

MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society

Newsletter

Volume 27 Number 3

October 2009

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Presidential Address

MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society 28th Annual Conference, September 16, 2009. Lake Guntersville State Park, Alabama

Welcome to the 28th annual meeting of the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society. Jason Carlee has done an excellent job putting together a program that should both entertain and educate you over the next two days.

I have been privileged to serve as the president of MidSouth APMS during the past year, and work with a talented and dedicated group of professionals on the board of directors. I want to thank them for their hard work during the past year.

For a few moments this morning, I am going to review what MidSouth APMS has done over the past year, and suggest some issues we will need to address over the coming years.

Our society has two new mechanisms for access. Our board voted to establish a permanent post office box, rather than change the mailing address every few years. Our board also voted to move the webpage from its previous home at Auburn University, to a new home at Mississippi State University. With that change, our web committee chair, Ryan Wersal, has worked with the MSU High Performance Computer Collaboratory Publishing Staff to completely redesign our webpage. If you have not seen the new webpage, please visit it soon at www.msapms.org. We envision more content to this page, including fact sheets on significant pests in the MidSouth and how to best manage them.

Speaking of Ryan Wersal, he has done an outstanding job as newsletter editor. Newsletter sponsorship and advertising revenue have increased substantially, and content is consistently interesting and current. I applaud Ryan in these efforts, as well as those of our other hardworking officers and board members. The four most difficult jobs are President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor; and all four have done exceptional work.

The Board of Directors has made extensive use of e-voting in the past year, resolving nine issues by electronic voting. The board requested that I write letters to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa Jackson, and the U.S. Attorney General, Eric Holder, regarding the issue of whether legally-applied pesticides are pollutants under the Clean Water Act. These letters were sent out in late March 2009. Sadly, the U.S. EPA decided not to side with pesticide applicators in this issue, but rather apply for a time extension to develop a new program on the issue. Given the trend in the current administration, our society must continue to be active in responding to issues affecting aquatic plant management.

Our board has also been supportive of other groups with similar goals. We have voted to support the Southeast Herbicide Applicators Conference, or SEHAC, as a general sponsor.

Lastly, our board has sponsored the first aquatic plant management workshop in association with the MidSouth APMS annual meeting. This workshop is an opportunity for professionals to receive more information on aquatic plant management, and gain more continuing education credits. Twenty-five applicators attended the four-hour session yesterday. I hope to see this become a regular feature of our annual meeting.

So, what are the challenges for the future? To this point, aquatic plant management in the MidSouth has had little in the way of intrusive regulations. So long as the applicator abided by state and federal law regarding pesticide safe handling and application, as embodied in FIFRA, there is little in the way of additional regulatory burden. The good folks of the South, used to the idea of pesticides for agriculture, have raised few objections to the use of herbicides to control aquatic plants. In other parts of the country, state regulation or the arbitrary decision of a federal district court judge have created a vast network of rules and restrictions that unnecessarily burden aquatic plant managers. States have restricted or reduced the products available for use based on the groundless “concerns” of environmental activists, without the support of scientific fact. Many states require site-by-site permitting of aquatic plant management, often accompanied by a whole-lake aquatic plant management plan paid for by the property owner or sponsor of management. They have further restricted the spatial extent of management, with the thought that removing too many plants will harm fish habitat.

While I applaud the concern for the environment, most of these steps do little to improve environmental quality. In fact, invasive plants are the problem. Invasive plants are the second leading cause of species extinction, while pesticides are no longer a significant threat to the environment or to species extinction. Some environmentalists, in a misguided effort to protect the environment, are focusing on the wrong issues.

Several bills under consideration by the current congress will dramatically alter the way we do business, the way we manage aquatic plants. If enacted, these bills will either dramatically increase the cost of managing plants, or prevent us from using some tools entirely. If you as an individual want to continue your business the way it has been done, then you will need to become politically active and let your voice be heard. Use MidSouth APMS, AERF, and RISE as avenues for finding out about issues, and responding accordingly. Write your state and federal legislators, and let them know what you think about the ‘Californication’ of our environmental laws.

We all want clean water and an environment free from nuisance weeds or algae – and the best route to achieve that is to let the best available science inform our decisions on acceptable management, as opposed to vague concerns that have no factual basis.

As if the legislative and regulatory challenges were not enough, the economy is also a significant challenge. While some individuals will always have resources with which to manage plants, my concern is that tightening budgets will affect state and federal agency resources. State budgets are more restricted than at any

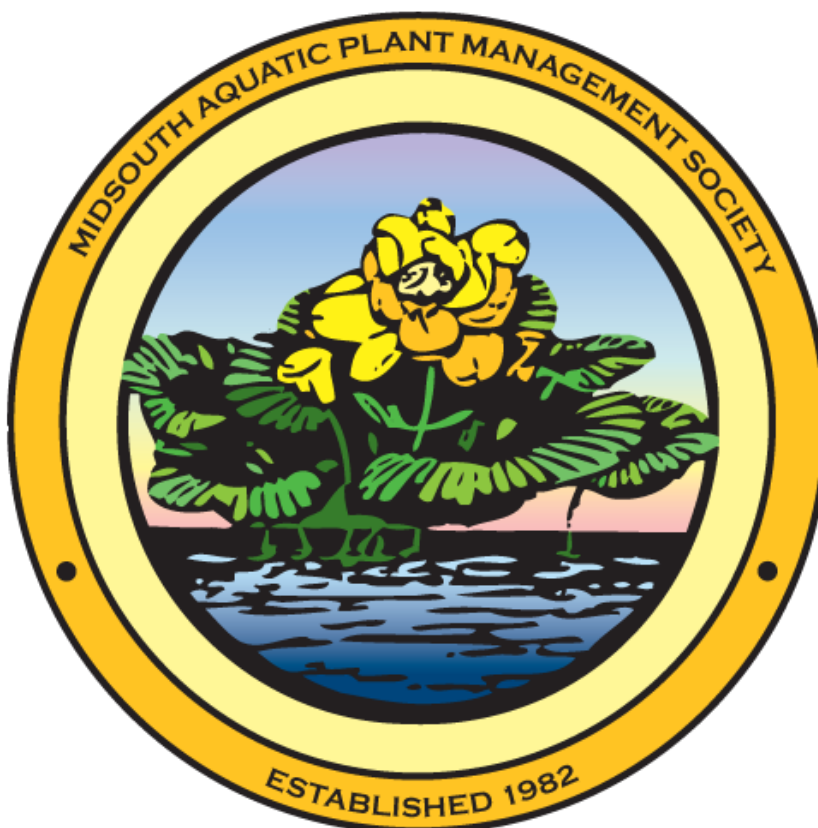
time in the past generation; state legislators and executives are looking for programs to cut. Continued vigilance will be required to protect funding for aquatic plant management activities and positions, for extension and research positions at Universities, and for natural resource agency positions. While the federal government seems to be spending without regard to budgets at the current time, in the near future expenditures must be controlled to avoid serious consequences. We will have to be vigilant to protect funding for federal agencies like the US Army Corps of Engineers and US Department of Agriculture.

Locally, regionally, and nationally, the aquatic plant management community will have to get organized to protect our industry, our societies, and our natural resources.

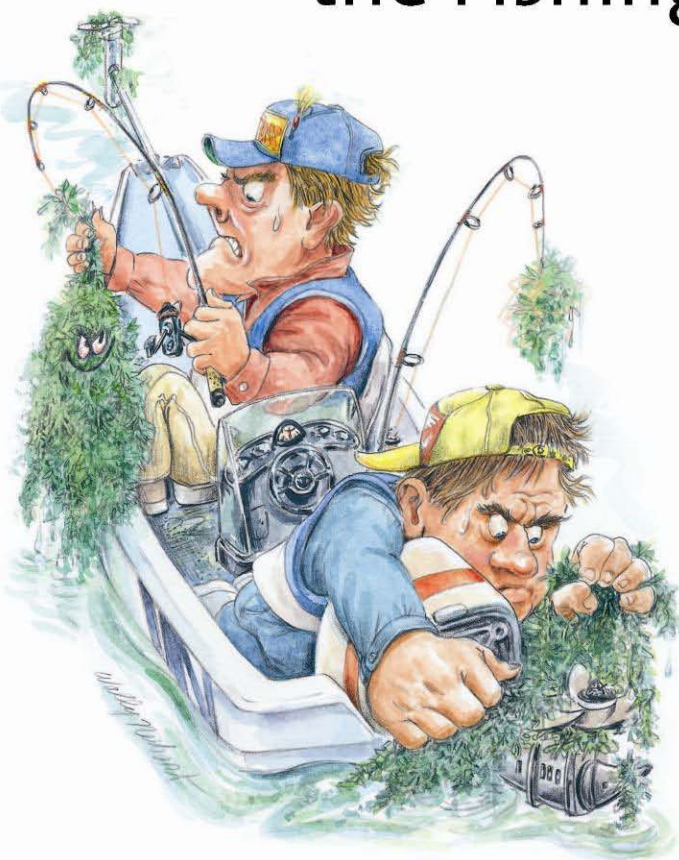
Lest I forget, the weeds themselves have not been idle. We face new pests that will further challenge our management abilities. While open trade has arguably been good for the economy, it has also been the avenue for the transfer of new pest problems. Also, with the advent of new herbicide tools approved by the US EPA, we have to learn the uses of many new pesticides for aquatic plant management, and learn how to best steward these tools to prevent the herbicide resistance. While academia and industry can help with education on these topics, being a knowledgeable practitioner is a personal responsibility that all of us must take seriously. Private and public managers alike will need to be aware of the pests around them, to successfully prevent the spread of these new problems. Each applicator, natural resource agency representative, and member can contribute to the early detection and rapid response of invasive plants through using tools like the Invasive Plant Atlas of the MidSouth, or contacting the appropriate agency.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your president this past year.

John D. Madsen, Mississippi State University, Geosystems Research Institute



Too Many Weeds Spoil the Fishing



Exotic invasive aquatic plants such as Hydrilla, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curlyleaf Pondweed, Water Chestnut and Water Hyacinth can be detrimental to a healthy fishery in lakes across the country.

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**Minutes from the MidSouth Aquatic
Plant Management Society Annual
Business Meeting
Guntersville, State Park
Guntersville, Alabama
September 16, 2009**

The Business meeting was called to order by President John Madsen at 4:40 p.m.

Secretary Sherry Whitaker presented the minutes of the last Annual Meeting. A motion was made by Craig Aguillard to accept the minutes as written. Harry Knight seconded and voice vote was made by all to accept.

Officer Reports

President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report:

Sherry Whitaker reported that there were 77 registered for the meeting.

There are currently 19 sustaining members, 64 individual members and 8 honorary members. Since membership dues are included in the delegate registration, Sherry will be sending out letters to those members who did not attend. This will allow them to keep their membership up-to-date.

Sherry asked that each member make sure that they provide the most up-to-date e-mail addresses to insure they receive all MidSouth correspondence.

Sherry stated that the program agenda was sent to surrounding states for consideration for Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) or re-certification points toward the Aquatic Pesticide Applicator Permit. Those members that have a permit and want to register should do so for their particular state at the registration desk

Treasurer's Report:

Judy Shearer reported that the books were audited by Harry Knight and Neal Coulter and the books were found to be in order.

Judy reported that the MSAPMS currently has the following accounts and balances:

Operational Account - \$27327.14
Student Scholarship - \$14713.03
Student Scholarship CD - \$30495.32

Approximately \$1980.00 was taken in at the meeting from registrations. For the Student Scholarship approximately \$610.00 has been collected so far.

Editor's Report:

Ryan Wersal stated that we currently have 19 sustaining members. If you want to become a sustaining member, please contact Ryan.

The first year of including advertisements in the newsletter is coming to an end and it went very well. Payment of ad space was included on the registration form for this year's meeting. Ryan will be sending out letters in November to solicit ad space for the coming year.

Due to the meeting being held in September this year, the next newsletter will be sent out in October.

A motion was made by Greg Wall to accept the officer reports, Neal Coulter seconded, voice vote by all to accept.

Committee Reports

Program Committee:

Jason Carlee thanked everyone for coming and stated that he hoped everyone was enjoying the meeting. He thanked all Sponsors for their donations that totaled \$11,000.00. He also noted that any complaints should be addressed to the next president-elect.

Editorial Committee: No Report.

Internal Audit Committee: No report.

By-laws Committee:

An e-mail was distributed about a by-laws change.

Currently, the by-laws state:

"Section I. Term of Office. The President, President Elect, and Immediate Past President serve for one (1) year in those capacities and may not succeed themselves. The Secretary and Treasurer, elected annually, may serve up to three (3) consecutive years. The Editor, elected annually, may serve for two (2) consecutive years. Two (2) directors shall be elected each year for a two (2) year term of office, and may be elected for a consecutive term, but then must relinquish said office of Director for a like period of time equal to their term of office. Officers and Directors elected at any annual meeting shall begin their duties at the close of said meeting."

We propose to change the By-Laws to read:

"Section I. Term of Office. The President, President Elect, and Immediate Past President serve for one (1) year in those capacities and may not succeed themselves. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor, elected annually, may be elected to six consecutive annual terms. Two (2) directors shall be elected each year for a two (2) year term of office, and may be elected for a consecutive term, but then must relinquish said office of Director for a like period of time equal to their term of office. Officers and Directors elected at any annual meeting shall begin their duties at the close of said meeting."

In other words, these three offices (Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor) may serve six years, but must be re-elected each year.

The By-laws change passed unanimously.

Scholarship Committee:

There were 3 applicants this year. Five people were on the committee that judged. The winner will be announced at the awards banquet. Need to solicit for more interest in the scholarship.

Membership Committee: No report.

Nomination Committee Report:

A slate of officers has been created and voted on by the Board. This slate will be presented and discussed during New Business.

Website Committee Report:

The Website hosting has been moved and is now being hosted by Mississippi State University's Geosystems Research Institute. The committee is trying to get copies of past newsletters and abstracts for inclusion. Please send any old copies you may have to Ryan Wersal.

Terry Goldsby made a motion to accept the committee reports, Greg Wall seconded, voice vote by all to accept.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Election of new officers and directors:

The following slate was proposed:

Pres-Elect – Harry Knight
Secretary – Sherry Whitaker (3rd term)
Treasurer – Judy Shearer (2nd term)
Editor – Ryan Wersal (3rd term)
Director – Craig Aguillard (1 yr term)
Director – Troy Goldsby
Director – Tom Broadwell

The floor was opened for additional nominations. None were presented for consideration. A motion was made by Terry Goldsby to close nominations and accept the nominations as presented and Bob Blackburn seconded. The motion was accepted by a unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Troy Goldsby to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Greg Wall, and the motion was unanimous.

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2009 Annual Meeting Members and Events



1st Annual MSAPMS Workshop



Past Presidents



Presidential Address



Student Involvement

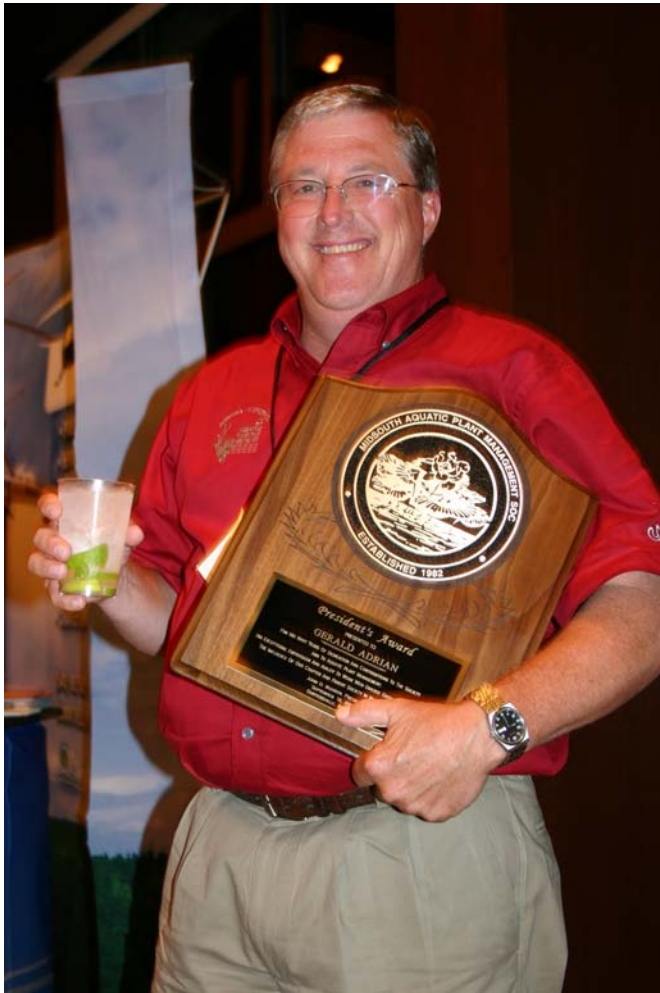


Keynote Speaker: Jim Skillen, RISE



Michael Cox: 2009 Scholarship Recipient

**2009 President's Award Recipient
Gerald Adrian**



**The Passing of the "Hand Shake" New
President Jason Carlee**



John Madsen: Is Officially the Past President



**Neal Coulter and Bryan Goldsby being
recognized for their service on the MSAPMS
board of directors**



**Entertainment by Troy Goldsby and Country
Music Stars Walt Aldridge and Donny Lowery**

2010 MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society Scholarship Opportunity

The MSAPMS is seeking applications for the 2010 graduate student scholarship to be awarded at the 29th annual meeting at a place to be determined. One scholarship of \$2,000 will be awarded to a qualified student applicant.

To apply, The Scholarship Committee should receive the following information on or before June 1, 2010:

1. A cover letter which includes the applicant's previous, current, and future relationship to the aquatic plant management industry, and a comment on the importance of their proposed research to aquatic plant management.
2. Copies of official transcripts of undergraduate and any graduate work completed to date;
3. A letter from the student's major professor recommending the student for the scholarship, indicating that the student is currently enrolled and in good standing and has had their research proposal approved by their graduate advisory committee;
4. A copy of the approved research proposal; and
5. Two letters or recommendation (other than the major professor)

To enter an application or request more information, contact:

Dr. John D. Madsen
Mississippi State University
Geosystems Research Institute
Box 9652
Mississippi State, MS 39762-9652
Ph. 662-325-2428
E-mail. jmadsen@gri.msstate.edu

Graduate Student Opportunity

The MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society invites all graduate students to attend the annual meetings. The location and dates are decided each spring for the following fall, and a call for papers is released in the spring. Students that contribute an oral presentation will receive free lodging (shared with another student), free conference registration, and a check for \$100. Students should contact the current President-Elect and Program Chair to enroll in this opportunity. Watch for the Call for Papers and newsletters coming out during the spring, which will include details of this opportunity.

All other students attending the conference will receive a reduced registration rate that will include society membership.

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Biology and Control of Aquatic Plants

A Best Management Practices Handbook
Lyn A. Gettys, William T. Haller and Marc
Bellaud, editors

Biology and Control of Aquatic Plants: A Best Management Practices Handbook is the second edition of a handbook produced by the not for profit Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF). The mission of the AERF is to support research and development which provides strategies and techniques for the environmentally and scientifically sound management, conservation and restoration of aquatic ecosystems. One way the Foundation accomplishes this mission is by producing this handbook to provide information to the public regarding the benefits of aquatic ecosystem conservation and aquatic plant management. The first edition of this handbook became one of the most widely consulted references in the aquatic plant management community. This second edition has been specifically designed with water resource managers, water management associations, homeowners and customers and operators of aquatic plant management companies and districts in mind. Our goal in preparing this handbook is to provide basic, scientifically sound information to assist decision makers with their water management questions.

A PDF version of this book is available on the AERF website (www.aquatics.org/bmp.htm), or hard copies can be ordered from Carlton Layne, Executive Director.



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Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society Meeting Announcement

Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society (MAPMS) Board of Directors would like to announce the Date and Location of the 2010 MAPMS Annual Conference. The conference will be held February 28 – March 2, 2010 at the Indianapolis Marriott North, Indianapolis, IN. Please include the Conference dates in any future announcements, newsletters, or other publications you distribute to your members. For more information on the 2010 conference, or the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society membership, please visit our website at www.mapms.org.

Thank you to our Sustaining Members for Supporting the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society

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Biofuels: Cultivating Energy, not Invasive Species (White paper)

Approved by the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) on August 11, 2009

Issue

To provide alternatives to petroleum-based energy, the United States (U.S.) government has mandated a greater proportion of plant-based biofuels be integrated into its energy portfolio. However, **certain plant species being proposed for biofuel production in the U.S. are invasive species or are likely to escape cultivation and become invasive.**

U.S. Executive Order (E.O.) 131121 defines invasive species as “alien [non-native] species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health” and states:

“Each Federal agency whose actions may affect the status of invasive species shall, to the extent practicable and permitted by law” “not authorize, fund, or carry out actions that it believes are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States or elsewhere unless, pursuant to guidelines that it has prescribed, the agency has determined and made public its determination that the benefits of such actions clearly outweigh the potential harm caused by invasive species; and that all feasible and prudent measures to minimize risk of harm will be taken in conjunction with the actions.”

The socio-economic and ecological costs of certain biofuel crops could greatly exceed their benefits. Thus, the Federal government needs to take strategic action to avoid inadvertently facilitating the introduction and spread of invasive species through its development, encouragement, funding, or other support of biofuels programs.


For more information on this white paper go to:
http://www.invasivespecies.gov/home_documents/BiofuelWhitePaper.pdf



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**January Newsletter Deadline
December 15, 2009**

**Send Newsletter Items to:
Ryan Wersal
rwersal@gri.msstate.edu**

**Visit the MSAPMS Website: www.msapms.org
The membership list can be viewed by using:**

User Name: msapms Password: lilypad

Calendar of Events

October 27-31, 2009

29th Annual International Symposium, North American
Lake Management Society (NALMS); Hartford, CT
<http://www.nalms.org/nalmsnew/>

November 2-4, 2009

Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society (TAPMS)
Annual Meeting; Bandera, TX
<http://www.tapms.org/>

January 18-20, 2010

11th Annual Northeast Aquatic Plant Management
Society (NEAPMS) Conference; Saratoga Springs, NY
<http://www.neapms.net/>

February 7-11, 2010

2010 Annual Meeting, Weed Science Society of
America, (WSSA); Denver, CO
<http://www.wssa.net/Meetings/WSSAAnnual/Info.htm>

February 28-March 2, 2010

2010 Conference, Midwest Aquatic Plant Management
Society, (MAPMS); Indianapolis, IN
<http://www.mapms.org/>

March 28-31, 2010

Western Aquatic Plant Management Society 2010
Conference; Seattle, WA
http://www.wapms.org/wapms_conference.htm

MidSouth APMS Newsletter

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