

# MIDSOUTH AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Vol. 33



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# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear MSAPMS Members,

In the ever-changing world of aquatic plant management one thing has always remained, the plants keep coming back every year. Depending on your role in our industry and the plant species of concern, this resiliency can be a blessing or a curse. Or just when you think you have a species pegged, it throws you a curve-ball and you have to tip your hat and admit, "Well played shifty spermatophyte, well played". When one sits and ponders the adaptability of certain species or their ability to seemingly spontaneously generate from the water, you have to admire them. I think we all, whether we admit or not, harbor a small amount of admiration for these plants. We as managers have must also be willing to adapt when the situation dictates and make full use of all the tools in the tool box.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the Board members who faithfully serve to make this Society what it is and thank you all for allowing me to serve as the President of the MSAPMS. In the future, please take the time to thank our Board members and if you have time, volunteer to serve on the Board.

One of the goals of the MSAPMS is to be the voice for aquatic plant management and water resource management in the MidSouth. With the many members in the Society, we have the knowledge and expertise available to make a difference. With this said, we must become more vocal and let our thoughts be known and heard. You have a Board that is committed to water resource management in the south and willing to be the voice for our group. I encourage everyone to attend the upcoming annual meeting and spread the word about our Society.

I look forward to the upcoming year and all the challenges, known and unknown, that it will present. Thank you again for your time and I hope everyone stays safe.

Sincerely,  
Josh Yerby

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Aquatics Territory Manager

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## Call for Papers

You are invited to submit a title and abstract for the 34th Annual Meeting of the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society to be held September 14-16, 2015 at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Alabama.

Presentations on all aspects of aquatic plant management, wetland plant management, biology, and ecology will be considered. Oral presentations are allotted a **total of 15 minutes**, including questions. An projector, computer, projection screen, and laser pointer will be available for oral presentations. Only PC-based **MS PowerPoint** presentations will be accepted. You will not be allowed to set up a personal computer to run your presentation. Please bring your presentation on a USB compatible flash or CD.

Presenters are requested to register for the conference

### Electronic Submission

It is preferred that all presentation submissions be made electronically in MS Word. Please submit your title, abstract (**250 word maximum**), author(s), affiliation, and address exactly as you wish them to appear in the program. A title form is available below, in the current newsletter, and from the program chair.

### E-mail Submission to:

Alex Perret  
Louisiana Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries  
[aperret@wlf.la.gov](mailto:aperret@wlf.la.gov)

**Submission Deadline: July 31, 2015**

## 2015 CONFERENCE

Sept. 14-16

Welcome to the 34h Annual MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference!

The meeting will kick off with a welcoming social on Monday evening, which will give everyone time to reacquaint with old friends and meet new ones. The program will begin on Tuesday morning with the Aquatic Plant Workshop which will consist of both classroom instruction and a plant identification session at 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center. The technical portion of the program will begin Wednesday morning and will be followed by the awards banquet that evening where we will recognize those who have served and contributed to our Society, welcome new officers and directors, and present student paper and other awards. The meeting program will be filled with many topics of interest including chemical control methods, biological control methods, wildlife interactions, and several other topics in the aquatic industry. Student presenters will provide up-to-date findings of their research work. In addition, industry representatives will exhibit the latest aquatic plant management products and professional services.

Reservations for hotel accommodations at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel must be made **before August 21, 2015** by calling **1-800-922-3298 or 251-438-4000**. When making your reservations please request the **MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society Reference #M-24A01B4**. Hotel and reservation information can be found online at [Marriott website](#). [Reservations can also be made online](#).

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.

An exceptional venue and a variety of things to do will make this a memorable meeting, so plan to attend.







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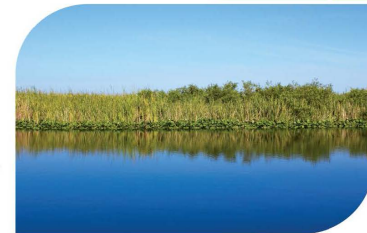
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# A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It's hard to believe how fast this year is flying by. Before long the growth season for most plants will be over and planning for next year will begin. It seems like just yesterday that Ryan turned over the Editor responsibilities to me. Anyone that's worked with Ryan in the past knows that he always leaves big shoes to fill. It's been a bit of a rough start getting the newsletters out this year, but things are starting to come together. With that said, I can use all the help I can get! I've often heard individuals describe MSAPMS as the most connected and hospitable APMS chapter, and this newsletter is the perfect venue for you to discuss your projects and to share valuable lessons learned. Please send me those stories so they can be shared with everyone. Even if it's just a phone call to discuss your current activities I'll be more than happy to write an article for you! I'm looking forward to the coming months and wish everyone well through the remaining summer months. See you at the conference in September!

--JF

## Upcoming Annual Meetings

### 2015

**July 12-15** Aquatic Plant Management Society, Myrtle Beach, SC

**August 8-13** Phycological Society of America, Philadelphia, PA

**August 9-14** Ecological Science Society, Baltimore, MD

**August 16-20** American Fisheries Society, Portland OR

**September 14-18** International Symposium on Aquatic Plants, Edinburg, Scotland

**October 5-8** Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society, Lake Buena Vista, FL

**October 12-14** Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society, Hamilton, TX

**November 17-20** North American Lake Management Society, Saratoga Springs, NY

### 2016

**January 12-14** Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society, Saratoga Springs, NY

**February 8-11** Weed Science Society of America, San Juan, Puerto Rico

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

### 2015 MSAPMS Scholarship Opportunity

The MSAPMS is seeking applications for the 2015 graduate student scholarship to be awarded at the annual meeting. 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. To apply, the Scholarship Committee should receive the following information on or before **July 31, 2015**:

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;
  4. A copy of the approved 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.

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Dr. Jonathan P. Fleming  
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## ***Benefits of Controlling Nuisance Aquatic Plants and Algae in the United States***

Invasive plants and algae have become **major threats** to rivers, lakes, wetlands, and riparian ecosystems.

- Once established in their new environment, they easily spread within and between water bodies, infest nearby watersheds, and disrupt the ecological status quo.
- Thousands of acres across the country are being degraded at an annual cost of tens of millions of dollars.
- Every watershed in the United States is at some level of risk.

Aquatic plants can **harbor disease-causing organisms** that adversely affect human health.

- Aquatic plants have entangled swimmers and caused or contributed to drowning.
- Toxin-producing cyanobacteria are a serious and emerging issue for freshwater resource managers.
- Approximately 50 species of cyanobacteria produce freshwater toxins that are harmful to vertebrates, including humans.

In the United States, **invading alien species** (plants and animals) cause major ecological damages and economic losses estimated at almost \$120 billion per year.

- A major portion of commercial freight moves by water, and nuisance aquatic plants can interfere with movement of those goods.
- Direct impacts of nuisance aquatic plants to hydropower production include clogging turbines and penstocks, which increases costs of electricity to consumers.
- Lakes and reservoirs support a myriad of water-associated recreation.



Nuisance plants and algae have the ability to **negatively impact** aquatic communities and habitat in primarily four ways:

- Structurally changing habitat through fast growth rates, greatly increasing populations and biomass.
- Dominating the capture of energy from sunlight [outcompeting valuable native plants].
- Stabilizing and limiting water exchange processes [impairing water quality].
- Producing large amounts of dead plant material [which can degrade dissolved oxygen levels].

The **detrimental effects of weeds** on human water uses can be ameliorated and in some instances eliminated through [proactive and prudent] management.

- Drinking water supplies, water-based recreational activities, agricultural irrigation systems, and industrial water intakes depend on consistent and effective aquatic plant management programs.
- The most widespread management technique involves the use of environmentally compatible chemical herbicides [but other nonchemical techniques can help suppress plant growth].
- It should be noted that rapid-response approaches to eliminate pioneer infestations are becoming more accepted and that there are a few instances of active "eradication" programs.
- People must make the protection and conservation of [freshwater resources] a top priority for the future.

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### Experts to Contact for More Information:

Kurt Getsinger ([Kurt.D.Getsinger@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kurt.D.Getsinger@usace.army.mil)); Eric Dibble ([edibble@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:edibble@cfr.msstate.edu)); John Rodgers ([irodger@clemson.edu](mailto:irodger@clemson.edu)); David Spencer ([dfspencer@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dfspencer@ucdavis.edu))

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