

**Champaign Area Fish Exchange
Horticultural Award Program
(HAP)
June, 2012**

Purpose:

- To promote and encourage the keeping and 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 Aquarium Hobbyists and Watergardeners

Definition:

An Aquatic Plant is a plant species which, in the wild or natural state, can be found growing wholly submersed; growing emersed with it's roots submerged; 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 Committee shall consist of one Chairman and up to two additional committee members. The HAP Chairman shall will be appointed by the Board of Directors at the Annual Business Meeting (February of each year) for a term of one year. The HAP Chairman may enlist up to two additional CAFE members to form the HAP Committee. The HAP Committee shall be responsible for maintaining and complying with the Rules of the HAP. This Committee 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 Committee Members; with an accurate, complete record available to the general membership upon written request either via a paper copy or through electronic media. If an electronic file is kept, separate accurate and up to date copies must be maintained to prevent the loss of all records. The Committee shall assign Points as specified in the Rules, and shall review (and amend, as needed) these Rules and Points. The Chairman is empowered to appoint trusted CAFE 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 HAP Committee, with advice of the Board of Directors, if necessary. All such decisions rendered will be considered final.

Identification:

Proper identification is the responsibility of the entrant, but the entrant is encouraged to bring plants to any CAFE general meeting to seek help from other CAFE members. 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. Other recommended references will be listed on the CAFE website. Varieties, Hybrids, and Cultivars will be identified by the Cultivar name such as Nymphaea sp. 'Rembrandt', etc. Unless reviewed and approved by the HAP Committee, Websites will not be considered as proper sources for identification. Links to approved websites will be listed on the CAFE website under the HAP program. Entrants may request the addition of new plant species to the list CAFE list of aquatic plants. The HAP Committee shall weigh the information and decide if the new species should be included on the list. The new species will be assigned Points by the HAP Committee.

Requirements:

Entrant must be a member in good standing of CAFE. 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 entrants own tank or pond. Persons with a Family Membership may enter individually or as a family.

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

Either a sample of the plant or a good photo must be submitted for varification of the plant species and propagation or flowering, or the plant may be varified in person at the entrants home by a representative of the HAP Committee. A

completed HAP Report must be filled out and submitted at the time of verification for each submission. Submission of a photo by the entrant gives CAFE permission to use the photo in club newsletter and on the club website. Photographer will retain all other rights to the photo. Printed copies of photos will be acceptable, but digital versions are preferred.

Entrants are encouraged, but not required, to bring their propagated aquatic plants to CAFE auctions and monthly meetings for sale to members and the other hobbyists. Species may be varified at this time.

All submissions must 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 must have roots, leaves, and be identifiable as to genus, at least.

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: Points are earned by documenting any Aquatic Plant into flower or fern with producing spores.

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. 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 life 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:

No plant species listed as prohibited or a noxious weed by the State of Illinois 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 CAFE website for any questionable species. Currently, there is one Illinois prohibited species, the wetland plant, Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

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. Never discard any of these species in the wild. Even composting washing them down the drain may not be adequate. Interstate distribution or sale and/or interstate transport of federally listed species is illegal. A list of these species can be found at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/permits/faq/plants4planting_faqs.shtml

HAP will award points for plants on this list, but they should not be distributed outside of the state of Illinois. Some plants on the list are native to Illinois, and can become nuisance species where they are not indigenous. The HAP Committee or CAFE Board of Directors may choose add species to the prohibited list from the USDA at any time. Points submitted before the addition to the prohibited list will be awarded to the entrant.

Achievement Levels:

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

Novice Aquatic Horticulturist—50 points

Aquatic Horticulturist—100 points

Advanced Aquatic Horticulturist—200 points

Senior Aquatic Horticulturist—300 points

Master Aquatic Horticulturist—500 points (must have written at least two articles on growing aquatic plants for the newsletter, or given at least one program on aquatic plants at a CAFE club meeting).

Specialization Awards

Entrants who choose to specialize in different categories of aquatic plants may request a certificate in that specialization. The specialization may be members of one family or genus, plants from a specified area (such as Illinois native species, or Amazon River species), or other categories depending on the interests of that entrant. Acceptance of the specialization is at the discretion of the HAP Committee.

Newsletter Article and Program:

20 points will be awarded for each newsletter article accepted for publication in the club newsletter. Acceptance is at the discretion of the newsletter editor. Editor may edit the article, but changes must be approved by the author. 50 points will be awarded for a program at a monthly club meeting. Acceptance of the program is at the discretion of the Program Chairman, and should run a reasonable duration (probably 30 to 45 minutes). Articles and 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.

Awards:

Certificates for new category earnings will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting (February), and notice will be published in the club's newsletter in recognition of the member's accomplishments. Prizes may be awarded for each year's highest point winners, depending on availability of prizes.

Plant Growing Competitions

Occasionally, special plant growing competitions will take place. Entrants will be given equal-sized and age plants of the same species and variety. They will be brought back at the same time, and a pre-determined monthly meeting, and compared. Photos will be acceptable. Prizes will be awarded to the top three plants, as determined by ballot of the members present at the meeting.

