



Guidelines
Horticultural Award Program
Greater Austin Aquarium Society

Effective January 1, 2020

GAAS HAP GUIDELINES

Purpose

- To encourage members of the Greater Austin Aquarium Society (GAAS) to share knowledge concerning aquatic plants and their environment
- To recognize the achievements of society members concerning the growth and propagation of aquatic plants
- To make more members active participants in the society

1) Committee Responsibilities

The Horticultural Award Program (HAP) will be conducted by the Breeder Award Program (BAP) Committee. Duties of the committee will be to maintain records, report standings for the website, help verify propagations at meetings and act as a guide for the placement of the species into the HAP point schedule. It is the duty of the chairperson to obtain and present all awards. Funds will be tracked by the GAAS accounting board.

2) Rules and Program Definitions

- *Participant Eligibility:* Horticulturist must be a member of the Greater Austin Aquarium Society. Propagation must result from the member's own plant and under the care of the member.
- *Species Identification:* The name of the plant is recognized as Genus-species. All plants MUST be registered by scientific name. Any previous synonyms known to the member should be included in the HAP Report to increase accuracy in awarding of points.
- *Participant Disqualification:* Any member abusing the rules and regulations of the HAP will be stripped of all points awarded and will be ineligible for participation in the program for a minimum of one year.
- *Filing of Disputes:* All complaints must be in writing to the HAP chairperson. On any disputed matter, the committee will meet, and a vote will be taken with majority rule. If at any time there is a tie, the chairperson will have the deciding vote.
- *Program Changes:* The committee will have the final word on any changes that may occur after the program is initiated.

3) Point Classification

The HAP committee will be responsible for the point classification of each plant registered. When HAP points are reclassified, the point classification will not adversely affect the points of any propagation previously awarded. The change will only affect an upwards point change and then only with a written request from the aquatic horticulturist, submitted to either the Chair or Co-chair. Plants are divided into four classes which denotes a point value.

- *Class A:* 5 points
- *Class B:* 10 points
- *Class C:* 15 points
- *Class D:* 20 points

4) Awarding of Points

Each propagation must be registered by completing a HAP form that is signed by the participant and a committee member and turned into the HAP Chairperson at the time of the monthly meeting. Participating members are responsible for obtaining, completing, and submitting all forms required for participation. Any participant in the HAP program is eligible to withhold one propagation yearly from auction at the monthly meeting or annual GAAS auction and still receive points. If more than one person from a family is a member, points will be awarded to the family, or not more than one individual per household will be allowed to participate in the program. The exception will be Junior Aquatic Horticulturist, which can be awarded to each junior member.

- *Floating plants & mosses:* doubling of a golf ball sized portion or larger
- *Bunch plants:* doubling of rooted stems, with a 3-stem minimum
- *Running or divided plants:* at least one healthy, rooted plantlet capable of living independently
- *Flowerings:* identified in full-bloom while attached to the parent plant. A member should request that a HAP chairperson make a visit to their residence to verify the bloom. A photograph is acceptable proof should a visit not be able to be arranged while the bloom is open.
- *Seeded plants:* a healthy seedling sufficiently developed to be identified as the offspring of the parent plant.
- *Additional Points:*
 - Propagations and flowerings recorded for the first time will be awarded an additional 5 points. First-time points will be awarded based on species only.
 - Extra points will be awarded for plants reproduced sexually (seeds), equal to the point value for the class to which the plant belongs.

- Original articles pertaining to the spawn submitted, with references, will be awarded an additional 5 points. The time frame for the article will be three months from the date of the propagation. Articles may be published in a GAAS newsletter and/or submitted to FOTAS Fish Tales for consideration of publication.

5) Titles and Requirements

- *Junior Aquatic Horticulturist*: 25 points from any class
- *Senior Aquatic Horticulturist*: 50 points – at least 20 points must be from class B, C, or D.
- *Advanced Aquatic Horticulturist*: 100 points – at least 40 points from class C or D.
- *Expert Aquatic Horticulturist*: 300 points – at least 30 points from each of class A, B, and C. A minimum of 40 points must be from class D.
- *Master Aquatic Horticulturist*: 500 points
- *Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist I*: 750 points – at least 60 points from each of class A, B, and C. A minimum of 80 points must be from class D.
- *Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist II*: 1000 points – at least 80 points from each of class A, B, and C. A minimum of 100 points must be from class D.
- *Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist III*: 1500 points
- *Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist IV*: 2000 points

6) Awards

- *Junior, Senior, Advanced and Expert Aquatic Horticulturists*: Certificate of Accomplishment
- *Master Aquatic Horticulturist*: Plaque plus plaque updates for previous certificates.
- *Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturists*: Plaque updates

All awards will be presented at the Annual Fall auction or FOTAS event depending on hosting city