

Letter from the Editor

After nineteen years of service to the Aquatic Plant Management Society and the Journal of Aquatic Plant Management, Dr. William Haller has stepped down as Editor. Dr. Haller has certainly left an indelible imprint on the Journal and has set a high standard for succeeding Editors to follow.

I approach the duty of Editor with some trepidation. Nevertheless, I look at the changing of the guard as a time to try some new things without sacrificing the technical quality of the journal. In this issue, one new approach is the inclusion of a special section on the Proceedings of the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP), held at the 37th Aquatic Plant Management Society meeting in Fort Myers, FL last July. Rest assured, the APCRP proceedings will not be published every year in the Journal. I welcome feedback on the inclusion of other special sections in the journal, not to mention volunteers to guest-edit special features, and any ideas on topics or symposia that should be covered by the journal.

Many scientific journals feature other items such as invited or contributed reviews, letters and responses to specific articles, news items, letters to the Editor, and other items. I welcome suggestions concerning changes in the content of the journal, as well as changes to format. Format changes could include subtle changes in how references are cited or even having distinct sections in the journal on different topics and management techniques.

Lastly, I will be examining changes in the operation of the journal. I hope to induce the Publications Committee to take a more active role in the journal, at least while we are discussing potential changes to the journal. I will also be considering developing an editorial board in which several Associate Editors take care of the initial review of articles, with the Editor generally being one step removed from the review process. I have already instituted a copy edit process to edit specifically for spelling and grammatical errors.

All changes that are made are done so as trials to see if the changes made improve the quality and content of the Journal. At this point, I welcome comments not only on potential changes but also on changes that have been made - to see if these are kept or discarded.

I look forward to hearing from both the readers and contributors of the Journal of Aquatic Plant Management.

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