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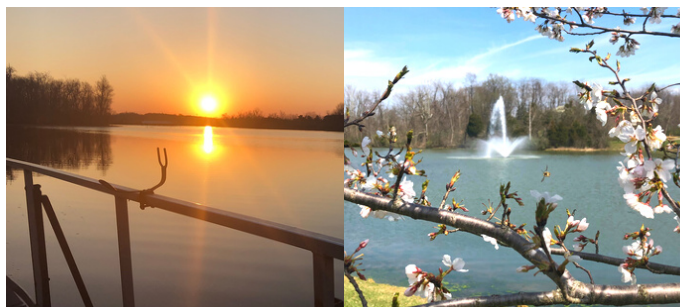
THE LOTUS

Midsouth Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter



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CONFERENCE RECAP



DEL'AVANT EVENT CENTER LAGRANGE, GA

We had 75 registrations and attendees. We had 23 presentations, including 6 student presentations, and an interactive panel discussion of industry experts. Much was learned and many ideas and information were exchanged among our attendees both during the presentations and during the social events.



We hosted our 42nd annual conference at the Del'Avant Event Center in downtown LaGrange, Georgia. The venue was amazing with lots of southern charm and history to the building. This conference was a little different from past ones in that our hotel, event center, and president's reception were all at separate buildings throughout the city, which forced us to walk around and take in the city. It was a great time!



THE MISSION OF THE MIDSOUTH AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY IS TO PROVIDE A COMMON FORUM IN WHICH TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF AQUATIC PLANTS



Since 1982
We've been bringing people together to learn and share ideas

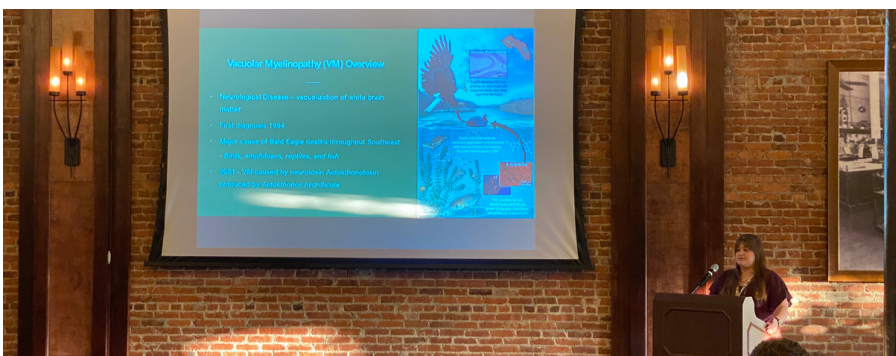


Since 1982

We held our first annual conference in 1982 and we are continuing on our mission by completing our objectives:

- Assist in promoting the management of nuisance aquatic plants
- Provide for the scientific advancement of members of the Society
- Encourage scientific research
- Promote university scholarships and other educational assistance
- Develop and extend public interest in aquatic plant sciences





Many new friendships were made and many laughs were shared.





Special thanks to Whitney DellaTorre for her exceptional work in planning and coordinating this event





We had amazing raffle prizes and even gave away a shotgun!



Board of Directors Update

Page 7

Your new MSAPMS BOD is:

President

Daniel Hill
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries

Editor

Adam Charlton
Aquatic Control Inc.

President Elect

Gray Turnage
Mississippi State University

Director

Dean Jones
UPL

Past President

Carl Della Torre
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MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

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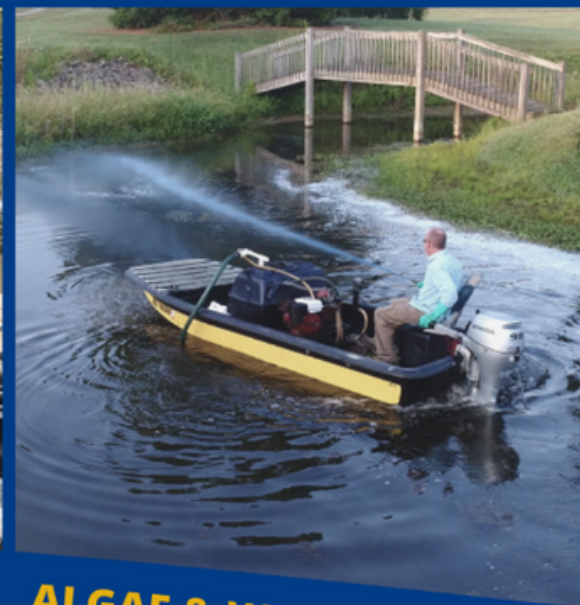
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2023

Conference Awards



JJ Ferris (right) recognized for his service as past-President of MSAPMS.



Tim McClean (right) recognized for his service as Director.

2023

Conference Awards



Harry Knight (right) recognized for his service as Director.

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2023

Conference Awards



Dr. Gray Turnage (right) recognized for his service as Secretary.



Alyssa Anderson (left) was awarded the 2023 Student Scholarship award.

2023

Conference Awards



Dr. John Madsen (center) awarded the Honorary Member award.



Alyssa Anderson (third from left) awarded the 2023 student scholarship award. Other student scholarship award recipients included: Sam Schmid (fourth from left), Seth McWhorter (fifth from left), Tobias Haymes (third from right), Erika Klar (second from right), and Jamie Ryann Heninger (right).

2023

Conference Awards



Daniel Hill (right) awarded the President's Award.

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43rd Annual Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Conference

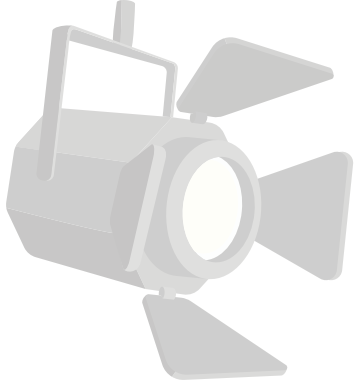


Chattanooga, TN

October 2024

Details to come soon

<https://www.msapms.org/>



Tobias Haymes

School: University of Georgia

Research:

Aetokthonotoxin in Florida Panthers and Bobcats with a Possible Connection to Feline Leukomyelopathy.

Feline leukomyelopathy (FLM) is a neurological disorder affecting Florida panthers (*Puma concolor coryi*) and bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) throughout their range in southwest Florida. The condition is characterized by ataxia and hind-limb paresis and confirmed through histologic observation of distinct symmetrical vacuolization throughout the spinal cord. In searching for a cause of FLM, the recently characterized cyanobacterial neurotoxin Aetokthonotoxin (AETX) was tested in the muscle and liver tissue of both panthers and bobcats. AETX is produced in the environment by the epiphytic cyanobacteria *Aetokthonos hydrillicola*, which is strongly associated with the presence of the invasive aquatic macrophyte *Hydrilla verticillata*. A blind case-control design was used to determine any connection between FLM and the presence of AETX in tissues. Further analysis of the current results is underway and continued investigation is warranted.

Hometown: Tucker, GA

Hobbies: Playing drums

Career goals: Wildlife Health Specialist

Favorite food: Tacos



Thank you , Tobias, for
presenting your research at
the annul conference!

Thank you to our sponsors!

