

As there is already a Specialty Award for Rift Lake Cichlids, no cichlid from the Rift Lakes is eligible to be included in the Cichlid Specialty Award. The Rift Lakes are Lakes Tanganyika, Malawi, Victoria and environs.

### **CICHLID BASIC MERIT AWARD**

To be given to hobbyists who have advanced well beyond the novice stage. The following requirements will be used by the Awards Committee as a basis for selection of applicants.

- 1) Any application should be made by or countersigned by the executive body of an aquarist club or group.
- 2) The applicant must have experience and a good working knowledge in the care and maintenance of cichlids.
- 3) The applicant must be successful in spawning at least ten (10) species of cichlids from at least two (2) Genera and raise a reasonable number of fry to eight (8) weeks.

### **CICHLID INTERMEDIATE MERIT AWARD**

To be given to hobbyists who have advanced to a high level of achievement with constant success in the maintenance, breeding, and raising of cichlids. The following requirements will be used by the Awards Committee as a basis for the selection of applicants.

- 1) It is mandatory that the applicant be a holder of the Cichlid Basic Merit certificate.
- 2) All applicants should be made by or countersigned by the executive body of an aquarist club or group. Applications will be qualified and/or verified and/or visited by the regional representative.
- 3) The applicant must have a consistent record of successful spawning and raising of good quality cichlids.
- 4) The applicant must be successful in spawning twenty (20) species of cichlids from at least 5 Genera and two different geographical areas and raise a reasonable number of fry to eight (8) weeks.

### **CICHLID ADVANCED MERIT AWARD**

To be given to hobbyists who have reached a more advanced level of achievement with consistent success in the maintenance, breeding, and raising of cichlids. The following requirements will be used by the Awards Committee as a basis for the selection of applicants.

- 1) It is mandatory that the applicant be a holder of the Cichlid Intermediate Merit Award.

- 2) All applications should be made by or countersigned by the executive body of an aquarist club or group. Applications will be qualified and/or verified and/or visited by the regional representative.
- 3) The applicant must have a consistent record of successful spawning and raising of good quality cichlids.
- 4) The applicant must be successful in spawning forty (40) species of cichlids from at least ten (10) Genera and 3 different geographical areas and raise a reasonable number of fry to eight (8) weeks. This is to include at least two (2) Target Cichlids, one (1) Old World and one (1) New World, from the General Merit Awards Target list.

### **CICHLID SENIOR MERIT AWARD**

To be given to hobbyists who have advanced to the highest level of outstanding achievement in the maintenance, breeding, and raising of cichlids. The following will serve to clarify the standards required by the Awards Committee before this award will be made.

- 1) The Cichlid Senior Merit Award will be awarded only to those hobbyists who in the opinion of the Awards Committee have reached a most outstanding level of achievement.
- 2) Applicants must be nominated by the executive body of an aquarist club or group or by a member of the Awards Committee.
- 3) The applicant must already be a holder of the Cichlid Advanced Merit Award.
- 4) The applicant must be successful in spawning seventy-five (75) species of cichlid from four geographical areas and raise a reasonable number of fry to eight (8) weeks. This is to include at least four (4) Target Cichlids, two (2) Old World and two (2) New World, from the General Merit Awards Target list.

### **NOTE**

For the purpose of this Award, there are the following Geographical Areas:

North and Central America

South America

Africa (excluding the Rift Lakes)

Madagascar, Middle East and Asia

**Note:** Since the term “a reasonable number” is almost impossible to define, the applicant should attempt to raise a quantity of fry that approaches production capability of the species in question.