

# **MASI Breeders Award Program (BAP)**

*Revised May 2023*

## **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 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 to be posted on the MASI website. 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 if the point value increases. If the revised point value decreases, previously submitted spawns will maintain the point value in effect when they were submitted. 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 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 (4-10, depending on the class of fish) are to be donated to the club at general meetings, to be auctioned to the club membership.
6. Donation skip. In the case of very rare, valuable, or non-prolific species, a member may turn 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. All spawning reports must be submitted upon approved BAP forms to the BAP chair for verification.
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 and donate 10 fry; General Rules apply.

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

**Class "C"** (15 Points) - raise and donate 6 fry; General Rules apply.

**Class "D"** (20 Points) - raise and donate 4 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

An article is required for class "D" spawns in order to qualify for higher awards. 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. 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.
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 CARES 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 CARES priority list website.

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

Commercially mass-produced species that are well established in the hobby will not receive CARES bonus points. (Examples: white clouds and cherry barbs, even though they are threatened in the wild, are under no danger of disappearing from the hobby, and need no special incentive.)

The CARES bonus will be equal to the point value of the species. (Example: a 10 point species on the CARES list will receive a 10 point CARES bonus for a total of 20 points.)

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

## 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

**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

**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

**Lofliest 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

**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 Grande 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

**Tremendousnest 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

**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.

**Resource authorities:**

Cal Academy -

<http://research.calacademy.org/redirect?url=http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/lchthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>

C.A.R.E.S. - <https://caresforfish.org/>