

# MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society

## Newsletter

Volume 31 Number 3

October 2013

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Dear MidSouth APMS Members,

As I take over as your new President, I would like to thank everyone who made the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in Tunica such a success. As Program Chair, I want to thank the Board of Directors for their help and support, with special thanks to Tom Warmuth, Dr. John Madsen, and Craig Aguillard for their help in planning this meeting. I would also like to thank all of our sponsors, vendors, and speakers for their participation in this meeting. Your attendance at our annual meeting and support of the MSAPMS allows for such meetings to take place. This year we added a special event to our agenda to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. A Scholarship Trap Shoot was held at The Willows Sporting and Clays Center and was well attended. From my point of view, everyone had a great time! Congratulations to our winner Bradley Sartain who shot the most targets out of 100. You'll get them next time Dr. Madsen!

We owe a lot of thanks to our outgoing President, Gerald Adrian, for his leadership as President this past year. Gerald has volunteered for many years in MSAPMS and has contributed to its success. I would also encourage any of our members that have the time and would also like to volunteer their services, please contact any member of the Board for more details. A Society like ours is only as strong as the service of our members.

One of the goals of the MSAPMS is to be the voice for aquatic plant management in the MidSouth. With the many members in the Society, we have the knowledge and expertise available to make a difference. Your thoughts need to be voiced and heard. You have a Board that is committed to this Society and is more than willing to be a voice for the group. There are many of our members that are closely associated with the National Aquatic Plant Management Society which enables us to have our concerns voiced on a national level when necessary, so please take advantage of everything our Society has to offer.

The next annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the National APMS at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto in Savannah, Georgia, July 13-16, 2014. This is guaranteed to be an extraordinary meeting, so plan to attend and bring the family!

Best Regards,

*Sherry Whitaker*

Sherry Whitaker  
President – MSAPMS

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**Minutes of the MidSouth Aquatic Plant  
Management Society  
Annual Business Meeting  
Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>  
Harrah's Tunica, MS**

The meeting was called to order by President Gerald Adrian. In attendance were Gerald Adrian, Sherry Whitaker, Troy Goldsby, Craig Aguillard, Tom Warmuth, Josh Yerby, Jeremy Slade, and Ryan Wersal. The meeting was also attended by several of the delegate members of the society.

**Presentation of Officer Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report: Craig Aguillard**

The Treasurer reported that the current account balances as of 9/12/2012 were as follows:

- Life Green Checking - \$41,814.33
- Business Money Market - \$13,524.03
- Small Business CD - \$32,434.28

The accounts were audited by Harry Knight and Dr. Michael Grodowitz; the ledgers for the Checking and Investment accounts were found to be in order.

**Editor's Report: Ryan Wersal**

Advertising is in good shape. There was the loss of a few advertisers, but there was a gain of a few. Any articles for the upcoming fall newsletter need to be in by October 15<sup>th</sup>. If the meeting is now going to be held in September annually, the newsletter containing the happenings of the annual meeting will need to be pushed into a later October release.

**Secretary's Report: Jeremy Slade**

The Secretary stated "I am done." referring to the matter that he was appointed temporarily to the position in order to fill in for the previous Secretary, Cliff Young, who had to resign his position earlier in the year. A newly appointed officer will be voted into the Secretary position by the membership later in the meeting.

Sherry Whittaker made a motion to accept the officer reports, Tom Warmuth seconded and voice vote made by all to accept.

**Presentation of Committee Reports**

**Nominating Committee:**

Troy Goldsby presented the slate of new officers and director nominations.

**President** - Josh Yerby (Alabama Power)

**Editor** - Ryan Wersal (Lonza)

**Treasurer** - Craig Aguillard (Winfield)

**Secretary** - Tom Warmuth (Cygnet Enterprises, Inc)

**Director** - Alex Perret (LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries)

**Director** - Gray Turnage (Mississippi State Univ.)

**Director** - Jeremy Slade (United Phosphorus Inc.)

**Director** - Bo Burns (Valent)

A motion to accept the nominations was brought by Dr. John Madsen. Ryan Wersal seconded, voice vote by all to accept.

**Scholarship Committee:**

Dr. John Madsen announced that there was a decision made of the annual Student Scholarship winner which would be made at the banquet later in the evening (the winner was later announced at banquet as being Jo-Marie Kasinak of Auburn University for her presentation "Do Grass Carp Consume Invasive *Lyngbya wollei*?")

**Sponsorship Committee:**

Tom Warmuth wanted to again thank all of the sponsors of this year's annual meeting and reminded the audience that our membership, sponsorship, and attendance of the meeting are what drive the growth of the society. We had nine platinum sponsors this year along with the other sponsors at lower donation levels. Those nine platinum sponsors are three more than the previous year and more than the society has seen at that level in several years. He continued by saying that spreading the word about the MSAPMS' annual meeting to others is the responsibility of the member/delegates just as much as it is to the

# Too Many Weeds Spoil the Fishing



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

These invasive plants when left unmanaged can alter the ecosystem of lakes and reservoirs, cause a decline in the fishery, and interfere with other valued uses of waterbodies.

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Society's committee chair holders and officers and cooperation of everyone to get more people aware of society, annual meeting, newsletter, ect., will be what grows the membership and greatness of the MSAPMS.

### Membership Committee:

Sherry Whitaker stated that the current membership count is in the 80's.

### Website Committee:

Ryan Wersal mentioned that the new website is working great and that if anyone wants to send pictures for the homepage they can be sent to his attention.

Gerald Adrian made a motion to accept the committee reports, Craig Aguillard seconded and a voice vote made by all to accept.

### Old Business:

None

### New Business:

Craig Aguillard announced that License Continuing Education Credits will be available for MSAPMS delegates at the next upcoming annual meeting with will be held in conjunction with the National APMS meeting in July 2014.

Ryan Wersal made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sherry Whittaker seconded and a voice vote made by all to accept.

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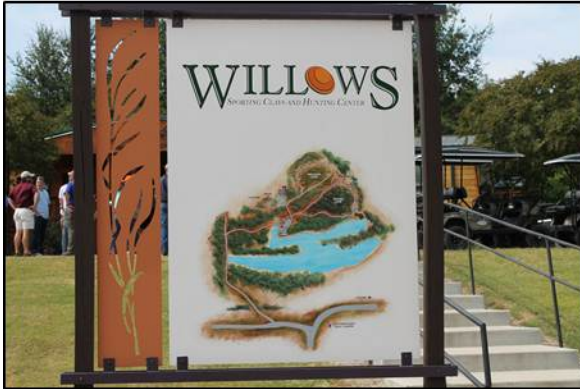
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# Scholarship Sporting Clay Shoot



## **2013 MSAPMS Applicator Workshop Update**

John Madsen, Mississippi State University

We held an applicator-oriented full-day aquatic plant management workshop on September 17 in conjunction with the 2013 Annual Meeting of the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society, in Tunica, MS. Thirty-eight individuals registered for the event, and participated in both lecture and hands-on activities while receiving CEU credits.

Topics covered included biological control and integrated pest management, chemical control, pesticide label and regulation review, mechanical and physical control, aquatic plant identification, and herbicide application calibration. The workshop concluded with updates from industry representatives.

For the first time in the six year history of the applicator workshop, each participant received a manual with presentations and other information. Needless to say, this was a big hit with participants, ranking right behind the evening reception. An overall rating of 4.89 out of 5 was given by responding participants! Next year, MSAPMS is meeting with the National APMS, so the fate of the applicator workshop for 2014 is as yet unclear. We will keep you posted.

## **2014 MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society Scholarship Opportunity**

The MSAPMS is seeking applications for the 2014 graduate student scholarship to be awarded at the 2014 annual meeting, which will be in conjunction with the national APMS meeting July 13-16 2014, in Savannah, GA. We request that the successful applicant attend the meeting and give a presentation, if possible. One scholarship of \$2,500 will be awarded to a qualified student applicant. Please note that, due to the earlier date of the annual

meeting in 2014, the applications will be due much earlier in the year.

To apply, The Scholarship Committee should receive the following information before **March 30, 2014:**

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 the 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;
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](mailto:jmadsen@gri.msstate.edu)



## MidSouth APMS Researcher is Recognized at National APMS Meeting



Recently at the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) annual meeting in San Antonio, TX, Dr. John Madsen was awarded the T. Wayne Miller Jr. Distinguished Service Award. The citation reads as follows: "For over twenty-five years of professional and personal dedication to the Society and as a premier leader in the field of aquatic plant science and management."

In addition to APMS activities, Madsen is an Associate Editor for Invasive Plant Science and Management Journal, a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Freshwater Ecology, and previous Associate Editor for Wetlands journal. He is currently the Secretary for the board of directors of the Weed Science Society of America (2012-2014). Madsen is a member of the majority of the Regional APMS Chapters. He has served as President-Elect, President, Immediate Past-President, Director, and Chair of the Membership and Scholarship Committees for the MidSouth APMS; and has served as a Director and Chair of the Scholarship and Awards Committee for the Texas APMS. These activities only begin to describe Madsen's service to the field of Aquatic Plant Management.

"Dr. Madsen's long association with APMS defines the mission of the Society – to promote environmental stewardship through scientific innovation and development of technology related to integrated plant management in aquatic and riparian systems. In addition, he has mentored and

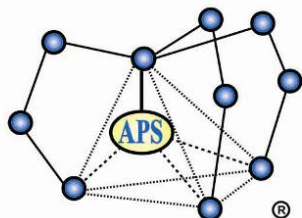
trained the next generation of aquatic plant scientists who will serve in agencies, academia, and the private sector – and introduced them to the APMS."

"I have known John for almost 15 years and have worked with him in every capacity from undergraduate student worker to colleague and collaborator. John has always demonstrated an unselfish dedication to his students, employees, and to promoting Aquatic Plant Management and the professionals that work in this field. I personally have been a recipient of that unselfish dedication, and can honestly say, that I would not be where I am today if it had not been for John and what he has done for my career. I owe John a great deal thanks and hope to repay his kindness and generosity in the future."

"Dr. Madsen's career has spanned significant interactions with established professionals from all fields of freshwater ecosystems. His concerns over the ecological and economic detriment of invasive species have also brought him into close associations with a myriad number of community and regional stakeholders. He is equally comfortable promoting stronger controls in managing invasive species at state and national levels to government officials as he is in town meetings with lake and shore owners educating the public on the spread and detrimental aspects of invasive species to their own local situations. As an academician, he brings his "real-world" experience into the classroom challenging the thinking and understanding of undergraduate and graduate students. I have met many of his students at professional meetings and they all speak highly of his high academic standards and his mentorship."

"John Madsen's professional record is beyond question. He is well-published in various aspects of aquatic ecology and plant physiology- and most of his work has centered on the impacts of non-native species. Beyond that, he is an established leader in the field of wetlands ecology, aquatic botany and shallow water limnology. Everyone is busy- but I know John will always share generously of his time in addressing questions from diverse audiences."

Thank you for all your hard work John!



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**MSAPMS Board of Directors will hold  
their next board meeting at Alabama  
Power, Al in March 2013.**



# ***President's Reception***



## Monitoring Nuisance Plant Mat Drift in Lake Havasu, Arizona Using a Novel GPS Tracking Device

Amanda L. Fernandez and John D. Madsen

In aquatic ecosystems, the main vector of dispersal for aquatic plants is water so understanding the current velocity and directional flow of the water is important for natural resource managers. Many different methods have been used for estimating plant dispersal in water such as drift cards, drift bottles, wooden cubes, and marking actual vegetative fragments. Unfortunately, the only definite information these methods provide is the location and time of release while the actual drift time can only be estimated by the collection time. Furthermore, in many cases, the drift object may not be recovered. To provide more insight into the dynamics of drift, we developed a GPS tracking device, called a drone (Figure 1), to monitor movement on the water surface. The drone records its location every fifteen minutes and transmits that information via text message or email to the tracker. The location is also stored on an internal hard drive. From this data, we are able to see exactly how objects are moving in the water and how long it takes them. The drones were recently used in a drift study in Lake Havasu, Arizona.



Figure 1. Drone drifting in Lake Havasu, Arizona in October 2012. Photo by John Madsen.



Figure 2. Amanda Fernandez identifying spiny naiad (*Najas marina*) from Lake Havasu. Lake Havasu City, Arizona is in the background.

Lake Havasu is a 20,400 acre reservoir located on the border of California and Arizona that provides 49.8 billion gallons of water per year to municipal, agricultural, and Native American communities throughout Arizona. In recent years, there has been an increase in the amount of floating dead plant material which clogs the intake pump that supplies the water. The Central Arizona Project (CAP) has contracted with GRI to assist them in scoping out the problem; what species of plants are causing the problem, where these plants originate in the lake, and how far are they drifting. The first step was to survey the lake for plant species (Figure 2). To determine from where the plant mats are originating, in early October 2012, two custom built GPS tracking devices, called drones, were deployed throughout Lake Havasu to monitor current surface drift. Results from the study found that drone could drift approximately 8.5km in a day, and that there is a significant relationship between the wind direction and drone drift direction with the drones moving in the direction of the wind. The dominant wind direction in Lake Havasu varies throughout the summer; consequently, the area adjacent to the uptake pump may be contributing more of the mats from July to August when wind is mainly from the east. Then in September and October, the source may be from areas upstream when wind is mainly from the west. This information will allow the CAP to focus their management strategies for plant removal to the areas that are most likely the problem areas which could reduce management costs.

# Aquatic Plant Workshop





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# General Session



# Awards Banquet



## EPA Proposes Rule to Modernize Clean Water Act Reporting

E-reporting initiative will increase efficiency, ease burden for states and improve public access to data

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a rule that would modernize Clean Water Act (CWA) reporting processes for hundreds of thousands of municipalities, industries, and other facilities by converting to an electronic data reporting system. The proposed e-reporting rule would make facility-specific information, such as inspection and enforcement history, pollutant monitoring results, and other data required by permits accessible to the public through EPA's website. EPA estimates that, once the rule is fully implemented, the 46 states and the Virgin Island Territory that are authorized to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program will collectively save approximately \$29 million each year as a result of switching from paper to electronic reporting.

"In addition to dramatically cutting costs for states and other regulatory authorities, the e-reporting rule will substantially expand transparency by making it easier for everyone to quickly access critical data on pollution that may be affecting communities," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for

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EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "The e-reporting rule will also allow states and other regulatory authorities to focus limited resources on the most serious water quality problems, which will lead to increased compliance, improved water quality, and a level playing field for the regulated community."

Currently, facilities subject to reporting requirements submit data in paper form to states and other regulatory authorities, where the information must be manually entered into data systems. Through the e-reporting rule, these facilities will electronically report their data directly to the appropriate regulatory authority. EPA expects that the e-reporting rule will lead to more comprehensive and complete data on pollution sources, quicker availability of the data for use, and increased accessibility and transparency of the data to the public.

The CWA requires that municipal, industrial or commercial facilities that discharge wastewater directly into waters of the United States

to obtain a permit. The NPDES program requires that permitted facilities monitor and report data on pollutant discharges and take other actions to ensure discharges do not affect human health or the environment.

Most facilities subject to reporting requirements will be required to start submitting data electronically one year following the effective date of the final rule. Facilities with limited access to the Internet will have the option of one additional year to come into compliance with the new rule. EPA will work closely with states to provide support to develop or enhance state electronic reporting capabilities.

EPA has already scheduled several webinars in an effort to help states, trade organizations, and other interested parties better understand the details and requirements of the proposed rule. Over the next few months, EPA expects to schedule additional webinar sessions.

The proposed rule will be available for review and public comment for 90 days following the publication date in the Federal Register.

View the proposed rule in the Federal Register:  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/07/30/2013-17551/npdes-electronic-reporting-rule>

### **EPA Approves the Use of *Arundo Donax* for Biofuel Production**

EPA has finalized pathways for production of renewable fuel from giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) as feedstocks. These pathways are for cellulosic biofuel, for purposes of the Renewable Fuel Standard. In response to comments on the proposal concerning the potential for these crops to behave as invasive species, EPA has adopted additional registration, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements.

### **Native vs. Non-Native Species and Management Webinar**

Webinar debate where two "Invasion Biology" leading scientists, Dr. Mark Davis (author of *Invasion Biology*, 2009) and Dr. Daniel Simberloff (UT-Knoxville Institute for Biological Invasions Director) will discuss when, if and how conservation biologists and managers should deal with non-native species. - Watch now at: <http://www.doi.gov/index.cfm>.

### **You've Gotta Come to Savannah, Georgia Site of the 54th APMS Annual Meeting and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the MidSouth APMS**



Mark your calendar, July 13-16, 2014, for the 54th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society. Built in 1890 on the site of Oglethorpe's Barracks, the original DeSoto Hotel was Savannah's haven of hospitality and gathering place for celebrities, dignitaries, and presidents. Setting the bar for Savannah's tradition of gracious service, the Hilton Savannah DeSoto, our host hotel, continues as one of the Savannah Historic District's landmark hotels, providing an unmatched atmosphere for leisure and business travelers. Walk to exciting attractions like River Street, City Market, Forsyth Park, Historic Savannah Theater, Savannah Civic Center and Savannah College of Art & Design. The Meeting Planning Committee is planning exciting and entertaining events for relaxing, visiting, and chat-ting with friends and colleagues. The Program Committee pledges a diverse and educational program of oral and poster presentations on aquatic plant research and management. Bring your students!

**Have ideas for the Newsletter? Send them in! The Editorial Committee is always looking for good articles.**

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\*Terms and Conditions of the 2013 H20 Aquatic Herbicide Performance Guarantee apply. The maximum benefit a Qualifying Participant may receive during the 2013 Program Period is a \$50,000 contribution toward the cost of retreatment.

TM

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**Vertex Water Features**  
**Winfield Solutions, LLC**

## Calendar of Events

**South Carolina Aquatic Plant  
Management Society**  
Oct 23-25, 2013  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
[www.scapms.org](http://www.scapms.org)

**Northeast Aquatic Plant  
Management Society**  
Jan 21-23, 2014  
Westbrook, CT  
[www.neapms.net](http://www.neapms.net)

**Weed Science Society of America/Canadian  
Weed Science Society**  
February 3-6, 2014  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
<http://wssa.net/meeting/annual-meeting/>

**Midwest Aquatic Plant  
Management Society**  
Mar 2-6, 2014  
Lombard, IL  
[www.mapms.org](http://www.mapms.org)

**Joint Aquatic Sciences**  
May 18-23, 2014  
Portland, OR  
<http://aslo.org/meetings/portland2014>

**Aquatic Plant Management Society**  
Jul 13-16, 2014  
Savannah, GA  
[www.apms.org](http://www.apms.org)



**January newsletter deadline, December 15, 2013. Send information to:**  
**[ryan.wersal@lonza.com](mailto:ryan.wersal@lonza.com)**