



Aquatic Horticultural Awards Program (AHAP)

(Revised September 2017)

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For those that have a green wet thumb and enjoy growing plants in your backyard pond or aquarium, then perhaps this program is for you. Everything from the common duckweed to the majestic Madagascar lace plant is eligible. The harder a plant is to grow, the more points you earn allowing you to progress up the levels of increasing difficulty.

At the first level a framed certificate is presented, and at each level thereafter a gold seal is added to the certificate.

DRAS recognizes those that have achieved the different levels of difficulty in both *Tank Talk* and on our website. The Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs (CAOAC) also offers a similar program, and the AHAP chair can be contacted for more information.

The guidelines for the Aquatic Horticultural Awards Program as offered by DRAS follow...

AHAP Program Details

Purpose

- To encourage participation in DRAS activities.
- To expand DRAS activities.
- To recognize outstanding achievement in the maintenance and propagation of aquatic plants.
- To gather information and accumulate knowledge related to aquatic plants, and to encourage their use in the home aquarium.
- To identify new aquatic plants species and to determine the conditions necessary for their optimum maintenance.

AHAP Guidelines

The Aquatic Horticultural Awards Program shall consist of;

- The Aquatic Horticultural Awards Program chairperson, and
- The DRAS executive.

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 a calendar year.”*

Decisions of the committee are final and will be based on such books as the *Encyclopedia of Water Plants* (Dr. Jiri Strodola), *Aquarium Plants and Their Identification, Cultivation and Ecology* (Dr. Karel Rataj and Thomas J. Horeman), *The Complete Guide to Water Plants* (Helmut Muhlberg) and *Aquarium Plants* (Christel Kasselmann).

Members must contact the AHAP chairperson to receive credit. The chairperson (or a person designated by the chairperson) must view the plant in the early stages of growth.

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In the “E”, “F”, and “G” classes (listed below), the plant must be verified at least twice when flowering and again when the young plant is old enough to look like the parent plant. The AHAP committee reserves the right to exclude any plant that is questionable.

The following will be considered the basis for reproduction:

- *Floating Plants* – doubling the original amount.

- *Bunch Plants* – doubling the original amount to be determined by a root count of growing stems, or by volume.

- *Reproduction by Runner or Division* – one healthy plant capable of living independently from the parent plant which the parent plant is still alive and in good health. (Bunch type plants are not considered a part of this classification).

- *Sexual Reproduction* – one plant reproduced from seed(s) obtained from the aquarist’s own parent plant. Seeds are to be produced from parent plants in the aquarist’s own possession, not from a supplier or plant distributor.)

- *Flowering* – must be verified when in full bloom and attached to the aquarist’s own plant in the aquarium or pond.

A complete *Aquatic Horticultural Report* must be submitted and signed by the participant before any points will be awarded. It is the responsibility of the participant to include the species scientific name. Unidentified species will be assigned a code number for record keeping purposes until scientifically identified. A good colour image will be required for any unidentified plant. The image will become the property of the Durham Region Aquarium Society until the plant is identified.

Anyone joining DRAS will be allowed to transfer points from another club having acceptable rules. The AHAP Committee will decide the acceptability of those rules after scrutinization of the previous club’s program.

Awards must be earned in progression, and therefore skipping levels is not permitted.

Recognition

Points will be awarded only once according to the attached schedule. Awards will be presented as follows based on the accumulation of points:

- *Aquatic Horticulturist*
 - 50 (fifty) points from any class.

- *Intermediate Horticulturist*
 - 100 (one hundred) points.
 - Must include at least 10 (ten) species with a minimum of;
 - 4 (four) species from class B and/or C.

- *Advanced Horticulturist*

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- 175 (one hundred and seventy-five) points.
- Must include at least 20 (twenty) species with a minimum of;
 - 2 (two) species from class C, and
 - 2 (two) species from class D.
- *Expert Horticulturist*
 - 250 (two hundred and fifty) points.
 - Must include at least 30 (thirty) species with 1 (one) specie from class E.
- *Master Horticulturist*
 - 500 (five hundred) points.
 - Must include 40 (forty) species with;
 - 3 (three) species from class D,
 - 3 (three) species from class E,
 - 2 (two) species from class F, and
 - 1 (one) specie from class G.
- *Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist*
 - 1000 (one thousand) points.
 - Must include 80 (eighty) species plus the following:
 - Minimum of 3 (three) lectures
–or–
 - 3 (three) photo essays (10 photos each – pictures must include the rootstock, stems, leaves, flowers and seeds)
–or–
 - Article of identification of a plant to be no fewer than 2000 (two thousand) words for use in a local or national publication.

A certificate, suitable for framing, shall be provided to participants upon reaching the Aquatic Horticulturist level, and a seal will be awarded for each level up to and including the Master Horticulturist level.

A plaque will be awarded to the participant upon reaching the Grand Master Horticulturist level.

AHAP Plant Grouping and Point Allocation

Class A – 5 Points

General Species

Azolla species

Ceratophyllum species

Ceratopteris species

Elodea species

Lemna species

Riccia species

Salix species

Salvinia species

Spirodella species

Vesicularia species

Wolffia species

Specific Plants

None

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Class B – 10 Points

General Species

Acorus species
Alternanthera species
Ambulia species
Bacopa species
Cardamine species
Cobomba species
Crassula species
Eleocharis species
Fontinalis species
Heterandria species
Hydrilla species
Hydrocotyle species
Hygrophilla species
Isoetes species

Lilaeopsis species
Limnophila species
Lobelia species
Ludwigia species
Myriophyllum species
Najas species
Nitella species
Nomophila species
Nyphoides species
Potamogeton species
Rotala species
Sagittaria species
Utricularia species
Vallisneria species

Specific Plants

Echinodorus tenellus (pygmy chain sword)
Hygrophila difformis (water wisteria)

Samolus valerandi
Saururus cemus

Class C – 15 Points

General Species

Aponogeton species
(except Madagascar lace plant)
Bolbitis species
Blyax species
Crinum species
Cryptocoryne species
Echinodorus species
(except pygmy chain sword)

Echorina species
Eichhornia species
Isotes species
Marsilia species
Nymphaea species
Pistia species

Specific Plants

Didiplis diandra
Lararosiphon major
Microsorium pteropus
Trapa natans

Class D – 20 Points

General Species

Aldrovandia species
Anubias species
Barclayalongifolia species

Caulerpa species
Lagenandra species
Nuphar species

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Specific Plants

Aponogeton madagascariensis

Ottelia alismoides

Class E – Flowering

- Extra points and recognition shall be awarded for all reported flowerings of aquatic plants.
- The additional points will be the same as for the actual propagation of the plant according to the above lists.

Class F – Seeds

- Extra points shall be awarded for all seeds.
- The additional points will be the same as for the actual propagation of the plant according to the above lists,

Class G – Sexual Reproduction

- Extra points shall be awarded for growing new plants from the seeds of Class F.
- The additional points will be the same as for the actual propagation of the plant according to the above lists.

Note – *The Plant Grouping and Point Allocations is only a partial list of plant species. If you have propagated a plant that is not on the above list, please contact the Aquatic Horticultural Awards Program Chairperson.*