdrawn prior to and after the close of the general meeting
5. Material is due to be returned at the next general meeting following the meeting at which they were withdrawn
6. A deposit of \$5 per book or video, or \$3 per periodical is required at the time of withdrawal, to be refunded when the book is returned on time
7. A fine of \$1 per item per month will be charged for overdue materials for up to three months, after which all deposits will be retained and the member's borrowing privileges will be suspended until the material is returned or replaced
8. In the event of lost or damaged material, the member responsible shall be liable to the extent of the replacement cost of the material, including shipping costs and sales tax
9. Failure to return material or to replace lost or damaged material will result in suspension or termination of membership until such material is returned or replaced

## Rules/Guidelines for MASI Electronic Communications

This is the online forum for the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. (MASI), its members and guests. Ability to post is a privilege, not a right. This is private society forum – there is no right to free speech here. Moderators retain the right to delete any post or topic deemed inappropriate. The following rules are not all-inclusive and may change without notice.

Topics are limited to society related events, questions, and comments, as well as fish, ponds, plants, equipment, hobby, and other related things only.

This is a family group. Parental supervision of minors is strongly encouraged. The following things are forbidden and subject the poster to immediate revocation of posting privileges: spam; obscene or pornographic posts; foul language; personal attacks, even in jest; libelous or slanderous comments about any person or entity; political or religious commentaries, attacks or appellations to posts.

Any offending posts will be deleted from the forum archive and poster's ability to post will be removed without further comment.

Links to fishy video clips and fishy photos are acceptable, as long as they are "G" rated. Feel free to share your breeding experiences or your attempts at fish photography. Please realize that most Internet users do not have broadband connections, so limit photos and other clips to a small file. A link to a photo/video hosting site is recommended.

Fishy humor is welcome IN MODERATION. Please restrict joke/cartoon posts to hobby or fish-related ones only, and keep them to a minimum as many people do not enjoy receiving a barrage of jokes every day. There are other forums for that. Please realize this is a family list so keep these things "G" rated. Also, please do not post joke lists or forwarded joke lists. Everyone gets them. Don't waste everyone's time resending them.

Please do not forward anything to this list. Bill Gates is not going to give anyone a million bucks if they forward an email or click on a link; getting people to sign online petitions is useless as no corporation or political entity takes them seriously; and there is no magic chain letter that will bring riches if it is forwarded to 10 friends.

If you see a problem at a retailer, bring it to the attention of the management there or to the ownership immediately, don't post it here. Posting it here won't fix the problem – bringing it to the attention of management or ownership almost always will. If this does not correct the problem, report it to the proper authorities: the local SPCA, the local police, the local BBB.

Members (including MASI sponsoring shops) are allowed and encouraged to post hobby-related items for sale, trade, or wants.

Anyone who has questions about the website or this forum should direct it to the moderator off-list, not to the list.

Anyone with comments or complaints about MASI operations or events should direct those to the appropriate committee heads, or directly to a member of the Executive Council. Contact information (phone numbers and email addresses) is provided on the Mast Head page of *the Darter*, the official publication of the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc.

All opinions expressed on the FishHeads forum are strictly those of the person making the post. MASI does not endorse any writer or opinion, including those of its Officers, unless they are speaking with the official endorsement of the majority of the Executive Council.

Anyone failing to abide by these rules will be suspended or permanently removed from this list at our option. The decision of the moderator(s) and of the MASI Executive Council is final.

