

Snake River Aquarium Society

Breeders Award Program (BAP) Bylaws

Adopted: June, 2025

Revised: November, 2025

Purpose: The purpose of the Snake River Aquarium Society Breeders Award Program (BAP) is to promote responsible breeding practices, encourage and support new hobbyists, and strengthen relationships and support for our Local Fish Stores (LFS). The program also aims to foster the care, breeding, and long-term success of freshwater aquarium species by:

- Recognizing members' achievements in breeding
- Sharing knowledge and experience within the community
- Making a greater variety of species available locally
- Encouraging active participation in club activities and leadership

Guiding Principles

- The BAP focuses on freshwater fish and invertebrates and freshwater plants.
- While a healthy sense of challenge and competition exists, the program's primary goal is education, fellowship, and conservation—not competition.
- Points are awarded based on:
 - The difficulty and level of care and conditioning for spawning.
 - The difficulty of breeding and raising fry.
 - Whether a species is part of the CARES preservation program.
- Recognition:
 - Breeder of the Year is awarded annually to the top point earner and is based on calendar-year participation (January through December).
 - Lifetime Breeder titles reflect cumulative accomplishments over time and are not dependent on calendar year.

Organization and Administration

The program is administered by the BAP Committee, composed of:

- One Chairperson.
- Up to two additional committee members.

Committee members are appointed by club leadership and serve at their discretion. Requirements to serve include being a current member in good standing. Members may be removed for non-payment of dues, neglect of responsibilities, or inappropriate conduct.

Responsibilities of the BAP Committee:

- Maintain the official list of point values and species classifications.
- Certify breeding claims and maintain participation records.
- Recommend bylaw revisions (subject to leadership approval).
- Make final decisions on all BAP-related matters.

Participation Guidelines

Participants must be active, dues-paying members.

Points are awarded once per species per member. Subsequent color or fin variants receive partial points. Subspecies are not counted separately. Breeding pairs must not be borrowed or already proven. Eggs and fry must be spawned by participants' own breeding pairs and in their own tanks and care. Fry must be raised by the participant and be at least 60 days old.

All BAP submissions require:

- An official submission form.
- Photo/Video Documentation - Clear, quality photos or video of breeding setup, eggs, and fry or propagation of plants must be presented along with the submission form
- Live presentation of fry at a club meeting.
- A donation of fry for club auction (see below).

Species Classes and Point Structure

Class	Points	Fry Raised	Fry Donated
A	5	10+	10 or 2 pair
B	10	8+	5 or a pair
C	15	6+	3 or a pair
D	20	4+	2 or a pair
E	25	4+	2 or a pair

Note: Fry donation for Class D and E species may be waived for rare or delicate species, at the discretion of the committee.

Link: [Snake River Aquarium Society BAP Points](#)

Bonus Points

Category	Requirement	Points
Detailed Report	Submission of a 1–2 page detailed write-up with care, setup, breeding and raising fry or plant propagation, with references	5
Photo Documentation	Clear quality photos showing details of setup, breeding process and raising fry	2
Video Documentation	Narrated educational video on the setup, breeding process and raising fry	5
Club Talk	Give a 10+ minute presentation to the club	10
Article for Newsletter	500+ word article published in club newsletter	7
Conservation Species	Species on CARES list or IUCN concern	5
Difficult Conditioning	Demonstrated significant effort (pH, temp, seasonality)	3
Live Food Cultures (Bonus points only)	Maintain and feed live food cultures for a minimum of three months. Each culture must be actively harvested, used to feed fish or other aquatic animals, and demonstrate at least a twofold increase in volume or population during that period. Note: If brine shrimp are used, they must be hatched, harvested, and fed a minimum of three times per week.	5

Recognition Program

Breeder of the Year

Awarded to the highest point-earner each year. A minimum of 45 points and four different species from two different families is required to receive this award.

Lifetime Breeder Levels

Lifetime Breeder titles reflect cumulative accomplishments over time and are not dependent on calendar year.

Title	Requirements
Novice Breeder	3 species from 3 families, including both egg layers and livebearers. No point requirement.
General Breeder	50 points, 2 species Class B or higher, 3 families
Advanced Breeder	100 points, 2 species Class C or higher, 3 families
Senior Breeder	200 points, 3 species Class C or higher, 4 families
Master Breeder	300 points, 1 species Class D, 5 families
Grand Master Breeder	500 points, 2 species Class D, 6 families
Advanced Grand Master	1,000 points, 3 species Class D, 8 families
Senior Grand Master	1,500 points, 4 species Class D, 10 families

Specialty Species & Maintaining Species Programs

- Anabantoids - 6 species
- Balitoridae - (Hillstream Loach) 4 species
- Brackish Water - 3 species
- Catfish - 5 species (2 species must be from other than Corydoras, Aspidorus, Brochis)
- Characins - 6 species
- Cichlids - New World (American) 12 species
- Cichlids - Old World (African/Asian) 12 species (no more than 5 mouth brooders)
- Corydoras - 5 species
- Cyprinids - 10 species
- Killifish - 7 species (at least 2 species must be annuals)
- Livebearers - 8 species

Specialty Program Awards

Specialty Species Award - Certificates for single species group

Senior Specialist Award – Plaque or equivalent for achieving 4 different species groups

Expert Specialist Award – Plaque or equivalent for achieving 7 different species groups

With the exception of invertebrates for Senior and Expert Specialist Award

The Assigning Of Points Rationale Is As Follows:

- 1) Fish, invertebrate, plant type
- 2) Water chemistry, lighting, temperature
- 3) Feeding requirements
- 4) Difficulty in spawning
- 5) Difficulty in raising fry

5 points - Species that can breed over a wide range of conditions, with minimal intervention. Examples: guppy and platy.

10 points - Species that can be bred easily, given specific conditions, which are not too exacting. Examples: barbs which breed easily when conditioned properly, zebras when conditioned and given low water level and a marble bottomed tank or African mbuna which breed easily given alkaline water, good food and some measure of protection against aggression.

15 points - Those species which may present moderate problems in one or more of the following areas: aggressive behavior, water chemistry, specific diet requirements, mate selection or sexing, poor physical stamina or disease resistance, special tank setup requirements, special care for fry. Example: Angelfish- may present a sexing problem, have an aggressive nature, and can present a problem providing proper brood care.

20 points - Species that are very difficult to breed based on the severity of the problems mentioned above. Example: Neons.

25 points - Those fish that have not been bred, bred only very rarely, have very unique conditions such as those that live part time in fresh and brackish waters to complete the breeding and raising of fry. Examples: Black Ghost fish, Amano Shrimp.

Horticultural Award Program

Plants reproduced must conform with the following definition of an aquatic plant:

- An aquatic plant is one which, in the wild or natural state, can be found in the submerged form, or floating, as a normal occurrence at some time during the course of any one complete season.

The objectives of the Horticultural Award Program are:

- To recognize outstanding achievement in growing and propagating aquatic plants.
- To gather knowledge and information about aquatic plants and their environment.
- To identify new plants.

When a plant reproduces, you earn points according to our point classification list. As you accumulate points, you earn: Title Amount of Points

Beginner Aquatic Horticulturist 25 points

Aquatic Horticulturist 50 points

At least 20 points must be from the 10, 15 or 20 point category

Senior Aquatic Horticulturist 100 points

At least 40 points must be from the 15 or 20 point category

Expert Aquatic Horticulturist 300 points

At least 30 points must be from each of the 5, 10, 15 point categories; a minimum of 40 points must be from a 20 point category. The remaining points can be from any category.

Master Aquatic Horticulturist 500 points

Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist 750 points

60 points must be from 5, 10, 15 point category and 80 points must be from a 20 point category.

Senior Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist 1,000 points

80 points must be from 5, 10, 15 point category and 100 points must be from 20 point category.

Premier Aquatic Horticulturist 1,500 points

Senior Premier Aquatic Horticulturist 2,000 points

Additional Points are Given

- If a breeder elects to write an original article on his plant propagation, with references, an additional 5 points will be awarded. The time frame for this article will be three (3) months from the date of the spawn.
- Extra points will be awarded for plants that flower, equal to the point value of the plant.
- Extra points will be awarded for plants reproduced sexually, equal to the point value to which the plant belongs.

AWARDS

25 – 100 points [Beginner, Aquatic and Senior Aquatic Horticulturist] – certificates

300 points [Expert Aquatic Horticulturist] – 5 X 7 plaque or equivalent

500 points [Master Aquatic Horticulturist] – 8 X 10 plaque or equivalent

750 points [Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist] – decorative 8 X 10 plaque or equivalent

1,000 points [Senior Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist] – plaque or trophy or equivalent

1,500 points [Premier Aquatic Horticulturist] - larger plaque/ trophy or equivalent

2,000 points [Senior Premier Aquatic Horticulturist] – unique plaque/trophy or equivalent

Claiming Points

The “cutting” must be re-visited to determine reasonable growth within 60 days of original viewing. Floating plants; by doubling the amount; bunch plants, by doubling the number of rooted growing stems; runner or divided plants must have one healthy plant capable of living independently. Sexual reproduction: the flowerings must be identified in full bloom attached to the parent plant. For seeded plants, there must be a healthy seedling sufficiently developed to be identified as the offspring of the parent plant.

- Plants must have a viable offspring or grow offshoots that develop root systems. Acceptable methods are by cuttings, offshoots, runners, or plantlets that develop their own root systems and can survive on their own, flowering or seed production, and by flower pollination from the members own plant.

- All requirements must be completed within 4 months after a BAP committee person witnessed breeding. If not completed, the spawn is not eligible for the BAP.
- You must be a member in good standing with SRAA.
- Points may be obtained only once per species of fish/ invertebrate/plant. If a fish has been reclassified under a different scientific name, it will not count as a new species. Color variations do not count as a separate species. Different Latin names count as a different species. Examples are Discus [Symphysodon aequifasciatus “Pigeon Blood” and Symphysodon aequifasciatus “Gold Dragon” only one counts. Corydoras metae and Corydoras melini are different species (different last names), thus both count.
- Points may be awarded to families or couples and to individuals, but not to both.
- It is the breeder’s responsibility to complete all necessary forms, verify that the forms are submitted, the proper points are recorded and that the spawns are verified.
- Partnerships on points or family membership in Breeders Award Program: the points will only be awarded to the family group or to one (1) member.

Assigning & Challenging Points

- Species not listed that an aquarist is planning to spawn should be brought to the Chairperson’s attention. The Chairperson will present the specifics to the committee for discussion. The committee, by majority vote, will assign points.
- It is recognized that new discoveries, new importations of fish, published documents, etc. can all change the value of breeding a specific species. Points may therefore be reviewed and changed periodically by the committee, by majority vote, and the findings and changes will be publicized in the club journal or news letter.
- If the number of points is changed on a species, this point value will go into effect immediately. When points are reclassified, the points shall not be applied to previously earned points and will not affect points previously awarded.
- The Breeder Award Program year will start in January and end December.
- If a member has a lapse in membership, the former club member’s points will be reinstated depending on the availability of records. During the period of time the person was not a member, those spawns will not count for points; points will start again upon the person becoming a member in good standing.
- The BAP committee has the right to extend any time and/or date limits.

Remote Membership

Remote members are welcome and encouraged. There are many areas where club membership is not feasible with the distances that must be traveled. Therefore we open our club to those people who would like to be part of a club for the purpose of BPA or otherwise. All membership requirements, responsibilities and benefits are the same as local members. As part of the BAP, remote members will use photos, videos and live streams to verify their fish breeding with the progress of Fry. Remote members may also request a Zoom video or whatever the club uses so they are able to participate in monthly meetings in real time.

Transfer of BAP Points From Other Organizations

In the event a person relocates or otherwise joins the Snake River Aquarium Society (SRAS), whether locally or remotely, SRAS may accept verified points from other organizations. This will be subject to a majority vote of the committee and only after all spawns or propagations have been fully verified with the member's previous organization.

Adapted in part from publicly available aquarium society guidelines. For educational and nonprofit use only.

*No commercial use permitted without permission from The Snake River Aquarium Society .
©2025 The Snake River Aquarium Society . All or part may be freely used to create bylaws for aquarium clubs. All rights reserved.
Please contact RussellWalgamott@gmail.com with any questions.*