



The MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society

May 1995

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 13, NO. 1

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BUSINESS MEETING

The 13th Annual Meeting of the MidSouth Aquatic plant management Society was held October 25 to October 27, 1994 at the Sheraton Perimeter Park South in Birmingham, Alabama. The following is a synopsis of the Board Meetings, Business Meetings, Technical Sessions, and the 1994 Financial Summary.

October 25, 1994 - President Fred Harders called the Initial Board of Directors meeting to order. Attending were Peter Magnum, Tom Broadwell, Mike Maceina, Doug Powell, Scott Lankford, Fred Harders, Joe Addison, Frank Ellis, David Webb, and Earl Burns.

Doug Powell discussed the failure of the Alabama State Legislature to impose any regulation regarding nuisance aquatic plant introductions. Apparently private aquaculturists blocked the legislation due to inclusion of "animals" in the regulation.

Doug Powell also informed Board Members that the review of BASS Aquatic Plant Management booklet by the MSAPMS membership resulted in a reduction of inflammatory language and some technical revisions. BASS in conjunction with the Corps of Engineers and the Aquatic Plant Management Society will jointly publish this book in the future. BASS and the Aquatic Plant Management Society are also working on a Memorandum of Understanding similar to the document written between BASS and Alabama Power Company and Georgia Power Company.

Scott Lankford moved to award \$25 to students giving presentations at the meeting this year. The motion was approved by the Board. Four student papers were expected to be given at the meeting.

Fred Harders did a great job on the design of the coffee mugs which will be given to each registered attendee. Extra mugs will be sold for \$5 and the proceeds will go to the scholarship fund.

October 25 & 27, 1994 - The initial business for the Society was called to order by president Fred Harders. About 40 members were present.

The Secretary/Treasurer distributed copies of the financial statement (through Oct. 13, 1994) for review and discussion. A motion was made, second and approved to accept the financial statement as received. As of October 13, 1994, the Society was in good fiscal shape.

Nuisance/Exotic Aquatic plant regulation was discussed, but appears to be a dead issue with the Alabama legislature. The scholarship committee is expecting two applicants for this year's \$1,000 award. The scholarship committee has developed criteria for evaluating applicants.

Joe Addison and Fred Harders audited the Society's books for 1994 and found everything in good order. Tom Broadwell reported 82 people registered for the meeting, 11 people signed up for the golf tournament, 59 people paid for the barbecue and 690 raffle tickets were sold. Final door prizes of fishing trips to Weiss and Smith Lakes were won by David Webb and Bob Gunkel.

The following officers were elected by the Society membership for next year.

President elect - David Webb

Secretary / Treasurer - Tom Broadwell

Board of Directors - Harry Knight
Peter Magnum

October 27, 1994 - The final business meeting and Board of Directors meeting was held. Special thanks goes to Elf Atochem for providing an evening reception. The Society greatly appreciates all the vendors for supplying many of the gifts used in the raffle.

Incoming President Scott Lankford presented Fred Harders with a president's plaque in appreciation for his service to the society this year. Scott also presented Doug Powell and M.C. McLeod with certificates of appreciation for serving on the Board of Directors. Scott also thanked Leon Bates and Fred Gunkel for help with the program. The first scholarship is expected to be awarded by the winter board meeting.

At the final Board of Directors meeting Tom Broadwell gave an ad hoc financial report:

Number registered	82
Number paid dues	97
Seafood buffet tickets	59
Raffle tickets sold	690
Total meeting income	\$5,597
Total meeting expense	\$4,123
Contribution to scholarship fund	\$1,075
Net income	\$399

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The keynote address was given by Dr. Randy Westbrook with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Whiteville, North Carolina. During the meeting, 27 technical papers were given from industry, government and university representatives.

WINTER BOARD MEETING

Birmingham, Alabama February 22, 1995

President Scott Lankford called to order the winter Board of Directors meeting. Those present were David Bayne, Tom Broadwell, Frank Ellis, Mike Maceina, Pete Magnum and David Webb. Scott provided the Board with the current version of the ByLaws and Operating Procedures for the scholarship program for the Society. Scott also sent a letter to Congressmen Beville and Meyers urging them not to eliminate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP). The APCRP is the only federally mandated research approved for aquatic plant control technology development. This information assists aquatic plant researchers and managers throughout the country to solve aquatic plant problems in the nation's waterways.

Tom Broadwell presented the 1994 financial statement for the Society. On January 1, 1994, the Society had a current operating balance of \$7,777, had \$5,956 of credits and incurred \$10,747 of debits. Of this debit, \$6,075 was contributed to the scholarship fund leaving an operating balance of \$2,986. After review and discussion, a motion was made to deposit another \$600 from the checking account to the scholarship fund which now has a balance of \$9,349. The current balance of the Alabama Power Company Scholarship Fund is \$10,213.

Harry Knight sent 56 renewal notices to former members that did not renew since 1993. As of February 1995, 15 renewals were received.

A motion was approved to limit consideration of scholarship applicants to the states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee. The Board approved a motion to award a single \$1,000 award in 1996.

Scott Lankford determined that 1997 will be soonest time a joint meeting could take place between the MSAPMS and the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society (FAPMS). The FAPMS will be celebrating its 25th year in 1996. Current plans are to hold a joint meeting between the two Societies in the Florida panhandle in October 1997.

Scott Lankford reviewed the proposed Alabama Non-indigenous Aquatic Plant Control Act which may allow the Society to be part of a committee to develop a list of non-indigenous aquatic plants for listing. Plants on the list will be prohibited from intentional introduction into Alabama waters. The Board recommended that Scott inform Fred Harders or Alabama House Speaker Jimmy Clarke that the Society supports this bill.

Jerry Moss and Earl Burns were appointed to audit the Society's financial records prior to the October 1995 meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

The Society wishes to congratulate Ms. Emily Deaver, the winner of the MSAPMA first student scholarship award. Ms. Deaver is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Biology at University of Mississippi. Her doctoral project is being supervised by Dr. John Rodgers and deals with the bioavailability of copper in aquatic systems.

RETIREMENTS

Joe Knight, a long-time nozzthead at Lake Seminole, retired on January 31, 1995. Joe, among many other things, was involved in aquatic plant control since 1974. Joe worked for the federal government for 29 years, of which 21 years was with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Over the years, he has contributed greatly to state-of-the-art techniques to manage aquatic plants at Lake Seminole and across the country. He served two-terms on the Board of Directors for the MSAPMS. Joe survived the famous inverted helicopter smash treatment of hydrilla in 1991 and most importantly, kept his sense of humor about the whole thing. We wish Joe well in his retirement years and believe he won't be doing any helicopter rides in his free time.

Leon Bates, who worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for 27 years and managed TVA's aquatic plant management program for almost 20 years, retired in December 1994. Leon is currently working as a contractor for TVA's Environmental Research Center (ERC) in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. He is assisting the ERC in research associated with revegetation in riparian zones. During his career with TVA, Leon served as president of both the MidSouth and the Aquatic Plant Management Society. The Society and individual members have benefitted from his knowledge and experience in aquatic plant management. We appreciate his service and wish him well in his new endeavors.

Dr. Bill Wrenn has recently retired from the Tennessee Valley Authority. Bill has been a fishery biologist with TVA since the late 1960's. Early in his career, he was primarily involved with the effects of thermal discharge on fish focusing primarily on smallmouth bass. In the 1980's, Bill helped to spearhead the work on potential impacts of grass carp on the fisheries in Lake Guntersville. In the 1990's, Bill led the fisheries component of the large Joint Agency Project which addressed many aquatic plant management alternatives on this reservoir. The Society gives its best wishes to Bill for a Happy Retirement and know that the deer and turkey won't be as safe.

PASSING OF A PIONEER

Dr. John Lawrence, a long-time professor in the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures at Auburn University, died February 1, 1995. Dr. "John" as he was affectionately known to former students and friends, received a BS and MS degree from Auburn. In 1956, he was awarded a Ph.D. degree from the Zoology and Aquatic Biology Department at Iowa State University. He retired from Auburn in 1982 after 40 years of service.

Dr. Lawrence made important research contributions in the areas of sport fish management, aquaculture and limnology, but members of our Society remember him best for his pioneering work in aquatic plant management. He screened and tested hundreds of chemical compounds to determine herbicidal activity on aquatic plants. He also measured toxicity of the chemical compounds to fish. Between 1954 and 1968, he published 35 scientific papers dealing with the use of herbicides. Many herbicides registered for aquatic plants today were examined by Lawrence in the 1960's. Dr. Lawrence was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the science of aquatic plant management when he was awarded an honorary membership by the Mid South Aquatic Plant Management Society in 1990.

FUNDING FOR AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL IS UNCERTAIN

According to the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the federal FY 1996 budget proposed by President Clinton does not include funding for the Aquatic Plant Control program (APCP). This budget cut reflects a commitment of the current administration to streamline the government and focus on the Corps' water resource mission to projects that have national significance (i.e. commercial navigation, flood control and environmental restoration). The major policy

change for the Corps is a return of local projects, such as a aquatic plant control, to administration by local governments. The ultimate fate of the APCP which provided funding for control operations and for the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program managed by the Corps' Waterways Experiment Station at Vicksburg, Mississippi is uncertain. In public waters under this program, the field control operations provide for a 50-50 cost share between the federal and local governments. Current states with active cost sharing programs include Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, South Carolina and Washington. Members are urged to write to their respective U.S. representative and senator to maintain federal support for this valuable program.

TVA AQUATIC MACROPHYTE UPDATE

Aquatic plants covered an estimated 19,300 acres on TVA reservoirs in 1994. This was a decline of about 1,200 acres since 1993, mainly due to reductions on Kentucky Lake. Aquatic plants declined from 3,500 acres of coverage in 1993 to about 400 acres in 1994 on Kentucky Lake. Macrophytes continued to increase on Lake Guntersville and expanded 2,000 acres in 1994 compared to 1993. In 1994, about 14% or 9,600 acres of Lake Guntersville contained plants and was dominated by Eurasian milfoil.

About 1,300 acres on Lake Guntersville were treated with herbicides in 1994 to control plants near marinas, public use areas and lakefront homes. About 60 acres were treated on other reservoirs, including about 34 acres on Kentucky Lake. No herbicide treatments were made on Chickamauga and Nickajack Lakes, where a special plan was developed in 1994 for managing plants through 1996.

With the return of more favorable environmental conditions, aquatic plants have been increasing in many TVA impoundments since 1991, when total coverage was lowest at 13,600 acres. Highest plant coverage in the TVA system occurred in 1988 at 46,000 acres which coincided with a number of consecutive drought years.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS MOBILE DISTRICT AQUATIC PLANT ACTIVITIES

Lake Seminole is an impoundment of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers on the Florida-Georgia-Alabama border and is 37,500 acres in size. In 1992, about 75% of this reservoir was covered with hydrilla. Recreational visitation to this reservoir has declined over the years, while visitation to other Corps reservoirs in the region has increased. The Corps is committed to developing a long-term plant management

strategy through the Lake Seminole Aquatic Plant Action Plan. This is a special two-year Congressionally directed effort.

The Action Plan will include a review of current operational practices being utilized on the project, in addition to evaluation of other techniques including drawdowns and grass carp. Work completed to date includes the public and agency scoping meetings, completion of the Plan of Study, completion of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Confined Grass Carp Demonstration Test on Lake Seminole. Ongoing work includes evaluation of drawdowns on hydrilla and other water resource uses, recreation use analysis, and evaluation of a drip system for slow distribution of fluridone in moving water.

The Corps has recently completed the construction of two types of barriers to confine triploid grass carp in two larger embayments in Lake Seminole. As part of the Action Plan, a confined grass carp demonstration test will take place from 1995 to 1997. The two confined embayments are 900 and 580 acres in size. A tandem V-shaped tunnel weir and gated boat barriers will be tested. To evaluate the effectiveness of these barriers to confine grass carp, about 125 fish will be radio-tagged in fall 1995 and their locations monitored. About 18,000 to 30,000 twelve inch triploid grass carp will be stocked (12 to 20 per vegetated acre) in the two embayments. Submersed vegetation abundance will be measured using a recording fathometer and aerial photography. In addition, a creel survey is proposed to take place between February and June 1996 to examine the status of the fishery.

A reduction of submersed aquatic plants in these two embayments will permit the Corps to treat other problematic areas of Lake Seminole with chemical herbicides. Thus, in high use priority areas, greater plant control can be achieved over a longer period of time. Contact Mike Eubanks at 334-694-3861.

On Lake Seminole, the Corps initiated a contract to conduct herbicide treatments of water hyacinth, which have exploded with the mild 1994-95 winter. Fluridone treatments to control about 1,000 acres of hydrilla will begin in May and June, 1995. Endothall will be used later in the summer to keep boat channels open. Giant cutgrass treatments will continue as in the past, with plans to treat about 500 acres.

The Corps continues to monitor the East Bank area of Water F. George Lake (Lake Eufala) where hydrilla was found and treated

with Aquathol K in 1993 and 1994. To date, no regrowth has been found and no new infestations have been located in the lake. Monitoring continues on abundance of giant cutgrass, alligatorweed, naiad and other less noxious aquatic plants. Limited treatments on giant cutgrass occurred with Rodeo. Plans are in place for a contractor to conduct an aquatic plant survey during 1995.

On Dannelly Lake (Millers Ferry), herbicide treatment of water hyacinth using helicopters began in May 1995.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AQUATIC PLANT ACTIVITIES

Currently, hydrilla covers thousands of acres in the middle and lower Mobile Delta. Endothall compounds will be used to treat these areas. Hydrilla is relatively new to the delta and combined with a mild winter, coverage of this plant is increasing. The mild winter of 1994-95 has also assisted in promoting the spread of water hyacinth through the Tombigbee and lower Alabama River waterways.

MIDSOUTH AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

The MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduate student attending a university or college in the midsouth region. The award is intended to encourage and support student research in the area of aquatic plant management and related fields. Applicants must have a research proposal approved by their graduate advisory committee prior to the application deadline of October 31, 1995. Scholarships will be awarded no later than December 31, 1995. Information on the application procedure is available by writing or calling: David Bayne, Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, Auburn University, AL 36849 Ph: 205-844-9321.

SOUTH CAROLINA AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

The South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society is seeking applications for its annual scholarship grant. The Society intends to award an annual \$2,000 grant to the successful applicant in August 1995. Eligible applicants must be enrolled as full time undergraduate or graduate students in an accredited college or university in the United

states. Coursework or research in the area of aquatic plant management or aquatic ecology related to the Southeast is required.

Applications must be received no later than July 1, 1995 and will be evaluated on the basis of relevant test scores (ACT, SAT, GRE, etc.), high school and/or college grades, quality and relevance of coursework or research, a proposed budget, information obtained from references, and other related considerations. Other factors being equal, preference will be given to applicants enrolled in Southeastern and South Carolina academic institutions. The successful applicant may be requested to present an oral report on research activities at the annual meeting of the Society.

Persons interested in applying for the scholarship grant should contact: Danny Johnson, S.C. Water Resources Comm., 1201 Main Street, Suite 1100, S.C. 29201 (phone 803-737-0800) for additional information on applications procedures.

14th ANNUAL MEETING

The 14th annual meeting of the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society has been scheduled for October 18 to 20, 1995, at the Ramada Shoals Hotel and Conference Center in Sheffield, Alabama. The field trip will tour facilities at TVA's Environmental Research Center in Muscle Shoals.

Room rates are \$42 plus 9% rental tax for 1 to 4 persons. Reservations must be made before October 11, 1995, to obtain this rate. To make room reservations, call the Ramada at 205-381-3743 and state you are attending the meeting.

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

Those interested in presenting a paper at this year's meeting should contact David Webb or send a title with your name, address, and telephone number, and a one sentence description of the topic (if necessary) to:

Dr. David Webb
Tennessee Valley Authority
Office Service Annex 1B
Muscle Shoals, AL 35660

Phone 205-386-3653

1995 DUES

- Name: _____
- Address: _____
- Telephone: _____
- Affiliation: _____
- Make checks payable to: MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society:

Full Membership	\$10
Student	\$5
Sustaining	\$50
Amount Enclosed:	\$ _____

Remit to:
Tom Broadwell
Georgia Power Company
5131 Maner Rd.
Smyrna, GA 30080

The MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society



Please address reply to:
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