

# **G.A.A.S. Breeder's Award Program**

## **Originated December 1974 Revised April 2012**

### **I Purpose**

An ongoing program designed to promote an active interest in and to further knowledge of the spawning of fishes and to give recognition for achievement in this area. The program is open to all members in good standing.

### **II Requirements**

Before an award can be presented certain requirements must be met. They are relatively easy and have been designed to benefit all members of G.A.A.S.

A) Verification of spawning – Standard procedure will be to bring at least six fry to the general meeting after 30 but before 90 days from date of hatching for verification by one of the BAP committee. (This can coincide with auction of fry if that is the option chosen) In extreme hardship cases, such as if moving of the fry may endanger them; one of the committee will visit the person's home to verify the spawn. At least six fry must survive the minimum 30 days.

B) A standard spawning report must be filled out and returned to the Chairperson or one of the committee members. The form includes the member's name, fish's Latin and common name, conditioning information, actual spawning information, and care of the eggs and/or fry. Form must also be signed by the member. Spawning reports are filed in binders and are available to any G.A.A.S. member.

C) After the spawning report has been submitted and the spawn verified only one of the following conditions needs to be met to qualify for a certificate.

1. Bring six (6) fry to a general meeting or club auction to be auctioned.
  - a) Fry must be between 30 – 90 days old
  - b) Fry must be large enough that basic fry food is no longer necessary to maintain them.
  - c) No leaking bags!! Please
  - d) Each bag of fry for the BAP auction must be labeled showing breeder's name, specie and common name and date of spawn. Labels are available from the BAP Chairperson.
2. Write a report of the spawning to be published in Tank Topics. This must be an INFORMATIVE article containing anything pertinent to the keeping, conditioning, and spawning of the fish.
3. A slide or photographic presentation or an oral presentation on the spawning can be given at the general meeting.

### **III Classes**

The fish (or animal) must be a distinct identifiable species or sub-species. Color varieties and albinos are considered the same as normal coloration. (i.e. Corydoras aeneus and an albino Corydoras aeneus are the same species) Recognition will be given only once toward the advanced awards (plaques). The BAP committee will determine the validity of any questionable spawn. New species to the BAP program or unidentified or unnamed species must be submitted with a reference to a published description or a photo of the adults to be kept on file.

1. Livebearers – 5 distinct species (no color or finnage differences)
2. Catfish – 2 distinct species
3. Barbs, Minnows, & Rasboras – 3 distinct species
4. Tetras & Characins – 3 distinct species
5. Killifish – 3 distinct species
6. Anabantids – 4 distinct species
7. Cichlids – 9 distinct species (5 mouth brooders & 4 substrate spawners)
8. Sharks, Loaches, & Eels – 1 distinct species
9. Marine Fish – 1 distinct species
10. Marine Invertebrate – 2 distinct species
11. All Other Species – 2 distinct species (includes puffers, monos, scats, etc.)
12. Native Fish – 4 distinct species
13. Rainbowfish – 4 distinct species
14. Aquatic Animals – 5 distinct species (no more than 3 snail species)

#### **IV Awards**

1. Individual spawnings – Every time a distinct specie of fish is spawned a certificate of spawning will be presented to the breeder. This will be a paper certificate with the name of the individual, species spawned, date and class.
2. Advanced Breeder Award – This will consist of a plaque to be given to the individual after he/she has met the requirements of the class. Engraved on this plaque will be the person's name, the class, the date, and the names of the species of the fishes spawned to fulfill the requirements. The BAP Chairperson will keep the record of the spawns submitted toward plaques. The breeder should also keep a record of spawns submitted, in case any questions arise. Up until January 1983 only one plaque could be earned in a particular class.
3. After the initial Advanced Breeder Award plaque for a class has been given, any further species spawned in said class will accumulate toward a 15 species Master Breeder Award plaque for that class.
4. Centurion Award – This award will be presented each time a member successfully spawns a total of 100 species of fish and/or aquatic animals in the classes listed above.

#### **V Additional Notes on BAP – Part 1**

##### **1. Native Fishes**

Species submitted must be native to the Continental U. S. waters (not introduced). New species to the program must have a published reference to verify them as native fish. Spawns cannot be used toward a plaque in more than one class (i.e. a spawn of Florida Flag fish can go toward either a Killifish plaque or a Native Fish plaque but not both). The choice of class is up to the breeder and must be so stated on the spawning report.

##### **2. Committee Review**

Spawns are subject to review by the BAP committee and may be denied if deemed unacceptable. The spawning of a "hardship case" fish (those species consistently hard to spawn or those which produce consistently less than 12 offspring) in which there are less than 6 fry, may be submitted for acceptance of award by the BAP committee. The committee has the right to refuse any spawn that may be questionable.

### **3. Spawn Transfers**

Any person transferring from another club may transfer their spawns if the requirements of the other BAP would satisfy ours. Points will be assigned according to our points list, but the transferred spawns will not be applicable towards certificates or plaques. Request for assignment of points must be submitted in writing, along with records of verified spawns to the current BAP Chairperson.

4. Eggs must be spawned by fish in the breeder's own aquarium. They cannot be obtained elsewhere and then hatched.

5. If the breeder desires, parent fish may be brought to the meeting to be auctioned off for a 50/50 split, within three (3) months of meeting the requirements for the spawn. This is to help make breeding quality fish more available to other aquarists. It is also to help the breeder make room for pursuing other spawns.

### **Point System**

As you work toward receiving certificates and plaques, each specie spawned is awarded points. These points are accumulative and noncompetitive, and enable you to set your own goal. The points serve to let others know the extent of participation of individual members in the program and also gives you an idea of where you stand in relation to other members in our club and other clubs across the country.

When the requirements are met you will receive points and a certificate for every distinct species spawned according to the points listing.

The points will remain unchanged so that all participants receive the same number for each species regardless of when participation begins. Any fish not included in the points listing will be assigned points by the committee upon request. In instances of distinct, yet unidentified fishes, points will be awarded only in reference can be made to a published photo or if a recognizable photo is submitted for permanent retention in the BAP files.

Where confusion exists regarding the proper identification or relationships of some groups of fish the decision of the committee shall be final.

Following a successful spawn, it is the breeder's own responsibility to see that his/her points have been properly recorded. Members should keep their own record of their spawns and dates when spawned.

The BAP year runs from December to the next November, over the year the club member accumulating the most spawns will be the Breeder of the Year, a plaque will be awarded at the December meeting.