



AQUATIC PLANT NEWS

A newsletter of The Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc. No. 53 Jan. 1997

Wendy Andrew, Editor, Post Office Box 121086, Clermont, Florida 34712-1086

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kurt D. Getsinger

Another Federal fiscal year has ended, and before things get hectic again I would like to share with the membership a quick glance at the past, some administrative goals for the upcoming year, and a challenge for the future. All indications point to the Burlington meeting as one of the best ever, with attendance being second only to the International meeting in Daytona. The presentations were interesting and scholarly, the accommodations were great, and the special events were outstanding. I'm sure our members will join me in thanking the people of Vermont and the New England/Northeast region for their gracious hospitality and for contributing to a most enjoyable experience. Our gratitude is extended to Holly Crosson, her Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation colleagues, and many others for their invaluable assistance in planning and conducting the meeting. And special thanks go to the record number of industry sponsors and sustaining members who ensured that our informal gatherings were well-attended and stimulating. One thing is certain: The program and local arrangements chairs for next year's meeting in Fort Myers, Alison Fox and Don Doggett, have an exciting challenge ahead of them in their attempt to top the Burlington event. Knowing the mettle and determination of these two individuals, I'm sure that they will succeed.

In addition to planning the next annual meeting, there are some other important issues that the Board will be addressing this year. We must decide on whether to commit to a second International meeting in the year 2000, to help celebrate the Society's 40th anniversary gathering. Properties in California and Florida are being considered for this historic meeting site. A final decision on the International meeting will set the stage for selecting a meeting site for 1999 (we're going to Memphis in 1998). If you have any pertinent opinions/suggestions on these meeting-site issues, please send them to Site Selection Chairman Joe Z prior to the winter board meeting, which convenes in Ft. Myers on 9 February 1997.

The Board must also decide on how to best utilize some of the funds we have generated through the Scholastic Endowment program, particularly concerning financial assistance for individuals studying aquatic plant management. I have asked our Student Affairs chair, John Madsen, to develop a strategy for that process. In addition, Mike Stewart (Legislative chair) will be reviewing the Society's interaction with the WSSA congressional liaison, and with the aid of the Legislative Committee

will continue to define our position with respect to lobbying/grassroots efforts in securing resources for aquatic plant management activities. Lewis Decell (BASS Rep.) represented the Society at a National BASS environmental rally in August, and he senses that we have approached a crossroads with that group per meaningful future interactions; the ball is in our court. Other issues of interest include the fate of the Center for Aquatic Plants' Information Retrieval System capabilities, the potential for joint meetings with the Corps of Engineers Aquatic Plant Control Research Program, and possible interactions with the newly formed Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration



(... from page 1)

Foundation. As you can see, the Board is facing a full agenda, and we certainly encourage and welcome any input and assistance from our membership.

Perhaps the most critical issue we face as a Society is the changing role of the Federal government in the aquatic plant management business and what that means for our future. The recent past has shown that the dependable funding levels and standard practices we have relied upon for the past four decades for managing and researching aquatic plants are rapidly dwindling and transforming. All of the Federal aquatic plant control groups (such as those in the USACE, USBR, USDA, and TVA) that have been dominant partners with state/local governments, academia, and the private sector are undergoing significant budget reductions, downsizing, or potential elimination. The loss of these Federal teams and assets will shift the primary burden and responsibility of management and R&D efforts onto state agencies and private industry; neither of which are staffed or funded to conduct those missions alone. Furthermore, neither of these parties, as individual entities, are presently positioned to coordinate operational and research activities on a national, or even regional, scale. Unfortunately, this fragmentation and diffusion of resources is occurring at a time when hydrilla, milfoil, purple loosestrife, melaleuca, waterhyacinth, and other aquatic weeds are increasing in previously established areas, spreading to new regions of the country, and continuing to degrade and ruin our valued aquatic ecosystems.

As this devolution of Federal interests in aquatic plant management continues, some group will need to step forward to establish new leadership on a national level. The public will eventually demand it, and our natural resources certainly deserve it. Clearly, the APMS (with its regional chapters) is poised to play a prominent role in establishing and supporting (and perhaps even becoming) the lead organization that defines and coordinates National and regional aquatic plant management/R&D issues. The next few turbulent years will undoubtedly represent the greatest challenge ever faced by our Society and its members. The relaxed and uncomplicated times are behind us, the tough and rigorous days are ahead. The prevailing questions remain: How will we respond, and how will history judge us? Finally, I am honored to serve as your President, and I look forward to confronting the defining issues that will test the Society and aquatic plant management in the coming years.

Newsletter Editor Needed

Would you like to assist the Society by editing the Aquatic Plant News newsletter? Presently the newsletter has been published three to four times annually and includes articles relating to the actions of the Society, the Board of Directors and Committees, as well as industry news, recently published articles or books, and other pertinent news items. If you would like additional information or are interested in this opportunity please contact Wendy Andrew at (352) 429-4119.

1996-97 APMS COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES

Chair: Open

BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS

Chair: Joyce Johnson (512) 389-4858

EXHIBITS

Chair: Joe Bondra (810) 436-1510

FINANCE

Chair: Richard Hinterman (810) 436-1510

INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

Chair: Alison Fox (352) 392-1808

LEGISLATIVE

Chair: Mike Stewart (601) 634-2606
WSSA Legislative Liaison

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

Chair: Don Doggett (941) 694-2174

MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Ken Manuel (704) 875-5424

NECROLOGY

Chair: Leon Bates (205) 766-2095

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: Terry McNabb (360) 754-3460

PAST PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair: Terry McNabb (360) 754-3460

PLACEMENT

Chair: Open

PROGRAM

Chair: Alison Fox (352) 392-1808

PUBLICATIONS

Chair: Bill Haller (352) 392-9615

REGIONAL CHAPTERS

Chair: Dave Spencer (916) 752-1096

SCHOLASTIC ENDOWMENT

Chair: Mike Bodle (407) 687-6132

SITE SELECTION

Chair: Joe Zolczynski (334) 626-5153

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Chair: John Madsen (214) 436-2215

CAST REPRESENTATIVE

Lars Anderson (916) 752-6260

WSSA REPRESENTATIVE

Ken Langeland (352) 392-9615
Lars Anderson (916) 752-6260 Alternate

BASS REPRESENTATIVE

Lewis Decell (601) 636-7077

NALMS REPRESENTATIVE

Robert Doyle (214) 436-2215

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Responsibilities

The APMS Legislative Committee for the 1996-97 year includes Mike Stewart (Chair), Kurt Getsinger, Terry McNabb, Steve de Kozlowski, Ken Langeland, Catherine Johnson, Scott Jorgensen, and Randall Stocker. As stated in the Society Bylaws, the main duty of the APMS legislative Committee is "to inform itself as to any legislation pending of interest to the Society and to make recommendations to the Board of Directors on the same."

During the most recent federal legislative session (104th Congress), several critical legislative changes were implemented. For many of us in aquatic plant management, the most significant of those was the reduction in federal funding under the Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Plant Control (APC) Program. During the 104th Congress, annual funding for this program was reduced from approximately \$9 million to \$2.5 million for fiscal year 1997. Further, all FY97 funding is targeted for research and development of more effective and environmentally sound management techniques, with all cost-share funds previously available to cooperating states for operational control efforts having been eliminated.

Undoubtedly, these changes to the Corps' APC program, which will result in a significant shift toward state responsibility for aquatic plant management, are a good indication of future federal reductions in other natural resource management programs. During this time of federal reductions and shifts in aquatic plant management responsibilities, the APMS Legislative Committee will help the Board of Directors and the membership track important legislative issues. In keeping with this responsibility, the following summaries are provided for (1) recent activities of the committee and (2) currently proposed federal legislation being tracked by the committee.

Recent Actions

WSSA Washington Liaison Committee - The APMS Board of Directors has appointed Legislative Committee Chair Mike Stewart on this WSSA committee. This association with WSSA gives APMS the opportunity to interact with AESOP, Inc., a Washington based firm which specializes in gathering and exchanging information during formulation of critical weed science legislation.

Noxious Weeds Working Group - At the request of WSSA, President Getsinger has appointed APMS Legislative Committee member Randall Stocker to a joint-society working group on noxious weeds. The intent of this working group is to provide a thorough review, and offer recommendations where appropriate, of proposed federal legislation dealing with noxious weed control.

Integrated Pest Management Working Group - At WSSA's request, President Getsinger will also appoint an APMS member to serve on a joint working group to address issues regarding integrated pest management (IPM) practices in weed control. A preliminary objective of this working group will be to compare the success of integrated pest management of insect pests with that of weed pests, and to provide a technical explanation of why IPM may not be as effective a strategy for weed control.

WSSA Liaison - At President Getsinger's request, Ken Langeland has agreed to serve as our Liaison to WSSA. In this capacity, Ken will track and inform the Society of other pertinent WSSA activities.

Proposed Federal Legislation

Federal Noxious Weed Control Improvement Act of 1995 (S.690): This bill would amend the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974. Among other things, this amendment would (1) grant emergency authority to prohibit the entry of foreign weeds that have not been formally added to the Federal noxious weed list, (2) provide for an Advisory Council to APHIS to review the inclusion of a plant species on the Federal noxious weed list, and (3) prohibit the movement of Federal noxious weeds across state lines except under permit.

National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (H.R. 3217): This bill would amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. The existing act deals almost exclusively with prevention and control of nonindigenous aquatic species (e.g. zebra mussels) in coastal and Great Lakes waterways. The proposed amendment would include authorization for control of certain non-native aquatic plant species (including Eurasian watermilfoil, hydrilla, waterhyacinth, and waterchestnut). If passed in its present form, the amendment also includes authorization of \$1.5 million for federal grants to states for the management of "aquatic nuisance vegetative species".

Student Activities at the Annual Meeting.

APMS was pleased to welcome eight students to participate in the 1996 Annual Meeting in Burlington, Vermont. There was local representation from Vermont, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, and others from Minnesota, the Carolinas, and two provinces of Canada. As initiated in 1995, all student activities at the Annual Meeting, including registration, accommodation, and cash prizes were supported by the Scholastic Endowment. Each student was also presented with a copy of C.D.K. Cook's "Aquatic Plant Book". This book is one of those superb but rather costly texts on which it is difficult to justify spending a meager student income, but which appeared to be much appreciated as an award from the Society.



In addition to the opportunities and awards provided by the Scholastic Endowment, there was no doubt that these students enjoyed the many social activities of the meeting. Professional interaction was certainly in evidence with several requests for ideas as to where to collect particular plants around the country. But it was not all work; on Tuesday night some of the students showed us the most enthusiastic dancing that APMS has seen in quite a while!

The student papers were of the usual high standard that we have come to expect and enjoy at our meetings. Cash prize winners were:

- 1st - Susan Solarz
- 2nd - Donald Padgett
- 3rd - Patricia Tolley
- 4th - Natalie Feisthauer

As an extra bonus, the cash for first prize was supplemented with a copy of C.D. Sculthorpe's "The Biology of Aquatic Vascular Plants". Such an award is a special treat because this book is out of print and so has become very difficult to obtain.

Center for Aquatic Plants 1997 Research Review

and

Aquatic Plant Managers Workshop

March 11-12, 1997

University of Florida

J. Wayne Reitz Union Auditorium

Gainesville, Florida

Recently completed and current research being conducted on aquatic plant management throughout Florida will be presented by representatives from US Department of Agriculture, US Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Florida Water Management Districts, Universities and commercial companies. Topics will include management of Lakes Apopka and Orange, Crystal River vegetation changes, hygrophila, torpedograss, melalueca, aquatic soda apple, chinese tallow, and algae management, DNA, genotypes, and propagation, and updates on programs and products from around the state, and around the world.

Conference Accommodations: A block of rooms is being held at the Cabot Lodge (Highway 24 off I-75/Archer Road) at a rate of \$58.00 per night plus tax. For reservations call (800)843-8735 or (352)375-2400. Please state you are attending the Aquatic Plant Managers Workshop.

Registration will be \$40.00 for registrations received before 2/18/97. After that date or at the door, registrations will be \$55.00. For more information, contact the Office of Conferences & Institutes at (352)392-5930.



Graduate Research Assistantships

The Agronomy Department and Center for Aquatic Plants at the University of Florida have graduate research assistantships for motivated M.S. or Ph.D. students available. Research will involve the biology, ecology, and management of invasive, non-indigenous plants in aquatic and wetland habitats, and public lands in Florida. Stipends are \$13,337 (M.S.) or \$14,799 (Ph.D.) with waiver of the out-of-state portion of tuition. Related temporary employment may be possible for students available prior enrollment. Contact Alison Fox, Dept. of Agronomy, University of Florida, PO Box 110500, Gainesville, FL 32611-0500, Tel (352)392-1808, amfox@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu.

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS
APMS 37TH ANNUAL MEETING
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA - JULY 1997

Although some of us may still be tapping our feet from the Unknown Blues Band, it is never too early to starting mulling over the possibility of presenting a paper at next year's Annual Meeting. We expect a good sized crowd to join us at the Sanibel Harbor Resort and Spa in Fort Myers next July, so it would be the ideal opportunity to make a presentation about your work to an interested audience.

You are invited to submit a title and abstract for the 1997 APMS Annual Meeting July 13-16, 1997. Presentations of up to 15 minutes on all aspects of aquatic plant biology, ecology, and management will be considered. Carousel slide projectors and overhead projectors are provided. Other equipment, such as video projection, may be available but should be discussed with the Program Chair at the time of title submission.

Although the **Submission Deadline** will not be until **April 15, 1997** (and we all know how easy it is to procrastinate!) it would certainly be a good idea to submit your paper title early if you want to guarantee a place on the program.

Please type the title, author(s), organization and address, exactly the way you would like it to appear in the program. Please use the form below to submit papers. Abstracts of up to 100 words should be attached and these will be printed and provided to meeting participants.

If you have any questions or comments about the program, please contact:

Alison Fox
Program Chair
Tel: (352) 392-1808
Fax: (352) 392-1840
e-mail: amfox@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip, Country: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax: _____

Title of Paper: _____

Authors: _____ Student Paper? Yes: _____ No: _____

Please send to: Alison Fox
Agronomy Department UF/IFAS
PO Box 110500
Gainesville, FL 32611-0500

Application for Membership

The objectives of the society are to assist in promoting the management of nuisance aquatic plants, to provide for the scientific advancement of members of the society, to encourage scientific research, to promote university scholarship, and to extend and develop public interest in the aquatic plant science discipline.

Please Send Information Regarding Regional Affiliates:

- ☐ Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society
- ☐ Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Society
- ☐ Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society
- ☐ South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society
- ☐ Western Aquatic Plant Management Society
- ☐ Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society

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