

Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Breeder's Award Program

Originated December 1974 revised November 2025

Purpose

An ongoing program is 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. It also provides members access to fish species and to promote participation in the breeder program. This program is designed to benefit all active members in good standing of the Greater Akron Aquarium Society.

Classes & requirements for initial Advanced Breeder Award plaques

1. Livebearers – 5 distinct species
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 specie
9. Marine fish – 1 distinct specie
10. Marine invertebrate – 2 distinct species
11. All Other Species – 2 distinct species
12. Native fish – 4 distinct species
13. Rainbow fish – 4 distinct species
14. Aquatic Animals – 5 distinct species (no more than 3 snail species)

No species can be turned in for the BAP in more than one class; there are livebearers, catfish, and killifish that can be submitted in their respective classes or as native fish (must be native to the continental U.S. waters, not introduced). It is up to the breeder to decide.

After the initial distinct species or a naturally occurring population variety is submitted, albinos, man made colors, or fin varieties will be accepted but count only toward the Breeder of the Year award, they will not be counted toward the Advanced Breeder Awards, Master Breeder Awards, or the Centurion Awards.

File a spawning report

A spawning report must be filled out and returned or emailed to the BAP Chairperson through the club's web site. All forms and rules for the BAP program can be obtained from the Chairperson or downloaded from the club's web site, www.akronfishclub.com. The filled in form must include the member's name, fish species, common name, date of spawning, aquarium setup, conditioning information, spawning information, and care of eggs and or fry. Form must be signed and dated by the member to qualify. Spawning reports are filed in binders kept by the Chairperson and are available to any G. A. A. S. member.

Verification of spawning

Spawns or eggs must be from the breeder's own fish not obtained from outside source.

When the spawning report is filed, the standard procedure is to turn in at least 6 or more fry between 30 – 90 days old, at a monthly meeting or any one of the three annual club auctions. They will be verified visually for quantity and health by the Chairperson or a club member. Fry must be large enough to be safely moved and no longer require special fry foods to survive.

Fish must be bagged properly, and labeled with: species of fish, common name, quantity, date of spawn, breeder's name, and phone number or email address. These will be considered donations to the club and will be auctioned off to help defray the cost of the breeder award plaques.

There are three options for a spawn to qualify for acceptance in the Breeder Award Program. Fry can be submitted as stated above, or after verification by the Chairperson an informative written report on the keeping, conditioning, and spawning can be submitted to be published in the club's Tank Topics, or the breeder can do a slide or power point and oral presentation at a monthly meeting.

There are however spawns known as "hardship cases", in which the fish spawn is consistently fewer than 6 fry, these can be submitted and reviewed by the board members for acceptance.

Spawn transfers

Any person transferring from another aquarium 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 transfer of spawns for points must be submitted in writing along with records of verified spawns to the current BAP Chairperson.

Point system

As a member works towards receiving certificates and plaques, each species spawned is awarded points according to our data base. These points are accumulative and noncompetitive; they enable the member to set their own goals. The points will remain unchanged so that all participants receive the same numbers for each species regardless of when their participation begins. In instances of distinct, yet unidentified fishes, points will be awarded only if references can be made to a published photo or if a recognizable photo is submitted for permanent retention in the BAP files.

When all of the requirements of an individual spawn are met by the breeder they will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, and the information of class, species, date, and points will be added to their accumulative record. The records are be kept by the Chairperson, but each breeder should keep an accumulative record of their spawns for their own benefit.

Where confusion exists regarding the proper identification or relationships of some groups of fish the decision of the G.A.A.S. board members shall be final.

Breeder Awards levels

Advanced Breeder Award

First is the initial Advanced Breeder Award plaque for a class when a breeder meets the required number of species for said class.

Master Breeder Award

The next step is the Master Breeder Award; this will consist of 15 distinct species from said class, to obtain the level of the Master Breeder Award. The plaque will be awarded whenever the requirement is met.

Centurion Award

The highest award we have is the Centurion Award; this will be awarded whenever a breeder amasses 100 spawns of distinct species collectively from all of the classes.

Incentive program

There is an incentive program to improve participation in the breeder award program, breeders will get a coupon for one dollars' worth of raffle tickets for each spawn that they have submitted.

Breeder of the Year

The BAP year runs from December to the following November, over the year the breeder accumulating the most spawns will be recognized as Breeder of the Year, an award recognizing their achievement will be presented at the December meeting / Christmas party.