

MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society
45th Annual Meeting

MIDSOUTH AQUATIC PLANT



MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

est. 1982

PROGRAM

October 26th-29th, 2026
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Hilton Capitol Center

MidSouth APMS Meeting Agenda

Baton Rouge, LA
October 26th - 29th, 2026

Agenda Snapshot

Monday, October 26th

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Evening

MSAPMS Board Meeting

MSAPMS Preconference Social [Room TBD]

Dinner on your own

Tuesday, October 27th

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

8:00 am - 10:00 am

10:00 am - 10:20 am

10:20 am - 12:00 pm

12:00 pm - 1:20 pm

1:20 pm - 3:00 pm

3:00 pm - 3:20 pm

3:20 pm - 5:20 pm

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Evening

Exhibitor Move In & Setup

Meeting Registration (Room TBD)

General Session I: Welcome, Keynote, Regulatory

Refreshment Break

Research Session I: Aquatic Research

Lunch on your own

General Session I – Professional Development & Outreach

Refreshment Break

General Session II – Resource Management & Technology

President's Reception (location TBD)

Dinner on your own

Wednesday, October 28th

6:00 am - 8:00 am

7:00 am - 5:00 pm

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

8:00 am - 10:00 am

10:00 am - 10:20 am

10:20 am - 12:00 pm

12:00 pm - 1:20 pm

1:20 pm - 3:00 pm

3:00 pm - 3:20 pm

3:20 pm - 5:00 pm

5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Continental Breakfast

Meeting Registration

Exhibits Open (room TBD)

General Session III – Student Presentations (room TBD)

Refreshment Break

General Session IV – Industry, Resource Management, Technology (room TBD)

Lunch on your own

Research Session II – Aquatic Plant Management

Refreshment Break

General Session V – Resource Management & Technology (room TBD)

MSAPMS Business meeting

Awards Banquet Dinner

Thursday, October 29th

6:00 am - 8:00 am

8:00 am - 11:50 am

11:50 am - 12:00 pm

Continental Breakfast

Aquatic Plant Workshop Field Day

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Tuesday, October 27th

Tuesday, October 27th

8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Exhibitor Move In & Setup
11:00 am – 5:00 pm	Meeting Registration (Room TBD)
8:00 am – 10:00 am	General Session I: Welcome, Keynote, Regulatory
10:00 am – 10:20 am	Refreshment Break
10:20 am – 12:00 pm	Research Session I: Aquatic Research
12:00 pm - 1:20 pm	Lunch on your own
1:20 pm – 3:00 pm	General Session I – Professional Development & Outreach
3:00 pm - 3:20 pm	Refreshment Break
3:20 pm - 5:00 pm	General Session II – Resource Management & Technology
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	President's Reception (location TBD)
Evening	Dinner on your own

General Session I: Welcome, Keynote, and Regulatory Updates

Moderator: Adam Charlton, *Aquatic Control Inc., Elizabethtown, KY*

8:00 am	Opening Remarks Adam Charlton <i>Aquatic Control Inc., Elizabethtown, KY</i>
8:10 am	Presidential Address Stephen Turner <i>Tennessee Valley Authority</i>
8:20 am	Keynote Address – A History of Aquatic Plant Management in Louisiana Dr. Dearl Sanders <i>Louisiana State University – Extension, Retired</i>
9:10 am	EPA & Regulatory Updates Carlton Layne
9:30 am	AERF: Integrating Restoration and Management Projects in the 21 st Century Jim Petta <i>AERF President</i>
9:40 am	EPA Updates Regarding the Endangered Species Act Dr. Jay Ferrel <i>University of Florida, Gainesville, FL</i>
10:00 am	Refreshment Break

Research Session I: Aquatic Research

Moderator: Derek Smith, *Aqua Services, A Jones Lake Management Partner, Guntersville, AL*

10:20 am	Geographic and genetic patterns of Cuban bulrush (<i>Cyperus blepharoleptos</i>) morphology in the invaded range Gray Turnage <i>Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS</i>
10:40 am	Initial Concentration-Exposure Time Relationships for <i>Vallisneria</i> × <i>pseudorosulata</i> with Select Herbicides Maxwell G. Gebhart <i>Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS</i>
11:00 am	Can planting native SAV suppress hydrilla regrowth after herbicide treatment? Dr. Lyn Gettys <i>University of Florida, Gainesville, FL</i>
11:20 am	Preliminary results of field trials for reduction of invasive <i>Vallisneria</i> taxa in Florida Gray Turnage <i>Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS</i>
11:40 am	Preliminary Phenological Trends of <i>Vallisneria</i> Grown in Mesocosms Maxwell G. Gebhart <i>Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS</i>
12:00 pm	Light Lunch Provided

General Session II: Professional Development & Outreach

Moderator: Cody Bragg, *Aquatic Control Inc., Elizabethtown, KY*

- 1:20 pm Boater Safety
Corporal Hunter Pearson
Louisiana Department of Wildlife Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA
- 1:40 pm Beyond the Label: ESA Compliance, Recordkeeping, and Telling Your Story
Kim Brown
*Kim Brown Consulting *
- 2:00 pm DOT Regulations & Common Violations
Sergeant Jeffrey Louviere
Louisiana State Police, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2:20 pm Worklife Balance
Anne Stuckey Williams
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2:40 pm From Plant ID to Public Buy-In: Communicating Aquatic Vegetation Management
Brittany Chesser
Texas A&M University
- 3:00pm APMS Update
Lyn Gettys
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 3:20 pm Refreshment Break

General Session III: Resource Management and Technology

Moderator: Matt Townson, *Aqua Services, A Jones Lake Management Partner, Guntersville, AL*

- 3:40 pm A field demonstration of dioecious hydrilla control in the Spring Creek arm of Lake Seminole
Michael Durham
US ARMY ERDC- CAIP, Gainesville, FL
- 4:00 pm Aquatic Plant Management Activities of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Mike Pursley
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Biloxi, MS
- 4:20 pm Less is best: low dose copper sulfate treatments can improve water quality
Alan Wilson
Auburn University, Auburn, AL
- 4:40 pm Aquatic Vegetation Management in Mississippi: Successes, Failures, and Lessons Learned
Buford Lessley
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks, Pearl, MS
- 5:00 pm Interactive Study Applications as a Foundation for an AI Field-Support Agent in Applicator Training
Chris Taylor
Jones Lake Management
- 5:20 pm Day 1 Presentations Conclude
- 5:30 pm Presidents Reception

Wednesday, October 28th

Wednesday, October 28th

6:00 am - 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast
7:00 am – 5:00 pm	Meeting Registration
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Exhibits Open (room TBD)
8:00 am - 10:00 am	General Session III – Student Presentations (room TBD)
10:00 am - 10:20 am	Refreshment Break
10:20 am - 12:00 pm	General Session IV – Industry, Resource Management, Technology (room TBD)
12:00 pm - 1:20 pm	Lunch on your own
1:20 pm - 3:00 pm	Research Session II – Aquatic Plant Management
3:00 pm - 3:20 pm	Refreshment Break
3:20 pm - 5:00 pm	General Session V – Resource Management & Technology (room TBD)
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	MSAPMS Business meeting
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Awards Banquet Dinner

General Session IV: Student Presentations

Moderator: Tim McLean, *Alabama Power, AL*

8:00 am	Control of <i>Vallisneria nana</i> grown in mesocosms Adrian Horstead <i>Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS</i>
8:20 am	Seasonal Efficacy of Herbicide Mixtures for Giant Salvinia Management in Mesocosms Kori Paliwoda <i>Texas A&M University</i>
8:40 am	Aquatic Use and Select Non-Aquatic Use Herbicide Efficacy on <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> in Mesocosms Abigail Pugh <i>Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS</i>
9:00 am	How do salvinia weevils respond to herbicide treated giant salvinia? Samantha Prinsloo <i>Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA</i>
9:20 am	Initial Concentration-Exposure Time Relationships for <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> with Select Herbicides Jill Skidmore <i>Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS</i>
9:40 am	Evaluation of Short-Duration Herbicide Combinations for East Indian Hygrophila (<i>Hygrophila polysperma</i>) Control Ian Talty <i>US ARMY ERDC- CAIP, Gainesville, FL</i>
10:00 am	Refreshment Break [Room TBD]

General Session V: Industry, Resource management, Technology

Moderator: Matt Horton, *Arkansas Game and Fish*

10:20 am	Industry Updates - Platinum and Gold Sponsors
10:40 am	Aquatic Vegetation Management in Texas Private Ponds: Challenges, Practices, and Knowledge Gaps Brittany Chesser <i>Texas A&M University</i>
11:00 am	Automated Mapping of Non-Indigenous Aquatic Plant Species via Unoccupied Aerial Systems and Artificial Intelligence Daniel McCraine <i>Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS</i>
11:20 am	Alabama Power Aquatic Plant Management Program Tim McLean <i>Alabama Power, Alabama</i>
11:40 am	Advancing Aquatic Invasive Plant Management: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Approach Kayla Kimmel <i>US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tupelo, MS</i>
12:00 pm	Lunch (on your own)

Research Session II: Aquatic Plant Management

Moderator: Brittany Chesser, Texas A&M University

- 1:20 pm Submersed Herbicide Treatments: Achieving Success in a 4-Dimensional Environment
Ben Sperry
US ARMY ERDC- CAIP, Gainesville, FL
- 1:40 pm Does Integrated Pest Management Improve Control of Cuban Bulrush?
Chris Mudge
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2:00 pm Increasing Efficacy of Restoration Projects in Coastal Louisiana via Kinetic Invasive Species Control
David Curtiss
US Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Wildlife Services, Port Allen, LA
- 2:20 pm Aquatic Use and Select Non-Aquatic Use Herbicide Efficacy on *Vallisneria* × *pseudorosulata* grown in mesocosms
Gray Turnage
Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
- 2:40 pm Screening ecotypes of native Florida SAV species under common nursery conditions
Lyn Gettys
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 3:00 pm Refreshment Break

General Session VI: Resource Management and Technology

Moderator: Wykle Green, The Orion Companies

- 3:20 pm Mapping Ponds, Finding Fish: A Practical BioBase Workflow for Lake Managers
Troy Goldsby
Biobase
- 3:40 pm Trending Issues in Urban Pond Management
Ken Rust
Louisiana Pond Management, Baton Rouge, LA
- 4:00 pm Invasion pathways and integrated management of aquatic weeds
Lyn Gettys
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 4:20 pm Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Aquatic Plant Management Update
Kane Finkbeiner
Louisiana Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Monroe, LA
- 4:40 pm Beyond Release: What Limits the Establishment of a Water Hyacinth Biological Control Agent in the Southeastern United States?
Flaminia Mariani
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
- 5:00 pm MSAPMS Business Meeting

Thursday, October 29th

Thursday's Agenda at-a-glance

6:00 am - 8:00 am

8:00 am - 11:50 am

11:50 am - 12:00 pm

Continental Breakfast

Aquatic Plant Workshop Field Day

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Closing Session: **Workshop & Field Day**

Moderator: **Adam Charlton, Aquatic Control Inc., Elizabethtown, KY**

8:00 am	Intro to Workshop Adam Charlton <i>Aquatic Control Inc., Elizabethtown, KY</i>
8:05 am	Load Bus and travel to field site (20 min)
8:25 am	Arrive at LSU Mesocosm Facility
8:30 am	Tour LSU Mesocosm Facility and crawfish production pond
9:35 am	Load bus and travel to campus lakes (15 min)
9:50 am	Arrive at campus lakes
9:55 am	Tour campus lakes restoration site
10:30 am	Load bus and travel back to hotel
10:40 am	Arrive at hotel for classroom portion
10:50 am	Why do we do aquatic plant research? Chris Mudge <i>Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA</i>
11:10 am	Aquatic Plants and Restoration: A look at restoration on LSU's campus lakes Kayla Kimmel <i>US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tupelo, MS</i>
11:30 am	Louisiana's Crawfish Industry and Aquatic Plants Todd Fontenot <i>Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA</i>
11:50 am	Closing Remarks
12:00 pm	Adjourn

