

Midsouth Aquatic Plant Management Society

Newsletter

Volume 30 Number 2

May 2012

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Message from the President

Dear MidSouth APMS Members,

Here we are rolling through spring with what seems like a faster pace than ever before. I hope all of you are doing well and are staying busy, I know that we are. As I mentioned in my last article, it appears, at least for many of the states in which we work, that the burden of permitting will be a light one. The transition has been smooth and the cooperation from all involved has been very good. Cooperation and easy transitions are always welcome in my book.

The MSAPMS annual conference is fast approaching, and the dates have been moved to September to prevent overlapping with other meetings. Our conference will begin with the reception on September 17th and end with the banquet on September 19th. The meeting is at one of my favorite venues, the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, AL. If you will recall, we held the meeting at this location several years ago, and it is a beautiful site with a great staff. I am anticipating a great conference and look forward to visiting with you in a very short 4.5 months.

For all of you students and potential speakers please don't be the procrastinator that I am. Ryan can affirm that I tend to be one when it comes to writing articles. Get your papers and presentations in as soon as possible and make Gerald's life a little easier. The sooner you submit, the sooner we will have a finalized agenda. We are looking forward to a great slate of presentations this year with a number of new updates, formulations, and combinations. If there is anything that I can do to assist any of you please let me know.

Once again, I must thank the entire board for all of their help. I certainly have trouble keeping up and they constantly keep me in line with what I am supposed to be doing. Whenever you get a chance, give the board members a "thank you", especially those that have worked for the betterment of the society for years. As I mentioned before, Sherry Whittaker and Ryan Wersal do an unbelievable job and have for years.

Being the on the board, president-elect, and now president of the MSAPMS has been a blessing for me and a great experience. I can't thank you all enough for affording me this opportunity and for allowing me to represent the society. I look forward to seeing you all very soon and hopefully seeing some new faces and getting to meet some new folks that love aquatics as much as me. I hope you all have a great summer and thanks again.

Troy L. Goldsby

President - MSAPMS

**The 31st Annual Meeting of the MidSouth
Aquatic Plant Management Society September
17-19, 2012**



The meeting will be held at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Alabama. Reservations for hotel accommodations at

the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel must be made before August 20, 2012 by calling **1-800-922-3298**. When making your reservations please request the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society room block. Hotel information can be found online at:

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mobrv-renaissance-mobile-riverview-plaza-hotel.

Our special guest room rate is \$109.00 single or double occupancy per night plus applicable tax. All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card or accompanied by a first night room deposit. Cancellation of reservations must be made at least 72 hours prior to arrival date. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and check-out time is 12:00 p.m.

Meeting registration can be found online at www.msapms.org. Click on the Annual Conference button, fill out the registration form, and email to Sherry Whitaker. An exceptional venue and a variety of things to do will make this a memorable meeting, so plan to attend.

MSAPMS Now Accepting Credit Cards

Starting in August 2012, the MSAPMS will now be able to accept credit cards (VISA, Master Card, and American Express) for payment of meeting registration, annual dues, sponsorship, advertisements, etc. The Board of Directors voted to open a seasonal account that will be open from August 1 thru November 30 of each year. This will make the process for registration and payment on-site at the annual meeting much easier. Included on this year's registration form is a section for credit card information. This will allow you to fax or email your registration form. Please visit the website at www.msapms.org and click on the annual meeting button and select meeting registration, fill out the online form and email to Sherry Whitaker at: Sherry.L.Whitaker@erdc.dren.mil.

Proposed Changes to By-Laws

Current By-Laws 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.

Proposed Change Will Read:

Section I. Term of Office. The President, President Elect, and Immediate Past President serve for one year in those capacities and may not succeed themselves. ***The Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor, offices do not have term limits, but must be elected annually by the membership.*** 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.



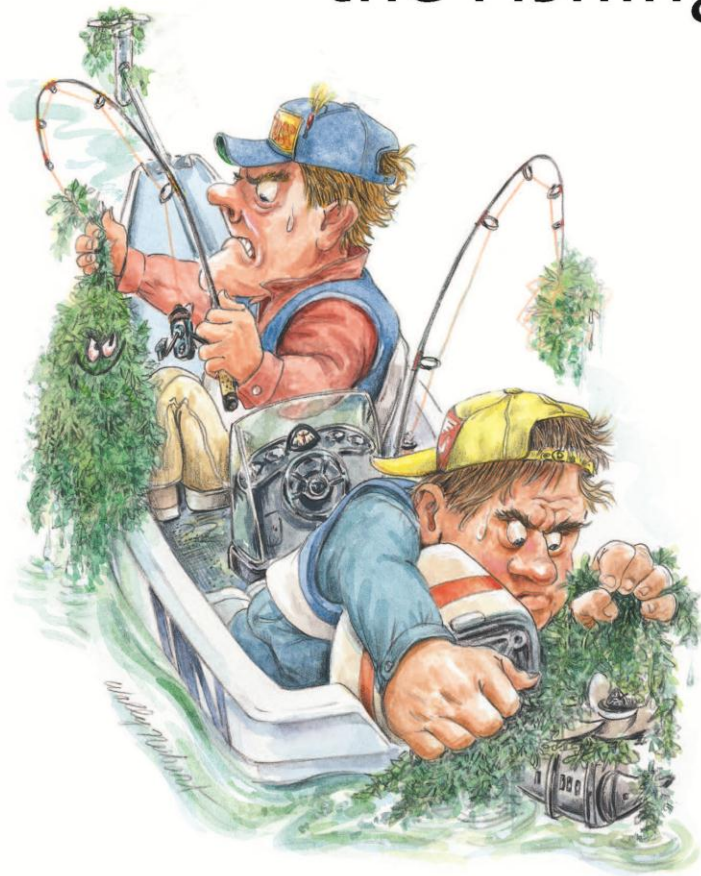
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2013 MSAPMS Board of Director Nominations

Sherry Whitaker – President-Elect

Cliff Young – Secretary

Craig Aguillard - Treasurer

Ryan Wersal - Editor

Josh Yerby - Director 2 yr

Melissa Barron - Director 2 yr

Harvey Hawkins - Director 1 yr fulfilling term of Cliff Young

2012 MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society Scholarship Opportunity

The MSAPMS is seeking applications for the 2012 graduate student scholarship to be awarded at the 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, 2012:

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 unofficial or official transcripts of undergraduate and any graduate work completed to date (these transcripts may be those issued directly to the student by the institution);
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;

MSAPMS Board of Directors will hold their next board meeting at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, Mobile, AL on September 17, 2012

4. A copy of the approved graduate research proposal; and

5. One letter of recommendation, other than the major professor.

All submissions may be made with either hardcopy, addressed as below, or electronically via e-mail.

To enter an application or request more information, contact:

Dr. John D. Madsen
Mississippi State University
Geosystems Research Institute
Box 9627
Mississippi State, MS 39762-9627
Ph. 662-325-2428
E-mail. jmadsen@gri.msstate.edu

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**MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management
Society 31st Annual Conference
Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel,
Mobile, AL
September 17th-19th, 2012
*Second Call for Papers***

Oral presentations will be 15 minutes, including questions. Presentations are encouraged on all aspects of aquatic and wetland plant management, biology, and ecology. Presenters are requested to register for the conference.

Please e-mail the Title Form, attached below, and a brief abstract (250 words or less) by July 31, 2012:

Gerald Adrian
United Phosphorus Inc.
gerald.adrian@uniphos.com

A computer and projector to handle Power Point presentations will be provided. No other presentation format will be supported. Please bring your presentation on a USB compatible flash or CD.

Title Form

Title: _____

Corresponding Author: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY. MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND, PRESENT, AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS
CONFERENCE. INVITE THOSE YOU ASSOCIATE WITH TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT AS WELL!

Editorial Guidelines

The MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society

Font: Times New Roman, size 12

Title: Bold, upper case. Align Left. End with period.

Author: Name follows Title, sentence case. Underline name of presenting author. Separate authors with commas. End with semicolon.

Affiliation: Sentence case. Include author's affiliation, address with zip code, e-mail address. If needed, insert semicolon and follow with second author's information. If there are three or more authors, add superscripts for clarity (for example, John Smith¹). Justify.

Body of Abstract: Leave one blank line between title/author/affiliations and the body of the abstract. No indentation; one paragraph only. Justify.

Scientific Names: For plants, animals, and microbes, etc., use the WSSA approved common name followed by the genus and species names in italics, wherever possible (for example, diquat dibromide).

Scientific Units: Use of Metric or English units are acceptable. Use of standard abbreviations is acceptable.

See example below:

LITTORAL ZONE PLANT COMMUNITIES IN THE ROSS BARNETT RESERVOIR, MS.

Wersal, R.M.¹, J.D. Madsen¹ and M.L. Tagert²; ¹GeoResources Institute, Mississippi State University, Box 9652 Mississippi State, MS 39762-9652, rwersal@gri.msstate.edu. ²Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute, Mississippi State University, Box 9680 Mississippi State, MS 39762-9680

The Ross Barnett Reservoir is a 33,000 acre surface water impoundment created on the Pearl River near Jackson, Mississippi. The Reservoir is the primary source of potable water for the city of Jackson. It provides recreational opportunities in the form of fishing, boating, water sports, and onshore camping and hiking. In recent years, non-native aquatic macrophytes have increased in distribution, impeding navigation, fishing, and reduced the aesthetics of waterfront properties. We conducted a whole-lake survey in June 2005 to assess the distribution and abundance of plant communities in the Reservoir to serve as a starting point for a long term management plan. In October 2006 a survey of the littoral zone (water depths of ≤ 10 feet) was conducted based on the points sampled in 2005. A plant rake was deployed at each of 508 points visited. Species presence was mapped using handheld computers outfitted with GPS receivers, and data stored in database templates using Farm Site Mate software. A total of 21 aquatic or riparian plant species were observed growing in or along the shoreline of the littoral zone. American lotus and water primrose were the most common plant species observed in the littoral zone (17.7 % and 7.4% respectively). Non-native plants included alligatorweed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) (3.9%), waterhyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) (2.9%), and hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) (0.6%). Bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*), a native submersed aquatic plant was also observed (0.4%) for the first time. Overall, species occurrence was lower during in 2006 than in 2005.

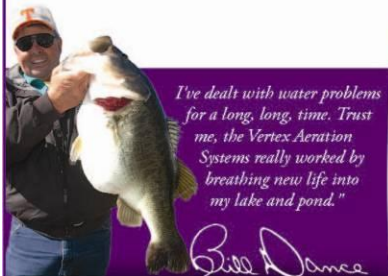
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2011 H₂O Pro™ Aquatic Herbicide Performance Guarantee

QUALIFYING PARTICIPANT: Professional aquatic applicators with total purchases of Qualifying Products during the 2010 Program Period (October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010) of \$7,500 or greater **OR** total purchases of Qualifying Products during the 2011 Program Period of \$7,500 or greater.

QUALIFYING PRODUCTS: All Syngenta Products labeled for aquatic use and purchased from a Syngenta Authorized Distributor/Retailer/Agent, including but not limited to all package sizes of Reward® Landscape and Aquatic Herbicide and Refuge™ Herbicide.

TREAT WITH CONFIDENCE:

During the 2011 Program Period—October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011:

- Apply Qualifying Products at the maximum labeled rate for the treatment area and in accordance with the product label(s). Use Qualifying Products in combination with any approved tank-mix partner in accordance with the label. For your convenience, the tank-mix partners for Reward are listed below.

...AND YOU'RE COVERED:

- If the Qualifying Product does not perform as stated under the Guarantee Terms and Conditions below, Syngenta will share up to 50% of the total cost of the Syngenta Qualifying Product used for retreatment.

GUARANTEE TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The Qualifying Product will control at least 70% of the treated, labeled weed(s) as compared to untreated areas with similar weed infestation, environment, weather, and other conditions.
- Claims must be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of application so that the claim may be verified and evaluated.
- Any claims under the H₂O Pro™ Aquatic Herbicide Performance Guarantee must be received by Syngenta on or before October 30, 2011. Go to www.syngentavm.com to file a claim.
- Only licensed professional aquatic herbicide applicators may participate in the H₂O Pro Aquatic Herbicide Performance Guarantee Program.
- To qualify, Claim Form must be filled out in its entirety.
- Syngenta reserves the right to verify all purchases. Syngenta reserves the right to add or delete Qualifying Products at its discretion.
- Syngenta will reimburse up to 50% of the cost of the Qualifying Product for one (1) retreatment. Claim subject to verification by Syngenta territory manager or other party designated by Syngenta. Reimbursement is at the sole discretion of Syngenta. Cost and reimbursement amount is based on price of the Qualifying Product used at the time of treatment. Syngenta may, at its discretion, reimburse with product or cash.

- Syngenta will not pay for the application or other costs of retreatment. The maximum benefit any individual claimant may receive for the 2011 Program Period is a \$50,000 contribution toward the cost of the retreatment.
- Program benefit is for weed control only; Syngenta will not pay for any other service, product, loss, or damages.
- Surface application of floating weeds (including surface algae) and submersed weeds (excluding submersed algae) on Reward label are covered by the 2011 H₂O Pro Aquatic Herbicide Guarantee.
 - Minimum application rates for Reward are listed in the accompanying chart.
 - For very dense submersed populations of weeds, it is recommended to use Reward in combination with a copper-based aquatic herbicide or an endothal product from the approved tank-mix partner list set forth herein.

PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE RATES FOR REWARD*

Weed species	Gallons per surface acre
Algae (<i>Spirogyra</i> spp. & <i>Pithophora</i> spp.)	2
Bladderwort (<i>Utricularia</i> spp.)	2
Coontail (<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>)	2
Duckweed (<i>Lemna</i> spp.)	1
Elodea (<i>Elodea</i> spp.)	2
Frog's Bit (<i>Limnobium spongia</i>)	.75
Hydrilla (<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>)	2
Naiad (<i>Najas</i> spp.)	2
Pennywort (<i>Hydrocotyle</i> spp.)	.75
Pondweeds (<i>Potamogeton</i> spp.)	2
Salvinia (<i>Salvinia</i> spp.)	.75
Waterhyacinth (<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>)	.75
Waterlettuce (<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>)	.75
Watermilfoils (<i>Myriophyllum</i> spp.)	2

*Always follow product label use directions. The Performance Guarantee is valid only when Reward is applied at the rates identified above.

APPROVED TANK-MIX PARTNERS FOR REWARD**

Clearigate® copper-herbicide/algaeicide	Nautique™ herbicide
K-Tea™ algaeicide	Captain™ algaeicide
Komeen™ herbicide	Aquathol® herbicide
Cutrine®-Plus herbicide/algaeicide	Hydrothol® herbicide

**Other tank-mix combinations must be approved by a Syngenta territory manager prior to use to retain eligibility for the H₂O Pro Aquatic Herbicide Performance Guarantee.

To learn more about the 2011 H₂O Pro Aquatic Herbicide Performance Guarantee, contact Melissa Barron at 407.257.8043 or melissa.barron@syngenta.com.

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Filling in the gaps: call for invasive plant samples from LA, MS, AL

James Herrin, Rebecca Haynie and Susan Wilde

Avian vacuolar myelinopathy (AVM) is a neurological disease affecting waterbirds and avian predators in the southeastern United States. The disease was first documented in 1994 at DeGray Lake, Arkansas. Since then AVM has been confirmed in reservoirs from Texas to North Carolina, and is suspected in the deaths of more than 150 bald eagles and thousands of American coots. The disease is seasonal, with birds displaying clinical signs noted at disease sites in October-December, and most eagle deaths occurring during November-December. Other affected avian species include Canada geese, mallards, ringneck ducks, buffleheads, American widgeons, killdeer, and great horned owls.

Affected birds have difficulty flying, swimming and are uncoordinated on land and in water. Affected coots



Figure 1. Photograph of *Hydrilla verticillata* with spots of Stigonematales colonies on leaves (Left), and of Stigonematales colonies fluorescing under microscope (Right).



Figure 2. Avian vacuolar myelinopathy trophic transfer schematic.

often swim in circles or upside down in the water. Epidemiologic investigations have found no association with known neurotoxins, infectious agents, pesticides, or heavy metals. Research to date indicates that the causative agent is a naturally produced neurotoxin. Previous research has also demonstrated that AVM transmission is dietary. (To see a video of an affected coot and read more about current research, visit our website at <http://www.warnell.uga.edu/swilde/monitoring.php>.)

Our working hypothesis is that the disease agent is an uncharacterized neurotoxin produced by a novel cyanobacterial epiphyte in the order Stigonematales. This species can cover up to 95% of the surface area of submerged aquatic plant leaves (primarily *Hydrilla verticillata*) (Figure1). This species is rare or not found on vegetation collected at sites where AVM has not been observed.

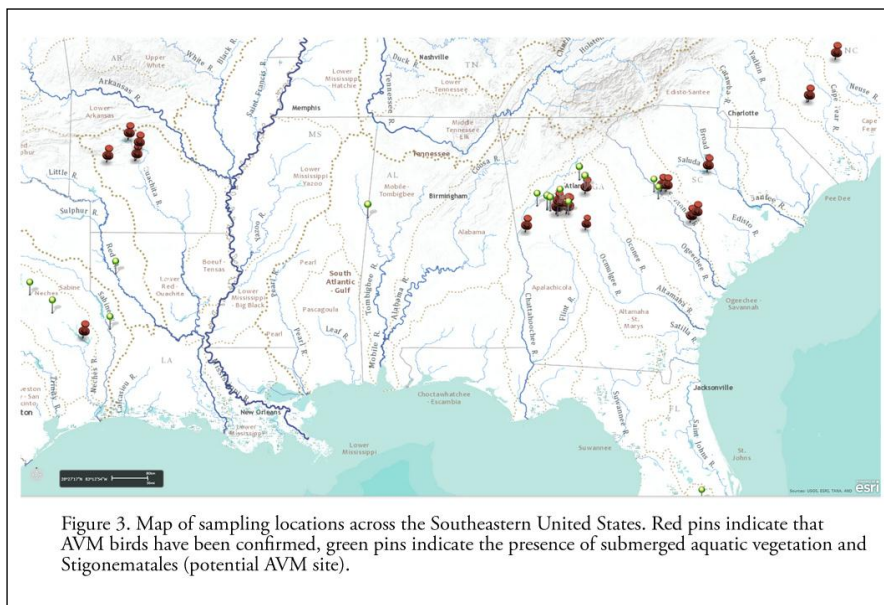
American coots feed primarily on aquatic plants and attached algae,

and thus may be at the greatest risk (among waterbirds) of contracting AVM by ingesting cyanobacteria. Bald eagles and other raptors contract AVM by preying on affected coots (Figure 2).

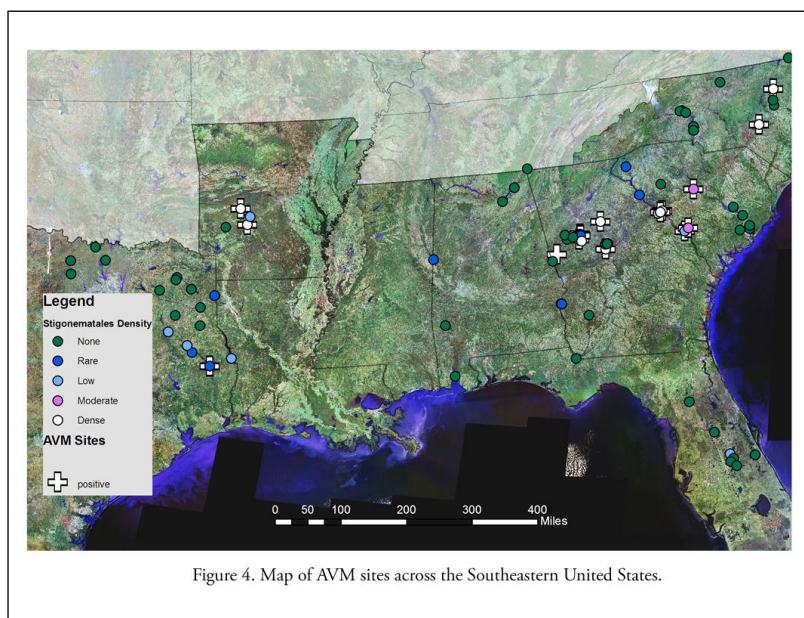
Private and government agencies have assisted with sampling more than 150 Southeastern water bodies since 2002. Aquatic plant samples were screened to evaluate epiphytic algal communities from all known AVM

locations and additional control reservoirs. The suspect cyanobacterium was present in the plant samples from 50 Southeastern waterbodies. Because these water bodies support the suspect cyanobacterium, birds around these reservoirs should be monitored for clinical signs of AVM.

Management strategies are needed to reduce the prevalence of AVM in order to promote continued bald eagle recovery and reduce threats to wild bird health. Controlling nonnative SAV, which provide substrate for the toxin-producing cyanobacterium, may restrict wild avifauna exposure and therefore reduce disease prevalence. Hydrilla, egeria and Eurasian watermilfoil were controlled at sites in South Carolina (grass carp stocking) and Georgia (herbicide application) where birds died from AVM (Figure 3). Since the control of invasive plants in these lakes, no birds affected by AVM have been recovered. Research at the University of Georgia investigating the effects of common aquatic plant management strategies on the AVM prevalence is underway.



With the cooperation of Southeastern aquatic plant managers, we have learned more about the regional distribution of the suspect cyanobacterium (Figure 4). But, we still want to learn more and are very interested in



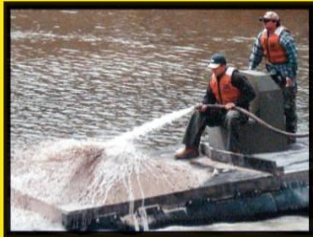
receiving additional samples from Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Continued monitoring and surveillance of previously sampled and other water bodies is necessary to learn more about threats to birds posed by invasive aquatic plants. Please contact Dr. Susan Wilde (information below) about sending plant samples to be screened for the cyanobacterium and the appropriate permits to ship invasive plants. A quart size bag of plant material, primarily leaves, shipped in an insulated container can be used to screen for the presence and abundance of the cyanobacterium. We are also interested in your observations of waterbirds while on the water; please contact us if you see birds having difficulty flying or swimming.

Please help us evaluate more sites by sending us plant samples to screen for the new cyanobacterial species associated with AVM sites. Find our sample collection and shipping protocols at http://www.warnell.uga.edu/swilde/docs/Plant_collection_protocol_2010.pdf.

Contact Information: **Dr. Susan Wilde**, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, 180 E Green Street, Athens, GA 30602-2152, ph. 706.542.3346 swilde@warnell.uga.edu

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NPDES Compliance Information

John Madsen

Spring has come, and it is time to comply with the new NPDES permit requirements. These requirements go beyond simply filing a notice of intent (NOI). The applicator or resource manager has to complete a pesticide discharge management plan (PDMP) and have a method to estimate the nuisance level and evaluate effectiveness.

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF) has several tools available to prepare permit holders to comply with NPDES requirements, available on their webpage at <http://www.aquatics.org>, under the NDPES/PGP tab. First, under the news tab, AERF has provided a template of the Pesticide Discharge Management Plan

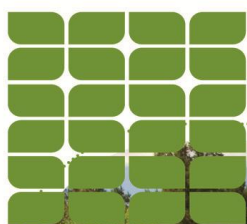
(PDMP) as a fillable PDF form. This seven-page form will help in making sure all the elements of a PDMP are completed. The news section also has a summary of the Pesticide General Permit (PGP) elements. The news tab also has updates on available training resources, such as the EPA web-based permit-writer's training.

Under the state permits tab, links to each states permit and the contact information for a person in charge is available. Lastly, under the State NOI info tab, a state-by-state comparison of threshold levels for the permits is available.

The AERF will also be providing guidance on assessment methods for assessing nuisance plant levels in the near future.

Industry Update: Applied Polymer Systems

Pond Zinger™ works like a magnet, binding together the excess phosphorous in a pond, thereby reducing the algae's food source. Pond Zinger™ can be installed on the steps of a waterfall, beneath a floating fountain, over an aerator in any pond, or with any other mixing or circulation mechanism and, unlike algaecide, no monitoring or testing is required. Pond Zinger™ safely treats ponds between 500 and 12,000 gallons, creating a healthy ecosystem with clean, clear, beautiful water, where aquatic life can thrive. Pond Zinger™ is safe for fish and is the perfect solution for cleaning the backyard pond.



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Advancing the Science of Aquatic Plant Management for 17 Years

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SePRO Corporation remains committed to developing innovative solutions to advance the science of aquatic plant and algae management. Focused research and development initiatives have resulted in several novel treatment solutions including;

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For more information about SePRO products, please contact **Todd Horton, SePRO Aquatic Market Development Manager** at 864-270-5292 or toddh@sepro.com

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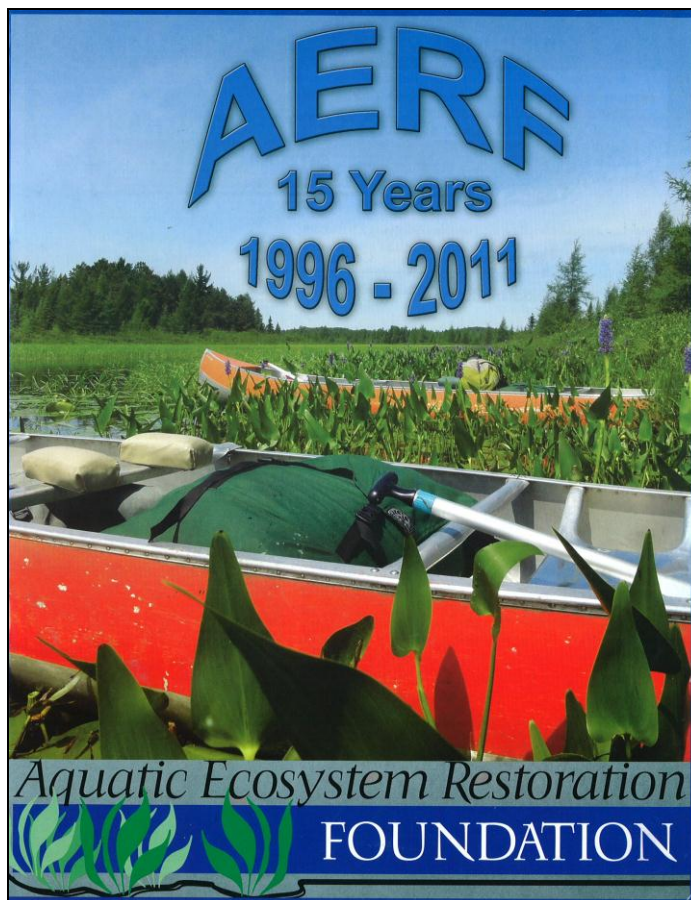
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation Releases 15th Anniversary Magazine

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation recently released their 15th Anniversary publication outlining the beginnings of the Foundation and insights into the future of Aquatic Plant Management.

Also included, are various perspectives from around the country from individuals working academia, government, industry, and regulatory positions.

To read the magazine visit:

http://www.aquatics.org/newsletter/AERF_15yr.pdf.



Website Committee

We are in the process of putting together an archive section on the MSAPMS website containing past issues of the newsletter and abstracts from meetings. If you have old newsletters and/or programs please send them to Ryan Wersal to be scanned into an electronic format for posting to the website.

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Thank You to Our Sustaining Members for Supporting the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society

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Calendar of Events

**9th INTECOL International
Wetlands Conference**
Jun. 3-8, 2012
Orlando, FL
<http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/INTECOL/>

University of Florida Plant Camp
Jun. 17-21, 2012
Gainesville, FL
http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education/plant_camp/

**Aquatic Plant Management Society
52nd Annual Meeting**
Jul. 22-25, 2012
Salt Lake City, UT
<http://www.apms.org/2012/2012.html>

**Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society
Annual Meeting**
Oct. 8-11, 2012
St. Augustine, FL
<http://www.fapms.org/meeting/meet12/2012meeting.html>

**South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society
Annual Meeting**
Oct. 17-19, 2012
Springmaid Beach Resort
<http://www.scapms.org/>

**Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society
Annual Meeting**
Oct. 22-24, 2012
Bandera, TX
<http://www.tapms.org/>



**September newsletter deadline, August 15, 2012.
Send information to: rwersal@gri.msstate.edu**