MIDSOUTH AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Vol.33 Issue 2



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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear MidSouth APMS Members,

Now that our 34^{th} annual meeting in Mobile, AL is behind us, I would like to thank those who helped to make it such a success.

First of all, I have to thank the MSAPMS Board of Directors for their support during the planning process, especially Josh Yerby, Sherry Whitaker, and Craig Aguillard. Their guidance and input was instrumental in planning a successful meeting. I would also like to add a special thanks to Dr. Chris Mudge who, despite not being able to attend, organized an excellent workshop for all attendees. I hope that we will continue to incorporate field trips so that our members can experience first-hand what aquatic plant managers are dealing with throughout the midsouth region. Personally, I thought that we had an excellent meeting with a technical session that included some exciting new research. I hope that everyone enjoyed Mobile as much as I did.

We owe many thanks to our outgoing President, Josh Yerby, for his leadership as President this past year. He was a major contributor to the planning of the meeting in Mobile this past September, and was quick to volunteer his time when deadlines were close. Josh has been an active member in MSAPMS for many years 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.

I am glad to welcome Ryan Wersal back to the Board of Directors after his one year hiatus. Ryan is our President-elect for 2016, and will also be the Program Chair for the 35th annual meeting next year which will likely take place in Louisiana. As far as I know, the MidSouth chapter of APMS has never held a meeting here in the Sportsman's Paradise. I encourage you to start making plans for next September. I'm sure Ryan will be putting together a great program. Please continue to check the MSAPMS website for information about the 2016 meeting as it comes available.

Finally, I would like to thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your President. I am looking forward to a great 2016.

Best Regards, Alex Perret President, MSAPMS





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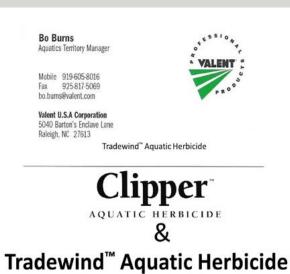
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Aquatic Plant Management Society Call for Papers

You are invited to submit a title and abstract for the 56th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society to be held July 17-20, 2016, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, MI. Both oral and poster presentations are solicited for original research on the biology or ecology of aquatic and wetland plants, control methods (biological, chemical, cultural, mechanical) for invasive, exotic or nuisance plant or alga species, and restoration projects involving wetland or aquatic plants and algae. Presentation of original research will be given preference, and should be indicated by including results in the abstract. This year's meeting is in the region of the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society, so regional presenters are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract.

The Society also invites student abstracts for oral or poster presentations. This meeting presents an opportunity for students to network with key government, university and industry representatives, and peers with similar educational and professional interests. The society will provide all student presenters with room accommodations and complimentary registration. First, 2nd, and 3rd place prize money will be awarded in separate contests for both oral and poster presentations. In addition, all students are invited to attend a hands-on tour of local aquatic plant management sites immediately following the meeting and concluding Thursday, July 21. Students may contact the APMS Student Affairs Committee Chairs, Dr. Becca Haynie or Dr. Chris Mudge, with any questions at <u>rebeccah@sepro.com</u> or <u>CMudge@agcenter.lsu.edu</u>.

Oral presentations will be allotted a total of 15 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for questions and discussion. Contributed oral presentations should be scientific or technical in nature, which will be determined from the submitted abstract. An LCD projector/computer and laser pointer will be available for oral presentations. Only PC-based PowerPoint presentations will be accepted. All presenters will be required to upload their final PowerPoint presentations that include externally run programs; models or special animation, must be reviewed and approved by the Program Chair prior to the meeting. You will not be allowed to set up a personal computer for your presentation. A poster session will also be scheduled. Free-standing display boards (4' x 4') will be provided for posters.

Please go to the WSSA Title and Abstract Submission System at https://wssaabstracts.com/ to submit your information online. Log in and click "Join a Conference" to access the 2016 APMS meeting. Click "Enter" then "My Titles and Abstracts" to submit your information. Please limit abstracts to 300 words. You will receive a confirmation email to indicate your title and abstract have been received and uploaded. This does not mean that your presentation is accepted for the conference. Acceptance of contributed papers will not occur until after the abstract deadline, and will be confirmed by a separate e-mail. The title and abstract submission system is now active and will remain open until April 29, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact the APMS Program Chair, Dr. John Madsen at jmadsen@ucdavis.edu.



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A special Thank You to this years Student Presenters and to all who attended for another wonderful Annual Conference. We hope to see you all again, next year.



Student Presenters



Dr. David Webb discusses aquatic plant identification at applicator workshop



Dr. David Webb receives Honorary Membership from Troy Goldsby



MSAPMS attendees discuss projects during session break

"Spreading" Invasive Plant Knowledge in our Schools

The Tennessee Valley Authority, in partnership with the MidSouth APMS, AERF, UF-IFAS, Aquaservices, and the Lake Guntersville Stakeholders Board, recently held "Alabama Plant Camp" at the Lake Guntersville State Park. The group partnered to facilitate vital discussion among educators in the State of Alabama regarding invasive and aquatic plant management in the Tennessee Valley. The group held a daylong meeting that included teachers and environmental educators from around the Tennessee Valley. TVA and MSAPMS provided expert instruction in aquatic and invasive plant identification, discussed management, as well as impacts to the environment and economy. The intention of this workshop was to provide educators with material to be shared in their classrooms regarding such issues, while also remaining congruent with Alabama State Curriculum. A second meeting will take place in late summer of next year. If you would like to participate, or have questions, contact Brett Hartis at <u>bmhartis@tva.gov</u>.



A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our advertiser's for their support of the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society. If you would like to support MSAPMS by advertising in out newsletter for 2016 please contact me via email before January 15, 2016. The newsletter supports educational outreach efforts, planning for upcoming meetings, and provides other information of interest to the aquatic plant management community in the MidSouth region. Advertisement's received by January 15th will run in the January, May, and October 2016 newsletters.

Please contact me if you or your company would like to share success stories or tips in the newsletter. I would love to include your article in the next issue.

Thanks for your support!

--JF

jpfleming@una.edu

Upcoming Annual Meetings

2016

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

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

March 21-23 Western Aquatic Plant Management Society, Del Mar, CA

October TBD South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society, Myrtle Beach, SC

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FOUNDATION - WHAT IS IT WEDNESDAY!?!?

Are you a social media junkie? Need to add to your wardrobe? Good with aquatic plant ID? Well we have the game for you! Next time you are perusing your timeline on a Wednesday, stop by the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation's Facebook page and test you identification skills. Each and every Wednesday, AERF posts a photo of something aquatic related. The first person to guess correctly will receive a FREE AERF t-shirt. Answers will be announced each Thursday. You will also find aquatic science related news posted on a daily basis. Next time you are bored of clicking through peoples pictures of their cats, stop by and play!



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ANNOUNCEMENT

APMS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

A graduate student research grant in the area of aquatic plant management and ecology is being offered by the Aquatic Plant Management Society's research and education initiative. Co-sponsors of this academic award include regional APMS chapters: Florida, MidSouth, Midwest, Northeast, South Carolina, Texas, and Western.

<u>Objective:</u> To provide a grant for a full-time graduate student to conduct research in an area involving aquatic plant management techniques (used alone or integrated with other management approaches) or in aquatic ecology related to the biology or management of regionally or nationally recognized nuisance aquatic vegetation.

<u>Applicants:</u> Solicitation for proposals is open to any full-time faculty member and/or graduate student of an accredited U.S. academic institution. A faculty sponsor must be identified if the application is submitted by a graduate student.

<u>Amount:</u> \$40,000 (APMS does not pay overhead or indirect charges). Duration: Two (2) years (\$20,000 per year).

Proposal Deadline: Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15th, 2016.

<u>Guidelines for Proposals</u>: Proposals should contain a concise statement of the project, including its purpose and justification, as well as sections that discuss study objectives, methodology, schedule, budget, and planned publication of results. The résumé of the faculty applicant and graduate student (if known) should not exceed two (2) pages each. Proposals should not exceed ten (10) pages, and must be signed by the applicant (principal investigator) and an appropriate university official. Include copies of your five (5) most recent peer reviewed publications.

<u>Submission:</u> Please submit a pdf file of your full application via email to Jeff Schardt, APMS Secretary at: <u>jeff.schardt@gmail.com</u>

<u>Award:</u> Notification of award will be provided to the faculty member in time to make arrangements to attend the APMS 56th Annual Meeting (July 17-20, 2016 - Grand Rapids, Michigan). Formal announcement of the recipient will be made at the Annual Meeting, with initiation of the grant scheduled for the 2017-2018 academic year. Payments will be made

before January 31st of 2017 and 2018.

<u>Requirements:</u> Semi-annual progress reports must be submitted to APMS prior to June 30th

and December 31ST for each year of the grant. The faculty member and student must participate in at least one APMS Board of Directors meeting and attend an APMS Annual Meeting. The student must present results of the funded research at the APMS Annual Meeting at least once over the duration of the grant, although annual presentations are preferred. Upon completion, a final report must be submitted to APMS.

Thank you,

Jeffrey D. Schardt; APMS Secretary

850-591-1242

jeff.schardt@gmail.com



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 waterassociated 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.

Experts to Contact for More Information:

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

To view the complete text of this CAST Commentary, click here or visit the CAST website (www.cast-science.org) and click on Publications. For more information about CAST, visit the website or contact Linda Chimenti, Executive Vice President, at 515-292-2125 ext 231.

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