

MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society

Newsletter

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24th Annual Meeting of the Midsouth APMS will be Held in Biloxi, Mississippi

The 24th Annual Meeting of the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society will be held October 11-13, 2005 at the Grand Casino Biloxi Islandview Hotel in Biloxi, Mississippi. The Grand Casino Biloxi is the premier casino hotel resort on the scenic Gulf Coast of Mississippi. The elegant resort located in the heart of Biloxi's Casino Row includes two luxury hotel towers with deluxe accommodations and a dozen restaurants featuring a variety of foods. Resort activities and services include top-name entertainment, a large gaming area, a spa & salon, a Jack Nicklaus signature golf course, Kids Quest childcare facility for younger children, and the Grand Arcade for older children and teens, offering state-of-the-art games. The beautiful Mississippi Coast beaches are just outside the hotel for your enjoyment.



Photos courtesy of Grand Casino and MGCCVB

The meeting program is in preparation and will offer many topics of interest for researchers and water resource managers throughout the midsouth and the country. The program will offer topics on aquatic plant management, biology, and ecology. Student presenters will provide up-to-date findings of their research work. In addition, industry representatives will exhibit available aquatic management products and professional services throughout the meeting.

The meeting will get started with a welcoming social on Tuesday evening, which will give everyone time to reacquaint with old friends and meet new friends. The technical program will begin on Wednesday morning and end with the awards luncheon on Thursday. The banquet on Wednesday night will include great food, beverages, and hopefully entertainment.

To make your hotel reservations, call the Grand Casino Biloxi at 1-800-354-2450. Our special MSAPMS guest room rate is \$85.00 per night. Please identify yourself as a member of the MSAPMS to receive the group rate. This is very important, as we have a block of rooms we need to fill for the convention rate. You have until September 16, 2005 to make your reservation. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m. Remember you must make your reservation before the cutoff date to receive the group rate.

The meeting registration fee is \$60.00 if received by September 19, 2005. After this date, the registration fee at the door will be \$80.00. The student registration fee is \$10.00 early or at the door. The meeting registration fee includes the social, refreshment breaks, two lunches, and the banquet. 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 prior to September 19, 2005. Early registration does not require pre-payment if postmarked or faxed by September 19, 2005.

Individuals are invited to submit proposals for a presentation during the meeting. Presentations on all aspects of aquatic plant management, biology, and ecology will be considered. Submit your proposals for presentation by July 16, 2005 to Craig Aguillard at 337-363-6032, fax 337-363-1264, or craig.aguillard@cerexagri.com.

We are looking forward to seeing each of you at the meeting in October.

Travel Stipends for Student Presenters at MSAPMS Meeting

The MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society is pleased to announce the availability of travel stipends for student presenters at the MidSouth Annual Meeting, October 11-13, 2005, at the Grand Casino Biloxi Islandview Hotel in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Stipends are available to any graduate student working with aquatic plants, fisheries, or wildlife management, or a related field. Preference for stipends will be made for residents from the MidSouth Region (Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana) or students either attending college or conducting research in this area of the country.

Any student interested in more details or applying for a travel stipend should contact Joe Jernigan, (251) 626-5153, jjernigan@dcnr.state.al.us.

A Message from the President *Joe Jernigan*

Warm weather is upon us. Turkeys are gobbling, fish are biting, and plants are growing. It is time for fish sampling, weed spraying, and all the other fun parts of our jobs. This is the time of year that we get so caught up in all the field work we need to do, that it is very easy to

forget some of the smaller, but not necessarily less important items on our plate, like the work of the MidSouth. That is why I would like to take the time to let our membership know how hard your Board of Directors has been working on some new MidSouth projects.

This year, the MidSouth Annual Meeting will be held at the Grand Casino Biloxi Islandview Hotel in Biloxi, Mississippi. Craig Aguillard is the program chair and he has been very effective in dealing with the intricate details of putting on a meeting. It has been several years since the meeting has been in Mississippi and we look forward to great participation from our members who live there.

Even with fantastic locations, great presentations, and reasonable costs, attendance at meetings and the number of active members has been declining. In an effort to recruit and retain members, the Board sent out invitations to former members of the MidSouth who had let their memberships lapse. Many of these people would still be active members, but have missed a meeting or two and no longer received newsletters. Many of these former members were not necessarily applicators, or worried about keeping up with their applicator's points for permit renewal, but they represent a diversity of viewpoints and ideas that help make our organization better.

Of course, we are always looking for new people to join MidSouth. As part of a membership recruitment program for this fall's meeting, the Pre-Registration Form will have a box to check off for new members. If the box is checked, we would like the new member to identify what MidSouth member invited them to join the Society. For each new member recruited, the recruiter will receive an extra raffle ticket and be eligible for additional special drawings for fabulous prizes!

Many regulators and managers are either unaware of the MidSouth or are facing travel restrictions in these times of tight budgets. Therefore, as part of our continuous efforts to promote the educational advancement of our members and also to extend and develop public understanding of aquatic plant management issues, the MidSouth, with a great deal of financial support from the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation, will be offering a limited number of stipends to state agency staff interested in attending the annual meeting. These stipends may include registration, lodging and meals, although the recipients will be asked to become members of the Society. State agency staff are encouraged to coordinate their requests internally and contact the MidSouth through Greg Wall (Treasurer) at (662) 465-6146 or e-mail at doublegobble@earthlink.net by August 15, 2005.

State regulators are not the only people interested in aquatics who are feeling the travel budget pinch. More students majoring in the fields of fisheries and wildlife, environmental science, and other related fields should be attending our meetings. Students have much to offer our members through presentations and posters and we have much to offer them as well. To increase student participation in the MidSouth Annual Meeting, registration fee for any student presenter has been dropped. We will also continue to award each student presenter with a check for \$100. The cash met with a great deal of enthusiasm from the students last fall and we hope word will get out and it will continue to draw quality student presenters to our meetings.

Hopefully, you will appreciate some of these new approaches the Board of Directors has developed to increase membership and will make the time to attend this year's meeting. Don't forget to tell someone new about the MidSouth. Little things like this will help make our Society stronger and more participation will help facilitate ideas and dialog to more effectively manage aquatic plant issues in the MidSouth region. If you have any additional ideas, please feel free to contact me jjernigan@dcnr.state.al.us, just pick up the phone and call (251) 626-5153, or better yet, get involved and ask to join the Board of Directors; we need all the help we can get! I look forward to seeing you in Biloxi. Oh, and bring some extra money, I feel lucky!

MidSouth APMS Scholarship Awarded

The MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society Scholarship has been awarded to John D. Parker. John is a Ph.D. student at the Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Biology in Atlanta, Georgia. He has an M.S. in Marine Science from the College of William and Mary and a B.A. in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia. Currently, his research is focused on the potential for exotic plants to out-compete native plants and the effects of native herbivores on exotic plant species. The scholarship will assist John with his field and laboratory experiments.

Graduate Research Assistant Position Announcement

A Graduate Research Assistant position is available beginning the summer of 2005, for students pursuing either an M.S. or Ph.D. in Weed Science through the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at Mississippi State University. This position will undertake research in the ecology and management of invasive aquatic plants,

including quantification by remote sensing and field techniques, ecological modeling of invasive and native aquatic plants, and management by chemical and nonchemical methods. The qualified applicant will have at a minimum a B.S. or equivalent in weed science, biology, or natural science field for an M.S. student, or an M.S. in a natural science field for a Ph.D. student. Previous experience working with invasive aquatic plants is preferable, but not required. Interested and qualified persons should submit a letter of application briefly outlining qualifications and pertinent experience along with a resume, copies of transcript(s), and contact information for references to:

Dr. John D. Madsen
GeoResources Institute
Mississippi State University
Box 9652
Mississippi State, MS 39762-9652
jmadsen@gri.msstate.edu
phone: 662-325-2428
fax: 662-325-7692

Information on Graduate Programs at Mississippi State University: <http://www.msstate.edu/>

Information on the GeoResources Institute:
<http://www.gri.msstate.edu/>

There's a Strong Ally in the Fight Against Aquatic Weeds - Habitat[®] Herbicide from BASF

From marshlands in Florida to streams in Mississippi, America's wetland areas are under attack by invasive vegetation. These invaders threaten shorelines and wildlife habitat, cause extensive damage and cost millions of dollars in control and restoration. Until now, there have been few options available to control these invasive plants due to the sensitive environments in which they are found. Habitat[®] herbicide from BASF combats this growing problem.

"There's a critical need in the aquatic market for a tool that's tough on undesirable plants yet gentle on aquatic environments," said Derek Miller, Marketing Manager, BASF ProVM. "Habitat is a powerful tool that fills this need – helping protect and reclaim aquatic and shoreline areas."

Habitat is labeled for controlling undesirable emergent, shoreline, and woody wetland aquatic vegetation in and around standing and flowing water. Because Habitat

works down to the weed roots, it provides long-term control of many perennial species. This reduces the frequent re-applications required by other aquatic herbicides and vegetation management techniques, which saves time and money. This control enables users to cost-effectively reclaim and maintain waterway and wetlands that have lost value due to emergent invasive species.

Habitat is effective at a low volume of active ingredient and affects enzymes found only in plants, not in humans, animals, birds, fish, or insects. For maximum effectiveness, Habitat should be applied to weeds that are growing vigorously, using a spray solution that includes a surfactant. It may be applied selectively using a low-volume technique, or by using a broadcast technique with ground equipment, watercraft, or helicopter.

Habitat effectively controls more than 50 species of unwanted, invasive floating, emergent, and woody wetland weeds, including: phragmites, torpedo grass, alligatorweed, arundo donax, Chinese tallow tree, water hyacinth, water lettuce, duckweed, cattail, water lily, purple loosestrife, water primrose, giant reed, Brazilian pepper, willow, melaleuca, and saltcedar.

“To help managers of aquatic waterways and wetlands develop successful vegetation management programs, we’ve created a Habitat information library that can be easily accessed and downloaded at www.vmanswers.com,” said Miller. This material includes general and technical information, weed-specific fact sheets, and training presentations.

For more information about Habitat, please contact your BASF representative, visit vmanswers.com or contact a BASF customer service representative at 1-800-545-9525.

45th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society

The 45th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society will be held July 10-13, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas. San Antonio is an exciting destination with a quaintness you must experience. The Hyatt Regency is a luxury hotel on the famous Riverwalk, only one block from the historic Alamo. Just outside the Hyatt you will be able to enjoy dining in the Riverwalk cafés, touring the Alamo, shopping along the Riverwalk or El Mercado, touring the Missions, and much, much more...

This year’s program will include exemplary presentations on all aspects of aquatic plant management, with a special

session on harmful and toxic algae. Useful information on available aquatic plant management products and professional services will be provided throughout the meeting in the industry exhibits hall. And special events for all attendees to enjoy include the President’s Reception, the Poster Session Reception, and the APMS Banquet. More details are available on the APMS Website at <http://www.apms.org/2005/2005.htm>.

Sustaining Members

The MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society appreciates the valuable support of the following Sustaining Members. Thank you Sustaining Members!

**Applied Biochemists
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**AquaServices, Inc.
Guntersville, Alabama**

**Brewer International
Vero Beach, Florida**

**Cerexagri, Inc.
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania**

**Future Horizons, Inc.
Hastings, Florida**

**Helena Chemical Company
Collierville, Tennessee**

**M. C. McLeod
Valdosta, Georgia**

**SePRO Corporation
Carmel, Indiana**

**The Lake Doctors, Inc.
Jacksonville, Florida**

September Newsletter Deadline August 15, 2005

Send Newsletter Items to:

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Phone: 601-634-3722

Fax: 601-634-2430

E-mail: Robert.C.Gunkel@erdc.usace.army.mil

2005 Calendar of Events

Jun 3-4

New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society, Plymouth, NH

www.nalms.org/necnalms

Jun 6-9

Florida Lake Management Society, Duck Key, FL

www.flms.net

Jul 10-13

Aquatic Plant Management Society, San Antonio, TX

www.apms.org

Jul 10-13

Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society, San Antonio, TX

www.tapms.org

Aug 17-19

South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society, Springmaid Beach, SC

www.scapms.org

Oct 11-13

MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society, Biloxi, MS

www.msapms.org

Nov 8-10

Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society, St. Petersburg, FL

www.fapms.org

Nov 9-11

North American Lake Management Society: International Symposium, Madison, WI

www.nalms.org

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