

Aquatic Plant News

The Newsletter of the Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc.
7922 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL 32653
Jeffrey D. Schardt, Newsletter Editor

Issue 116

October 2017

Message from President John Rodgers

The 57th Annual Meeting of APMS in Daytona Beach, Florida was a success based on many metrics. The meeting was well attended and the venue on the Atlantic Ocean was exceptional (thanks Bill Torres and Tommy Bowen).



Dr. John Rodgers

Regional chapters were well represented at the meeting and we were provided updates on aquatic plant and algal research from across the country and around the world. I was pleased that our colleagues from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were able to attend and participate in the meeting. We had strong attendance by students (18) and the numerous universities can be proud that they were represented by these outstanding

students. There were special sessions on aquatic plant management in Florida as well as algal problems and solutions. I was impressed with the scientific information presented throughout the meeting and thank all for bringing their “A”-game.

I especially thank the sponsors for supporting the Society and the meeting and also thank the volunteers who were tireless in their efforts to ensure the success of this meeting. At the banquet, we acknowledged some outstanding APMS members with special awards (more on this in this Newsletter). The Post-Conference student tour was a special service for the students and was especially appreciated by them.

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We're on the Web!
apms.org

Message from President John Rodgers *(continued from page 1)*

The APMS Annual Meeting was in July of this year, and for most of us, life has been fast and furious since that time. Summers are characterized by days beginning at dawn and ending after sunset with lots of time on or in the water. As I write this, major weather events in North America with names like “Harvey”, “Irma”, “Jose” and “Maria” have conspired to extensively alter or seriously complicate our lives. These incredible storms adversely impacted everyone in their paths; even those hundreds of miles from their “eyes”.

Now the difficulties of dealing with losses, grieving and recovery begin. Your thoughts and prayers are important and also please consider donating to help these folks move forward. The frequency, spatial extent and intensity of these catastrophic events support the relatively recent decision of your APMS Board of Directors to budget for potential collision with an annual meeting. Due to threats from “Irma”, the annual meeting of MidSouth APMS in Birmingham, AL had to be postponed until November.

We lost power in parts of South Carolina for several days (Irma) and as I sat in the dark I wondered if vascular aquatic plants are as opportunistic and invasive as noxious algae in response to major weather events such as hurricanes? The energy expended over some of our water resources surely altered vegetation structure and nutrients available to benthic and planktonic algae. For disturbance hypothesis proponents to ponder and perhaps acquire some data, will noxious plant and algal (including Cyanobacteria) species seize this opportunity to add insult to injury?

There are numerous legislative and other actions underway that may influence our profession. Please see the report by Lee Van Wychen on page 17 of this newsletter for more details regarding funding and other activities.

It is time to prepare for the next Annual Meeting in Buffalo, NY at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo on July 15-18, 2018. The Program Committee is planning an action-packed meeting featuring the latest scientific information regarding aquatic plant and algae research and management issues and solutions. Plan now to join your friends and colleagues to have wide ranging discussions and enjoy Buffalo in the summer. You can also enjoy Niagara Falls, perhaps see some Great Lakes (Lake Erie) algae and visit your friends in the Northeast APMS Region or Canada (bring your passport).

The next meeting of your APMS Board of Directors will be January 16, 2018, in New Orleans. The Board decided that it would be better to evaluate New Orleans as a potential future venue for the APMS Annual Meeting than to travel to Buffalo, NY in January to observe lake-effect snow. If you have anything for Board consideration, please contact me or a Board member. We are always seeking ways to make your APMS better.

Also, please remember that Regional Chapter meetings are scheduled throughout the year (schedule on the web site and this Newsletter) and they are incredibly useful sources of information regarding local aquatic plant and algae research and management issues and solutions.

I would like to close by wishing you all good health and providing an inspiring quote from Margaret Mead that is on my desk:

“Never doubt that a small, committed group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Best regards,

John Rodgers, President

APMS Honors Aquatic Plant Managers during the 2017 Annual Meeting

Nearly 250 members and guests attended as the Aquatic Plant Management Society returned to Florida for the 57th Annual Meeting at the Hilton Daytona Beach Resort on July 16-20, 2017. The Annual Meeting provides opportunities for researchers, managers, and industry representatives to share new information through formal presentations and social events scheduled during the week. There were 55 oral and 13 poster presentations. Eighteen students from six universities presented research updates on aquatic plant control, ecology and physiology, integrated management, and modelling. The feature social event during the APMS Annual Meeting is the Tuesday evening Awards Banquet. APMS honors long-term achievements as well as research contributions presented by students during the meeting. Following is a summary of awards presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting.



Student presenters at the APMS Annual Meeting with Student Affairs Committee Chair, Chris Mudge – far right

Student Presentations

Eighteen students competed in oral (10) and poster (9) presentation competitions. Cash awards are presented for first (\$300), second (\$200), and third (\$100) place in each presentation category. Erika Haug, from North Carolina State University, placed first in the Student Oral Presentations with her project: *Monoecious Hydrilla: Growth in the Absence of Photosynthesis*. This is the third time Erika has placed first in the Oral Presentation competition. Ciera Kinley and Tyler Geer, both of Clemson University, placed second and third, respectively, in the Student Oral Presentation competition.



Chris Mudge, Student Affairs Committee Chair, presents the first place Oral Presentation competition check to Erika Haug

Continued next page

2017 APMS Award Presentations (continued from page 3)

Mirella Ortiz of Colorado State University took first place in the Poster competition with her presentation: *Efficacy of Endothall (Aquathol® K) and Endothall+2,4-D (Chinook®) for Curlyleaf Pondweed (Potamogeton crispus) Control Under Simulated Fall Conditions*. Andrew Howell and Kara Foley, both of North Carolina State University, placed second and third, respectively.



Mirella Ortiz receives the first-place check for Student Poster Presentation.

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Alyssa Calomeni of Clemson University received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award for her scholarship, publication record, and commitment to algal management research as a Ph.D. student at Clemson.



Alyssa Calomeni receives the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from President Madsen (left) and Major Professor John Rodgers

APMS Student Director

Andrew Howell from the North Carolina State University was voted by his peers to serve a one year term as Student Director on the APMS Board of Directors. The Student Director represents student issues and is a full voting member on the APMS Board of Directors.



Andrew Howell (right) receiving congratulations from Student Affairs Committee Chair, Chris Mudge.

APMS Graduate Student Research Grant

The Graduate Student Research Grant (GSRG) is the premier education initiative offered by the Aquatic Plant Management Society. The objective is 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.

The 2017 GSRG was on a specific topic – starry stonewort. This GSRG was supported jointly by APMS, Midwest APMS, Northeast APMS, Lonza, SePRO, and UPI; each contributing \$5,000 per year for two years. Thirteen judges evaluated proposals and selected the project submitted by Clemson University to receive the two-year, \$60,000 GSRG that will run from January 2018 through December 2019.

2017 APMS Award Presentations (continued from page 4)



President John Madsen presents the Starry Stonewort GSRG to Tyler Geer and major professor Dr. John Rodgers of Clemson University.

Outstanding Research / Technical Contribution

Dr. Ryan Thum of Montana State University received the Outstanding Research / Technical Contribution Award. He is honored for his research related to identifying invasive watermilfoil hybrids and his ability to communicate this information to plant managers. He is also recognized for his scientific publication record, commitment to aquatics, and encouraging graduate students to participate in the field of aquatic plant management.



Ryan Thum (left) receives the Outstanding Research / Technical Contribution Award from APMS Editor Jason Ferrell (right).

Outstanding Journal Article

The Outstanding Journal Article Award is presented to an author (and co-author(s)), recognizing research published in the *Journal of Aquatic Plant Management* during the previous year that is unique and will further the science of aquatic plant management. The Editor and Associate Editors vote on this award. A paper by Justin Nawrocki, Rob Richardson and Steve Hoyle from North Carolina State University was selected: *Monoecious hydrilla tuber dynamics following various management regimes on four North Carolina reservoirs*. *J. Aquat. Plant Manage.* 54:1-11.



Justin Nawrocki (center) accepts the Outstanding Journal Article Award – also pictured from left to right are John Madsen, Rob Richardson (NCSU), Jay Ferrell (UFL), and Steve Hoyle (NCSU).

Outstanding International Contribution

Dr. John Clayton of the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Hamilton, New Zealand, received the Outstanding International Contribution Award for 40 years of research and advocating for the development and implementation of science-based aquatic plant management. His collaboration through NIWA has led to novel strategies for control and eradication of invasive plants in New Zealand and his mentorship has benefitted international scientists in their contributions to aquatic plant management.

2017 APMS Award Presentations (continued from page 5)



Newly elected APMS Director, Deborah Hofstra, presents the APMS Outstanding International Contribution Award to John Clayton upon returning to New Zealand.

Max McCowen Friendship Award

Mr. David Isaacs of Aquatic Control, Inc. in Seymour, IN received the 2017 Max McCowen Friendship Award. This award is a special recognition given to an APMS member whose demeanor and actions display sincerity and friendship in the spirit of being an ambassador for the APMS. Criteria include warmth and outgoing friendship, sincerity and genuine concern, gracious hospitality, and positive attitude. David has been a respected source of information and advice in aquatic plant management for more than 40 years, and has been an influential leader within APMS as well as the Midwest APMS Chapter.



David Isaacs (center) receives the Max McCowen Friendship Award from John Madsen (left) and Jay Ferrell (right).

T. Wayne Miller Distinguished Service

Mr. Tommy Bowen of Duke Energy Carolinas, Huntersville, NC received the 2017 T. Wayne Miller Distinguished Service Award, presented to recognize "Service to the Society and the Profession." Tommy has been an APMS member since 1987 and the Meeting Planning Committee Chair since 2011. Tommy's optimism, friendly manner and readiness to take on all challenges are key to successful APMS Annual Meetings.



Tommy Bowen (center) receives the T. Wayne Miller Distinguished Service Award from John Madsen and Jay Ferrell.

President's Award

Dr. Jason Ferrell received the 2017 President's Award for his significant contributions as APMS Editor in soliciting quality articles and assembling a team of Associate Editors to expedite reviews and publication of the *Journal of Aquatic Plant Management*. His subject matter expertise, or-



ganization and communication abilities culminated in his appointment as Director of the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants at the University of Florida in 2017.

Editor Jay Ferrell (right) receives the President's Award from John Madsen.

2017 APMS Award Presentations (continued from page 6)

Honorary Membership

Honorary Memberships were granted in 2017 to two long-term aquatic plant managers from Florida. Honorary Members must have been an APMS Member for at least 10 years, be retired from their major field, and have contributed significantly to APMS and aquatic plant control. Twenty-three Honorary Memberships have been bestowed in the 57-year history of APMS. For more information on the 2017 inductees and complete listing of APMS Honorary Members, please visit the APMS website at:

<http://www.apms.org/society/awards/>.



Dr. Joseph C. Joyce was honored for his foresight and dedication to the development of aquatic plant management programs during his 40-year career while serving the Corps of Engineers in operational management, the University of Florida as Director of the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, and the APMS as a Board Member and President. Joe Joyce is a Charter Member of the Florida Chapter of APMS, served as FAPMS President in 1981, and is an Honorary Lifetime FAPMS Member. Joe has been a member of APMS since 1981; serving on the Board for seven years as Director, and as President 1991. Dr. Joyce could not attend the Annual Meeting as he was helping his son and family move to Japan for his new Air Force assignment as a deputy Group Commander.



Mr. Jeffrey D. Schardt was recognized for his long-term contributions in supporting invasive plant operations, research and education in Florida. Under his coordination, Florida served as a model program for other states in developing science-based approaches to aquatic plant management. He was also recognized for his significant, long-term and steadfast support of APMS. Jeff Schardt worked in research, permitting and compliance, and coordinated aquatic plant management activities in Florida waters during his career that began in 1976. He served as President of FAPMS in 2000 and is an Honorary Lifetime Member of FAPMS. Jeff served as President of APMS in 2006, and has been on the APMS Board for 15 years; the last eight years as the APMS Secretary.

2017 APMS Award Presentations (continued from page 7)

Other Presentations

Other acknowledgements given during the evening were **Outstanding Non-Student Poster**, presented to Adriana Mitchell of the University of Florida (below left), and **Exhibitor Excellence**, presented to Mr. Ray Valley of BioBase C-Map, Inc. (below right).



Outgoing Directors and the New Board

President John Madsen recognizes Dick Pinagel of Aqua Weed Control, Inc. (below left) and Dr. Ryan Wersal of Lonza (center) for their three-year service on the APMS Board. **Outgoing Student Director**, Samantha Sardes of the University of Florida (below right), was also congratulated for her service on the Board during 2016-2017. The evening culminated with President, Dr. John Madsen of USDA, transferring the ceremonial gavel to incoming President, Dr. John Rodgers of Clemson University (far right), and introducing the 2017-2018 APMS Board of Directors (bottom).



2017 Annual Meeting Sponsors and Scholastic Endowment Contributors

The APMS Annual Meeting is the most ambitious education and outreach event organized by the Society. This meeting would be impossible without the generous donations of the meeting sponsors. We sincerely thank the following Sponsors for contributing to the 2017 Annual Meeting in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Platinum Sponsors



Dredgesox™ Erosion Control
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UPI
Exton, Pennsylvania

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Alpharetta, Georgia



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Winfield United
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Bronze Sponsors



Brewer International
Vero Beach, Florida



Crop Production Services, Inc.
Monticello, Arkansas

Scholastic Endowment Contributors

Following is the list of donors to the Duck Race, Silent Auction, Bucket Raffle and Bag Toss. These fund-raising events collectively raised nearly \$6,500 during the 2017 Annual Meeting for the APMS Scholastic Endowment Account. We especially thank Future Horizons for setting up the pool and operating the duck race.

AirMax	Brandt	Lake and Wetland Management
Alligare	Brewer International	Lonza
Aqua Services	Clean Lakes	PondBio Logics
Aquafix	Crop Production Services	Syngenta
Aquatic Control	Cygnat Enterprises	Vertex Water Features
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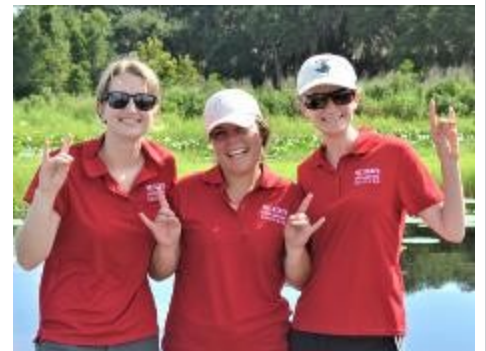
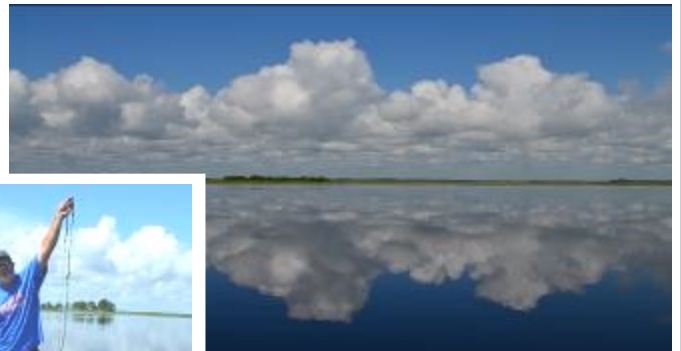
Please contact Sponsorship and Exhibits Committee Chair Dean Jones or visit the APMS website to Sponsor or Exhibit at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Please contact Scholastic Endowment Committee Chair Tom Warmuth or visit the APMS website to contribute toward the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Scenes from the 57th Annual Meeting



Scenes from the 57th Annual Meeting



Key Aquatic Plant Management Appointments in Florida

On June 8, the University of Florida appointed **Dr. Jason Ferrell** as Director of the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (CAIP). Jay Ferrell, an agronomy professor at the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), was named to the position by Jack



Jay Ferrell

Payne, UF senior vice president for agricultural and natural resources. "Dr. Ferrell has been through UF/IFAS leadership programs and has shown expertise in controlling invasive plants that affect our ecosystems, so he was the ideal choice to lead the center," Payne said.

The Florida Legislature established CAIP in 1978. Faculty and staff work extensively with the state's water management districts and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to control invasive plants.

Jay Ferrell, who also has been APMS Editor for the past four years, has worked at UF/IFAS as a research scientist since 2004. Along the way, he has received numerous honors and awards, including Outstanding Extension Specialist, Researcher of the Year by the Florida Cattlemen's Association and Weed Scientist of the Year by the Florida Weed Science Society.

Among his goals, Ferrell plans to work with state agencies and UF/IFAS Extension faculty to bridge the knowledge gap among some clientele. He would like to increase communications among the multidisciplinary faculty members at CAIP so their research and extension activities into invasive aquatic plants overlap more. From there, he'd like the CAIP voice to grow with regional and national groups that study and conduct outreach on invasive aquatic plants.

Jay earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in plant and soil science from the University of Kentucky. He earned his doctorate in agronomy from the University of Georgia in 2003. Ferrell succeeds Dr. Bill Haller who has served as CAIP Interim Director since 2000.

Matthew Phillips took over leadership of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Invasive Plant Management Section on September 8, 2017. The FWC is the lead state agency in Florida, charged with coordinating the research, permitting, funding and management activities related to invasive aquatic and upland plants.



Matt Phillips

Mr. Phillips has extensive field and administrative experience in invasive plant management. He began his career in 1990 with the aquatic plant research section while

finishing his BS biology degree at the Florida State University. He served as a field biologist for 12 years in the South Central Office from 1993-2005, and for six years in Northwest Florida. Matt also has five years of experience as a biologist and administrator, coordinating activities of more than 40 government and private sector contractors in the FWC state-funded aquatic plant management program.

Matt is instrumental in bringing innovation to Florida's aquatic plant management program, assisting in the development of computer programs to expedite permitting and compile management information on Florida's 460 public waters. He implemented computerized mapping procedures to plan for and document large-scale submersed plant control activities.

Matt is an avid fresh and salt water angler who grew up fishing and hunting in Florida. He started out fishing in tournaments with Florida B.A.S.S. Nation's Lakeland Bassmasters, the largest grass-roots club with Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.). Matt also duck hunted in Florida's vast number of lakes and marshes. His ability to balance aquatic plant management with the needs of the ecosystem has gained him respect among recreational anglers, duck hunters and lake homeowners. Phillips succeeds Bill Caton who served as Invasive Plant Management Section Leader since 2008.

2017—2018 APMS Board of Directors

The APMS Membership approved the slate of candidates for the 2017-2018 Board of Directors, proposed by the Nominating Committee at the July 17 Annual Business Meeting. Candidates must be active APMS members in good standing, with preference given to members who have served the Society for the immediate past three consecutive years. APMS strives to present a slate with as much diversity as possible from among the seven Regional Chapters and from backgrounds including academics, government, industry, and private business.



2017-2018 APMS Board of Directors from left to right: Director Deborah Hofstra (NIWA, NZ), Treasurer Jay Ferrell (Univ. of FL), Director Ryan Thum (Univ. of MT), Secretary Jeff Schardt (FL FWC, retired), Director Amy Kay (Clean Lakes, IL), Director Scott Nissen (CO State Univ.), Student Director Andrew Howell (NC State Univ.), Treasurer Jeremy Slade (UPI, FL), Immediate Past President John Madsen (USDA, CA), Vice President Mark Heilman (SePRO Corp., IN), President Elect Craig Aguillard (Winfield United, LA), President John Rodgers (Clemson Univ., SC). Not shown are Directors Brett Hartis (TVA, AL) and Todd Olson (AVC, FL).

Scholastic Endowment and Membership Dues

During 2017 Strategic Planning, the APMS Board made several decisions to identify long-term funding for the [APMS Graduate Student Research Grant](#) (GSRG). The GSRG is awarded on even-number years at a cost of \$20,000 per year, and is funded by APMS and the combined seven Regional Chapters. The Board voted to fund only the GSRG from the APMS Scholastic Endowment Account. All other education and outreach initiatives will be funded from the General Account.

To ensure sustainability and growth of the Scholastic Endowment Account, the Board is exploring several fund raising plans. Currently, the Annual Meeting raffle, silent auction, duck race, and bag toss generate about \$5,000-\$7,000 per year. The Board approved depositing

half of annual Sustaining Membership dues into the Scholastic Endowment Account, generating an estimated \$6,250 per year.

The Board also approved an increase in dues for Individual Memberships from \$75 to \$95 per year with 20% going to the Scholastic Endowment Account. This would provide an estimated \$4,000 annually. Individual membership dues were last raised in 2010. The proposed dues increase must be approved by the general membership at the Annual Business Meeting in July 2018. No increase is proposed for Student or Sustaining Membership. The Board proposes bundling annual membership dues with registration at the Annual Meeting beginning in 2019, so that Annual Meeting registration would include a one year APMS Membership.

In Memoria—William N. Rushing

APMS recently lost one of its longest tenured and most dedicated members. William N. Rushing died on September 15, 2017. Bill Rushing was born in May 1938 in Itta Bena, Mississippi and graduated from Humphreys High School - Class of 1956. Bill earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi in 1960 and completed three years of postgraduate work at Vanderbilt University, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Hired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in April 1963, Bill served as Assistant Program Manager for the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program in Vicksburg, Mississippi at the Waterways Experiment Station until he transferred to Washington, DC in 1987. He retired from the Corps in 1995 after 32 years of service.

Bill joined the Aquatic Plant Management Society in 1972. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 1975 and served in various capacities on the Board for 19 years, including President in 1980. In 1982 the offices of Secretary and Treasurer were combined and Bill was elected to the post. He ably served the Society in this capacity through 1994. During this period, it fell upon Bill to negotiate annual meeting sites as well as coordinate registrations and

local arrangements during the annual meetings. He and Gloria Rushing, his wife and right-hand volunteer, formed a well-organized team, handling the majority of meeting logistics starting with the opening of registration to the closing gavel of the final Board Meeting.

Bill Rushing was a staunch supporter of the goals of the Society and always demonstrated quintessential good grace, loyalty and leadership. He was awarded APMS Honorary Membership in 1997 for his long term service to the Society and the field of aquatic plant management.



Bill Rushing (right) and APMS co-founder and first President, T. Wayne Miller (left) reminisce at the 50th Anniversary of the Aquatic Plant Management Society in Bonita Springs—July 2010

Start Planning for the 58th Annual Meeting in Buffalo, NY



Mark your calendar now to attend the 58th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo Hotel and Conference Center July 14-18, 2018. We have secured a \$159 room rate for the meeting as well as three days before and after the meeting. Situated in the heart of downtown Buffalo, there are over 20 restaurants within a 10 minute walk as well as attractions such as canalsidebuffalo.com to visit.

Only 30 minutes from the Hyatt is beautiful Niagara Falls. Niagara Falls attracts curious spectators and adventurous honeymooners from around the world. The splendid main attraction—more than six million cubic feet of water cascading over a rocky crest - sits partially in the United States and partially in Canada. Venues like the Aquarium of Niagara, offering fun and engaging activities for parents and kids, are also on the U.S. side. Please remember that visitors going to Canada must bring passports to re-enter the U.S.

The Meeting Planning Committee is working on many exciting and entertaining events for relaxing, visiting, and chatting with friends and colleagues. The Program Committee pledges a diverse and educational program of oral and poster presentations on aquatic plant research and management. Bring your students!

Below is the link to reservations at the Hyatt Regency Hotel:

<https://aws.passkey.com/e/13947061>

Reservations Local Phone: (716) 855-4951

This should be a wonderful meeting, so plan to attend July 14-18, 2018. Bring your family and explore all Buffalo and the surrounding area has to offer. More meeting information will be coming soon to the APMS website at www.apms.org and in future newsletters.



2017 Florida Plant Camp

APMS is a long-term supporter of Florida Plant Camp that offers teachers and education center instructors an intensive week-long field and laboratory experience in aquatic plants and their management. Curricula and materials are provided to teachers to pass on to students, primarily from middle through high school levels. APMS has sponsored teachers from North and South Carolina as well as Alabama and Tennessee to attend Florida Plant Camp to establish programs in these regions. Following is a note from Dehlia Albrecht, Plant Camp Coordinator at the University of Florida, thanking APMS for helping sponsor Plant Camp 2017.



Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
7922 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL 32653
caip-education@ufl.edu
352-273-3665

July 10, 2017

Dear John,

As you may know, this was my first full year as Education Coordinator of the Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative and I am proud to have been a part of Plant Camp 2017. We had a great group of teachers, excellent presenters, and a wonderful team of staff members and volunteers. Without your support, however, Plant Camp could not have happened! On behalf of all of us at the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants and 22 top-notch educators, I am sending this heartfelt thank you for the Aquatic Management Society's (APMS) sponsorship of this year's Plant Camp.

We are grateful for the partnerships we've been able to build since we began hosting these teacher workshops and can't thank you enough for your continued sponsorship. Leveraged with the long-term support of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission—Invasive Plant Management Section, Plant Camp has become a model program for others to emulate. We are working to expand the program outside of Florida and now have teachers in South and North Carolina, Alabama, and Tennessee trained and ready to implement lessons on invasive species.

Our goal for Plant Camp is to provide teachers with greater background knowledge on the topic of invasive plants so they can confidently teach the material to their students. By bringing this important issue to the classroom, we hope to raise awareness among the next generation and foster a greater understanding of the challenges associated with invasive plant management. Your support of this year's event was appreciated by all and goes a long way toward helping us achieve our education and outreach objectives.

For updates on the Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative, check out our web site: plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education. We will be posting photos and video from this year's event very soon.

You can also visit us on Facebook: UF/IFAS Invasive Plants EDU and follow us on Twitter: @PLANT_CAMP.

Sincerely,

Dehlia Albrecht
Education Initiative Coordinator

Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative • <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education>
A Collaboration of the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants and the
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission / Invasive Plant Management Section

Washington Report—Lee Van Wychen, APMS Science Policy Director

House Passes All 12 FY 2018 Appropriations Bills

On Sept. 14, the House of Representatives passed a package of 12 funding bills (H.R. 3354) to provide all discretionary funding for the federal government for the 2018 fiscal year. The bill, also known as the Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, was passed on a vote of 211-198.

On the Senate side, the appropriations committee has passed 8 of the 12 spending bills, but none of them have made it to the Senate floor for amendments and votes. Four of the spending bills in the Senate have yet to be marked up in committee. One of those bills is the Interior-Environment bill which has provided funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) that is administered by the EPA. We are waiting to see if the Senate, like the House, will reject the Administration's proposal to zero out the GLRI and restore FY 2018 funding to \$300 million.

The Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) has strong support from several Senators and we hope to see an increase in program funding. Thanks to an amendment from Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL) during debate of ACOE spending bill on the House floor in July, the House approved appropriations bill now has a half million dollars for APCRP, which is the first time the House has included money for the program in nearly a decade.

The House and Senate both rejected the Administration's proposal to zero out the National Sea Grant College Program, which is a network of 33 Sea Grant programs located in every coastal and Great Lakes state, Puerto Rico, Lake Champlain, and Guam. Funding for the program is appropriated through the Commerce, Justice, & Science spending bill and is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

	2015	2016	2017	2018 President	2018	2018
	----- Millions of Dollars -----					
Aquatic Plant Control Research	4	4	4	0	0.5	5
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	300	300	300	0	300	
National Sea Grant Program -	62.8	64	63	0	63	65

Mast Secures More Than \$20 Million to Combat Harmful Algal Blooms

First term Congressman Brian Mast (R-FL), who represents Florida's 18th District which sits along Florida's Treasure Coast just to the east of Lake Okeechobee, was very active and successful in getting 9 amendments passed in the House appropriations bill that total \$21.6 million aimed at combating harmful algal blooms (HAB) and studying the health impact of the crisis. The adopted amendments are as follows:

- Adds \$5.6 million to USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service to promote environmentally sustainable agriculture and toxic runoff mitigation.
- Adds \$2 million to the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative to expand postdoctoral research, prevention and monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms.
- Adds \$1.5 million to the FDA, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, to continue research on human impact of contaminated seafood.

Continued next page

Washington Report *(continued from page 17)*

- Adds \$1.1 million to the EPA Office of Research and Development to research water quality impacts of nutrient inputs, temperature, land use and runoff.
- Adds \$1 million to non-point source pollution grants to state projects for mitigation and removal of toxic substances.
- Adds \$1 million to the USGS, Oregon Water Sciences Research Center, to research Harmful Algal Blooms affect on animals and exposure to disease from toxins.
- Adds \$1 million to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to research human health impacts of exposure to Harmful Algal Bloom toxins.
- Adds \$400,000 to the CDC's Safe Water Program to investigate environmental threats of public exposure to waterborne contaminants.
- Adds \$8 million to NOAA's National Ocean Service to detect, respond to, and develop new and innovative technologies to mitigate impacts from Harmful Algal Blooms. Rep. Mast is the lead co-sponsor of this amendment offered by Congressman Vern Buchanan (R-FL).

House Approves Welch-Stefanik Amendment to Restore Funding for Lake Champlain Restoration / Protection

On September 7, the House approved by voice vote a bipartisan amendment authored by Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) and cosponsored by Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) that restores \$4.4 million in fiscal year 2018 federal funding for the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP). The amendment rejects the recommendations of President Trump and the House Appropriations Committee to eliminate funding for the program.

"The Lake Champlain Basin Program is critical to protecting this North Country treasure from invasive species and to protecting its biodiversity," said Rep. Stefanik. "In my lifetime, I have watched the detrimental effects that zebra mussels have had as they migrated into the waters of Lake Champlain. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Invasive Species Caucus, I was pleased to work on this amendment to ensure this program received the full funding necessary to protect Lake Champlain. I thank Congressman Welch for his leadership on this bipartisan effort."

The Lake Champlain Basin Program was created in 1990 and is a regional collaboration between Vermont, New York, and the Province of Quebec to restore and protect Lake Champlain and its surrounding watershed. The program provides technical resources and grants to private organizations, local communities, and individuals to support efforts that benefit Lake Champlain's water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources.

EPA Awards \$900k to Battle Starry Stonewort and Hydrilla in New York

On September 8, the EPA awarded \$900,000 through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to the Hobart and William Smith Colleges to address starry stonewort and hydrilla in the Great Lakes and Finger Lakes regions of New York State.

"Invasive species is a serious problem facing the Great Lakes and Finger Lakes," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "These EPA grants will help prevent larger costs and damage to the environment in the future and will educate students and boaters about what they can do to reduce this threat to the Great Lakes and Finger Lakes."

The first grant of \$299,474 is for the "Starry Stonewort Collaborative for the Great Lakes Region" where Hobart and William Smith Colleges will convene a workgroup of resource managers and stakeholders to minimize the impacts of starry stonewort.

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The second grant of \$598,960 is for "Hydrilla Control in the Finger Lakes Region" where Hobart and William Smith Colleges will work to control hydrilla in a 30-acre area of Cayuga Lake. This project will include training opportunities for approximately 1,100 community members.

WOTUS Rule Rescinded

On July 27, the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers published their proposed rule, "Definition of "Waters of the United States (WOTUS)" - Recodification of Pre-Existing Rules." This is the first step of a two-step process intended to review and revise the definition of "Waters of the United States" consistent with President Trump's Executive Order of February 28, 2017.

This first step rescinds the WOTUS rule that was issued by EPA and the Army Corp in 2015. That rule is in judicial limbo as it was stayed by the 6th Circuit Court in a lawsuit brought by states that opposed it. Re-codifying the regulations that existed before the 2015 Clean Water Rule will provide continuity and certainty for regulated entities, the States, agency staff and the public. Nothing in the proposed rule issued on July 27 restricts the ability of States to define the scope of "navigable waters" more broadly than the federal law definition. Comments on the reinstatement of the pre-existing WOTUS rule were accepted until September 27, 2017 and were limited to the appropriateness of the rescission and not on the scope of the definition of WOTUS.

Public Stakeholder Sessions for New WOTUS Definition Begin Sept. 19

In step two of President Trump's Executive Order, the EPA and Army Corp of Engineers will pursue notice-and-comment rulemaking in which the agencies will conduct a substantive re-evaluation of the definition of "Waters of the United States (WOTUS)."

The agencies will hold 11 stakeholder input sessions on the proposed revised definition of WOTUS. Nine sessions will be two-hour long teleconferences that will be tailored for specific sectors, one will be open to the general public and one will be an in-person session for small entities.

The stakeholder sessions will be held on a weekly basis beginning Sept. 19 and will continue each Tuesday thereafter for ten weeks. Each will run from 1 to 3 p.m. eastern time. Information on how to register for each of these meetings is available <https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule/outreach-meetings>.

Registration for each webinar will close a week prior. Those wishing to provide verbal recommendations during the teleconference will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis. Due to the expected volume of participants, individuals will be asked to limit their oral presentation to three minutes.

Stakeholder Sessions Schedule:

- Sept. 19, 2017 – small entities (small businesses, organizations and government jurisdictions)
- Sept. 26, 2017 – environment and public advocacy
- Oct. 3, 2017 – conservation, e.g., hunters and anglers
- Oct. 10, 2017 – construction and transportation
- Oct. 17, 2017 – agriculture
- Oct. 24, 2017 – industry
- Oct. 31, 2017 – mining
- Nov. 7, 2017 – scientific organizations and academia
- Nov. 14, 2017 – stormwater, wastewater management and drinking water agencies
- Nov. 21, 2017 – general public

Washington Report (continued from page 19)

The agencies will be accepting written recommendations on the step two rulemaking effort through a non-regulatory docket at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0480>. The agencies ask that this information be submitted on or **before Nov. 28, 2017**.

Bioherbicide Development for Terrestrial and Aquatic Weeds

-by Michael Braverman, IR-4 Biopesticide & Organic Support Manager

Weed control continues to be one of the biggest challenges for biopesticides and especially for organic production. Most bioherbicides have tended to be nonselective, in other words they can be phytotoxic to crops and weeds. IR-4 helped to obtain an EPA registration of acetic acid, which is available to organic growers. Acetic acid can only be applied to young weeds, and injury will occur if it comes in contact with the crop. [-read more-](#)

CABI Invasive Species Compendium Training Available

The CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International) Invasive Species Compendium, <http://www.cabi.org/isc/>, is an encyclopedic resource for 10,000+ invasive species in all taxa that brings together a wide range of different types of science-based information to support decision-making in invasive species management worldwide. It comprises detailed datasheets that have been written by experts, edited by an independent scientific organization, peer reviewed and enhanced with data from specialist organizations, images, maps, and a bibliographic database of abstracts and full text articles. New datasheets and data sets continue to be added on a weekly basis. During any given month the CABI Invasive Species Compendium is accessed by 81,000 users from 220 countries.

During the July 2017 public meeting of the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW - my most favorite acronym in all of DC), long-serving invasive species professional Hilda Diaz-Soltero from USDA APHIS provided an overview and training on how to most effectively use and search the ISC for meeting attendees. Hilda's recorded presentation and training is available at: <https://my.usgs.gov/confluence/display/FICMNEW/Presentation+Recordings>

Her PowerPoint slides (as well as other presentations from previous FICMNEW meetings) are available at: <https://my.usgs.gov/confluence/display/FICMNEW/Presentations>

For questions about the CABI Invasive Species Compendium, please contact Hilda Díaz-Soltero, Caribbean Advisor to the APHIS Administrator: Hilda.Diaz-Soltero@aphis.usda.gov or cell (202) 412-0478.

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The Aquatic Plant Management Society is grateful for our Sustaining Members whose generous annual contributions sponsor our most important core values, especially education and outreach initiatives. Sustaining Membership costs \$500 and includes all membership privileges for one designated representative; subscription to the [*Journal of Aquatic Plant Management*](#), [APMS Newsletters](#), and access to

social media content; quarterly issues of [Aquatics](#) magazine; recognition as a [Sustaining Member](#) in Newsletters, the Annual Meeting Program, and on the APMS website. Please read about APMS Sustaining Members and learn more about them by visiting their websites.

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APMS Chapter and Related Meetings

Date	Meeting	Location
2017		
October 4-6	South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society	Myrtle Beach, SC
October 16-19	Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society	Lake Buena Vista, Florida
October 22-26	International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species	Coral Springs, Florida
November 6-9	MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society	Birmingham, Alabama
November 6-9	North American Lake Management Society	Denver, Colorado
November 27-29	Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society	San Antonio, Texas
2018		
January 9-11	Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society	Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Jan 29-Feb 1	Weed Science Society of America	Arlington, Virginia
February 18-23	15th International Symposium on Aquatic Plants	Queensland, New Zealand
Feb 26-Mar 1	Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society	Cleveland, Ohio
March 26-28	Western Aquatic Plant Management Society	Reno, Nevada
July 15-18	Aquatic Plant Management Society	Buffalo, New York
August 19-23	American Fisheries Society	Atlantic City, New Jersey

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The Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc.

The Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc. is an international organization of scientists, educators, students, commercial pesticide applicators, administrators, and concerned individuals interested in the management and study of aquatic plants. The membership reflects a diversity of federal, state, and local agencies, universities and colleges around the world, corporations, and small businesses.

Vision

The Vision of the Aquatic Plant Management Society is to be the leading international organization for scientific information on aquatic plant and algae management.

Mission

The Mission of the Aquatic Plant Management Society is to provide a forum for the discovery and dissemination of scientific information that advances aquatic plant and algae management policy and practice.

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