

# Horticultural Award Program (HAP)

Founded January 1, 1992

- Revised August 2007 -

## Purpose:

To promote and encourage the keeping and captive propagation of Aquatic Plants

To gather and disseminate information about Aquatic Plants, their cultivation, and propagation methods

To insure the availability of a variety of Aquatic Plant species for future generations of Aquarium Hobbyists

## Definition:

An Aquatic Plant is a plant species which, in the wild or natural state, can be found growing wholly submersed; growing emerge with it's roots submersed; or floating; as a regular, normal occurrence required for it's survival at some time during the course of one complete growing season.

## HAP Committee:

The HAP chairperson shall serve at the discretion of the President and the Executive Council, and shall be appointed by the incoming President at the start of each MASI fiscal year (the beginning of the first General Meeting in July) for a term of one year. Said Chairperson shall be charged with the responsibility of maintaining and complying with the Rules of the HAP as set forth herein. This Chairperson shall maintain accurate and complete permanent records. These records shall be maintained in a paper and/or an electronic file at the discretion of and within the means of the Chair; with an accurate, complete record available to the general membership upon written request either via a paper copy or through electronic media such as the club Website. If an electronic file is kept, separate accurate and up to date copies must be maintained to prevent the loss of all records. The Chairperson shall assign Points as specified in the Rules, and shall review (and amend, as needed) these Rules and Points. The Chairperson is empowered to appoint trusted MASI members as HAP verifiers to help out in the event of a required home visit for verification of Propagation. Any disputes will be settled at the discretion of the Chairperson, with advice of the Executive Council if necessary. All such decisions rendered will be considered final.

## Identification:

Proper identification is the responsibility of the entrant. There are a wide variety of accurate sources for identification of Aquatic Plants. Christel Kasselmann's 2003 Edition of *Aquarium Plants* is a recommended source for Aquarium Plant identification, and a copy is provided for the general membership in the MASI Library. Varietals, Hybrids, and Cultivars will be identified by the Cultivar name such as *Nymphaea sp. 'Rembrandt'*, etc. Any plant identified shall require literature cited as a source for said identification. Unless reviewed and approved by the HAP Chairperson, Websites will not be considered as proper sources for identification. New species will be assigned Points by the HAP Chairperson, with the input of the entrant. New species identification will be verified in

the *Missouri Botanical Garden* plant database.

## Requirements:

Entrant must be a member in good standing of MASI

As a matter of ethics, plants must be *OWNED* and *MAINTAINED* by the entrant at the time of propagation. Any plant submitted for the HAP *MUST BE PROPAGATED IN THE ENTRANT'S OWN TANK OR POND*.

Entrant must identify the plant. The HAP Chairperson will only confirm the identification and guide the entrant to sources for proper identification.

A completed HAP Report must be filled out and submitted at the time of verification for each submission.

To receive Points for a Vegetative submission, entrant shall be required to donate their submission to MASI for auction at a general meeting or at one of the club sponsored public Auctions. Blooms and Seedlings need not be donated for Points to be earned, but donations are always strongly encouraged.

All submissions shall be verified one time, except for submissions of a Seedling where the entrant shall submit entry for verification twice; once for the Bloom, and once when the Seedling has grown enough to be easily identifiable. All Seedlings submitted shall have roots, leaves, and be identifiable as to genus, at least.

No plant species deemed a non-indigenous invasive or nuisance species or a noxious weed by the State of Missouri Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be allowed for submission. Any entrant submitting such species *BEFORE* the plant is placed on such list will not have points or credit for propagation taken away, but no further submissions will be accepted. Refer to list of prohibited species on the MASI website for any questionable species.

## Propagation:

Each species, Cultivar, Hybrid, or Varietal shall be eligible for up to 3 submissions – once each

For Vegetative (V), Bloom (IB or OB), and Seedling (S) as defined below:

**Vegetative (V):** The asexual reproduction by natural means or human intervention. The Vegetative propagated plant must be able to survive on it's own without the parent plant. This includes, but is not limited to

- a. Cuttings (from leaves, roots, stems, etc.)
- b. Budding (plantlets and bulblets)
- c. Division
- d. Runners
- e. Layering
- f. Micropropagation

Points are earned by the following

- a. For rosette plants, submitting a young plantlet, identifiable, with roots and leaves, capable of surviving on its own.
- b. For stem plants, submitting at least five six inch or longer stems
- c. For floating plants, submitting a suitable quantity (a net full, several plants, etc.) depending on the species.

**Blooms (IB or OB):** Points are earned by bringing any Aquatic Plant into flower.

Points for Blooms shall be awarded at the following rate

- a. Indoor Blooms (IB) shall be awarded Points at the next Point level above the Point level assigned for the Vegetative propagation of the entry, save for the genus *Aponogeton*, which shall be awarded 10 points, regardless of species or location.
- b. Outdoor Blooms (OB) shall be awarded Points at the same Point level assigned for the vegetative propagation of the entry, save for the genus *Nymphaea*, which shall be awarded 10 points for an Outdoor Bloom.
- c. All *Class D* (20 Point) plants shall be awarded only 20 Points for a Bloom, Indoor or Outdoor, save for the genus *Nymphaea* as outlined in 'b' above.

**Seedlings (S):** Points are earned by raising plants from seeds (Seedlings) produced from Blooms grown by entrant and submitted for HAP verification. Blooms must be grown *AFTER* entrant has acquired plant, and must be submitted for verification *BEFORE* the seedling is submitted. As a matter of ethics entrant cannot submit Seedlings grown from flowers either budded or opened on the plant at the time of purchase. Due to time constraints of the live of a Bloom, photos (either electronic or hard copy) or dried Blooms are acceptable for verification of a submission of a Bloom.

## Prohibited Species List:

Certain plant species have not only become established in the wild, but have actually done so well that they are now considered a noxious weed or a nuisance species. Local, State and Federal Government agencies spend many millions of dollars every year trying to control them. No responsible hobbyist should ever keep, distribute, or discard any of these species in the wild or even down the drain. In fact, interstate distribution or sale and/or interstate transport of federally listed species is illegal. These plants should be destroyed by burning. Composting is not an acceptable way to dispose of these plants. An Updated list will be maintained on the MASI website. Possession, sale or any other type of distribution of any Missouri state prohibited species, either whole or any part thereof, is prohibited.

Again, none of the listed species will be given credit in the MASI HAP. Any listed species turned in before they are put on the Federal or Missouri state list will be credited, but no credit will be given after they are added to the list. Any such plants turned in will be destroyed.

## Achievement Levels:

The following achievement levels will be recognized upon accumulating the listed requirements:

### **Novice Aquatic Horticulturist – (30+ Points)**

*Only Novice or Junior Members of MASI as defined by the Membership Secretary are eligible to receive this award.*  
at least 4 species with at least one from class "B" or higher

### **General Aquatic Horticulturist - (50+ Points)**

at least 5 species with at least one from Class "B" or higher

**Advanced Aquatic Horticulturist** - (100+ Points)  
at least 10 species with at least two from Class "B" or higher

**Senior Aquatic Horticulturist** - (200+ Points)  
at least 20 species with at least two from Class "C" or higher

**Master Aquatic Horticulturist** - (300+ Points)  
at least 30 species with at least 1 specie from Class "D"  
at least 1 seed reproduction

**Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist** - (600+ Points)  
at least 60 species with at least 2 species from Class "D"  
at least 2 seed reproductions  
write a series of at least 6 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for *The Darter*,  
or present one meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care

**Advanced Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist** – (1000+ Points)  
at least 100 species with at least 3 species from Class "D"  
at least 3 seed reproductions  
write a series of at least 7 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for *The Darter*,  
or present two meeting length programs on some aspect of aquatic plant care

**Senior Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist** – (1500+ Points)  
at least 150 species with at least 4 species from Class "D"  
at least 4 seed reproductions  
write a series of at least 8 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for *The Darter*,  
or present three meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care

**Supreme Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist** – (2000+ Points)  
at least 175 species with at least 5 species from Class "D"  
at least 5 seed reproductions  
write a series of at least 9 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for *The Darter*,  
or present four meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care

**Ultimate Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist** – (2500+ Points)  
at least 200 species with at least 6 species from Class "D"  
at least 6 seed reproductions  
write a series of at least 10 half page or longer articles on aquatic plants for *The Darter*,  
or present five meeting length program on some aspect of aquatic plant care

## Definition of Article and Program:

Articles or programs should provide details and insight on the husbandry conditions that resulted in a successful reproduction of an aquatic plant species, or on some aspect of maintaining planted aquaria or a water garden. The article shall be submitted to the MASI Editor for publication in *The Darter*. The program may be presented to the MASI membership at a general meeting or at the Annual Show/Workshop, as approved by the Program Chair and/or Show/Workshop Chair.

## Awards:

All awards will be presented to recipients at the regular general meetings, and notice will be published in the society publication in recognition of the member's accomplishments. Awards for

Master Aquatic Horticulturist and higher will in addition be recognized at the Annual Banquet.