

MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society

Newsletter

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23rd Annual Meeting will be Held in Mobile, Alabama



The 23rd Annual Meeting of the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society will be held October 4-6, 2004 at the Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel in Mobile, Alabama. The Admiral Semmes is a landmark in downtown Mobile and is named after the first and only commander of the confederate ship, Alabama. Mobile offers a broad selection of activities and events, including nearby white sandy beaches, golf, historic homes, museums, and attractions for the entire family. Think about coming early and enjoy *Bayfest 2004*, a 3-day outdoor music festival, October 1-3, 2004.

The meeting program will offer exemplary presentations of water resource management topics that will be certain to peak the interest of all attendees. Our meeting will get kicked off with the Welcoming Social on Monday evening, this is an excellent time to reacquaint with old friends and meet new friends. The technical program will begin Tuesday morning and end with the Awards Luncheon on Wednesday. In addition, the industry exhibits will provide useful information on available aquatic plant management products and professional services. The Banquet on Tuesday evening will feature great food and beverage, and include entertainment by The Sandman, a comedian/hypnotist. For anyone interested, a tour of the Mobile Delta is being planned for Monday afternoon.

To make your hotel reservation, call Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel reservations at 800-333-3333. You must make your reservation on or before September 4, 2004, and be sure to mention the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society. Special guest room rates are \$64.00 single to quad occupancy per night plus applicable tax, currently 12%. All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. Cancellation of reservations must be made 72 hours prior to the day of arrival. Check in time is 3:00 p.m. and check out time is 11:00 a.m. Room rates will be honored before the meeting for *Bayfest 2004*, based on availability.

The meeting registration fee is \$50.00 if received by September 13, 2004. After this date, the registration fee at the door will be \$70.00. You can save money and help us in planning for meeting functions when you register early by completing the Registration Form available in this newsletter and submitting it prior to September 13, 2004.

Individuals are invited to submit a proposal for a presentation during the meeting. Presentations on all aspects of aquatic plant management, biology, and ecology will be considered. Since the number of presentations is limited, proposals must be submitted by June 30, 2004. Contact Mr. Joe Jernigan at 251-626-5153 or jjernigan@dcnr.state.al.us.

This year's program will also feature a student paper competition with the opportunity for four students selected to give presentations on their research on aquatic or wetland plants, control methods for invasive or nuisance plants, and restoration projects involving wetland or aquatic plants. For information on the student paper competition, contact Dr. David Bayne at 334-844-9321 or dbayne@acesag.auburn.edu.

A Message from the President

Eric Barkemeyer

With tongue in cheek, a friend of mine told this story about my native state of Mississippi and wildlife management. During the boom of production agriculture in the 1960's, thousands of acres of forested land in the midsouth region, including floodplains, were cleared to plant soybeans. Wildlife officials, concerned about erosion and flooding, made the decision to augment the beaver population that had been depleted by the destruction of their habitat. The officials felt that the beavers would act as a natural enhancement to water management by building dams and slowing the movement of sediment, debris, and runoff. The beavers then reproduced rapidly and did their job well. Within a few years, problems developed that led these same wildlife officials to determine that the beaver population should be reduced. Alligators were stocked to provide a natural beaver control measure. In a few years, the alligators had grown well from the abundance of beavers and were threatening the local populace, primarily the raccoon and deer hunters. As with any public nuisance, the pressure was applied to the wildlife officials to remove the alligators and soon pickup loads of men with names like Beaudreaux, Thibodeaux, Fontenot, Theriot, and Landry arrived. The story ended without knowing how the Cajuns were managed, but speculation was made that several cases of Budweiser and some boudin provided effective control.

I tell this little anecdote to illustrate the difficulty resource managers face in managing natural environments. In almost all cases, the decisions and actions of others have the greatest impact. Such is the case with managing the infestations of exotic, invasive aquatic plant species in the midsouth. When water resource managers take steps to control or eradicate invasive plant species, they must consider the impact on threatened or endangered plant or animal species. This conflict was highlighted in February when I, on behalf of the MSAPMS Board of Directors, sent out the "Call for Action" for support for the Counterpart Regulations legislation. These regulations will help streamline the Environmental Protection Agency's pesticide regulatory program and bring it into compliance with requirements of the Endangered Species Act. Some Board members and I received several comments that were opposed to this action. This opposition came from people outside our membership but within the wildlife and water resources management field. These people expressed concern that pesticides in general do great harm to non-target organisms and the research conducted to support pesticide registrations do not consider all plant and

animal species. Since their comments were not backed by scientific data, I am assuming that these were not fact, but were opinions. However, our Society is strong enough to welcome all points of view and encourages debate on the issues as long as science influences our decisions, not personal opinion. To quote my favorite philosopher, Mark Twain: "It were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse races." As it is with horse races, so it goes with resource management.

This debate about protecting threatened or endangered species is similar to the one we in aquatic plant management have had for years with bass fishermen. The data generated by Auburn University and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer managers at Lake Seminole have clearly demonstrated the benefits of invasive aquatic weed control and fish productivity. Lake Seminole is only one example of successful fisheries management and invasive aquatic plant control programs. However, Internet chat rooms of bass fishermen are full of inflammatory comments about the damage to fisheries by aquatic plant managers. I feel very strongly that a goal of us in the MSAPMS should be that we are recognized as the key regional organization for water resources management issues in the midsouth. As your chapter President, I am extending an invitation to all involved in managing water, critics and supporters, to our Annual Meeting to discuss these and related issues. We look forward to your attendance.

I hope everyone has posted this year's Annual Meeting on his or her calendar. Joe Jernigan is working diligently to make this meeting the best ever with special events that everyone will enjoy. Mobile, Alabama in October is a wonderful place.

Plant Samples Needed for Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy Research

AVM (Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy) first found in 1994, causes deaths of eagles and other waterfowl. AVM has been documented to occur from Arkansas to Georgia and the Carolinas. An undescribed epiphytic Cyanobacteria is believed to be the causative agent. This epiphyte grows on hydrilla, egeria and other aquatic plants. Susan Wilde, at the Baruch Institute in Charleston, SC would like samples of hydrilla and/or egeria from a variety of areas to evaluate the distribution of this epiphyte. Please contact her by e-mail at wildes@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us, phone at 843-953-9812, or fax at 843-953-9820 to get an address and instructions for sending plants.

Impact of Aquathol K Applications on Largemouth Bass in Lake Seminole, Georgia

Mike Maceina

We examined the effects of Aquathol K applied prior to largemouth bass spawning to reduce the exotic submersed macrophyte hydrilla and promote establishment of native submersed plants on largemouth bass population metrics. Density and biomass of adult (> 250 mm) largemouth bass were determined between 2000 and 2003 using a catch-depletion technique in a cove that had been periodically treated with herbicides. Also, catch-per-effort for both number and weight were compared in 2002-2003 between a treated and untreated hydrilla infested cove. In the cove where catch-depletions were conducted, herbicide applications reduced hydrilla between 2000-2003 and abundance of native plants increased. Coincident with these changes, largemouth bass density and biomass increased 50 to 120%. Over time, the size of fish captured increased in this cove, but temporal changes in relative weight were not evident. In another cove treated with herbicides, native plant abundance was maintained, but did not increase, hydrilla was the dominant plant, and catch-per-effort for number and weight was about twice as great than in an untreated cove (100% hydrilla coverage). No differences in size distributions or relative weight were observed between the treated and untreated coves. The application of Aquathol K to coves 2 to 3 months prior to largemouth bass spawning and periodic treatments after spawning was associated with either neutral or positive impacts on population metrics and also resulted in maintenance or an increase in native submersed plants.

In an additional project that started in November 2003, a total of 30 adult largemouth bass were implanted with radio tags in two hydrilla-infested coves. These fish were tracked with telemetry gear for one month, then Aquathol K was applied to each cove to control hydrilla and fish were relocated over a three-month period. In one long and narrow 100 acre cove that was totally infested with hydrilla, hydrilla in half of one side of the cove was eliminated after treatment to determine largemouth bass habitat preference. Largemouth bass did not migrate from the treated cove and specific treatment areas, and distributions in relation to hydrilla presence or absence appeared random. In another circular 80 acre cove that had about 50% coverage of hydrilla, Aquathol K completely eliminated all hydrilla. Fish remained in the treatment cove and inhabited the same locations with and without the presence of hydrilla. In this cove, water depths were greater, greater habitat

diversity was available and fish tended to move more on a daily basis than the long and narrow 100 acre cove. Additional data is being collected and this project will terminate in April 2004.

National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, NIWAW 5

Rob Hedberg

The dust has settled on another successful National Invasive Weed Awareness Week. The event continues to grow in numbers, content, importance, and accomplishments. Many, many people deserve credit for this success, whether for helping to plan the many details and arrangements, for traveling to Washington to participate in the week, or by contributing financially. While meetings with legislators and policy makers are a key component of the week, we should not overlook the value of “weed folks” meeting and working with each other.

For those of you inclined to look at the numbers we had 132 people from 33 states and Washington, DC register for the week this year. By comparison we had 110 people from 28 states last year. Equally impressive is the fact that the registrants listed 65 different organizations as their primary affiliation. This week has become an event where many different people and organizations with many different perspectives meet and work together for improved weed management.

Several things went very well this year including very senior political appointee participation (Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Agency Administrator level) for the USDA and USDI briefings. Our exhibits at the United States Botanical Garden had excellent exposure due to a simultaneous orchid exhibit and approximately 10,000 people from the general public saw our displays. A new addition this year was Kids Day, co-sponsored with the Botanical Gardens, which attracted over 500 children in a single afternoon.

I cannot summarize everything that was accomplished this year but there have been phenomenal improvements in the attention weed issues now receive at the national level. I am most pleased to hear agencies in both the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of the Interior express strong commitment to pursuing additional weed science technical training for their employees. Several stated they would pursue the possibility of adding a Weed Specialist job classification to their roster of professional positions.

Excerpted from the Washington Report, March 2004. The complete report is available on the APMS Website at www.apms.org.

Lost Recreation Dollars, Costs, and “How much is too much?” – Easier Ways to Look at the Economics of Aquatic Plant Management *Jim E. Henderson*

Lost recreation revenues and treatment costs usually come to the forefront after a massive aquatic plant infestation. Answering the “how much was really lost?” question can be very difficult. Usually, before there was a problem, no one tracked or accounted for plant management costs or benefits, such as fish habitat. That is, there are no baseline recreation use or economic impact data to relate to aquatic plants. Establishing that baseline is important to making decisions on alternatives, but obtaining baseline information can be very expensive, when the priorities are focused on eliminating the problem.

Since the first Corps of Engineer effort at Lake Guntersville, streamlined and expedient approaches have been developed to evaluate the economic impacts of aquatic plant infestations and management. The first approach is to use ongoing survey efforts to obtain economic information from recreationists. In South Carolina, economic information was obtained by adding questions to creel surveys at four lakes. Economic impact information (sales, income, jobs) for current and increased plant conditions was developed from the creel surveys for anglers, who had fished under historic peak plant conditions. With new long-range management goals for plants in South Carolina, the economic models developed from the surveys are being used to determine the economic impacts that result from the management goals.

Another approach for developing economic information was used to evaluate post-treatment effects at a lake in Michigan. This was the “values at risk” approach proposed by the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation. The “values at risk” uses historical information about the kinds of economic impacts (recreation, land values, flood damage) resulting from aquatic plant problems. The possible “values at risk” were used in Michigan to estimate the type and order of magnitude of economic benefits resulting from the treatment.

Economic information greatly assists decision making on aquatic plant management. Experience in streamlining surveys and the “values at risk” approach help focus on regionally important questions (e.g. anglers’ impacts) without a great increase in costs to obtain the information. These approaches have proved to be efficient ways to provide local and state managers

with an economic basis for prioritizing and choosing management strategies.

On-line Aquatic Plant Habitat Manual

The Reservoir Committee of the Southern Division of AFS has an on-line manual for planting aquatic plants for fish habitat at <http://www.sdafs.org/reservoir/manuals/aqveg/veghome.htm>.

Tampa, Florida is the Site for the 44th Annual APMS Meeting

The 44th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) will be held July 11-14, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Tampa in Tampa, Florida. Program Chair, Eric Barkemeyer, is in the process of arranging another exemplary agenda. Oral and poster presentations on the latest research and management strategies will be presented during the two and a half day meeting. A “Special Session” scheduled for Tuesday morning will focus on issues of herbicide resistance and tolerance, environmental factors that impact herbicide efficacy, and resistance management as it pertains to aquatics. You won’t want to miss this important technical session!

The Meeting Planning Committee has arranged several social events for your enjoyment. The President’s Reception on Sunday evening is a great opportunity to reacquaint with old friends and make new ones. The APMS Banquet on Tuesday evening will be a yacht cruise of Tampa Bay with dinner, dancing, and entertainment. Our meeting will conclude on Wednesday with the APMS Awards Luncheon.

For up-to-date information on special events, meeting registration, hotel reservations, registration forms, and exhibitor information, please visit the APMS Website at www.apms.org.

A preliminary meeting agenda will be posted on the APMS Website by June 1, 2004.

Visit the MSAPMS Website
www.msapms.org



23rd Annual Meeting of the MidSouth APMS

Mobile, Alabama
October 4-6, 2004

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

AFFILIATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Registration (*includes social, refreshment breaks, 2 lunches, and banquet*) \$ _____

Early Registration* \$50.00 (prior to 9/13/04)

Registration \$70.00 (at the door)

Student Registration \$10.00 (early or at the door)

Guest Registration \$25.00 (early or at the door)

* *Early registration does not require pre-payment. Early registration accepted if form is postmarked or faxed by September 13, 2004. Otherwise registration is at the door.*

2004-2005 Membership Dues \$ _____

Regular \$10.00

Student \$ 5.00

Sustaining \$50.00

Raffle Tickets \$ _____

Requested Quantity _____ x \$ 1.00/each

Total Amount (*Make check payable to MidSouth APMS*) \$ _____

Mail or fax completed form by September 13, 2004 to:

Renee Beam
Dept. of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures
203 Swingle Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849
Fax: 334-844-0830

2004 Calendar of Events

Jun 7-10

Florida Lake Management Society, Tampa, FL
www.nalms.org/flms

Jun 19-25

International Weed Science Congress, Durban, South Africa
www.olemiss.edu/orgs/iws/4intlweedcong.htm

Jul 11-14

Aquatic Plant Management Society, Tampa, FL
www.apms.org

Jul 18-23

International Society of Wetland Scientists, Seattle, WA
www.sws.org

Aug 25-27

South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society, Myrtle Beach, SC
www.scapms.org

Sep 13-15

Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society, Kerrville, TX
www.tapms.org

Sep 19-23

International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, Ennis, County Clare, Ireland
<http://www.aquatic-invasive-species-conference.org>

Oct 4-6

MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society, Mobile, AL
www.msapms.org

Oct 17-20

Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society, Deerfield Beach, FL
<http://www.fapms.org/>

Nov 3-5

North American Lake Management Society: International Symposium, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
www.nalms.org

Dec 6-10

First National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration, Lake Buena Vista, FL
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ecosystem/>

MidSouth APMS Newsletter

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