

# MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society

## Newsletter

Volume 30 Number 3

October 2012

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Dear MidSouth APMS Members,

Well, here I am thirty thousand feet up and rolling, realizing after the email from Ryan this morning that I am more of a procrastinator than previously thought. This was supposed to have been written about two weeks ago; and here I am typing it on a flight to a conference at the Big Cedar Lodge just south of Branson, MO. Well, maybe the old adage "better late than never" will still apply here.

I am sure, like us, many of you are trying to wind down the "boom" of the year, while continuing to wrap up some "end-of-season" treatments. Or, in some circumstances, you may be finishing up or starting new research. Whatever the case, everyone that I know seems to be increasingly busy every year. That probably means good for business, but bad for nature as the recurring theme is certainly "too many invasive and exotic species", and what seems to be an all-out assault from those plants. "Those plants" are the arch enemy to us as aquatic plant managers, as well as our waterways, and the overall health of our aquatic environments.

As the immediate past president of the MSAPMS, I feel like I need to ask, "Where are we going as a Society and an Industry"? For years, it feels to me that this industry, with me included, has tried to pacify certain groups by saying "we are not for eradication". And, if we are discussing aquatic plants in general, that is true. But, that should not be true of exotic species like hydrilla, giant salvinia, Eurasian watermilfoil, etc. I feel we need to begin a stronger push towards educating those of the public that will listen, as to why attempted eradication of these exotic species is not only an environmental necessity, but a human health necessity as well. Yes, I know eradication is nearly an impossible task. But, the point is, allowing the rampant spread of these species is negligent, and control efforts should be ramped up in an extreme way. Controlling small, perimeter areas, and leaving acre upon acre of exotic mats untouched, is a mistake that will impact aquatic systems for decades, if not centuries to come.

So, what is the argument? Fishing? Let me ask, what are the benefits of, let's just say.... hydrilla? If you list the benefits and detriments of hydrilla, which list requires more ink? The only *perceived* benefit of hydrilla is a better fishery. Yes, I said perceived, due to the simple fact that a bass fishery will eventually suffer due to hydrilla. It will suffer through compromised water quality, lower D.O. levels, increased temperatures, decreased forage opportunities, etc. What is achieved with hydrilla that cannot be achieved with native species? The answer is absolutely nothing.

Yes, I know, I am a nozzle head, and I am only concerned about my business; hasn't that argument been played out enough? It is time to cut through the false statements of the naysayers, quit trying to ease the truth into

the conversation, and begin using the years of scientific evidence that this industry has produced since the inception of the Hyacinth Control Society. We should use this evidence in a firm manner to illustrate the devastating nature of invasive plants on the environment and human health. If we know anything as a Society, after years of research and meetings, it is that we are on the right side of this issue. And, we are backed by science and data, not anecdotal perceptions. When they ask "why can't we have a little hydrilla?" you might respond as Terry Goldsby once did. "Having a little hydrilla is like being a little bit pregnant. It ain't possible!"

I hope that y'all understand that I am very proud of our industry, chapter, and the APMS in its entirety. This group is composed of great people, and the relationships I have made as part of this society will stay with me for a lifetime. I can't wait for what the future holds, but it is time to hold the banner high, and declare in no uncertain terms, that exotic species are devastating our natural resources and as true conservationists we need to begin our offensive and quit playing from the defensive position. Carrying the truth without hesitation will win out with perseverance and dedication.

Thank you, as I have said before, for allowing me the opportunity to lead this chapter as president. I truly appreciate everyone involved in the society and the friendships that I have built. As always, I hope y'all have a great winter. Let me know if you need anything at all, and I look forward to seeing all of you very soon.

*Troy Goldsby*

Past-President



**Minutes of the MidSouth Aquatic Plant  
Management Society  
Annual Business Meeting  
September 19, 2012  
Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel  
Mobile, Alabama**

The meeting was called to order by President Troy Goldsby at 11:45 a.m.

**Officer Reports**

**Secretary's Report:**

The attendance at this year's meeting is as follows:

Delegates & Students: 70

Exhibitors: 17 paid and 2 non-profit

Guests: 5

This year's workshop and meeting agenda were sent to the following 10 states for consideration of CEU's: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, Kentucky and South Carolina.

The current membership numbers of the Society are 44 individual and 16 Sustaining.

Secretary Sherry Whitaker stated that minutes from the last annual business meeting are available at the registration desk if anyone is interested in looking at them.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Craig Aguiard stated that the breakdown of the Society finances is as follows:

Business Money Market - \$13,520.46

Lifegreen Checking - \$43,951.11

Small Business CD - \$32,213.38

The books were audited by Jeremy Slade and Michael Grodowitz and all were found to be in order.

A breakdown of the yearly income and expenses are available at the desk if anyone would like to look them.

**Editor's Report:**

Ryan Wersal stated to the membership that the September newsletter will be sent out in October this year in order to include events of the Annual meeting. Any information that needs to be included should be sent to Ryan as soon as possible.

Terry Goldsby made a motion to accept the Officer Reports as presented, Jeremy Slade seconded and voice vote made by all to accept.

**Committee Reports**

**Program Committee, Site Selection:**

No report.

**Editorial Committee:**

No report. (Covered in Editor's report)

**Scholarship Committee:**

The annual scholarship award will be presented at the Banquet.

**Membership Committee:**

The new Secretary will send out an e-mail to remind those, not in attendance, to update their membership.

**Website Committee:**

Send photos to Ryan Wersal to be included on the banner on the MSAPMS website.

Presentations of the workshop will be available on the website next week.

**Internal Audit:**

Covered in Treasurer's Report

**MSAPMS Board of Directors will hold  
their next board meeting at Mississippi  
State University in March 2013.**

## Nominating Committee:

The following slate was presented to the membership:

President-Elect – Sherry Whitaker  
Secretary – Cliff Young  
Treasurer – Craig Aguillard  
Editor – Ryan Wersal  
Director (1 yr term) - Harvey Hawkins  
Director (2 yr term) – Melissa Barron  
Director (2 yr term) – Josh Yerby

No nominations were made from the floor. Jason Carlee made a motion to accept this slate of nominees, Jim Petta seconded, voice vote by all to accept.

A motion was made by Cliff Young to accept the committee reports. Terry Goldsby seconded, voice vote by all to accept.

## Old Business

A By-laws change was voted on by the Board and was presented to the membership in the May newsletter. The change is as follows:

### *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.

A motion was made by Jason Carlee to accept the change to the bylaws, Jeremy Slade seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted by a voice vote of the Society.

## New Business

None

Terry Goldsby made a motion to adjourn the meeting, David Webb seconded and the meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 11:55 a.m.



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## MSAPMS Hosted an All Day Plant Workshop

The workshop was held in conjunction with the annual meeting in order to give participants the opportunity to obtain Continuing Education Units towards their applicators licenses. This year the workshop was an entire day and included a morning of presentations on biological/integrated pest management, chemical control, and regulatory issues. These presentations have been posted on the MSAPMS website at

<http://www.msapms.org/conferences/2012/presentations.html>. Following the morning's presentation, participants were taken to a local park on the shores of Mobile Bay for lunch and an afternoon of hands on activities. Graves Lovell from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources held an aquatic plant identification session where he provided over 40 specimens of aquatic plants for participants to see and to learn identification characteristics. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to tour parts of Mobile Bay by boat and to see various aquatic plants growing in a natural setting.

A special thank you is extended from the Society to Graves Lovell for his time collecting plant specimens and for leading the plant identification workshop. The Society would also like to thank Aqua Services, Inc. and the Alabama Department of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries for use of their boats and personnel. Stay tuned for information regarding next year's workshop.



View of the Bay



Participants getting ready for plant ID



Graves displaying plant specimens



Learning plant ID characteristics



Graves going over basic plant characteristics



Voyage of the "Grape Ape"



The fleet underway for the maiden voyage



PPE for airboats



Final view from a successful workshop



Participants awaiting launch



Josh telling them that he cannot swim

Scott Wright  
IVM/Forestry Sales Specialist

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Internet: [www.dowagro.com](http://www.dowagro.com)



### Website Committee

Send historic society information and other interesting items for the website.

#### Send to:

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Lonza Microbial Control  
1200 Bluegrass Lakes Pkwy  
Alpharetta, GA 30004  
[ryan.wersal@lonza.com](mailto:ryan.wersal@lonza.com)



## Photos from the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual MSAPMS Meeting



Troy gives the Presidential address



Brad Sartain updates on Ross Barnett



Terry gives the APMS update



Jim trying to develop the perfect herbicide



Carlton did what Carlton always does



Amanda Fernandez excited about bulrush



Alex Perret giving a Louisiana perspective



West loves phosphorus



Cody explains herbicide resistance



Jamie says algae can kill cattle



Jason Carlee.....sleeping?



Relaxing after a great meeting



Leif Willey presents on crested floating heart



Recognizing our student presenters



Shelley gives an update on AVM



Brad Sartain, student scholarship recipient





Cliff Young recognized for being a director



Gerald assumes the Presidency, Troy runs away



Harry Knight former Past President



More jokes from Carlton



Jim Petta recognized for being a director



Best friends



Sherry Whitaker receives President's Award



Sherry, Armed and Dangerous!

# 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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# NEWS RELEASE

## **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BUILDING STRONG® Buffalo District**

For Immediate Release September 19, 2012  
Contact: Bruce Sanders, Public Affairs  
Bruce.I.Sanders@usace.army.mil

### **EXPERTS GATHER TO DISCUSS AQUATIC NUISANCE PLANT SPECIES**

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** – Scientists and resource managers from around the Northeast and from as far away as Mississippi and Florida gathered in Syracuse, N.Y., last week to discuss aquatic nuisance species at the Northeastern Hydrilla Symposium. Hydrilla is a highly invasive species that was first introduced into the southern United States in the 1960s from Asia. The symposium was sponsored and hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District and the Corps' Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) in Vicksburg, Miss., in cooperation with federal and state resource managers from the Northeast.

Recently, there have been a noticeable number of infestations in the glacial lakes of the Northeast and Midwest. Hydrilla infestations have potential to cause significant ecological impacts and economic losses. The symposium focused on helping to shape future research and development, and share lessons learned on management strategies. It was attended by approximately 40 resource managers, industry professionals, and researchers from eight states throughout the Northeast. Guest presenters from southern states and universities were also invited to share their expertise.

In light of the growing concern about the introduction and spread of hydrilla in the northeastern United States and the recent discovery of hydrilla in the Cayuga Lake Inlet in the Finger Lakes of Central New York, the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers hosted a symposium on September 11 and 12, 2012, at the Genesee Grande Hotel. According to Dr. Al Cofrancesco, an invasive species expert with ERDC, "The hydrilla infestation in the Cayuga Inlet is a significant problem that needs to be contained and managed. If allowed to colonize in the Great Lakes, hydrilla will impact not only recreational activities but commercial navigation operations, and the economy of the region." The meeting focused on the biology, management, and future research needs for hydrilla.

Jaime Geiger, assistant regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's fisheries program in the Northeast said, "As part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has dedicated funding to support New York's Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan and their on-the-ground efforts to manage aquatic invasive species. This includes \$380,000 for controlling the spread of hydrilla in the Finger Lakes region. This collaborative conservation effort is key to protecting the region's ecology, clean water, and fishing and boating opportunities."

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Director, Kenneth Lynch said, "We thank our federal partners for coordinating the Hydrilla Symposium and bringing a science-based approach to the complicated management issue involved with this invasive species. In addition, several of these professionals provided their individual assistance as peer reviewers earlier this year when the Cayuga Inlet Hydrilla Task Force, comprised of federal, state and local stakeholders, formulated their 2012

management strategy. Only through effective collaboration can large scale management projects like this be successful."



For additional information about the Corps of Engineers aquatic plant control research program visit: <http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/aqua/>





**syngenta.**

## 2011 H<sub>2</sub>O 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 H<sub>2</sub>O Pro™ Aquatic Herbicide Performance Guarantee must be received by Syngenta on or before October 30, 2011. Go to [www.syngentavm.com](http://www.syngentavm.com) to file a claim.
- Only licensed professional aquatic herbicide applicators may participate in the H<sub>2</sub>O 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 subsurface algae) on Reward label are covered by the 2011 H<sub>2</sub>O 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>Limnobiium 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
Watermilfoil ( <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.

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\*\*Other tank-mix combinations must be approved by a Syngenta territory manager prior to use to retain eligibility for the H<sub>2</sub>O Pro Aquatic Herbicide Performance Guarantee.

**To learn more about the 2011 H<sub>2</sub>O Pro Aquatic Herbicide Performance Guarantee, contact Melissa Barron at 407.257.8043 or [melissa.barron@syngenta.com](mailto:melissa.barron@syngenta.com).**

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## HYDRILLA DISCOVERED IN ERIE CANAL IN NORTH TONAWANDA

### Highly Invasive Aquatic Plant Threatens New York's Waters

**New York State Department of Environmental  
Conservation**

**For Release: IMMEDIATE**

**Contact:** Megan Gollwitzer, 716-851-7201

Friday, September 21, 2012

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist recently discovered hydrilla, a highly invasive aquatic plant, in the Erie Canal in North Tonawanda, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced today. Experts at a symposium on hydrilla in Syracuse last week confirmed the identification.

This latest discovery creates a very high threat of infestation in New York and beyond the state's borders through the Niagara River and the Erie Canal system by natural flow disbursement and to many more waters by recreational boating. Recreational boating is the highest risk vector for spreading this plant to other waters. DEC urges boaters to take steps to prevent the spread of this and other aquatic invasive species.

"DEC urges boaters, anglers and others enjoying New York's incredible and abundant water resources to help stop aquatic hitchhikers", said DEC Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources Kathy Moser. "Inspect boats and gear for any clinging plants, mud or tiny animals; remove them, and clean and dry all boats and gear. Use DEC's aquatic invasive species disposal stations, when available."

"Preventing the spread of hydrilla and other invasive plants and animals in the Great Lakes is a priority for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In response to the discovery of hydrilla in the Erie Canal, Service biologists are working with others to rapidly assess if it has spread in that area," said Jaime Geiger, Assistant Regional Director for the Service's Fisheries program in the northeast.

DEC is working closely with federal and state partners including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York State Canal Corporation, the Office of Parks and Recreation and the Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management to determine the extent of the infestation and develop recommendations for rapid response.

Prior to the discovery in North Tonawanda, hydrilla was found in the Cayuga Inlet and small, isolated occurrences on Long Island and Orange County.

Hydrilla is considered to be among the most invasive aquatic plants in North America, and has resulted in significant ecological, recreational and economic impacts in other regions of the country. Its biological traits enable it to out-compete native species and dominate aquatic ecosystems due to its ability to grow in a variety of environmental settings and to propagate and spread from fragments, turions (overwintering buds) and tubers (reproductive structures attached to plant rhizomes).

For more information on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, visit DEC's website:  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html>.





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## Weevils successfully destroy acres of lake-invading plants

<http://phys.org/news/2012-09-weevils-successfully-acres-lake-invading.html>

Released: September 21, 2012

<<http://phys.org/archive/21-09-2012/>>

(Phys.org)- A weevil that feeds exclusively on giant salvinia has successfully destroyed about 150 acres of the invasive plant this summer on B.A. Steinhagen Lake near Woodville in East Texas, according to personnel involved in a statewide giant salvinia management program.

Researchers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers <<http://phys.org/tags/army+corps+of+engineers/>> , Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Research are working to control giant salvinia, a free-floating aquatic fern native to South America. The plant has invaded 17 Texas lakes and bodies of water in the southeastern U.S., according to Dr. Allen Knutson, AgriLife Extension entomologist in Dallas.

Knutson said the fast-growing plant forms dense mats, which interfere with water recreation, displace native vegetation and reduce oxygen content of the water, often harming fish and other aquatic life.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Program staff has released more than 112,000 adult weevils since 2010 from its Jasper rearing facility onto B.A. Steinhagen Lake.

Knutson, Dr. Abhishek Mukherjee and Dr. Kevin Heinz, Texas A&M University department of entomology, and Chris Moret, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, studied the lake's weevil populations this year and in 2011.

"Late last winter, weevil numbers ranged between 20 and 30 weevils per kilogram of salvinia and are now up to 60





per kilogram, which is an excellent population," Mukherjee said. "Populations of this size cause more damage to the plant than it can overcome and are able to effectively control giant salvinia."

"Photos taken before and after weevil releases illustrate the tremendous job the weevils have done in controlling giant salvinia this year," said Floyd Boyett of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Woodville. "We purposefully refrained from spraying this area to see what the weevils could do this year."

"Now, there is abundant open water, and what giant salvinia remains is contained within floating mats of grass or lotus along the shore," he said. "Weevils are in areas east and south of where they were released, indicating that the floating material must have carried the weevils a good distance and allowed them to establish."

Knutson said a similar effort aims to recreate these successful results at Caddo Lake in northeast Texas. Research there is being conducted at a weevil-rearing facility at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge through the Center for Invasive Species Eradication. The center is part of the Texas Water Resources Institute, AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension and operated in collaboration with Texas Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Caddo Lake Institute.



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## Calendar of Events

**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/>

**Southern Weed Science Society  
Annual Meeting**

Jan. 28-30, 2013

Royal Sonesta

Houston, TX

<http://www.swss.ws/index.htm>

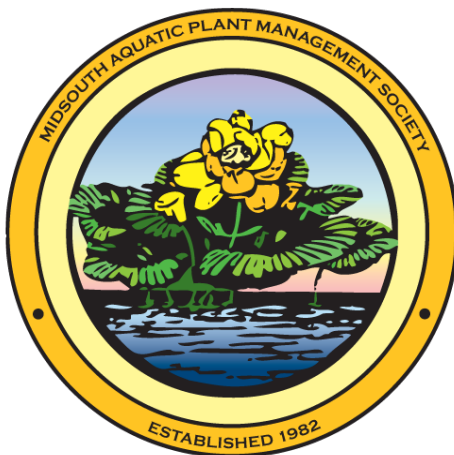
**Weed Science Society of America  
Annual Meeting**

Feb. 4-7, 2013

Hilton Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

<http://www.wssa.net/Meetings/WSSAAnnual/Info.htm>



January newsletter deadline, December 15, 2012. Send information to: [ryan.wersal@lonza.com](mailto:ryan.wersal@lonza.com)