

RAS HORTICULTURE AWARDS PROGRAM (HAP)

2024 Program Update

Adapted in part from Greater Seattle Aquarium Society HAP - <http://www.gsas.org/hap.html>

The Raleigh Aquarium Society has revised its Horticulture Award Program (HAP) to encourage more members to maintain and reproduce aquatic plants, make them more widely available and to share their knowledge, aquatic gardening experiences and aquascaping talents. The program is open to all members.

Points are awarded according to plant hardiness and general level of difficulty. In the revised program, points will now be awarded for reproducing the plant(s), flowering, and successful growth of plant(s) for at least 1-3 months. Semi-aquatic (amphibious) plants grown out of water are now allowed.

To illustrate and document success, the participant must submit a sequence of two or more photographs of the plant(s) in their tank or growing container; over a period of 1-3 months and are encouraged to include commentary and advice on how to keep, arrange and reproduce them. The photos also allow participants to present the beauty of individual aquarium plants and placement in an aquascape. The pictures and other submitted documentation will be shared with other aquarists through HAP members, the RAS web site or social media. To receive credit the plants must be donated for sale in an RAS auction at a meeting or workshop, in order to promote the desired outcomes of the program. And to build a database of the plants successfully grown in the local area and which may be available for sale or trade.

For more information, feel free to contact the current Chair: Brenton Koenig (ras.hap.off@gmail.com)

Also join RAS HAP on groups.io for information, updates and discussion with fellow members.

MISSION STATEMENT

1. Promote keeping, propagation of aquatic plants in home aquaria
2. Disseminate information about cultivation, maintenance, display and propagation methods
3. Increase the availability of plants among RAS members (for sale or trade), including rare or hard to - obtain varieties

TO GET CREDIT

Submit a HAP form and at least one of the following:

- Donate the plant to an RAS auction at a monthly meeting or weekend workshop. Entry's need to contain "HAP" written on bag or in auction listing. Donations must also be accompanied with two or more time-sequenced photos, spanning a period of at least one or more months
- Write an article on the maintenance and propagation of the plant for the monthly newsletter
- Do a presentation at a monthly meeting.

(The latter two may be applicable for plants whose growth in the aquarists tank can be documented, but is no longer available for entry into an auction)

GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

1. The photographs of the member's aquarium should show the progression of the plant(s) over time. For slower growing plants, photos taken at least 3 months apart may be needed. A full tank view and close-up photos are both desirable.
2. For bunch plants and floating plants, doubling of the original amount of plant material or a minimum of 3 stems are needed,
3. For plants with rhizomes that grow above the substrate (e.g. Microsorium and Anubias), at least 2 inches of new rhizome separated from the parent plant is necessary to receive credit.
4. In the case of plants with rhizomes that grow below the substrate (like Cryptocoryne), production of one self-sustaining separate plant is sufficient.

5. For plants whose small number of leaves grow from a crown and reproduce with “runners” like Vallisneria or chain swords (Helanthis spp., whose synonym is Echinodorus), production and submittal of several plants are needed,
6. Plants produced by adventitious new plants developed on leaves or submerged stems must be large enough to judged self-sustaining and identifiable as the same as the parent plant.
7. Points for flowering of plants may be awarded for either submerged or emersed specimens with two categories:
 - Inside blooms(IB) and Outside blooms(OB).(IB plants being grown in an aquarium(includes plants that grow out from the water) and OB being grown outside in sunlight or emersed in soil.
 - Inside blooms will be awarded points at the next class above the point level assigned for the vegetative propagation of the entry. *IE... flowering of Bacopa Caroliniana indoors will be awarded 15 points.*
 - Outside blooms will be awarded points at the same class assigned for the vegetative propagation of the entry. *IE... flowering of Bacopa Caroliniana outdoors will be awarded 10 points.*
8. For propagation by seed, points will be awarded in addition to points awarded for flowering.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

1. Points are awarded for only *one* reproduction of each species.
2. Seeds must have been propagated from the breeder’s own plants.
3. Photos should be submitted to the HAP chairperson or any RAS board member via email.
4. Report forms and photo commentary should be given to the HAP chairperson or any RAS board member either through the web-site, by e-mail or as paper copy at the monthly meeting.
5. The aquarist must be a member in good standing (dues paid) of the Raleigh Aquarium Society.

AWARDS

The HAP season runs from November 16 to November 15

- The participant's HAP points process for a species must be completed by 11:59pm EST on November 15 to count for the current HAP year.
- All program awards are presented at the December club meeting

A certificate will be awarded to recognize your accomplishments at the following levels:

Novice Plant Breeder	50 points, any class
Aquatic Horticulturist	100 points, max 50 in class A
Advanced Aquatic Horticulturist	200 points, at least one in class C
Expert Aquatic Horticulturist	300 points, oral or written report
Master Aquatic Horticulturist	400 points, present a program at a general meeting

Point Classifications for species can be found here [Link](#)