



VOL. 44 ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2026

# THE LOTUS

Midsouth Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter



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MIDSOUTH AQUATIC PLANT



MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

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November 3-6, 2025  
Hot Springs, AR



# CONFERENCE RECAP



## MIDSOUTH + TEXAS APMS JOINT MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS!

The 2025 MidSouth + Texas APMS Joint Meeting brought together more than 100 aquatic plant management professionals for four days of learning, collaboration, and connection. From the opening session to the final discussions, the energy throughout the week reflected a shared commitment to advancing our field across the region.

Attendees represented a diverse cross-section of researchers, students, applicators, regulators, consultants, and resource managers — all united by a common goal: improving the science and practice of aquatic plant management. Presentations highlighted innovative control strategies, restoration successes, emerging invasive species concerns, regulatory developments, and practical field applications that participants can immediately take back to their agencies and organizations.

Thanks to strong attendance and generous sponsor support, the conference also raised over \$4,200 for student scholarships, directly investing in the next generation of aquatic plant management professionals. Supporting students remains a cornerstone of MSAPMS, and this year's success ensures continued opportunities for emerging leaders in our field.

The 2025 joint meeting demonstrated once again that when professionals show up, share openly, and engage fully, the entire region benefits. If you weren't able to attend this year, make plans now — the momentum is only building as we head toward Baton Rouge in 2026!

## AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING IN HOT SPRINGS

The MSAPMS Awards Banquet was more than a dinner — it was a true celebration. Attendees traded in field boots for formal wear, filling the room with an energy that felt equal parts pride, camaraderie, and well-earned accomplishment. It was a night to pause, connect, and celebrate the profession we care so deeply about.

Guests enjoyed one of the most memorable meals ever served at a conference, proving that this was no ordinary banquet. Laughter carried across the room as conversations flowed and colleagues became friends.

The evening also featured lively raffle drawings led by the always-hilarious auctioneer Carlton Layne, whose quick wit kept the crowd engaged and entertained from start to finish. By the end of the night, one thing was clear: if you weren't there, you missed something special.



The MidSouth APMS and Texas APMS Boards

## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AT THE 2025 AWARDS BANQUET

Recognition at MSAPMS is never casual. It is earned through years of dedication, expertise, and meaningful contribution to the advancement of aquatic plant management. Our annual awards represent the highest level of professional distinction within our society, honoring individuals whose influence extends far beyond a single season or project. We are pleased to announce this year's winners!



(L-R) Dr. Gray Turnage, Terry Goldsby, Craig Aguillard

The prestigious **David H. Webb Award** was awarded to Terry **Goldsby** in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding dedication and contributions to the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society and the profession of aquatic plant management. Terry's career reflects sustained leadership, service, and a deep commitment to the advancement of our field.

## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AT THE 2025 AWARDS BANQUET



We were proud to present the **Honorary Member Award** to **David Brewster** for his significant contributions during his career to the Society and the field of aquatic plant management. His exceptional dedication and involvement have directly contributed to the outstanding success and growth of MSAPMS over the years.

L-R Dr. John Madsen, David Brewster, Dr. Gray Turnage

The **Young Professional Award** was presented to **Colton Green**, recognizing his consistent efforts to advance the status and goals of MSAPMS by utilizing science-driven solutions in the field of aquatic plant management. His work exemplifies the innovation, professionalism, and forward-thinking approach that will carry our industry into the future.



L-R Colton Green, Matt Townson, Dr. Gray Turnage



The **President's Award**, given at the discretion of the Society President, was presented to **Derek Smith** and **Adam Charlton** in recognition of their outstanding contributions and commitment to advancing the mission of MSAPMS. Their efforts have had a meaningful impact on both the Society and the broader aquatic plant management community.

L-R Derek Johnson, Adam Charlton, Dr. Gray Turnage

## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

The future of aquatic plant management was well represented at this year's conference, as students from across the region joined us to learn, present, and connect with professionals in the field. Their curiosity, research, and willingness to engage in meaningful discussions brought fresh energy to every session they attended. Investing in students isn't just tradition at MSAPMS — it's a commitment to the continued strength and evolution of our profession. This year's students were:

Patrick Belk - University of Florida  
 Brittany Chesser - Texas A&M University  
 Anthony Dues - Florida Gulf Coast University  
 Nick Engle-Wrye - Mississippi State University  
 Maxwell Gebhart - Mississippi State University  
 Amber Riner - University of Florida  
 Bhupinder Singh - University of Houston  
 Corrina Vuillequez - University of Florida  
 Damar Wilson - Prairie View A&M University



L-R Damar Wilson accepting a scholarship award from TAPMS President Weston Jordan



Front Row L-R: Amber Riner, Corrina Vuillequez  
 Middle Row: Damar Wilson, Max Gebhart, Nick Engle-Wrye, Dr. Gray Turnage  
 Back Row: Anthony Dues, Patrick Belk, Bhupinder Singh

We are proud of the students who chose to spend their time growing with us, and we are equally grateful to the members who took time to mentor, encourage, and support them. Today's students are tomorrow's industry leaders, researchers, and decision-makers. If this year's participation is any indication, the future of aquatic plant management is in capable hands.

# CONFERENCE PAPRAZZI



## Board of Directors Update

The MidSouth APMS is pleased to announce the newly elected board for 2026. Our board will guide the society's activities, conferences, and outreach for the coming year. Officer and Director position are listed on the next page.

We would like to thank Dr. John Madsen for his long-time service on the board, as well as Daniel Hill, cycling off the board from Past President. Their consistent, unwavering dedication to the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society, tirelessly devoting their time and expertise, has been invaluable to the advancement of aquatic plant management.

We are also excited to welcome Brittany Chesser and Cody Bragg to the board and look forward to the energy, ideas, and leadership they will bring to MSAPMS.



Receiving their Board service awards from President Gray Turnage (top to bottom, left to right) are Matt Townson, Adam Charlton, Dr. John Madsen & Matt Horton

# The 2025-2026 MSAPMS Board of Directors

## **President**

Stephen Turner  
TVA

## **Editor**

Cody Bragg  
Aquatic Control Inc.

## **President Elect**

Adam Charlton  
Aquatic Control Inc.

## **Director**

Wykle Green  
The Orion Companies

## **Past President**

Dr. Gray Turnage  
Mississippi State University

## **Director**

Matt Horton  
Arkansas Game & Fish

## **Secretary**

Matt Townson  
Aqua Services,  
a Jones Fish company

## **Director**

Tim McLean  
Alabama Power

## **Treasurer**

Derek Smith  
Aqua Services,  
a Jones Fish company

## **Director**

Brittany Chesser  
Texas A&M University

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# LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 ANNUAL MEETING IN BATON ROUGE BAYOUS, BASINS & BALANCE

Mark your calendars for **October 26–29, 2026**, for the 44th Annual MidSouth APMS Meeting at the **Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center**, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The **Call for Papers is now open**, inviting researchers, students, applicators, regulatory professionals, and other resource managers to share innovative projects and findings in aquatic and wetland plant management. Presentation topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Innovative control measures
- Restoration and re-vegetation projects
- Emerging exotic plant introductions
- Stakeholder engagement strategies
- Research projects, policy updates, and technology applications

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from regional experts, network with peers, and help shape the future of aquatic plant management. Submit your abstract today and plan to join us in Baton Rouge!

Get all the details at

[www.msapms.org/annual-conference/](http://www.msapms.org/annual-conference/)



## *2026 Board Nominees*

### President-elect

Tim McLean

### Directors

Maxwell Gebhart - MS State

Mike Pursley - MDMR

Joey Kauppi - Aquatic Control, Inc.

(Joey will fill the final year of Tim's Director term)



The passing of the gavel from Dr. Gray Turnage to incoming President Stephen Turner.

# 45th Annual Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Conference



October 26-29, 2026

*Kicks off Monday evening with a President's reception*

*Sessions begin at 8 AM CT on Tuesday Oct 27th*

Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center

Baton Rouge, LA

Visit our conference pages for details

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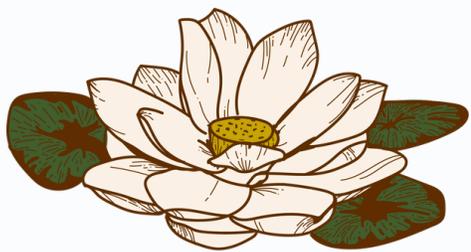
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Stayed Tuned!

## TVA/MidSouth APMS Summer Workshop

August 3 & 4, 2026

### Now Seeking Sponsors

MSAPMS is hosting a 2-day Aquatic Plant Management Workshop for field biologists, technicians, and resource managers across the region.

**Our goal is to raise \$25,000+** to offset costs so attendees and invited experts can participate at little or no cost.

### Sponsorship Levels

Hydrilla (<\$1,500)

Hyacinth (\$1,500-\$3,000)

Lotus (\$3,000-\$5,000)

Naiad (>\$5,000)

*Support workforce development.*

*Strengthen the APM network.*

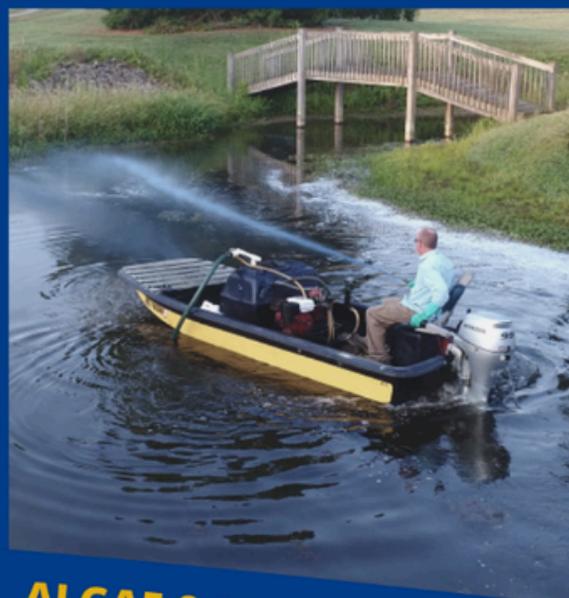
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MSAPMS and TAPMS



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