



Aquatic Plant News

The Newsletter of the Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc. Spring 2026 – Issue 139



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*Arundo donax in the morning light.
Photo Credit: Brittany Chesser*

Letter from the President

Hello APMS Members!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and gearing up for yet another season of protecting our irreplaceable aquatic systems from invasion by non-native and nuisance plants and algae. This is challenging but important work and I know it can be frustrating when management activities don't go as planned or aren't appreciated by stakeholders, but I applaud your persistence and your willingness to keep fighting the good fight to ensure that our ecosystems are preserved for future generations to enjoy.



Being an effective resource manager requires constant updating of your skill set and your toolbox, and the annual APMS conference is the perfect place to brush up on what you already know and to learn about new ways to improve your outcomes. Your APMS Board and Committees have been working tirelessly in preparation for the 66th annual APMS Conference that will be held on July 13-16, 2026, at the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown in Phoenix, Arizona. Registration, hotel arrangements, sponsorship opportunities, and exhibitor information can all be found on the conference webpage (<https://apms.org/2026-annual-meeting/>). Early registration for delegates, sponsors, and exhibitors ends June 20 and hotel reservations must be made by June 22 to take advantage of the block room rate, so be sure to lock these in before the deadlines.

Conference Week will kick off with the President's Welcome Reception at Dust Cutter (located in the Renaissance) on Monday night, followed by two and half days of oral and poster presentations, and the always-popular APMS Awards Banquet on Wednesday night. APMS President-Elect Mike Greer and the Program Committee are pulling together an exciting program and they still have a few openings available; abstracts are due by May 22, so be sure to submit yours to Mike (Michael.J.Greer@usace.army.mil) as soon as possible so he can finalize the program.

In addition to providing an excellent annual conference, your APMS colleagues are busy making sure your interests are represented and your voice is heard by representing the Society at a "DC Fly-In" event in June. Organized by APMS Science Policy Director Lee Van Wychen, APMS members Rob Richardson, Troy Goldsby, Gray Turnage, and Mark Heilman will meet with movers and shakers in Washington to discuss federal policies and funding that influence aquatic plant management throughout the country. Thank you, gentlemen, for your service to the Society! The Society has always been a generous supporter of education, and I'm pleased to announce that the next funding cycle for the Michael D. Netherland Graduate Student Research Grant is underway and is being led by APMS Vice-President Matt Johnson. This longstanding academic grant is co-sponsored by regional APMS chapters and has awarded around \$500,000 since its inception, with a historical two-year funding level of \$40,000 (\$20,000 per year). However, the 2027-2028 award has received additional financial support from the South Carolina (SCAPMS) and Midsouth (MSAPMS) chapters, and we are pleased to announce that this cycle's special Joint Southeast US Focused Research Award will be funded at \$55,000 (\$27,500 per year) and will specifically focus on issues relevant to the southeastern and midsouth regions of the United States. Topics of particular interest includes Vallisneria (eelgrass), Lyngbya (aka Microseira) control, and harmful algal blooms, but all research topics and proposals will be considered. More information is available here: <https://apms.org/wp-content/uploads/2026-MDN-graduate-research-grant.pdf> The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2026, so polish your proposal and be sure to submit to Matt Johnson (MattJ@aquaticcontrol.com) before the program closes.

As I close my last letter as APMS President to you, I'd like to remind you that almost all of the functions of the Society are fulfilled by volunteers. I am grateful to our APMS Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs, and Special Representatives for their hard work, and I thank you – our members and supporters – for your efforts and contributions to the Society. We truly couldn't do it without you, and I applaud you! I also encourage you to consider how you can become more involved in the Society; finding time to serve APMS can be challenging, but service can be extremely rewarding and a great way to strengthen relationships and make new connections. I look forward to seeing you in Phoenix in July; until then, live well, take care, and keep fighting the good fight!

Best regards,
Lyn Gettys – APMS President, 2025-2026

Letter from the Secretary

Dear APMS Members -

Welcome to another exciting field season! The northeast is flooding, the southeast is dry, but weeds manage to grow, flourish and cause issues. Job security?! I hope each and all were able to find sometime to relax and spend time with friends and family during the 'off-season'. Uncertainty and change appear to be the words that best describe many of our jobs, whether it be in industry, academia or government. Regardless of your profession, we come together as friends and co-workers under the APMS umbrella. The 2026 season will likely be filled with the normal challenges and stressful moments but hopefully these will be overwhelmed by satisfying 'jobs-well-done'!



We are in the southwest this year, with the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel serving as our host. Arizona is the Grand Canyon State, with tremendous natural beauty and many national and state parks. It is also home to 27 Native American tribes. In fact the name Arizona means small spring, so it is fitting that the Aquatic Plant Management Society meets once again in Arizona (first time was Scottsdale in 1989). President-Elect Mike Greer is putting together an informative and robust program, so be sure to check out the program highlights in this newsletter and in the final program on our website. Once again, Bill Torres and the meeting planning committee have provided us with an excellent venue. Arizona is a vast and beautiful state with plenty to see and do. Moreover, Phoenix is the 5th largest U.S. city! We look forward to seeing you there.

The nominating committee has provided a strong slate of nominees for directors and vice president for the society, and these are listed in this newsletter. Please review their bios and qualifications, as you will be asked to vote at the business meeting during the annual meeting in July.

We have streamlined the registration process for members, sponsors, sustaining members and exhibitors, so please visit the annual meeting site <https://apms.org/2026-annual-meeting/> to register for the meeting. We also would like to recognize and thank our meeting sponsors and exhibitors, and a special thanks to our sustaining members. Please be sure to read about them in this newsletter. Without your collective support, we would not be able to provide excellent meetings, student scholarships and professional outreach to our members and the greater aquatic plant community!

See you in Phoenix!

Greg MacDonald, APMS Secretary



Highlight on Our Committee Chairs

While the 4 Presidents (vice, elect, current and past) often get the spotlight, some of the most important work of the society is due to the diligence, perseverance and creative energy of our committees. Some of these chairs have served for many years, helping our society grow and function effectively and efficiently. Meet the chairs and a brief description of the committee duties:

Awards - Sam Sardes has recently become chair, replacing Ryan Wersal who served for many years. This committee reviews nominations and selects awardees for our societies many awards. They also work with the students affairs committee to judge and select paper and poster contest winners at our annual meeting.



By-Laws and Resolutions - Shaun Hyde continues to serve as this committees chair, and works with the board to provide clarity in the way we operate and function. They also work with the awards committee to select and award honorary members.



Education and Outreach - Leif Willey has assumed chair of this important committee, which updates and provides content for the website. They also work with other committees to provide materials for students and displays at other societies and venues to promote APMS.



Exhibits - Dean Jones continues to marshal this committee, working closely with our many exhibitors and contributors to provide space and accommodations during our annual meeting. The committee also coordinates raffles, silent auctions and other activities to raise money for the scholarship endowment.



Finance - Andy Fuhrman enthusiastically chairs this committee, which oversees our finances and investments. As a society we are better off financially than most our size, thanks to the hard work and dedication of this committee.



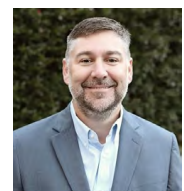
Meeting Planning - Tom Warmuth chairs the meeting planning committee, selecting the locations and working closely with our meeting manager Bill Torres to find the best venues and accommodations for our annual meetings. We continue to meet in great locations all over the U.S., including Austin, Texas next year!



Membership - Matt Johnson and his committee work hard to increase awareness and promote the benefits of being an APMS member. They not only work on the individual member basis, but sustaining members that help support our society and regional chapters.



Nominating and Past President's Advisory - These committees are under the guidance of the immediate past president, which is Jeremy Slade this year. They solicit and bring forth nominations for future board members and maintain ties with APMS Past Presidents. As we embark on our new 5-year strategic plan in 2027, the advice and historical perspective of the past presidents is invaluable.



Highlight on Our Committee Chairs

Program - This committee goes without saying as it plans and executes the program for the annual meeting. This chairmanship falls on the president-elect, and Mike Greer is busy collecting abstracts, oral presentations, posters and invited guest speakers to develop a robust and informative program for the 2026 meeting. This committee works with all facets of the annual meeting, from student presentations to developing the local theme with key local partners.



Proposal Review - This committee also falls under the guidance of the immediate past president (Jeremy Slade), but includes several key members to review and decide on external funding requests put forth to APMS. Our society has been a key supporter for many organizations and groups, and this committee ranks and recommends funding. This review process allows APMS to be helpful and supportive but maintain fiscal responsibility.



Regional Chapters - Gray Turnage chairs this committee and works with the vice-president (Matt Johnson) to coordinate joint activities (such as meetings) and student support. The chapter societies have been instrumental in our ability to offer the Michael D. Netherland Student Scholarship, which is awarded every two years.



Strategic Planning - Mark Heilman continues to provide unfaltering guidance for the long-range goals of APMS. Our society goes through an extensive and thorough review every 5 years, developing goals and setting priorities to ensure the long-term future of APMS.



Student Affairs - Arguably one of the most important committees, with Andrew Howell providing leadership for our student activities. This committee coordinates conference tours, the student luncheon and meet n' greet, and awards for presentations and posters. APMS does more to support students than any society (in my opinion), as we all know students are the life-blood of our organization. **Our current board of directors has 7 former APMS students!**



Social Media - While this is not a standing committee and technically is part of the education and outreach, we need to give a special shout-out to Brittany Chesser, who took over as our social media guru last year. Brittany works tirelessly with various social media platforms to promote APMS and the work we do to serve the aquatic plant management community.



Update from the Editor

Journal of Aquatic Plant Management (JAPM) is an international Open Access scientific journal published by the Aquatic Plant Management Society since 1962, and Dr. Ramon Leon serves as Editor.

JAPM publishes original research, reviews, and short communications focusing on all aspects of aquatic plants including biology and ecology, vegetation management, field operations, and regulations. All manuscripts must mention and preferably discuss the relevance of the results for aquatic vegetation management. Our journal impact factor is 1.2.

Membership in the Aquatic Plant Management Society is not a prerequisite for publication, but authors are encouraged to join the Society. To join, please visit <https://apms.org/how-to-join/>

The Journal is published in two volumes each year (January and July), but articles are made available to the readership as soon as the edition process is completed. These are available on our website - <https://apms.org/journal/>

Recently published articles from January 2026:

*Predicting responses of *Microseira wollei* from Lake St. Clair to algaecide exposures using a modified concentration exposure time (CET) model.* ALYSSA J. CALOMENI-ECK AND ANDREW D. MCQUEEN

Evaluation of the "maintenance control" management strategy for giant salvinia CHRISTOPHER R. MUDGE, ANDREW W. HOWELL, BENJAMIN P. SPERRY, SAMANTHA L. PRINSLOO, IAN A. KNIGHT, AND DAVID R. SEXTON

Remote and field-based sensors for harmful algal bloom management: Literature review and expert input ALYSSA J. CALOMENI-ECK, RICHARD A. JOHANSEN, MOLLY K. REIF, ANDREW D. MCQUEEN, GRAY TURNAGE, CIERA KINLEY-BAIRD, THOMAS HOWARD, AND DELTA C. NEWMAN

*Effect of chilling duration on sprouting of *Hydrilla verticillata* subsp. *lithuanica* axillary turions* AMBER E. RINER, MADELINE R. WATTS, JEREMIAH R. FOLEY, AND BENJAMIN P. SPERRY

*Florpyrauxifen-benzyl and 2,4-D amine behavior and efficacy for controlling Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) in Bear Lake* OLANREWAJU E. ADEYEMI, TIA M. LAWRENCE, FRANCIELLI S. DE OLIVEIRA, ERIC P. WESTRA, COREY V. RANSOM, AND MIRELLA F. ORTIZ

Robust native aquatic plant propagule banks limit curly-leaved pondweed MEGHAN-GRACE P. SLOCOMBE, MIRELLA F. ORTIZ, AND KARIN M. KETTENRING

*Survival of giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) following desiccation in simulated overland transport under boat trailer conditions* CORRINA J. VUILLEQUEZ, JONATHAN S. GLUECKERT, MICHAEL W. DURHAM, AND BENJAMIN P. SPERRY

Same insects, different chemicals: Improving integrated management of waterhyacinth in mesocosm experiments SAM N. SARDES, LYN A. GETTYS, CHAD KEATES, IAN J. MARKOVICH, AND MEGAN K. REID

2026 Calendar of Events



**Aquatic Weed Control
Short Course**

May 11-14, 2026
Orlando, FL [sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/
aquatic-weed-short-course/](http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/aquatic-weed-short-course/)



**66th Annual Meeting of
the Aquatic Plant
Management Society**

July 13-16, 2026
Phoenix, AZ
[https://apms.org/2026-annual-
meeting/](https://apms.org/2026-annual-meeting/)



**2026 South Carolina Aquatic
Plant Management Society
Annual Meeting**

September 28-30, 2026
North Myrtle Beach, SC
<http://scapms.org/meetings.html>



**50th Annual Training Conference
for the Florida Aquatic Plant
Management Society**

October 5-8, 2026
Daytona Beach, FL
<https://fapms.org/conference/>



**45th MidSouth Aquatic Plant
Management Society
Conference**

October 26-29, 2026
Baton Rouge, LA
[https://msapms.org/future/
conferences/](https://msapms.org/future/conferences/)



**Annual Meeting of the
Texas Aquatic Plant
Management Society**

November 9-11, 2026
*Freshwater Fisheries Center
Athens, TX*



**23rd International Conference
on Aquatic Invasive Species**

August 23-27, 2026
Belfast, Ireland
<https://icaiss.org/icaiss-2026/>



2026 ANNUAL MEETING

July 13-16, 2026 in Phoenix, Arizona



 Register Here

About Us

The Aquatic Plant Management Society is a respected source of expertise in the field of biological, mechanical, and chemical aquatic plant management and aquatic plant species.

The Society has grown to include several regional and state chapters. Through these affiliates, annual meetings, newsletters, and the Journal of Aquatic Plant Management, members keep abreast of the latest developments in the field.

Our Objectives

Promote the management of nuisance aquatic plants, algae, and cyanobacteria, provide for the scientific advancement of members of the society, encourage scientific research, promote university scholarship, and stir public interest in the aquatic plant science discipline.



Home of the
Michael D. Netherland
Graduate Student Research Grant



The Why?



network with industry professionals



boost your knowledge and skillset



contribute to the industry by sharing knowledge



stay plugged into industry trends

Why Not?

2026 APMS Board of Directors Nominees

The following candidates have been selected by the Nominating Committee for consideration to serve on the APMS Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee suggests a slate of candidates for positions that are about to come open on the Board. Each candidate must meet specific criteria set forth in the APMS Bylaws. The Board of Directors has approved the slate and active members will vote to approve or amend the slate of proposed officers and directors. Members will be voting during the Annual Business Meeting in July 2026 in Phoenix.

OFFICE	NAME	AFFILIATION	LOCATION
Vice-President	Gray Turnage	Mississippi State University	Mississippi
Director	Ben Sperry	US Army Corps/Univ. Florida	Florida
Director	Leif Willey	Aquatic Control, Inc.	Indiana
Treasurer	Justin Nawrocki	UPL – Ltd	North Carolina



Vice President – Gray Turnage

Dr. Turnage is an aquatic ecologist and weed scientist employed as an Assistant Research/ Extension Professor at Mississippi State University. His Research and Extension program focuses on management of aquatic and wetland resources. He has been involved with several projects across the U.S. refining control efforts and management protocols for invasive aquatic and wetland plants and other water resources. He has authored or co-authored 39 peer review journal articles, 295 professional presentations, 2 books, 1 book chapter, and 46 technical reports. He regularly serves as a consultant for federal and state resource management agencies in the U.S. regarding management issues they encounter. He also serves as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Aquatic Plant Management. He is a member of the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), the MidSouth APMS chapter, the Weed Science Society of America, and the Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Council.



Director - Ben Sperry

Dr. Sperry received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences in plant science and weed science, respectively, and earned his Ph.D. in weed science from Mississippi State University. He is a scientist with the US Army Corps of Engineers and a Courtesy faculty at the University of Florida at the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. His research program specializes in the following topics as they related to aquatic and invasive plant management: herbicide application technology and off-target movement, herbicide environmental fate, and integrated plant management. His research program specializes in optimizing existing technologies and developing new technologies and herbicide use-patterns in aquatic and invasive plant management through multi-scaled research. His extension program is focused on providing aquatic and invasive plant managers throughout the country with the latest information about management technologies.



Director - Leif Willey

Leif Willey is the Lakes and Special Projects Supervisor for Aquatic Control, Inc., in Seymour, IN. Mr. Willey earned his master's degree from the University of Florida and bachelor's degree from Purdue University. He has spent his professional career in the aquatic plant management industry working in a wide range of roles including: academic research, overseeing and supporting state and federal funded projects, sales, and private sector vegetation management operations. He is also active within the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society (MAPMS) where he served as Editor from 2017-2024 and was elected as vice-president in 2025.



Treasurer - Justin Nawrocki

Justin Nawrocki has worked in the aquatic plant management industry for over 20 years. Justin began his career as a commercial applicator and, after several seasons, decided to continue his education, ultimately completing a PhD at NC State University with research focused on several factors relating to monoecious hydrilla's impact on the aquatic ecosystem. Upon completing his degree, Justin accepted a position at UPL as a Territory Sales Manager, a role held for 7 years. For the past 3 years, Justin has worked on the research and development side of the business as a Technical Service Manager. Justin has been active in numerous societies, including APMS and all the regional societies, and has completed two terms (6 years) as APMS Treasurer.

Annual Meeting Sponsors & Exhibitors

APMS Exhibitors and Sponsors,

We're in the southwest this year in the 5th largest U.S. city. The 2026 Aquatic Plant Management Society 66th Annual Meeting will be July 13-16 at the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. The annual meeting provides an excellent forum to exhibit products and services and interact with key people involved in aquatic plant management throughout the country. Now is the time to register. For company information to be included in the Meeting Program and conference signage, sponsorship and/or exhibitor registrations must be completed by June 20, 2026. All forms of registration including, exhibitor, sponsor and individual can be processed online. To register, please go to the APMS Annual Meeting page. Exhibitor Registration can be found and processed on the Online Registration page.

Some sponsorship levels also come with complimentary individual and exhibitor registration(s). To Sponsor the APMS Annual Meeting submit the online sponsorship form on the Sponsorship and Exhibitor Information page. Please complete sponsorship signup first. Once processed, you will receive an email with a complimentary code for the delegate registration.

Link to registration can be found here -

<https://apms.org/2026-annual-meeting/registration/#!event-register/2026/7/13/2026-apms-annual-meeting>

Link to sponsorship can be found here -

<https://apms.org/2026-annual-meeting/sponsorship/#!form/2026Sponsorship>

Thank you for your participation. Please let me know if you have any questions. See you in Phoenix!

Dean Jones - APMS Exhibits Chair
863.209.4015
dean.jones@upl-ltd.com

66th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society

Scholastic Endowment



This year, we are not only focusing on enriching your knowledge and expertise in aquatic plant management but also on providing an unforgettable experience filled with fun activities and camaraderie. In addition to our usual lineup of enriching sessions, this year's conference will feature a variety of fun activities aimed at fostering connections and creating lasting memories. Here's a glimpse of what to expect:

- **Raffle Prizes:** Get ready to win some fantastic prizes! We have an array of exciting items up for grabs, and these are always a sure way to leave the meeting with a fun gift and/or useful item.
- **Silent Auction:** Peruse the great items for your bidding enjoyment, and get that gift you have always wanted.
- **All for Fun, All for Raffle Tickets:** Participation in the silent auction is not only a source of enjoyment but to win the big items raffle tickets are a must. The more you engage, the greater your chances of winning fantastic prizes in our raffle drawing. It's a win-win situation—enjoyable activities and the chance to take home some incredible prizes.

Join Us in July!

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for an unforgettable experience at the APMS Annual Conference in July. Whether you're seeking to expand your knowledge, network with industry peers, or simply have a great time, this event has something for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming you to a conference that promises to blend learning and fun in the world of aquatic plant management. See everyone in July!

CALL FOR PAPERS

66th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society

July 13-16, 2026

Renaissance Downtown Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ

The Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) invites researchers, practitioners, resource managers, and industry professionals to submit abstracts for presentation at the 2026 APMS Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. This year's meeting is in the region of the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society, so regional presenters are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract.

Call for abstracts can be found here -

<https://apms.org/wp-content/uploads/APMS-2026-Call-for-Abstracts.pdf>

This annual gathering brings together experts from across North America to share advancements in aquatic plant and algae management, applied research, and innovative field practices.

Abstracts are encouraged on a broad range of subjects, including:

- Aquatic invasive species management and prevention
- Herbicide efficacy, resistance, and application technologies
- Biological control and integrated pest management (IPM)
- Mechanical and physical control strategies
- Aquatic ecosystem restoration and resilience
- Harmful algal blooms (HABs) and water quality
- Monitoring, mapping, and remote sensing
- Policy, regulation, and stakeholder engagement
- Case studies and operational management programs

Special Topic: Aquatic Invasive Plants in Arid and Semi-Arid Climates - Challenges, innovations, and management strategies unique to water-limited systems

CALL FOR PAPERS

(Continued)

Presentation Formats

- Oral Presentations (15–20 minutes, including Q&A)
- Poster Presentations

Submission Guidelines

- Abstract Length: Up to 350 words
- Required Elements: Title, author(s), affiliation(s), and abstract text
- Submission Deadline: Currently Open – May 22, 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: May 31, 2026
- Submit through this portal:
 - <https://event.fourwaves.com/apms2026/pages>

Students are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts. Opportunities include graduate student presentation awards and networking with professionals in the field.

Join Us in Phoenix! Connect with colleagues, share your work, and explore emerging solutions in aquatic plant management— all in the unique setting of the desert Southwest. Learn more about the meeting and register at <https://apms.org/2026-annual-meeting/>

For questions regarding submissions or the meeting:

Michael Greer - President-Elect and 2026 Program Chair

Email - mgfreeheel+apms2026@gmail.com



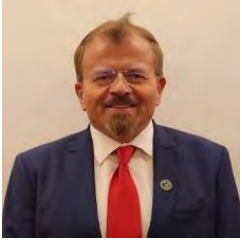
Student Update

Student Mentors Needed!

The Student Affairs Committee is in search of mentors for this year's annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. One of the goals of the committee is to provide students with opportunities to expand their professional development through member support while attending the annual meetings. We are in search of 6-8 APMS members to share their professional experiences and provide advice to students as they navigate the start of their professional careers. We ask that if you commit to this opportunity, that you are available to provide mentorship to students during the hour before the President's Reception and also during the Student Luncheon. If you are interested in serving as a mentor at this year's meeting, or would like additional details, please reach out directly to Dr. Andrew Howell (awhowell@ncsu.edu). We look forward to a successful mentor program by linking students with our industry professionals during the 2026 annual meeting!

Student Tour - Scheduled Monday, July 13th

This year's tour will provide examples of active aquatic management occurring around Phoenix, Tempe and surrounding Arizona. Please note that students will depart the conference hotel for the tour at or before 7:00am on Monday the 13th, so most students will need to use the weekend prior for travel to the conference hotel if wanting to attend the group tour.



Science Policy Report Lee Van Wychen - Director



US Army Corp of Engineers Aquatic Plant Control Funding- Great News!

On January 15, Congress passed the Energy and Water appropriations bill for FY 2026. It was great news for the Aquatic Plant Management Society. Compared to zero funding for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) aquatic plant control program in FY 2025, the following appropriations were made for FY 2026:

- Up to \$3,000,000 shall be for activities related to monitoring, surveying, and control of hydrilla and flowering rush;
- Up to \$7,500,000 shall be to address infestations of hydrilla in Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River Basins;
- Up to \$2,500,000 shall be for nationwide research and development to address aquatic invasive plants, within which the Corps is encouraged to support cost-shared aquatic plant management programs.
- Within available funds, the Corps is encouraged to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation in developing effective removal methods for water stargrass (a native weed that has exploded in population growth in recent years) in the Yakima Basin. The Corps is encouraged to enter into a cost-share agreement with the state of Washington and local partners to manage and treat infestations of hydrilla broadly in the region.
- The agreement provides \$1,000,000 for the Corps 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, per section 8305 of WRDA 2022.

National and Regional Weed Science Societies Support Ag Research Funding

On March 9, The six National and Regional Weed Science Societies joined coalition letters, endorsed by more than 50 ag research stakeholders, that were sent to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture supporting continued funding for key USDA research programs, including the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative and the Agricultural Research Service. These programs support critical research, extension, and education that strengthen U.S. agriculture, including weed research and management.

Executive Order Declaring Glyphosate a National Defense Priority

The president issued an executive order on February 18 prioritizing U.S. production of glyphosate, saying the herbicide is critical to the nation's security. The executive order provides limited immunity to domestic companies that make glyphosate and phosphorus, declaring both essential to the nation's military and farmers. Using the 1950 Defense Production Act, Trump said elemental phosphorus is critical to military technologies such as radar, solar cells and sensors, and to agriculture as a "precursor element" in producing glyphosate-based herbicides. The Executive Order states that the U.S. has "only a single domestic producer of elemental phosphorus and glyphosate-based herbicides, and this producer does not meet our annual needs for those inputs," requiring roughly 6 million kilograms of elemental phosphorus to be imported annually. Trump ordered U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brook Rollins, in consultation with the U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, to ensure no orders, rules or regulations place "the corporate viability of any domestic producer of elemental phosphorus or glyphosate-based herbicides at risk."



House Ag Committee Passes Farm Bill

Angie Craig (D-MN) and Chair G.T. Thompson (R-PA)

The House Agriculture Committee has approved a new five-year farm bill that includes several provisions affecting federal agricultural research programs and priorities. The measure, titled the Food, Farm and National Security Act (H.R. 7567), passed the committee on March 5 by a 34-17 vote with support from all Republicans and seven Democrats. The bill now moves forward in Congress, with the Senate expected to develop its own version in the “weeks ahead” according to Sen. Ag Committee Chair John Boozman (R-AK).

Much of the debate around the Farm Bill centered on pesticide regulations, nutrition programs, and renewable energy policy. A provision in the House Farm Bill (Sec. 10205) would clarify that EPA has final authority over health-related pesticide labeling under FIFRA. The provision would prevent courts from imposing requirements or liability for any requirements beyond EPA's labeling or packaging requirements (FIFRA 24(b)). The issue was a major point of debate during the markup with Democrats raising questions about preempting states' rights to regulate pesticide use. Republicans pushed back that EPA approval is a rigorous process and pesticide companies shouldn't face the risk of being required to have potentially 50 different labels around the country. An amendment from Chellie Pingree (D-ME) to remove the provision failed.

The bill would expand support for specialty crop research by allowing USDA to waive matching fund requirements for certain grants and by encouraging research focused on mechanization and automation. Other provisions emphasize environmental and climate-related research, including studies on soil health, drought and flooding impacts on agriculture, and the potential use of biochar to improve soil productivity while storing carbon. The proposal also calls for the creation of a national biochar research network to "understand how to use biochar productively to contribute to climate mitigation, crop production, resilience to extreme weather events, ecosystem and soil health, natural resource conservation, and farm profitability."

The bill would establish an Office of Biotechnology Policy at USDA to coordinate the department's efforts to advance biotechnology through research, development, regulations, labeling, commercialization, and trade. Additional research priorities include studying the effects of wildfire smoke on crops, improving long-term health of white oak trees used in products such as whiskey barrels, and advancing precision agriculture technologies that use satellite imagery and data analytics to optimize farm inputs.



THE IR-4 PROJECT
Pest Management Solutions for
Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses

Lina Quesada-Ocampo Named Executive Director of the IR-4 Project

Dr. Quesada-Ocampo succeeds Jerry Baron as Executive Director of IR-4. Jerry retired in January 2026 after a distinguished 40-year career. Quesada-Ocampo brings over 15 years of experience in applied pest management research and Extension work to her new role. Most recently, she served as a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension specialist for vegetable pathology at NC State, where she led the Quesada Lab and secured over \$55 million in career funding — including a \$700,000 endowment set up by growers to support her work.

As executive director, Quesada-Ocampo is committed to advancing IR-4's mission while safeguarding its focus and staying responsive to the needs of growers. Her vision includes strengthening collaborations, accelerating regulatory timelines, and ensuring that specialty crop growers have timely access to innovative and safe pest management tools. The Quesada Lab at NC State has developed improved disease management strategies for crops like cucurbits and sweetpotatoes in North Carolina and beyond. Researchers have generated data that the EPA required for pivotal product registrations, notably helping sweetpotato growers secure new tools to manage black rot following a devastating outbreak in 2015. Quesada-Ocampo also spearheaded efforts to resolve international trade barriers for growers looking to export sweetpotatoes, including securing a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service to help preserve sweetpotato exports.

USDA Launches Regenerative Ag Pilot Program

One of the recommendations of the MAHA Report, released in Sep. 2025 was for USDA and EPA to “promote and incentivize farming solutions in partnership with the private sector that focus on soil health and stewardship of the land”. In December, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz announced a \$700 million Regenerative Pilot Program that aims “to help American farmers adopt practices that improve soil health, enhance water quality, and boost long-term productivity, all while strengthening America's food and fiber supply.” For FY 2026, USDA is dedicating \$400 million through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and \$300 million through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to fund the first year of regenerative agriculture projects.

In a press release following the announcement, WSSA supported the program, but stressed the importance of why weed science research and management will be needed for the success of the pilot program. While individuals have not yet been named to the pilot program's 15-member advisory council, we stated that at least one member should have weed science expertise. We also stated that we'd like to see a clear definition of agricultural regeneration for this program, based on science.

USDA Announces the Creation of the National Proving Grounds Network

On April 7, USDA's Research, Education, and Economics Under Secretary Dr. Scott Hutchins announced the launch of the USDA National Proving Grounds Network for AgTech (NPG-Ag), a nationwide initiative designed to rigorously evaluate agricultural technologies under real-world U.S. farming and ranching conditions. The initiative will be spearheaded by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), working in coordination with other USDA research agencies. Grand Farm, a North Dakota-headquartered AgTech ecosystem and innovation testbed, will serve as the USDA's National Program Manager, alongside land-grant universities across the country that will serve as primary research and testing partners.

As chairman of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee, Sen. Hoeven (R-ND) has secured \$11 million for the cooperative agreement to date, which helped secure Grand Farm's role as USDA's National Program Manager. This includes \$2 million in additional funding that Hoeven provided in FY 2026 to create an ARS work site at Grand Farm, which USDA is utilizing to establish the Program Management Office for the NPG-Ag.

HHS and EPA to Provide New Money for Innovative Weed Management Technologies

On February 27, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), EPA, and USDA announced funding for plans to increase innovative weed management and regenerative agriculture techniques.

Under HHS, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) will provide \$100 million "to identify new and innovative and cost-effective technologies that reduce reliance on chemical crop protection tools in order to improve human health, including the health of farmers, such as electrothermal and electrical weeding technologies, robotic weeding systems, precision mechanical weed control, thermal weed control, biological and non-toxic herbicides, mulching systems, and integrated systems."

EPA will provide \$30 million for a "Grand prize challenge" for cost-effective alternatives to pre-harvest desiccation use of pesticides, which is a potential contributor to human exposure. This challenge will lead to reduced usage of pesticides while providing new innovative tools for farmers to use.

USDA Finalizes NEPA Rule

On April 7, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins announced the USDA has finalized a rule modernizing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. This final rule adopts the changes introduced in the interim final rule published on July 3, 2025, which consolidated seven agency-specific NEPA regulations into a single, department-wide framework, reducing the overall volume of regulations by 66%.

NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects and any related social and economic effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. These actions can include permit applications, federal land management actions and construction of highways and other public facilities.

Since last July, agencies at USDA have shown they can reduce environmental review timelines by up to 80%. Secretary Rollins says these faster, more efficient reviews are saving the department millions in taxpayer dollars. The quicker reviews mean the loans, critical infrastructure and forest health projects that rural communities, farmers, and ranchers depend on can move forward sooner.



USDA Reorganization Proposal Moves Forward

Last August, USDA issued a memorandum on a reorganization proposal. Specifically, it “authorizes and directs the actions necessary to effectuate the consolidation, unification, and optimization of functions within the USDA to achieve improved effectiveness and accountability, enhanced services, reduced bureaucracy and cost savings for the American people.” At the heart of the proposal is relocating USDA employees out of the national Capitol region to five regional hubs. These are Raleigh, NC; Indianapolis, IN; Kansas City, MO; Fort Collins, CO; and Salt Lake City, UT. USDA received over 14,000 comments on the proposal and approximately 80 percent of those were negative.

The national and regional weed science societies expressed opposition to any proposal that would result in the closure or downsizing of any USDA-ARS labs. Read the letter [here](#). One major concern is the proposed closure of USDA-ARS Beltsville, which they said would occur over several years. However, its fate is uncertain. In mid-January 2026, USDA said the movement of some of its employees to the five regional hubs will take place between the end of this school year and the beginning of the next. Right after the holiday break, USDA signed memorandums authorizing entry into leases for facilities at the regional hubs. USDA stated that the facilities are already government owned or government leased and that they just happen to be unoccupied or underused.

Forest Service to Close Research Stations, Move Headquarters to Utah

A sweeping reorganization of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is raising concern among scientists and conservation groups as the agency moves to relocate its headquarters and significantly scale back its research footprint. Announced by USDA in early April, the plan will shift the agency's headquarters from Washington, DC, to Salt Lake City, Utah, with about 260 staff relocating by 2027 while some positions remain in Washington. Officials say the move will place leadership closer to the 193 million acres of national forests--largely located in western United States--and improve responsiveness, alongside a transition to a "state-based" operational model and consolidation of research and support functions.

The restructuring will also centralize all research operations in Fort Collins, Colorado, and close 57 of its 77 research facilities in 31 states across the country. These changes would dismantle the agency's current regional research structure and affect long-standing field stations that support studies on wildfire, climate change, forest health, and ecosystem recovery. The overhaul comes amid significant workforce attrition, with many research staff already departing due to layoffs and early retirements. Additional relocations are expected to drive further losses, raising concerns about diminished scientific capacity and continuity in long-term research programs.

Sustaining Members

APMS wishes to express our gratitude to our Sustaining Members for their support during the 2025-2026 period. Sustaining Members play a crucial role in the success and sustainability of organizations like APMS.

If you're interested in learning more about what Sustaining Membership entails or if you want to become a Sustaining Member yourself, you can visit the following link for more information: [APMS Sustaining Members](#).

Sustaining Memberships often come with benefits like increased visibility, networking opportunities, and a deeper connection with the organization, so it can be a rewarding partnership for both the organization and its supporters.

Thank you all for your support in 2025-26!



[AgroShield](#) has been serving the Agriculture and Aquatic industries since 2015. Our Vodaguard product was developed to cure infections in the upper water column. Vodaguard's unique follow the bloom technology concentrates the cure where it is needed the most. Vodaguard C is a copper sulphate pentahydrate product. Vodaguard O is a sodium percarbonate that becomes hydrogen peroxide when introduced to water. Both products have a patented formulation that allows them to be buoyant for 24 to 36 hours. Reduces manpower, machinery, and un-necessary product which reduces cost. Please visit us at: <https://www.agro-shield.com/our-products/algaeicides>.



Since 1981, [Applied Aquatic Management, Inc.](#), (AAM) has provided innovative and effective water management services, selective vegetation control, wetland management and exotic weed control. AAM has clients throughout Florida including developers, homeowners associations, golf courses, mobile home communities, utilities, local, state and federal government agencies and industry. Our experienced professional staff provides unique knowledge along with advanced equipment to manage all types of waterway, right-of-way, wetland, and upland systems.



AquaTechnex, LLC is a lake and aquatic plant management firm that operates in the Western United States. The company is expert in the use of aerial and boat GIS/GPS technologies to assess aquatic environments. The firm is also expert in the management of invasive aquatic weed species and phosphorous mitigation to suppress toxic cyanobacteria blooms. Our web site is www.aquatechnex.com; please drop by regularly to get news updates as we have moved our blog onto the site.

Sustaining Members



[Aquatic Control, Inc.](#) has been managing aquatic resources since 1966. As a distributor of lake management supplies, floating fountain aerators, and diffused aeration systems, Aquatic Control represents all of the major brands of quality supplies and equipment. Aquatic Control has eight offices that offer aquatic vegetation management services including vegetation mapping, application services, fountain and aeration system installation, equipment maintenance, and factory-trained service and warranty repair throughout the Midwest. Harmful Algae Bloom monitoring programs with our in-house laboratory allow us to customize treatment plan design through control of the algae causing taste and odor or toxin production issues.



Aquatic Vegetation Control, Inc. (AVC) is a Florida corporation founded in 1986 offering vegetation management and general environmental consulting services throughout the southeast. Since its establishment as an exotic/nuisance vegetation management company specializing in the control of invasive wetland, aquatic and upland species, AVC has broadened its scope of capabilities to include; certified lake management, fish stocking, re-vegetation, mitigation and restoration services, mitigation monitoring services, aquatic, roadside, forestry and utility vegetation management, and environmental/ecological consulting.



Brewer International is a reputable manufacturer of aquatic and land management adjuvants that has been providing distribution services nationwide for over 40 years, with its headquarters located in Vero Beach, Florida. The company specializes in producing surfactants designed to improve pesticide penetration, wetting, bonding, and drift control. Our products are widely utilized by aquatic and land managers across the country to enhance pesticide uptake, thereby increasing efficiency while reducing the chemical footprint in natural environments. As a family-owned business, Brewer International is committed to producing only the highest-quality products and has consistently invested in product development and manufacturing innovation to provide its distribution partners with the best possible value. We take great pride in our reputation as a reliable partner, providing superior quality products that meet and exceed industry standards.



Chem One is a national leader of Organic Copper Sulfate for aquatic management. With eight standard EPA label grades; Fine 20, 25, 30, 100, 200, Small, Medium and Large. Chem One has a grade to meet every customer's needs. With our corporate offices and 78,000+ square foot warehouse in Houston, Texas, Chem One is a national wholesale company that is certified to ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001.



Compliance Services International (CSI) is a leading regulatory consultancy providing innovative solutions for organizations faced with regulatory and environmental challenges. CSI's experienced scientists and regulatory specialists in the USA and the EU provide innovative approaches to solving regulatory and environmental challenges – combining traditional sciences with developing technologies to deliver economically sensible and scientifically sound results.



Cygnet Enterprises, Inc. is a national single source distributor of aquatic management products with offices and warehouses in Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, California and Idaho. Cygnet is proud of its reputation for outstanding service, friendly, knowledgeable staff and our unmatched support of the aquatics industry. Cygnet Enterprises is the only aquatic distributor at the Charter Gold Member level in the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF).

Sustaining Members

Since 1973, Diversified Waterscapes, Inc. has offered lake management services and ecological products to professional applicators. Our proven field experience in pond and lake cleaning enabled us to develop an eco-friendly line of products that show dramatic results in any aquatic environment. With more than 45 years of experience, we have been providing aquatic treatment products and maintenance service for some of the world's best water features, including the famous Bellagio Fountain in Las Vegas – delivering clearly better results without harming the environment. Our mission is to combine extensive industry experience, mechanical aptitude and scientific knowledge to bring clarity, cleanliness and beauty to water features across the country.

Duke Energy “Building a smarter energy future”. Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK), a Fortune 150 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of the largest energy-holding companies in the U.S. It employs 30,000 people and has an electric generating capacity of 51,000 megawatts through its regulated utilities, and 3,000 megawatts through its nonregulated Duke Energy Renewables unit. Duke Energy is transforming its customers’ experience, modernizing the energy grid, generating cleaner energy, and expanding natural gas infrastructure to create a smarter energy future for the people and communities it serves. More information about the company is available at duke-energy.com. Follow Duke Energy on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

Lake Restoration, located in MN, has specialized in controlling pond weeds, lake weeds, and nuisance algae since 1977. Lake Restoration’s product line-up includes: Mizzen, a copper based algaecide, Spritflo and Dibrox herbicides, a variety of pond dyes and nutrient reducers. Lake Restoration also manufactures the TORMADA product application boat, Vitaflume floating fountains, the retractable Goose D-Fence system, and the patented LAKEMAID to eliminate lake weeds automatically.

The Lee County Hyacinth Control District was formed by the Florida Legislature in June 1961 to curtail excessive growths of water hyacinth. That same year, water managers from across the state convened in Lee County and formed the Hyacinth Control Society, now APMS, to share control strategies and develop a comprehensive management approach to Florida’s most prolific aquatic plant. T. Wayne Miller, Jr. of Lee County served as the Society’s President for the first two years and Lee County has been a supporting member of APMS since its inception.

For more than 100 years we’ve been growing with you, bringing crop protection choices to our supply partners and the growers they serve. Nufarm solutions are developed and manufactured right her in America from three state-of-the-art US manufacturing facilities.

Nutrien Solutions is a full-service vegetation management company, providing innovative solutions and quality products for the aquatic plant management industry. The cornerstone of our success is our highly educated and trained field staff. With strong commitments to environmental stewardship, innovation, and technology, Nutrien Solutions provides customized programs tailored to specific locations throughout the U.S. We are the country’s leading vegetation management provider, and we’re excited to introduce you to everything Nutrien Solutions has to offer.



Sustaining Members



At Oase Professional, our mission is to restore and sustain healthy, balanced aquatic ecosystems through efficient, all-in-one lake therapy solutions. By targeting eutrophication at its source, we address critical carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus (C:N:P) ratios to improve water quality and sediment health. Our advanced technologies boost dissolved oxygen throughout the water column and sediment, stabilize pH levels, and correct nutrient imbalances—all while fostering biodiversity. With innovative, sustainable treatments, we create thriving aquatic environments that serve both people and nature, now and for future generations. Oase Lake Therapy — Efficient, holistic and sustainable. Visit us at oaselaketherapy.com



SOLitude Lake Management is a nationwide environmental firm committed to providing sustainable solutions that improve water quality, enhance beauty and preserve natural resources. SOLitude's team of aquatic scientists specializes in the development and execution of customized lake, stormwater pond, wetland and fisheries management programs. Services include water quality testing and restoration, algae and aquatic weed control, installation and maintenance of fountains and aeration systems, shoreline erosion control, muck and sediment removal and invasive species management. SOLitude partners with homeowners associations, golf courses, private landowners, businesses and municipalities. For more information, visit SOLitude Lake Management at solitudelakemanagement.com.



Shoreline Aquatics provides a range of services to ensure that your lake or pond is healthy, balanced, and thriving. From water testing and analysis, to aquatic weed control and fish stocking, we have the expertise and equipment necessary to keep your aquatic environment in top condition.



Invasive weeds can devastate both natural and commercial habitats. Syngenta provides high performance products to control destructive weeds while helping to restore the habitat of aquatic environments. Syngenta offers proven aquatic herbicides like Reward® and Tribune™ that provide fast burn-down, work well in cool weather and are rainfast in as little as 30 minutes. The active ingredient, diquat dibromide, has been used successfully in sensitive aquatic areas for over 25 years.



UPL NA, Inc. is a premier supplier of crop protection products and technologies designed for the agricultural, specialty, fumigation and aquatic markets. The Aquatics Division is part of the Environmental Solutions group which has manufactured aquatic herbicides and algaecides for the management of lakes, ponds, rivers and irrigation canals for more than 40 years. These products are marketed as Aquathol®, Hydrothol®, AquaStrike®, Current®, Symmetry®, Cascade®, Teton®, and Top Deck™. Most recently the development and commercialization of the ADAPT aquatic drone boat for improved application accuracy and efficiency was launched. With a customer-centric focus, UPL is committed to providing product stewardship and technical support to ensure your plant management operations are successful.

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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APMS now has a Professional Organizational Page (@Aquatic Plant Management Society), as well as a Public Group

Many of our regional chapters are active on social media, too. Give them a like and a follow!