



Aquatic Plant News

The Newsletter of the Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc.

August, 2021 – Issue 127



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APMS President's Update

In our new world, what a difference a few weeks can make! After canceling the 2020 conference due to COVID-19, we made it through a successful meeting cycle in 2021 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Looking back to the time of our meeting, things seemed to be on track for “getting back to normal”. But, within less than three weeks of our conference ending, the COVID situation in Louisiana was bad enough to reinstate a statewide mask mandate. Perhaps even more illustrative of COVID concerns in New Orleans is the recent cancellation of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival this October! Seeing the apparent steps backward since our meeting, it is hard to imagine that we would have been able to hold a successful in-person meeting in New Orleans if our meeting had been only a few weeks later. I can't help but feel a deep sense of gratitude at how fortunate we were to have conditions as they were at the time, and it is a humble reminder to cherish the times that we can be together in person to carry out the shared mission and vision of the Society.

This year's conference was reminiscent of how the conference used to be. The opening President's Reception Monday night gave everyone the opportunity to catch up with folks that they hadn't seen in the flesh for two years in some cases. The reception also provided the opportunity to present the 2020 awards that couldn't be presented in person. Tuesday and Wednesday consisted of full-day technical and scientific sessions that were stimulating. And, the in-person conference concluded Wednesday evening with an awards banquet hosted on a riverboat. The biggest difference from previous years is that we held a portion of the conference virtually two weeks after the in-person conference. The virtual portion of the conference was held on Thursday, July 29, and consisted of a

morning of student presentations followed by the annual business meeting. The decision to hold the student presentations virtually was one of equitability, so that students could participate regardless of whether their academic institution would let them travel. Thanks to these students for taking time to participate in our conference!

The annual conference is the product of a lot of hard work, and I want to thank everyone that made it happen this year. I want to thank all of the Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members for their important roles in the conference. And, I want to thank all of the attendees for taking time out of their busy lives to attend and participate. I want to especially thank Bill Torres for all of his efforts to renegotiate our hotel contract and save us a lot of money due to the smaller size of the conference compared to projected at the time the contract was set up. I want to also especially thank Rob Richardson and North Carolina State University for organizing the virtual portion of the meeting, and Kara Foley, Erika Haug, and Greg Chorak for their logistical work in recording the in-person presentations so that they could be made available on demand as part of the virtual meeting. I want to thank the MidSouth APMS for jointly hosting the meeting. I thank Ryan Wersal, Justin Nawrocki, and especially Amy Giannotti for all of their hard work behind the scenes. And, last but not least, I want to thank our Sponsors; the meeting would not be possible without their contributions.

It seems virtually certain that COVID is something that we will deal with for a long time; maybe forever. What is uncertain is how it will impact and shape what our meetings look like in the future. We will continue meeting planning efforts as normal, and we will adjust as necessary as we constantly take stock of where things are at, and where they might be headed.



Past-President Ryan Wersal (left) congratulates 2021-22 APMS President Ryan Thum (right) at the 61st Annual Meeting

I am proud of how our Board and Officers have handled things over the last two years, and I am confident that we are equipped as a Society to adapt to whatever conditions we find ourselves in. For now, I hope everyone will take a minute to be grateful for our conference this year.

Regardless of how normal or new-normal or uncharted the coming year is, APMS will continue to work towards fulfilling its mission and vision. Since the last Strategic Planning session in 2017, the APMS Board and Membership has made great strides towards accomplishing the strategic objectives that emerged from that session. This year we will conduct our next Strategic Planning session as part of the midyear Board of Directors meeting. We will use that as an opportunity to take stock of where we are at as a Society, where we want to be, and how to get there. We welcome participation in the strategic planning effort, and please reach out to me or Dr. Mark Heilman if you are interested to participate. We especially encourage past Presidents and officers to participate.

I am truly honored to be President of your Society, and I look forward to working with the Board, Committees, and Membership this year. Thank you for all that each of you do for APMS.

Ryan Thum
President – APMS

2021 APMS Annual Summary

The 61st Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society took on a new twist this year – being held both in-person and virtually – with conference presenters, attendees, sponsors, and exhibitors participating in one way or another. The national meeting was held in conjunction with the MidSouth regional chapter of APMS in New Orleans, Louisiana. Combined onsite and online registration totaled 112 people, and we also had 26 additional people with exhibits and sponsorship, which increased the participant total to 138.

New Orleans provided a perfect place to gather on the bayou. The Annual Meeting began with the traditional Pre-Conference Board of Directors Meeting while registration and exhibit setup occurred simultaneously. There were noticeably fewer attendees, sponsors, and exhibitors this year, but that didn't lessen the camaraderie enjoyed by all.

Good things come to those who wait, and this year was no exception. The annual APMS Awards Banquet was held on the Riverboat City of New Orleans in the Mississippi River, and 2020 APMS President Ryan Wersal was able to present the 2020 and 2021 awards to the honorees as well as to the outgoing Board members.

The Annual Meeting's Scholastic Endowment Raffle was also held on board the Riverboat, and the lucky winners were Briana and Emilia Slade, daughters of UPL's Jeremy Slade. The sisters very generously donated \$500 of their winnings back to the Scholastic Endowment. What a kind and thoughtful gesture from these young ladies!

All in all, it was a relaxing time in the Big Easy, and we hope to have everyone together next year in Greenville, South Carolina!



2021 Annual Meeting Sponsors

The Aquatic Plant Management Society appreciates the generous support of the following meeting sponsors. Through their support and contributions, we were able to conduct a successful and productive meeting.



Aquatic Plant Management Society 61st Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA / July 12-14, 2021

Meeting Sponsors

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Springfield, IL

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Aquatic Control, Inc.
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Chem One
Houston, TX

UPL AQUATICS  **syngenta**  

  **Nutrien** **BRANDT**  

2021 - 2022 APMS Board, Committee Chairs, and Special Representatives

Officers
President -Dr. Ryan Thum <i>Montana State University</i>
President Elect - Dr. Brett Hartis <i>Duke Energy</i>
Vice President - Dr. Jason Ferrell <i>University of Florida</i>
Immediate Past President -Dr. Ryan Wersal <i>Minnesota State University - Mankato</i>
Treasurer - Dr. Justin Nawrocki <i>UPL NA Inc.</i>
Secretary - Amy Giannotti <i>AquaSTEM Consulting LLC</i>
Editor - Dr. Ramon Leon <i>North Carolina State University</i>

Directors
Dr. Lyn A. Gettys <i>University of Florida</i>
Dr. Christopher Mudge <i>USA ERDC-EEA</i>
Michael Greer <i>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i>
Dr. Erika Haug <i>North Carolina State University</i>
Dr. Toni Pennington <i>Environmental Science Associates</i>
Matt Johnson <i>Aquatic Control</i>
Student Director
Kara Foley <i>North Carolina State University</i>

Committee Chairs
Awards , John Madsen
Bylaws and Resolutions , James Leary
Education and Outreach , Brett Hartis
Exhibits , Dean Jones
Finance , Andy Fuhrman
Legislative , Rob Richardson
Meeting Planning , Rob Richardson
Membership , Marc Bellaud
Nominating , Ryan Wersal
Past President's Advisory , Ryan Wersal
Program , Brett Hartis
Proposal Review , Ryan Wersal
Publications , Ramon Leon
Regional Chapters , Gray Turnage
Scholastic Endowment , Erika Haug
Strategic Planning , Mark Heilman
Student Affairs , Sam Sardes
Website , Brett Hartis

Special Representative
AERF , Carlton Layne
BASS , Jeremy Slade
CAST , Lyn Gettys
NALMS , Terry McNabb
RISE , Sam Barrick
Women of Aquatics , Amy Kay
WSSA , Rob Richardson
Science Policy Director , Lee Van Wychen

2021 Annual Aquatic Plant Management Society Awards

The President's Award is presented annually to an individual, designated by the current president, who has displayed "Many Years of Dedication and Contributions to the Society and the Field of Aquatic Plant Management". This year's recipient is APMS Past-President, Dr. Mark Heilman. Thank you, Dr. Heilman, for all of your efforts within APMS and the collaborations you have established with many other organizations. Among his many accolades, Dr. Heilman's dedication to outreach is evident in the success of the Summer Webinar Series sponsored jointly by APMS, North American Lake Management Society, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the American Waterworks Association. These partnerships not only elevate our Society but share our similar missions of habitat conservation and water quality protection with a broader community.

Mirella Ortiz was presented with the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. This award is given to a student or students whose outstanding achievements in the field of aquatic plant management during graduate studies are recognized. Mirella's master's thesis focused on the influence of endothall in aquatic weeds, and she is currently working toward her Ph.D. at Colorado State University studying the management of invasive aquatic weeds. Congratulations, Mirella!

Dr. Jason Ferrell was the recipient of the T. Wayne Miller Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes an individual for "Service and Society to the Profession." Considerations for selection include completion of a relatively short-term project taking considerable effort resulting in advancement of aquatic plant management; performance beyond the call of duty as an APMS officer, chair, or representative; or non-member achievement leading to the advancement of APMS goals and objectives. Congratulations, Dr. Ferrell, and thanks for your service to the Society, your work as Editor of JAPM, and your dedication to invasive plant mgmt. research!



Dr. Mark Heilman

The Mac McCowen Friendship Award is presented 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, positive attitude, and smile. Congratulations to Mr. Todd Olson who was the 2021 recipient of this award!

Honorary Members – Awarded to persons who have been voting members of the Society for no less than ten years, have contributed significantly to the field of aquatic vegetation management, and must have actively promoted the Society and its affairs during their membership. The 2021 recipients are Terry Goldsby, John Rodgers, Jr., and Kurt Getsinger.

- Terry Goldsby joined APMS in 1974 and has held several leadership positions within the Society. His professional career began as a research botanist for the TVA and eventually led him to open his own company, Aqua Services, in 1983. Today, Aqua Services serves 11 southeastern states and 3 countries. Thank you for dedicating 49 years of service to aquatic plant research and management, Terry!
- John Rodgers, Jr. has made significant contributions in the field of aquatic plant management. In addition to being an accomplished scientist, John has made important contributions both in his service to and leadership of APMS. Thank you, John!
- Dr. Kurt Getsinger has long been a scientist and a leader in APMS. His work has addressed some of the most complex invasive plant problems in North America, and his creative solutions have served as a framework for effective aquatic plant management programs. Congratulations, Kurt!



Terry Goldsby



Mirella Ortiz



John Rodgers, Jr.



Todd Olson

The Outstanding Technical Contributor Award was presented to Tera Guetter. This award recognizes an individual or group for completion of a research project or technical contribution related to aquatic plant management that constitutes a significant advancement to the field. Tera's work on flowering rush in the Detroit lakes resulted in an effective management plan that benefited the native biota and user groups alike. Well done, Tera!!

Each year, the Society presents the Outstanding Journal of Aquatic Plant Management Article Award, which is selected by the Editor and Associate Editors for research published in the Journal of Aquatic Plant Management during the previous year. This year's recipients include Mark Hoyer, Dr. William Haller, Dr.



Dean Jones

Jason Ferrell, & Dean Jones for their article investigating "Legacy herbicides in lake sediments are not preventing the growth of submersed aquatic plants in Lake Istokpoga." Congratulations to this dynamic team of researchers and writers!

2022 APMS Annual Meeting

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society will be held in Greenville, South Carolina, from July 18-22, 2022.

There are lots of neat things to do and see in the Piedmont! Start planning your adventure now by visiting <https://www.visitgreenvillesc.com>.

Watch announcements on social media and email for the launch of our new website. Information for registration, hotel reservations, abstract submissions, etc. will be available there!



2021-2022 Calendar of Events for Regional Chapter Meetings & Related Events



SC APMS
October 6-8, 2021

North Myrtle Beach, SC
<http://scapms.org/meetings.html>



Florida APMS
October 11-14, 2021

St. Petersburg, FL
<https://fapms.org/conference/2021-conference/>



Texas APMS
November 15-17, 2021

Bryan, TX
<https://www.tapms.org/2021-annual-meeting/>



Weed Science Society of America
February 21-24, 2021

Vancouver, BC
<https://wssa.net/meeting/2021-annual-meeting/>



Midwest APMS
February 27 - March 3, 2022

Lake Geneva, WI
<https://www.mapms.org/conferences/2022-conference/>



Western APMS
March 7-11, 2022

Tucson, AZ
<https://wapms.org/events>

Summer Webinar Series was a WIN!

The Summer Webinar Series was a huge success!! Nearly 1,000 participants joined in five webinars focused on management efforts for protecting drinking water from harmful algal blooms (HABs). Expert scientists provided technical information and strategies for dealing with HABs, with combined content from North American Lake Management Society, US Army Corps of Engineers Invasive Species Leadership Team, American Water Works Association, and Aquatic Plant Management Society. Thank you to all who coordinated, participated, and learned!



SUMMER SERIES 2021

COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIES TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER FROM HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

- June 23** | HAB Impacts to Drinking Water and Current Management Outlook
- June 30** | Source Water Protection in the Watershed
- July 7** | Mitigation of Internal Nutrient Loads in Drinking Water Sources
- July 14** | Harmful Algae Management
- July 21** | From Intake to the Tap

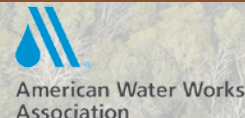
👉 Webinars begin at 12:00PM CST

👉 Anticipate 1.5 hours (2 hours for June 23)

👉 Log-In information will be provided weekly and posted to the link below

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/invasive/exchange.cfm?option=CurrentSchedule>

The USACE Invasive Species Leadership Team in collaboration with the Aquatic Plant Management Society, North American Lake Management Society, and the American Water Works Association will summarize the latest research and technical information on management strategies to encourage better integration and facilitation in the protection of drinking water.



Be a Leader...and a Follower!

APMS maintains an active presence on social media sharing content about aquatic plant management, invasive species, meeting information, etc., across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

APMS participated in several universal campaigns this year promoting the importance of protecting biodiversity, habitat, native plants, and water quality. Several of these were the #NISAW (National Invasive Species Awareness Week) in February and May, and NALMS's #LakeAppreciation Month in July!

Please like, follow, share, and cross-post content – it helps APMS connect with new members, sponsors, and keeps us connected to the conservation community.

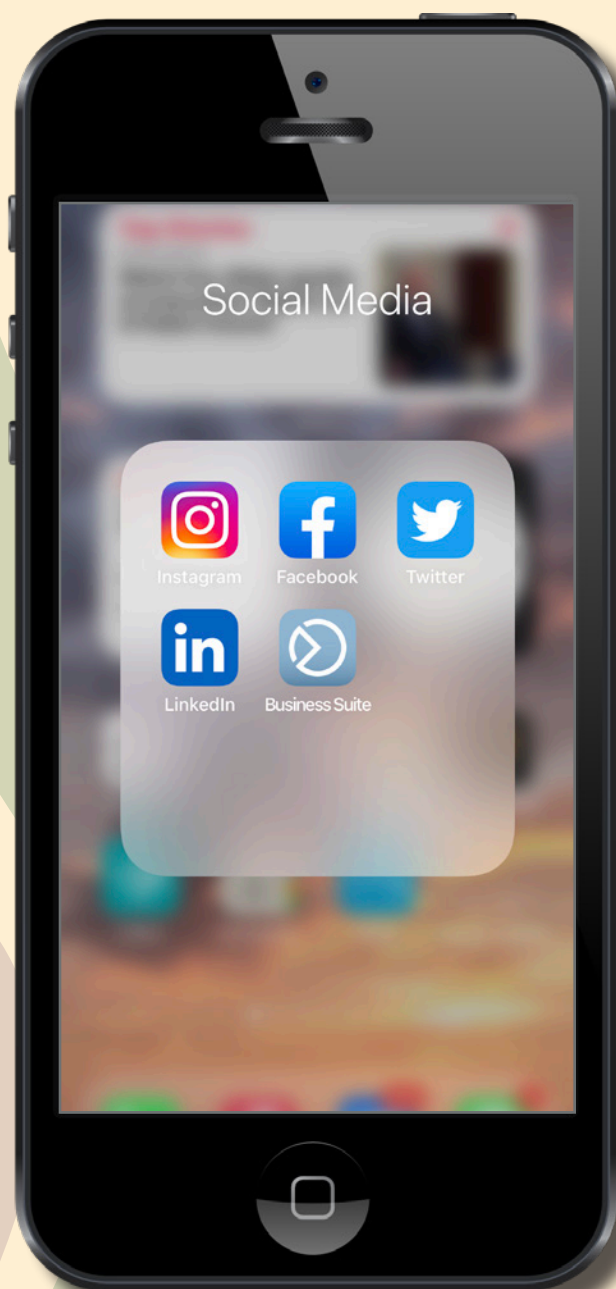
Facebook - @APMS1961

Instagram - @apmsociety

Twitter - @APMSociety

LinkedIn – Aquatic Plant Management Society

APMS also has an active group on LinkedIn (**1,469 members**) providing information, networking, and elevating APMS mission.



Number of Followers

Account	10/1/19	10/14/19	1/14/20	6/30/20	2/28/21	6/30/21
Facebook	0	137	176	295	471	488
Instagram	0	63	121	218	346	392
Twitter	--	--	331	429	571	616

Science Policy Report

August 12, 2021
By, Lee Van Wychen



Aquatic Weed Expertise Needed for the 2021 Weed Survey

The 2021 survey of the most common and troublesome weeds in aquatic and non-crop areas in the U.S. and Canada is here!
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021WeedSurvey>

We invite you to participate in this year's weed survey to list the five most common and troublesome weeds in at least one of the following areas:

1. Aquatic: irrigation, flood control
2. Aquatic: lakes, reservoirs, rivers
3. Aquatic: ponds
4. Forestry
5. Natural Areas: parks, wildlife refuges
6. Ornamentals: field nursery crops, outdoor containers, Christmas trees
7. Right-Of-Ways: railways, roads, public utilities

Common weeds refer to those weeds you most frequently see, while troublesome weeds are those that are most difficult to control, but may not be widespread. Your expertise is important and will be invaluable in highlighting weed species trends over time. The survey will remain open through Labor Day, September 6th.

Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021WeedSurvey>

Pinkham Serving as Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works



Mr. Jaime A. Pinkham was appointed Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works on April 19, 2021, and is also serving as the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Pinkham served as the executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in Portland, OR since 2017. Prior to that position, he was the vice president of the Bush Foundation in St. Paul, MN. He led the Foundation's Native nations program and worked with tribes across ND, SD and MN as they redesigned their governing systems. He spent the previous two decades in the Pacific Northwest advocating for tribal sovereignty, self-determination and treaty rights.

Ex-Interior Dept. Official Nominated for Top Army Civil Works Post



Michael Connor, former commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, was nominated on April 27 to be the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, which oversees all civilian work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Connor held the number-two position at Interior from 2014 to 2017 during the Obama administration. Before that, he was commissioner of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, from 2009 to 2014. Connor currently is a partner in the law firm Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP. He worked on Capitol Hill from 2001 to 2009, as counsel to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Connor is expected to be confirmed by the full Senate following his confirmation hearing on July 14 by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The Secretary of the Army, Christine Wormuth, was confirmed by the Senate on May 27.

Science Policy Report



[Continued]

Jacobs-Young Nominated to Serve as USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics



On July 29, the Biden administration nominated Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young to serve as USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE). The REE mission area covers the work of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Economic Research Service (ERS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS).

Dr. Jacobs-Young has served as Administrator of ARS since 2014. Previously, she was the ARS Associate Administrator for National Programs, where she led the Office of National Programs and the Office of International Research Programs. She is a native of Augusta, GA and holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in Wood and Paper Science and a B.S. in Pulp and Paper Science and Technology from North Carolina State University.

Other Confirmed Federal Agency Leaders

USDA Secretary – Tom Vilsack

USDA Deputy Secretary – Jewel Bronaugh

DOI Secretary – Deb Haaland

DOI Deputy Secretary- Tommy Beaudreau

DOI Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks- Shannon Estenoz

DOI Assistant Secretary for Water and Science – Tanya Trujillo

EPA Administrator- Michael Regan

EPA Deputy Administrator – Janet McCabe

EPA Assistant Administrator for Chemical Safety & Pollution Prevention- Michal Freedhoff

EPA Assistant Administrator for Water- Radhika Fox

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair- Brenda Mallory

EPA Announces Plan to Revise WOTUS Definition

On June 17, 2021, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers announced plans to revise the definition of “waters of the U.S.” or WOTUS to determine which waterways and wetlands federal agencies can regulate under the Clean Water Act.

The agencies also intend to initiate a new rulemaking process to restore the pre-2015 definition of what constitutes WOTUS and have requested a federal judge to remand the Trump Administration’s 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule. The 2020 rule, which replaced the Obama Administration’s 2015 Clean Water Rule, moved WOTUS back towards Congress’s original intent of “navigable waters” and removed ephemeral streams that flow only after heavy rainfall or snowmelt as well as wetlands without surface water connections to intermittent or perennial streams from the agencies definition of WOTUS.

Many agricultural and homeowner groups are opposed to changing the current Navigable Waters Protection Rule because they feel it provided long-overdue certainty and clarity for landowners affected by the scope of WOTUS’ jurisdiction. There is concern about government overreach and regulatory confusion in how federal agencies decide which waters of the United States they can regulate.

The Biden Administration eventually plans to draft its own definition of which waterways, wetlands and groundwater they can regulate by “drawing from the lessons learned from the current and previous regulations, as well as input from a wide array of stakeholders, so we can better protect our nation’s waters, foster economic growth, and support thriving communities.” More information about the new rulemaking is forthcoming.

Science Policy Report



[Continued]

Eagle Killing Neurotoxin Linked to Hydrilla Identified

Bald eagles, as well as other wildlife, have been succumbing to vacuolar myelinopathy (VM) in the southern U.S. since the 1990s. In a March 2021 issue of Science, researchers finally identified the neurotoxin, aetokthonotoxin (AETX), which is produced by the cyanobacterium Aetokthonos hydrillicola that is the cause of VM deaths. The cyanobacterium, A. hydrillicola, grows very well on hydrilla covering 20-90% of its leaf surfaces. A. hydrillicola has also colonized hydrilla in more than half the watersheds in the southeastern US.

Reference: “Hunting the eagle killer: A cyanobacterial neurotoxin causes vacuolar myelinopathy” by Breinlinger et al., 26 March 2021, Science 371. DOI: [10.1126/science.aax9050](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aax9050)

There was some controversy created by inaccurate media reports that linked the herbicide diquat dibromide as a possible cause. AETX biosynthesis relies on the availability of bromide. The authors recognize that a number of conditions may increase or even decrease bromide availability such as environmental conditions (e.g., lake turnover, agitation), natural sources (e.g., geologic), as well as anthropogenic sources (e.g., power plants, water treatment plants, gasoline additives, chemicals, plant management). Breinlinger et al. (2021) state that “the consequences of elevated bromide from geologic and anthropogenic sources (e.g., water treatment and power plants) on VM should be further investigated”.

It should be noted that there are VM-positive water bodies with AETX where diquat has never been used. Likewise, diquat controlling hydrilla is desired because hydrilla is the source of the problem. Furthermore, the water concentration of bromide after a diquat application is 25 to 125 times below the optimum water concentration of bromide required for AETX production.

The bigger travesty in all of this is that hydrilla is a federally listed noxious weed, and without question, the most widespread aquatic noxious weed on the federal list. APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) has limited funding for managing and preventing the interstate spread of federal noxious weeds under the Plant Protection Act. While APHIS has active permits for two hydrilla biocontrol agents, *Hydrellia balciunasi* and *Hydrellia pakistanae*, unfortunately, APHIS confirmed that they do not have a current program for the control and management of hydrilla. I am having ongoing conversations with APHIS on this issue.

Weed Science Societies Support NEPA and Lacey Act Fixes for Invasive Species

The APMS, WSSA and other regional weed science societies supported letters that would improve invasive species management on two separate issues.

The [first letter](#) requests that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) approve the Department of the Interior’s request for a number of categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for invasive species control. Without the ability to use categorical exclusions to promptly control invasive annual grasses after a fire on federal lands, those invasive grasses have spread rapidly while federal land managers have to go through the NEPA process, which has taken years in many cases, before those invasive grasses can be managed.

The [second letter](#) supports legislation, S. 626, in the Senate that would fix a flaw in the Lacey Act, which came about through a federal court case, where the court interpreted that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) could not regulate interstate commerce in injurious species, notwithstanding decades of generally accepted practice during which FWS had exercised that authority.

Science Policy Report



[Continued]

APMS Congressional Visits to Secure 2020 WRDA Appropriations

The 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) was included as part of the massive 5000+ page Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that was passed in December. New invasive species provisions “authorized” in 2020 WRDA include:

1. Authorizes \$25 million for a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) demonstration program to “determine the causes of, and implement measures to effectively detect, prevent, treat, and eliminate, harmful algal blooms associated with water resources development projects”. The HAB demonstration program will be carried out by ACOE with focus areas in the Great Lakes, the tidal and inland waters of New Jersey, the coastal and tidal waters of Louisiana, the waterways of the counties that comprise the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California, the Allegheny Reservoir Watershed in New York, and Lake Okeechobee, Florida.
2. Directs the Army Corps to conduct a terrestrial noxious weed control pilot program in consultation with the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) “to identify and develop new and improved strategies for terrestrial noxious weed control on federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary (of the Army)”.
3. Authorizes \$50 million per year for FY 2021 - 2024 for ACOE to “enter into partnerships with applicable States and other Federal agencies to carry out actions to prevent the introduction of, control, or eradicate invasive species that adversely affect water quantity or water quality” in the Platte River Basin, the Upper Colorado River Basin, the Upper Snake River Basin, and the Upper Missouri River Basin. ACOE shall give priority to projects that are intended to control or eradicate Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) or saltcedar (of the genus *Tamarix*).
4. Authorizes \$10 million for the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the U.S. FWS, to establish a pilot program “to remove invasive plant species in riparian areas that contribute to drought conditions” in the Lower Colorado River Basin; the Rio Grande River Basin; the Texas Gulf Coast Basin; and the Arkansas-White-Red Basin; and where appropriate, to replace the invasive plant species with ecologically suitable native species and to maintain and monitor those riparian areas.
5. Authorizes \$25 million for the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the U.S. FWS, to establish a pilot program “to develop and carry out effective measures necessary to prevent, control, or eradicate aquatic invasive species in alpine lakes that are not located within a unit of the National Park System”.

The authorized programs look good on paper, but we need to continue to work to get appropriations for these programs. The Army Corps of Engineers funding (items 1-3 above) comes through the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittees in the House and Senate. The chairs and ranking members of those committees are from the states of OH, ID, CA, and LA. The Department of the Interior funding (items 4-5 above) comes through the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittees in the House and Senate. The chairs and ranking members of those committees are from ME, OH, OR, and AK.

We need to continue to identify APMS members from those states to help us get meetings with those committee staff. The House and Senate Appropriations committees have just begun to release their appropriations numbers for FY 2022 and once we have those numbers, we'll have a better idea of where to focus our efforts.

NISAW 2022 is Feb. 28 – Mar. 4.

Next year, National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will be February 28 – March 4, 2022 and will return to a single weeklong event and “fly-in” to Washington DC. If you have topics or issues of concern, or would like to help plan next year's NISAW, please let me know.

Science Policy Report



[Continued]

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW)- Part II

NISAW Part II was May 15-22, 2021 and focused on local invasive species prevention and removal events, plus included five educational webinars. [The North American Invasive Species Forum](#) was also held virtually during NISAW Part II and led by the Canadian Council on Invasive Species. The webinars from NISAW part II are now available. Click a link to begin watching.

- May 17: [The Climate Crisis and Invasive Species](#)
- May 18: [Biological Threat Surveillance Tools \(US Geological Survey Special Event\)](#) and [The Model Legislative Framework for State Aquatic Nuisance Species \(ANS\) Programs and Resource Toolkit for Local Governments](#)
- May 19: [The Regulatory Process for Classical Weed Biological Control](#)
- May 20: [Aquatic Plant Management Priorities](#)
- May 21: [A Comparison of State Noxious Weed Lists and The Western Weed Action Plan](#)

The May 20th webinar on Aquatic Plant Management Priorities was sponsored by APMS and included the following three presentations:

- Presentation 1 - An Overview of the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) presented by Dr. Ryan Wersal, President of APMS and Assistant Professor of Aquatic Plant Ecology in the Department of Biological Sciences at Minnesota State University Mankato
- Presentation 2 - Hydrilla in the Connecticut River presented by Dr. Greg Bugbee with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
- Presentation 3 - Challenges and Successes with Long-Term Control of Invasive Weeds presented by Jeremy Crossland and Mike Greer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Support for \$11.5 Billion in Research Infrastructure at Land Grant Universities

APMS, WSSA and the regional weed science societies joined over 350 other national, regional, and state organizations and companies in a letter to House and Senate Agriculture Committee leadership to request their support for \$11.5 billion in ag research infrastructure investments over five years. This investment in our 1862, 1890, and 1994 land grant and non-land grant schools of agriculture is necessary in order to ensure the U.S. remains a global leader in food and agricultural innovation. A recent study commissioned by the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU) assessed the state of facilities at U.S. colleges and schools of agriculture and reported that 69% of these buildings are at the end of their useful life. [Click here](#) to read the letter and see the signatories.

Meetings of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies

Dec. 13 - 16, 2021 North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), Grand Rapids, MI www.ncwss.org
Jan. 3 - 6, 2022 Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Gettysburg, PA www.newss.org
Jan. 23 - 27, 2022 Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), Austin, TX www.swss.ws
Feb. 21 - 24, 2022 Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), Vancouver, BC www.wssa.net
Mar. 7 - 10, 2022 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS), Newport Beach, CA www.wsweedsociety.org
Jul. 18 - 21, 2022 Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), Greenville, SC www.apms.org

Sustaining Members

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 membership privileges for one designated representative; subscription to the *Journal of Aquatic Plant Management*, [APMS newsletters](#), and access to the [APMS Blog](#) and social media content; quarterly issues of *Aquatics* magazine; recognition as a Sustaining Member in newsletters, the Annual Meeting Program, and on the APMS website.

Thank you all for your support in 2021!



**Incorporated in 1961 as a forum to share
water hyacinth control experiences,
today APMS and its seven Regional
Chapters promote research and outreach
to manage all species of aquatic plants
and algae.**



General Info for Membership, Etc.

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 and algae. 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.

● STATEMENT ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION

Creating an atmosphere of inclusion is vital to the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS). Contributions and perspectives from all members, students, event participants, and our local and international communities are important. Diversity includes age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, color, race, religion, sexual orientation, and diversity of thoughts and ideas. We recognize that embracing and encouraging diversity is critical to fulfilling our mission to 'Provide a forum for the discovery and dissemination of scientific information that advances aquatic plant and algae management policy and practice'. APMS will strive to further cultivate a Society built on mentorship, encouragement, tolerance, and mutual respect, and foster a welcoming environment for all.

To join, visit this link: <http://www.apms.org/society/membership/>

To renew a membership, login and visit this link: <http://www.apms.org/member-login/>

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