

MIDSOUTH AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

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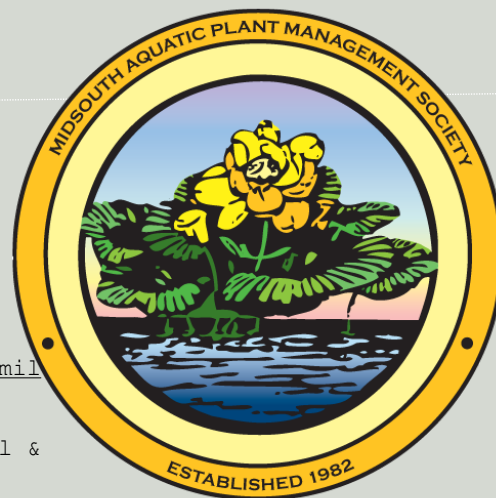
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A letter from the President

Dear Fellow Midsouth APMS Members,

First of all I would like to wish everyone a happy new year. I look forward to the challenges that 2016 will bring us. Here in Louisiana, this is usually the time of year when we get a chance to take a deep breath and recover from a long growing season. Unfortunately, we experienced extremely warm temperatures all the way through the end of December, and our daytime temperatures are back in the 70's as I write this letter to you. This means that our aquatic plant control efforts are ongoing and we will have to wait a little longer to recuperate from a very busy year. I'm sure that many of you are experiencing similar conditions in your areas as well.

This year our 35th Annual Meeting will be held in Baton Rouge, LA, September 12-14, 2016. I believe this is the first time that the Midsouth chapter will be holding its annual meeting in the state of Louisiana. We should view this as an opportunity to expand our membership. I encourage all of you to pass the Annual Meeting information on to anyone you know that works in fisheries, aquaculture, potable and wastewater management, or any other capacity that may involve aquatic plant management. It is my hope that we will have participation from new companies and groups that are either not aware of our organization, or were not able to attend the meetings in the past. I feel sure that if we expose new members of our field to what the Midsouth APMS has to offer, they will continue to attend the Annual Meetings in the future. I have always found it to be a great meeting and I believe that this year's meeting will be as well.

I would like to thank the entire Board of Directors for their dedication to the society. Tom Warmuth does an excellent job maintaining our membership lists and meeting minutes, and Craig Aguillard dedicates a lot of his time to ensuring that our finances are in order. Sherry Whitaker seems to be the steam engine that keeps this train moving. She is always there to keep us on task and help with planning the Annual Meeting. I would also like to offer special thanks to Ryan Wersal and Chris Mudge who have spent many hours making the arrangements for our upcoming meeting and workshop in Baton Rouge. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Jonathan Fleming who does an excellent job with our newsletter and keeping our website updated. If you get the chance, please take the time to thank these people, as well as other present and past board members, for their hard work and dedication.

The APMS will be having its annual meeting in Grand Rapids, MI, July 17-20, 2016. I encourage you to attend if possible. The Board of Directors will have its winter meeting in March. Please let me know if you have a topic that the Board needs to discuss. Thank you for your time, and I hope you all have a blessed 2016.

Thanks,
Alex Perret
President, MSAPMS



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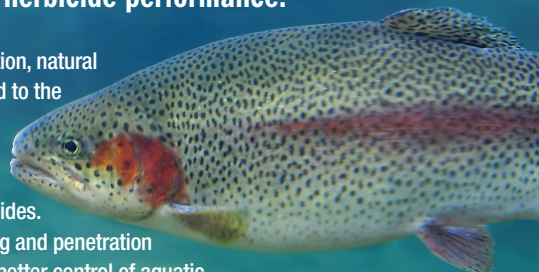


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Aquatic Plant Management Society

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 rebeccah@sepro.com or CMudge@agcenter.lsu.edu.

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 presentation to the abstract submission portal prior to the meeting. Note: All 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.

2016 MSAPMS Scholarship Opportunity

The MSAPMS is seeking applications for the 2016 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 **April 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.

To enter an application or request more information, contact:

Dr. Christopher R. Mudge

US Army ERDC

LSU School of Plant, Environmental & Soil Sciences

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Office: 225-578-1208

Fax: 225-578-1403

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MSAPMS Society Meeting

The MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society will be holding our 35th annual meeting at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting will be held September 12 to 14 so make your reservations for the first MSAPMS to be held in Louisiana. Events will include the President's reception the evening of September 12, the annual aquatic plant management workshop on September 13, and the banquet on Wednesday September 14.

Please visit the conference webpage at <http://msapms.org/conferences/2016/> to make reservations for this meeting. Our special room rate for the meeting is \$129.00 per night plus applicable tax, and the room blocks are for September 11 to 14. The deadline for room reservations at our Society rate is August 21, 2016 so please make your reservations accordingly. This is sure to be a great meeting, so plan to attend and bring the family! There is plenty to see and do in downtown Baton Rouge.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week!

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) is set for February 21st–27th. For more information about programs, presentations and events taking place around the country, visit; <http://www.nisaw.org/>.

Invasive Species Webinars during National Invasive Species Awareness Week:

- Monday, February 22nd. 3:00–4:00pm EST: [Let's take a hack at hack and squirt individual plant treatments](#)
- Tuesday, February 23rd. 3:00–4:00pm EST: [Volunteers Make a Difference in an Early Detection Rapid Response Citizen Science Program](#)
- Wednesday, February 24th. 3:00–4:00pm EST: [Protecting the Sierra Nevada from Invasive Plants: Incorporating Climate Adaptation into Wildland Weed Management](#)
- Thursday, February 25th. 3:00–4:00pm EST: [Weed Wrangle: A Template for Engaging Local Communities through Citywide Invasive Plant Events](#)

A Note From the Editor

I hope 2016 is starting off well for everyone. If you're like me, spring can't get here fast enough. As the temperature rises and the days get longer, many nuisance plants will renew their assault on ponds, lakes, and reservoirs throughout the Mid-south region. Many of you are probably gearing up for this year's battle, and I wish you all the best of luck!

Again I would like to thank our advertiser's for their support of the MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society. Please let me know if you or your company would like to purchase space for upcoming newsletters. I would also like to share your success stories or tips in the next issue. Any story is welcome and MSAPMS would love to share it with others.

Remember to register and book your hotel room early for the upcoming APMS and MSAPMS meetings. Also, please help us get the word out regarding scholarship opportunities for students. As always, if you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to let me know.

Thanks for your support!

—JF

jpflaming@una.edu

Upcoming Annual Meetings

2016

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 your 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!

Don't Forget!

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.

Objective: 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.

Applicants: 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.

Amount: \$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.

Guidelines for Proposals: 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.

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

Award: 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.

Requirements: 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

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.

Experts to Contact for More Information:

Kurt Getsinger (Kurt.D.Getsinger@usace.army.mil); Eric Dibble (edibble@cfr.msstate.edu); John Rodgers (irodger@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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