Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Society

Vol. 37 Issue: 1



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Message from the President

Message from the President.

Happy New Year fellow Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management members! Hope this message finds you and yours happy and healthy as we start another, what is sure to be a challenging year in aquatic plant management. Certainly hope you enjoyed the 37th Annual Training Conference in Chattanooga, TN this past November. It was only the second time since the inception of the society, that the meeting has been held in TN. By all accounts, we plan on going back in the not so distant future, it was a great location and venue. Our annual workshop included a tour of the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute where we learned about concerted efforts to propagate sensitive fish species and culminated at the spectacular Tennessee Aquarium. After our tour, we followed up the next day and a half with an excellent slate of speakers and presenters.

My personal favorite, was the highly impactful presentation on driver safety given by Tennessee State Trooper, Lt. John Harmon. Suffice it to say, there were few dry eyes in the room when it was over and hopefully will lead to everyone taking heed of the message; slow down, put your phone down and buckle up! I would venture to guess that as a society we probably spend more time on the road driving than we do on the water, so please be safe out there!

The meeting had participation from several student papers culminating with doctoral candidate, Charles Wahl from Louisiana State University being awarded the student scholarship. The meeting was capped off with a special award given to Carlton Layne being recognized as an Honorary Member of MSAPMS.

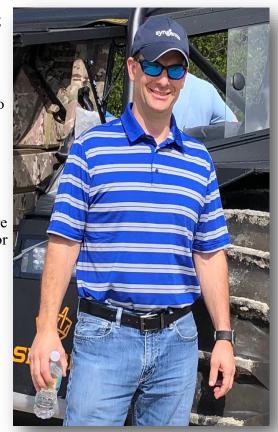
For this upcoming year, there are several issues of which to be aware. First, is the Waters of the United States Rule (WOTUS). As of this writing in late January, due to the government shutdown, no action has been taken following the release of the pre-publication of the revised rule defining the "waters of the U.S." Following the government restarting, the rule can be published in the Federal Register and then a comment period can open, so look for this to occur sometime in 2019.

The other issue that we all encounter as a society is properly informing the general public about the science behind what we do as a profession and also performing our jobs to maintain an ecosystem balance in aquatic systems. In my humble opinion, we have some of the finest, most compassionate, knowledgeable and hardworking individuals who represent our industry. It can, at times be disconcerting that what we do is often misconstrued or shown in a light that is not wholly representative of what we have been trained to do and execute.

That's why knowledge is key in educating the public and as a society, we are proud to help fill this need. This year, we are heading back to the Bayou for our 38th Annual Conference at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center from November 3-6, 2019! We will be sending out more information in the near future and hoping to see you in Baton Rouge for what is sure to be a great meeting!

Thank you for allowing me to represent the MSAPMS as your president, if there is anything I can do for you, please feel free to contact me.

Warmest Regards, Scott Jackson

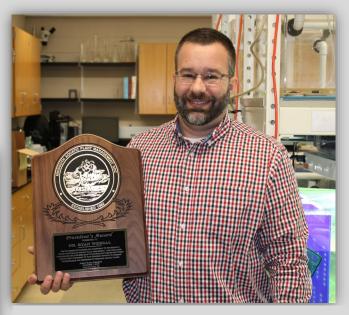


The 37th Annual Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Conference Chattanooga, TN November 2018

2018 Awards and Recognitions



Carlton Layne recognized as an honorary member



Dr. Ryan Wersal received the President's Award



Jeremy Slade recognized for his service as President of MSAPMS

37th Annual Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Conference

Chattanooga, TN



Gray Turnage, Craig Aguillard, Sherry Whitaker, and Warren Wagner recognized for their service on the Board of Directors



Congratulations to the Student Presenters (Left to Right: Kennedy Calhoun, Autumn Dunn, and Eryn Molloy)





2019 MSAPMS Board of Directors

37th Annual Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Conference









Dr. Mike Netherland

Beloved Colleague, Collaborator, Scientist, Mentor, and Friend...

Many of us were fortunate to have known a very unique and special ERDC -EL employee, Dr. Michael Netherland. Mike was a friend, colleague, and mentor to our team members and many others in the field of aquatic plant management. Mike was the embodiment of a kind, decent, and responsible individual. Sadly, Mike lost his battle with brain cancer last month, just shy of his 55th birthday. His wife Marci (who previously worked in EL) and their children were by his side.



When Mike arrived in Vicksburg in 1988, he quickly became a technical star on our R&D team, and much of his work led to the most innovative aquatic plant control practices during the past 25 years. Following a decade of research in Vicksburg, Mike completed his PhD via long-term training at the University of Florida. After a short spell with private industry, leading an international R&D group, Mike returned to EL and was stationed off-site in Gainesville, FL, for the last 14 years of his ERDC tenure.

During his professional years, Mike became the consummate applied scientist. He always developed his research approaches with the public's benefit in mind. He was well-published in the open literature, and spent many hours presenting his work to his colleagues and customers - with great passion and style. He was able to clearly translate complicated technical issues into readily understandable solutions and recommendations for improving aquatic plant management. And he performed that communication in a manner that scientists, students, managers, regulators, property owners, anglers, private sector, and policy makers could easily comprehend, appreciate, and retain .



His ground breaking research continues to influence scientists throughout the country and around the world. Mike was a true collaborator in every sense of the word - both inside and outside of the USACE. Mike relentlessly lived our motto, Essayons (Let us try), and that was how he lived his life. He was held in the highest regard within his profession, epitomizing the essence of a scientist serving the public. If a role model could be fashioned for young scientists to emu-late, it would be in the image of Dr. Mike Netherland.

Our team will continue to keep his legacy alive, strive to learn from the lessons he taught us, and draw strength from his courage and indomitable spirit. Mike's wisdom and counsel, intellect and wit, and humble nature will be greatly missed.

Kurt Getsinger Linda Nelson Chris Mudge Angela Poovey



Mr. James Scott Lankford (Scotty)

June 12, 1941 - January 1, 2019

James Scott Lankford (Scotty), age 77, passed away January 1, 2019 in his Huntsville home after a valiant battle with cancer. His family, friends, and firm belief in God supported him in his struggle and ultimately gave him peace.

Scotty was born to the late Homer Truett and Mary Rivers Lankford in Hollywood, AL on June 12, 1941. He is survived by his devoted wife and best friend of 57 years - Joyce Huber Lankford; sister Carolyn Lankford and brother Michael Lankford (wife Carolyn); sons Todd Lankford (Paige) and Mark Lankford (Lisa); grandchildren Jana Kirksey, Johnathan Lankford, Jeffrey Lankford, Brent Lankford, Jordan Brook, Jay Lankford, Peyton Lankford, and Josh Lankford.

Scotty graduated Scottsboro High School in 1959, where he was a standout basketball and baseball player. Upon many awards and championships, he was awarded a basketball scholarship to Florence State College and was one of the famous "Hustling Eight from Florence State" going to the first National Championship Tournament in school history. In 1961, Scotty enlisted in the United States Air Force and ultimately became the USAF "Combative Measures" Judo Instructor; later winning the Mid-West 180lb Judo Championship. Upon his Honorable Discharge in 1965, he returned to Florence State to complete a degree in Biology which served him well in his position with Alabama Power/Southern Company for 35 years. During his career as a biologist, he served as past President of the Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Society and past President of the Alabama Vector Management Society.

Scotty enjoyed teaching and coaching many young athletes during his lifetime. He always stressed the importance of a strong work ethic, physical conditioning, mental sharpness and always portraying an example of what a positive attitude can achieve. In 2017, Scotty was inducted into the Jackson County Sports Hall of Fame.

Scotty was a faithful member of First United Methodist Church of Scottsboro and served as a loving Christian example for his family. Words that have been used by close friends and family to describe Scotty are hardworking, witty, humorous, animated, positive, uplifting, motivating, smart, teacher, mentor, coach, giving, loving, outdoorsman, and a rock. Some of Scotty's own last words expressed his joyful life –

"I have been so lucky. I loved my wife and she loved me. I loved my children and they loved me. I loved my work. I had close friends. I love the life God gave me. I was so very blessed!"

A Memorial service will be held at First United Methodist Church of Scottsboro on Saturday January 5, 2019 at 1:00pm with a Reception to follow. Dr. Steve Screws will officiate the ceremony and celebration of Scotty's life. Flowers can be sent to the church at 1105 S Broad Street – Scottsboro, AL 35768. In lieu of flowers, donations can be accepted to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or First United Methodist Church of Scottsboro.

Student Scholarships

2019 Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Society Scholarship

The MSAPMS is seeking applications for the 2019 graduate student scholarship to be awarded at the 2019 annual meeting. We request that the successful applicant attend the meeting and give a presentation of research progress and results as they are available. One scholarship of \$2,000 will be awarded to a qualified student applicant enrolled and studying aquatic plant science of other relevant research.

The scholarship committee should receive the following information by October 1, 2019:

- 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 approved graduate research proposal;
- 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. Brett M. Hartis, Ph.D. Brett.Hartis@duke-energy.com

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Mid-South APMS Student Spotlight

This is the second edition of the Mid-South APMS Student Spotlight. The objective of the student spotlight is to get MSAPMS members more familiar with student members. I am hopeful this will evolve to not just involve students but other members of the society as well. If you know a student that would like to be featured or are a professor that has a student you would like to have featured, please contact the MSAPMS Editor Bradley Sartain.

Name: Kennedy Calhoun

School: Mississippi State University

Degree: Master's Degree

Editor: Where are you from?

KC: Star City, Arkansas



<u>Editor:</u> I've been to Arkansas a couple times, what stands out to you as the biggest difference between Star City, AR and Starkville, MS?

<u>KC</u>: I think what has stood out the most to me would be the religious beliefs of everyone around me. I am a very outspoken Christian, and my belief is a large driver of what I do and what I talk about. I am used to living in an area where everyone claims Christianity, and no one feels awkward when I talk about it. A large portion of the people I have met here in Starkville are not religious. I have even met a couple of Hindu believers. They try to direct conversations away from anyone's specific beliefs and a couple have even voiced their disagreement with me. I am not accustomed to being looked at like I am crazy for believing in God. I think this might just be a product of living in a large college town. I assume the rest of Mississippi is not the same because we technically are located in the "Bible Belt."

<u>Editor:</u> Where did you complete your undergraduate degree prior to starting at MSU and what was your major?

<u>KC</u>: I received an undergraduate degree at the University of Arkansas at Monticello in Natural Resources with a Wildlife Management option

Editor: Did you take time off from school after your undergrad? If so, what did you do?

<u>KC:</u> I did not purposely take time off after undergrad, but I ended up being out of school for about a year before starting graduate school. This was just because I had not found an available position that involved natural resources biology. My husband got a graduate position here at Mississippi State University right out of school, so we moved here for that. He started school, and I worked for about a year at a veterinary clinic in town until I found an available position.

Editor: What are you studying for your Master's?

<u>KC:</u> I am studying four aquatic plant species that are native to MS that can become problematic in some instances: American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), white waterlily (*Nymphaea odorata*), water shield (*Brasenia schreberi*), and American frogsbit (*Limnobium spongia*). I want to find a way to selectively control theses species while minimizing negative impacts to the environment, water quality in particular. My first summer of research involved mesocosm trials at the Aquatic Plant Research Facility at Mississippi State University's R.R. Foil Plant Research Center. For my second summer of research, I plan to do some field evaluations at the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in east-central MS.

<u>Editor:</u> Were aquatic plants pretty foreign to you once you began your research, or was it a situation where you saw them a lot but never really paid them much attention?

<u>KC:</u> I have been exposed to aquatic plants all my life because my favorite hobbies are always on the water, but I never paid them much attention. I have a wildlife background and animals have always interested me more than plants have. I always thought plants were a little boring because they are so similar and they don't move, but I can say that I have found more of an interest in plants the more I learn about them. There is more diversity within plant communities than I imagined. They are so crucial to animals that it is obviously important to know about them for my career.

<u>Editor:</u> Actually I used to think the same thing before I was involved with aquatic plants. What do you tell people when they ask what you are studying at MSU, and how often after you tell them do they seem confused and ask more questions like "So what will you do with that?" (I got this question so many times as a student and I finally decided to just say "agriculture"...)

<u>KC</u>: When anyone outside of my career field asks me what I am studying at MSU, I just give them a general answer of, "I am getting my Master's degree in Biological Sciences studying aquatic environments." Many of them are confused and will ask questions on specifics of my study. After that, they usually will become more confused and ask the exact question you mentioned, "So what will you do with that?" I tell them that I want to one day become a wildlife biologist. I have a special interest in aquatic animals; I love reptiles and amphibians. This degree will help me become more familiar with the environment those animals live in. I believe it will make me a better scientist if I have knowledge on the animals and plants in aquatics.



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<u>Editor:</u> Is a lot of field work involved with your research? If so have you experienced anything/ seen anything really cool while you were out collecting data? Or had any close calls with disasters? (I ask because I've had a couple interesting scenarios)

<u>KC:</u> Yes, a lot of field work is involved with my research. I work outside all summer, and it slows down during the school year. There are probably a lot of things I have encountered that I would consider really cool while others wouldn't! That is just because of my passion for animals. I have caught several reptiles and amphibians while on the job such as snakes, turtles, and frogs. I also find fish in my tanks sometimes. There is an irrigation pond right by the mesocosm facility so they must have come from there; I just have no idea how! There is also a baby skunk living there. It is not scared of me at all. I actually have a video of it walking up to me. I have seen him multiple times at the facility. I named him Pepé Le Pew after the skunk on Looney Tunes. I did have somewhat of a close call involving almost falling out of a boat. I was with another student out doing plant surveys on a lake. I was on the front of the boat, and my job was to look for stumps and warn the one driving. Well, I didn't do a very good job of that. I got distracted looking at a fish, and we hit a stump that stopped the boat dead in its tracks. I flew over the side and caught myself inches from hitting the water. Everyone was fine aside from me sustaining a few bruises!

<u>Editor:</u> Funny you should say that, I actually had a similar situation except I was the one driving the boat. I told the other student "There is a lot of stumps you may want to sit down" he declined and was in the water 1 minute later.. What do you do in your spare time besides "study?"

<u>KC</u>: In my spare time I go to a lot of bible studies. My husband and I are very involved with our church. I just really enjoy spending time with others and digging into God's word. I also really enjoy hunting and fishing of all types. I have been to Louisiana and Texas on bow fishing trips for alligator gar and stingray. My honeymoon was actually a bow fishing trip to Texas.

Editor: So, what is one of the most memorable hunts or fishing trips you've been on?

KC: I have so many great examples for this, so it is hard to pick just one! My bow fishing trips were the most memorable when it comes to fishing. In Louisiana I shot my biggest alligator gar at 5 foot 8 inches. The Texas trip was the first time we ever shot stingray. It was really fun! I have a hunting trip that was memorable for me just because it was pretty funny. We were back home deer hunting and specifically looking for a doe because we needed some meat. There was a deer standing in front of the stand and it was starting to get dark. I was in the process of trying to determine if the deer was a doe or a spike when a large black animal walked out. It was obviously bigger than the deer but looked nothing like what we knew to be in the wild. My husband and I were staring at it trying to figure out what it was when it screamed at the deer, "Baaaaa!" It was a huge goat!!!!! The old women down the road had a goat that ran loose around the area. They usually have him pinned up during deer season, but I guess he escaped. That's not even the craziest part. You would assume that when that goat screamed, the deer would spook and run off. It was the opposite. The deer actually followed the goat out of the field. That goat stole my deer! They must have been friends since the goat was half wild anyway.

<u>Editor:</u> If you could go on a hunting or fishing trip anywhere where would it be?

KC: I would love to go somewhere like Iowa or Canada to hunt giant whitetail deer. I also want to one day kill a big bull elk. Those are beautiful animals.

<u>Editor:</u> What was the last thing you listened to in your car or truck? (podcast, song, radio station)

<u>KC:</u> I don't remember the specific song I listened to in my car, just the genre. I keep my radio on the Christian station called K-love.

Editor: If you could learn something new, what would it be?

<u>KC:</u> I think it would be really cool to learn how to play the violin. I would love to be able to play Devil Went Down to Georgia.



Editor: Surely being an animal person you would have some pets?

<u>KC:</u> I have two pets. One is a 7-year-old black Labrador named Drake. He is my husband's duck dog. The other pet is a 2-year-old orange tabby cat named Newt. He is my lap cat.

Editor: Favorite food? Favorite Drink?

<u>KC:</u> My favorite drink is actually Diet Dr. Pepper. It is heaven sent! Best drink ever. I don't have a specific favorite food. I like anything loaded with bread and cheese: pizza, pasta, quesadillas, etc. I guess you could say I like Italian and Mexican food, basically anything that makes you feel miserable after eating it.

Editor: Are you a morning person or more of a night owl?

<u>KC:</u> I am definitely a morning person. I cannot stay up past 9 o'clock unless I am bow fishing, and that's only if I take a nap beforehand. I also get up at 5 a.m. every day to go to the gym.

Editor: What would you like to do after finishing school, career wise?

<u>KC:</u> I want to start a career as a wildlife biologist once I finish school. Hopefully I could get a job relatively close to home because I have a large family that I am very close to. As far as a specific job, I am keeping my options open. I would be fine with working for a state entity or federal. There are even private positions out there involving working as a biologist for a deer camp or duck camp. I have heard that a Corps of Engineers job would be great. It doesn't even have to be a herpetology career, although I would prefer it to be. It just depends on what is available when I graduate

Editor: Thanks Kennedy, I appreciate you taking the time to answer these questions and good luck with your studies!





A Note From The

Editor

Hopefully everyone had a great holiday season. I am always looking for good material to include in the MSAPMS newsletter. If anyone has any news related to aquatic plant management or a unique experience that they would like to share in the newsletter, please contact me at one of the email address listed below. I would like to personally thank Kennedy Calhoun, Eryn Molloy, and Brett Hartis for contributing to this edition of the MSAPMS newsletter.

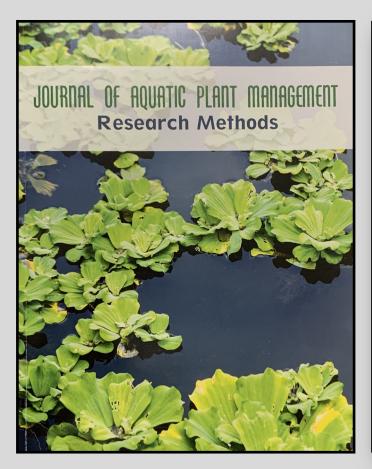
Thank you -B. Sartain

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Now Available

Journal of Aquatic Plant Management Research Methods





The Aquatic Plant Management Society hopes this publication will set a standard for conducting high-quality research for the next several decades. As the pioneers of these techniques move into retirement, we hope this collection of articles will help prepare the next generation of aquatic plant managers to lead our discipline with innovation and passion.

- Jason Ferrell. Ph.D. Editor

Copies can be purchased from the Aquatic Plant Management Webpage www.apms.org We graciously acknowledge the support of our partners in this project. Without them, this publication would not have been possible.















Upcoming Annual Meetings/Events 2019

February 11-14 2019 Weed Science Society of America; New Orleans, LA February 25-28 2019 Midwest Aquatic Plant Management; Society Chicago, IL March 25-29 2019 National Water Quality Monitoring Council; Denver, CO

July 14-17 2019 Western Aquatic Plant Management Society/Aquatic Plant Management Society; San Diego, CA

September 29-October 3 2019 American Fisheries Society; Reno, NV November 11-15 2019 North American Lake Management Society; Burlington, VT

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