

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society Horticulture Award Program Rules

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society (GAAS) has adopted the following aquatic Horticulture Award Program (HAP) to encourage members to keep and propagate a variety of aquatic plants and to share the knowledge they have gained. The program is open to all members in good standing, with the exception of corresponding members. You proceed at your own pace. Certificates will be awarded for each reproduction and plaques for each level that is completed

Purpose:

1. To promote the keeping and propagating of aquatic plants.
2. To recognize outstanding achievement in the growing and propagating of these plants.
3. To gather information and knowledge of aquatic plants and their requirements, with the additional bonus of having a more beautiful aquarium and inhabitants.
4. To identify new aquatic plant species and to determine conditions necessary for their care.
5. To make accounts of successful growing and propagation techniques available to club members.

The HAP Committee

The Committee shall consist of at least three members. The Chairperson shall be voted in by the membership and the remaining members shall be appointed by the Chairperson.

Function and authority of the HAP Committee

The Committee shall oversee and enforce all rules and regulations governing the HAP. Among these are verifying and awarding points to qualifying members, keeping proper records of awards, presenting proper awards to qualified members, and reviewing the rules and regulations at least once a year for possible improvements.

The HAP checkers

Any GAAS member that is in good standing can verify all plant propagations. If you have a plant which needs verification contact the checker nearest to you. It is your obligation to see that you contact one of the checkers to verify your report. The forms to record plant propagations can be obtained from any checker at the regularly meeting.

Eligibility

All members in good standing, except corresponding members, are eligible for the program.

The Award Levels

The program is made up of six levels of competency. The levels and their requirements are as follows:

Beginning Aquatic Horticulturist
100 points

Aquatic Horticulturist
150 points

Senior Aquatic Horticulturist
200 points

Expert Aquatic Horticulturist
250 points

Master Aquatic Horticulturist
300 points

Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist
375 points

At year end (in November) points will be totaled and a plaque will be awarded for Horticulturist of the Year.

Requirements

1. Plants reproduced must conform with the following definition of an aquatic plant: An aquatic plant is one which, in the wild or native state, can be found in the submerged state as a normal occurrence at some time during the course of any one complete season.
2. Plants are to be identified. (Unidentified species will be assigned a code number for recording purposes until correctly identified). The Encyclopedia of Water Plants by Jiri Strodola will be used as a main reference for identification of most plant species.
3. Verifications and registration of propagation is required in all classes. All verification must be made by a HAP checker.
4. After the initial verification, classes A through C need only be verified once, Class F must be verified twice, once when flowering and once when young plants are old enough to be recognized as being young of the parent plant.
5. A written report is required of classes C, D, and F before points are awarded.

Registration

To register your plant for the HAP you must either donate a propagation portion of the points or donate \$1.00 as a registration fee at the regular meeting.

Plants Groupings and Point Allocations

Class A 5 points

1. Any Azolla sp.
2. Any Ceratophyllum sp.
3. Any elodea sp.
4. Any Hygrophilla sp.
5. Any Lemna sp.
6. Any Limnobium sp.
7. Any Riccia sp.
8. Any Salvinia sp.
9. Any Sagitaria sp.
10. Any Ceratopteris sp.

11. Any Vallisneria sp.

Class B 10 points

1. Any Alternanthera sp.
2. Any Ambulia sp.
3. Any Bacopa sp.
4. Any Cardamine sp.
5. Any Cabomba sp.
6. Any Eleocharis sp. (hairgrass)
7. Any Fontinalis sp. (coldwater)
8. Any heteranthera sp.
9. Any Hydrilla sp.
10. Any Hydrocotyle sp.
11. Any Iris sp.
12. Any Limnophila sp.
13. Any Lobelia sp.
14. Any Lubwigia sp.
15. Any Myriophyllum sp.
16. Any Najas sp.
17. Any Nitella sp.
18. Any Nomophila sp. (temple)
19. Any Nuphar sp. (except cape Fear Spatterdock)
20. Any Nymphoides sp.
21. Any Potamogeton sp.
22. Any Rotala sp.
23. Any Utricularia sp.
24. Any Water Wisteris (Synnema trif)
25. Chain of Stars
26. Pygmy Chain sword
27. Samolus valerandi (parviflorus)

Class C 15 points

1. Any Aponogeton sp.
2. Any Cryptocoryne sp.
3. Any Echinodorus sp. (except pygmy chain sword)
4. Any Echorina sp.
5. Any Isoetes sp.
6. Any Marsilea sp.
7. Any Pistia sp. (water lettuce)
8. Any Didiplis diandra
9. Trapa natans (water chestnut)

Class D 20 points

1. Any Aldrovandia sp.
2. Any Anubias sp.
3. Any Lagenandra sp.
4. Ottellia alismoides
5. Spatterdock
6. Madagascar Lace plant
7. Microsorium pteropus

Class E Flowering

Extra points will be given for plants which flower. Flowering will be considered the same as the propagation of the plant and points will be the same as the class in which the plant is designated (for example, Cambomba – 10 points, Echinodoras – 15 points, etc.)

Class F Sexual Reproduction

The sexual reproduction of a plant will also be given extra points. Extra points will be given as outlined above in Class E.

Class G Oddbals and “Bog” Plants 10 points

All “Bog” plants and unidentified species will be placed in Class G and awarded 10 points. Only true unidentifiable plants (not color variations or hybrids) will be accepted.

Types of Plant Reproduction

Floating Plants – doubling of the original amount

Bunch plants – doubling of the original amount, lead count will be made on initial verification

Reproduction by runner – one healthy plant capable of living independently from the parent while the parent plant is still alive and in good health. Bunch type plants are not allowed in this class.

Reproduce Sexually – one plant reproduced by sexual means from an aquarist’s own parent plant. Seeds and reproduced plants must be

from the member’s own plant, NOT from a supplier or breeder.

Flowering – extra points will be given for plants which flower. Verification must be done when the plant is in full bloom and attached to the member’s own plant, in his own aquarium.

Special Note

Re-growth of seasonal plants does not count as new growth (for example, Aponogeton sp.)