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MSAPMS NEWSLETTER



Midsouth Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter



2020 In the Rearview

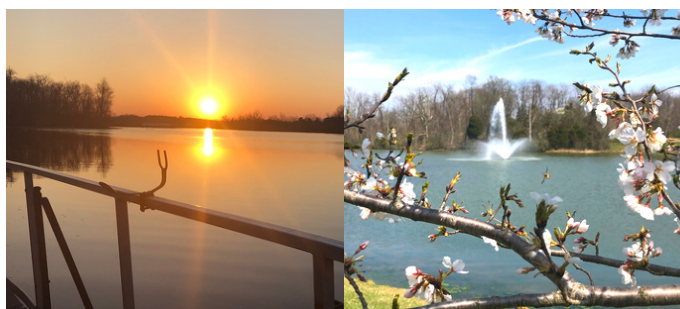
I hope your season is getting off to a good start! Thank goodness 2020 is behind us and things are already in full swing for 2021.

As this is my first time serving as your editor, please let me know if there is anything you would like to see included in these newsletters going forward.

Adam Charlton
Editor, MSAPMS

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Covid-19, Peer Collaboration, and Continued Plant Growth

Wes Anderson

Hello to all my friends, colleagues, and peers. I Pray this article finds everyone doing well amid a continued, life changing event in history. It is hard to believe that it has been a year ago now that we began hearing about a new threat and possible pandemic referred to originally as the “Corona” virus. In March of 2020 I was attending what I did not know would be my last in-person meeting for a year and counting. It was the annual meeting of the Alabama Vector Management Society which is composed primarily of employees and direct affiliates of Alabama’s public health department.



These individuals were all conversing about this new “sickness” they referred to as the Corona virus and the fact that it could quickly become a nationwide threat. Boy was that an understatement. The Corona virus shortly thereafter became more officially known as “Covid -19” and here we are a year later still feeling its wrath. Many of us may have acquired the virus ourselves or know individuals that have had the virus and recovered. Some of us may have had family members or personal friends that fell victim to the virus this past year and my heart goes out to those. Medical vaccine production has been on the fast track and is now available to many. Vaccines seem to be working and as of this morning’s update from health officials, new cases are decreasing locally and nationally as well.

We all hope for a lasting cure and we long for a return to what we all refer to as a “pre-Covid” normalcy.

As our MidSouth chapter board of directors met this past week via yet another Microsoft Team’s call, it was a harsh reminder to me that I have not seen many, if any, of these friends since our fall 2019 MidSouth meeting. In the board meeting I brought up the fact that I, myself felt that peer collaboration was at an all time low in my 32 years of involvement with this field. The lack of meeting engagement, research presentation, constructive project sharing, “boots on the ground” field work with others, and distributor and manufacturer visits have been sorely missed. These variables, or lack thereof, in our overall management plan are now more apparent than ever.

Whether or not you as an individual or your group recognize your position on the overall aquatic plant management team, it is noticed and respected by all members of the aquatic plant management field. With that said, I now proudly reflect on the positives and the drive we have exhibited to overcome this temporary obstacle in our path. Even with the lack of face-to-face collaboration, I have seen very little to no slow down as a society, as plant managers, or in the progress of our field of study. We have adapted and found new ways to communicate, share and learn. Some of us have been required to learn new techniques which have become very useful and appreciated.

These new tools and forms of communication will not be lost as we return to normal and many will be used to further strengthen our efforts as new challenges arise. At the onset of our meeting last week and before we officially began the meeting, I asked each member to share with the board about what they had going on with work and beyond if they so choose. As each member shared with us, I realized that our general conversation with each other is what I feel is missed the most. This information we share informally with each other is what drives and most often instigates further action in the form of more collaboration, research, future projects, and shared results.



As the meeting pressed on, I realized the importance of this shared information and felt led to discuss creating a means or platform for members to share casually with the membership about what is going on in their “bubble”. The board agreed to give this a try and will request members to share via our newsletters. We have initially proposed the name “Casual Corner” for this section of the newsletter and hope to have enthusiastic participation. We would like to ask members to share, in as few or as many words as you would like, an update about what you are working on. We feel this will aid in communications with each other and strengthen our field’s community. I will be working with Adam Charlton (Midsouth editor) along with all board members to get this going ASAP.

Please take the time to participate when prompted as this will be a great tool moving forward.

Even though we as individuals, families and teams have been slowed down by the virus, the plant community has not checked up. Plants continue to grow, spread, and create new challenges for plant managers across our chapter's footprint and the nation. We do not know what 2021 will hold, but I feel confident that each member of this field's nationwide team will be ready for the challenge. Thanks to everyone for what you do and please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Wes Anderson



Wes Anderson
President, MSAPMS

Board of Directors Update

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Your current MSAPMS BOD is:

President

Wes Anderson
Alabama Power

Secretary

Gray Turnage
Mississippi State University

President Elect

JJ Ferris
Cygnnet Enterprises

Treasurer

Derek Smith
Aqua Services

Past President

Dr. Brett Hartis
Duke Energy

Editor

Adam Charlton
Aquatic Control Inc.

Director

Harry Knight
Phoslock Environmental Technologies

Director

Stephen Turner
TVA

Director

Carl Della Torre
Orion IVM Solutions

Director

Daniel Hill
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries



Board of Directors Slate

Your 2021 MSAPMS BOD slate is:

We will be voting on this at the upcoming meeting in July

President Elect - Carl Della Torre



Director - Daniel Hill



Director - Dean Jones



CASUAL CORNER

"...a high level run down
of what's going on in
your world."

WES ANDERSON

Wes Anderson

Alabama Power

Lyngbya down from ~1,200 ac to 200 ac. Hydrilla moving in but grass carp appear to be effective at slowing the spread; 500 ac hydrilla sprayed in 2019 but 0 acres needed herbicide in 2020 due to carp.

Steven Turner

TVA

Vallisneria moving into system; heteranthera becoming more common in NE TVA reservoirs. Using harvesters near water intakes.

Daniel Hill

Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

Treated 35,000 + ac in 2020, mostly giant salvinia (15,000+) and water hyacinth (13,000+). Little to no contract spraying allowed beginning at the new fiscal year due to 65% budget cut. Hard freeze appears to be helping with plant control, we will know full extent in 2/3 weeks. Began MSM field trials, treating just below 400 acres total with MSM/Flumi mix.

Derek Smith

Aqua Services Inc.

Although the past few years have been challenging due to the fact that Vallisneria has become very invasive along the shorelines of Gunter'sville Lake, 2020 was a good year overall for Aqua Services. We have found that Hydrothol Granular and Hydrothol 191 at a target rate of 3-4 ppm are the only effective ways to control Vallisneria, with the granular product providing control for 90+ days in some instances. Otherwise, with a major increase in people working from home due to COVID, there was a noticeable uptick in activity at private lake houses, HOA ponds, golf courses, etc. which brought on some new contracts and interest in managing invasive aquatic plants in those areas.

JJ Ferris

Cygnal Enterprises

2020 was a great year for myself and Cygnal. Last October Cygnal merged with Target Specialties. Despite many obstacles due to Covid I was able to tie the knot and get married and now expecting a baby boy in May.

Harry Knight

Phoslock USA

Started a new position as Commercial Lead USA for Phoslock (Australian company) this year.

Brett Hartis

Duke Energy

Lots of changes within Duke (some forced layoffs). Hydrilla biggest issue; parrotfeather coming into system (mostly deepwater sites); yellow floating heart, lyngbya, Vallisneria also issues. Lake Norman (30,000 ac) is largest of 44 reservoirs Duke owns.

Gray Turnage

Mississippi State University

Done with PhD; planning to stay with MSU for foreseeable future.

Carl Della Torre

Orion

Working with MSM to get approval for new states.

Adam Charlton

Aquatic Control Inc.

2020 was a good year for our company, despite the concerns that COVID-19 brought. I have taken a promotion within the company, now serving as the Director of Satellite Operations. I will be traveling a lot more, but am very excited for this new chapter in my career.



Stay tuned! We will be reaching out to more members of the society for the Casual Corner for future newsletters.

40th Annual Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Conference



Riverside Hilton
New Orleans, LA

July 12-14, 2021

virtual July 27-29

See you there!

For more details visit our webpage at:

<http://www.msapms.org/conferences/2021>

CALL FOR PAPERS

Present Your Original Research

You are invited to submit a title and abstract for the 61st Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society. Oral 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 algal 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 MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society, so regional presenters are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Format

Participants and attendees for this year's conference can attend in-person or virtually. APMS will hold an in-person conference at the Riverside Hilton in New Orleans, Louisiana, from July 12-14, 2021. In addition, APMS will hold a virtual conference July 27-29, 2021.

All in-person talks will be recorded and either played during the subsequent virtual conference, or made available on demand. All presentations for the virtual conference will be pre-recorded, and additional instructions for those will be forthcoming. All talks at the in-person conference will be live; we will not play pre-recorded presentations at the in-person conference.

Acceptance of contributed papers or posters will occur after the abstract deadline, and will be confirmed by a separate e-mail. Additional details on presentation format will be provided at that time.

Students

The society will provide complimentary registration to presenting students (in person or virtual). We plan to hold a graduate student session for the virtual conference, and any graduate student presentations given in-person will be recorded and included in the virtual session. Students that choose to attend in-person will be responsible for covering their travel and hotel accommodations. Students may contact the Program Chair (Dr. Ryan Thum; ryan.thum@montana.edu) or the Student Affairs Committee Chair (Samantha Sardes; sam.sardes@solitudelake.com) with any questions.

Poster Presentations

The in-person conference will not have our traditional poster reception. However, we will offer a poster presentation format virtually. Details about virtual poster formatting will be forthcoming.

Abstract Submission Information

Abstracts must be submitted on the WSSA abstract system at <http://weedscimeetingabstracts.com/>. Instructions for abstract submittal are below. The WSSA Title and Abstract Submission System is now active and will remain open until **May 15, 2021**.

Acceptance of contributed papers will not occur until after the abstract deadline, and will be confirmed by a separate e-mail.

Logging in to the WSSA System

If you have used this system before, enter your e-mail address and password to sign on to the system. If you cannot remember your password, click “Forgot your password?” to reset the password.

If you do not have an account with the WSSA abstract submission system, click “Register as a new user” and follow the instructions.

Once you are logged in, you will see a list of conferences that are open for Title and Abstract submissions. Click on “My Titles” at the top, and then click on “Create New”. You will be prompted to select a conference. Select “2021 APMS” and hit the “Continue” button.

Entering a Title: Type in the title capitalizing key words (e.g., Response of Eurasian and Hybrid Watermilfoil to Five Auxin-mimic Herbicides). Please do not submit your title in bold typeface or all caps. Just capitalize the major words in the title.

Students: Please indicate if you are a student. There will be no student contests this year, but we will waive registration for students presenting in-person or virtually.

Section: Indicate whether you are presenting an oral or poster presentation using the “Type” dropdown menu. For oral presentations, under “Section 1”, please indicate whether you will be presenting in-person (June 13-14) or virtually (June 27-29). We will not have in-person posters, but posters may be presented virtually.

Presenter Biography: Please provide a short biography of the presenting author (200 word maximum).

Abstract: Type or copy the text of your abstract into the abstract box (300 word maximum).

Authors: Be sure to add the full names and contact information of all authors. Please indicate the presenting author with the checkbox. Please enter all authors in the correct order, and the order can be changed by dragging the boxes.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Dr. Ryan Thum

2021 APMS Program Chair

ryan.thum@montana.edu

2021 MSAPMS SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP

The MSAPMS is seeking applications for the 2021 student scholarship to be awarded at the 2021 annual joint meeting with the Aquatic Plant Management Society. We request that the successful applicant attend the meeting and give a presentation of academic progress and results as they are available. One scholarship of \$2,500 will be awarded to a qualified student applicant enrolled and studying aquatic plant science or other relevant research.



The Scholarship Committee should receive the following information by June 15th, 2021:

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:

Brett M. Hartis, PhD | Lead Scientist
Duke Energy | Environmental Sciences
13339 Hagers Ferry Road | Huntersville, NC 28078 |
brett.hartis@duke-energy.com
O: (980)-875-5424
M: (828)-442-7339

2020 AWARDS

Without a 2020 conference, we were not able to handout awards last year. Plaques will be received at this year's conference in New Orleans. Congrats to last year's award recipients!

President's Award



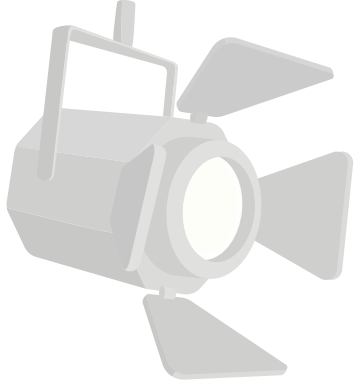
JJ Ferris

Honorary Award



Terry Goldsby

Congrats!



Student Spotlight

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Andy Sample

School: Mississippi State University

A breif overview of Andy's Master's project:

For my project we are setting up a mesocosm study to explore relationships between weedy and non-weedy emergent macrophytes and removal of nitrogen and phosphorus from the water column, and to determine if species invasion and eutrophication affects the efficacy of water quality improvement for certain native non-weedy species. I am looking at *Typha latifolia* and *Phragmites australis* as the weedy species, and *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* and *Juncus effusus* for the non-weedy species. We have spent the past few months building the mesocosm system and are transplanting the species over from our stock populations this week, and we will begin data collection soon this summer. The study will run for three field seasons—first with species grown in monocultures, then with weedy and non-weedy species mixtures, and finally with species mixtures and elevated nitrogen in the water column.

Look for Andy at
the 2021 MSAPMS
conference in July
and ask him about
his research!



Upcoming Events



APMS Conference - July 12 - 14, 2021

Riverside Hilton
New Orleans, LA



MSAPMS Conference - July 12 - 14, 2021

Riverside Hilton (jointly with APMS)
New Orleans, LA



SOUTH CAROLINA AQUATIC
PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

SCAPMS Conference - Oct. 6 - 8, 2021

Ocean Drive Beach and Golf Resort
North Myrtle Beach, SC



FLAPMS Conference - Oct. 11 - 14, 2021

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront
St. Petersburg, FL



TXAPMS Conference - Nov. 15 - 17, 2021

The Stella Hotel
Bryan, Texas



MAPMS Conference - Feb. 27 - Mar. 3, 2022

Grand Geneva Resort and Spa
Lake Geneva, WI



WAPMS Conference - March 7 - 11 2022

DoubleTree Reid Park
Tucson, AZ