

South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society **N**ewsletter

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Another Great Annual Meeting!

You just can't go wrong at the beach!! Other than a few distractions, like the beautiful weather, inviting beach, and 1000 bouncy college cheerleaders, the annual meeting came off without a hitch. For those who could stay focused, the 94 attendees left brimming with aquatic plant knowledge and some excellent contacts and door prizes.

"We always have great meetings on the coast", says Immediate Past-President Chris Page, "if we could keep the hurricanes away and know our folks in the upstate would come, we'd meet there every year."

The meeting opened with a very special presentation from naturalist Rudy Manke, host of South Carolina Educational Television's *NatureScene* show. Rudy gave an enthusiastic overview of the state's diverse habitat and special plant and animal life. Protecting these resources is important part of what SCAPMS members do.

David Tarver, President of the Aquatic Plant Management Society, gave an update on our parent organizations activities focusing on their new Educational Outreach efforts to school children. Following his presentation President Chris Page presented Dave with a check for \$2000 from SCAPMS toward the Educational Outreach Program.

The new format seemed to work well, providing a nice mix of formal presentations, workshops, and social interaction. A wide array of presentations included agency and power company updates, legal advice, shoreline restoration techniques and experiences, and a whole afternoon workshop focused on the application of aquatic herbicides. Attendees of all sessions could earn eight of the required 10 recertification credits for South Carolina's Category 5 applicators license; credits were earned for North Carolina and Georgia license holders too.

The highlight of the meeting was the door prize/raffle fundraiser following the awards banquet. Phil Fields displayed a hidden auctioneer talent while he and wife, Malynn, brought down the house with a special auction for a prize package that started off as just a cooler but grew to several items including a bottle of ketchup. The bidding was heated and boiled down to two contenders. The winner, J.T. Newell, was heard to say while carting off his winnings "That was a battle between a rich man and a fool... and I was the fool". Thanks guys, all proceeds went to the SCAPMS Scholarship Fund.

The Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, played at Blackmore Golf Course, also contributed to the fund. Gift awards were presented to Mike Nortan for low gross, Mike Alexander for low net, Jay Brennon for longest drive, Eric Barkemyer for closest to the pin, and last but not least Jeff Welsch for the most FUN. At the end of the meeting over \$700 was raised for the Scholarship Fund.

Special thanks, as always, are extended to our Local Arrangements Committee for putting on such a nice meeting, and the special contributions from some of our sustaining members such as **SePRO**, **Griffin Corp.**, **Cerexagri**, **Weed Solutions**, **Aquatic Vegetation Control**, and **Syngenta** for sponsoring breaks, breakfasts, and the hospitality gatherings.



President Troy Diel (left) receives official gavel from Chris Page.

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SCAPMS Joins APC Efforts

The SCAPMS Board of Directors moved to lend support to the recently formed Aquatic Pesticide Coalition in its efforts to oppose the Ninth Circuit Court's decision that requires a NPDES permit to apply EPA approved aquatic pesticides. The Society has committed its organizational support and \$500 toward the Coalition's efforts.

In March, 2001 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals made a landmark decision that would require applicators to acquire a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit prior to applying EPA approved aquatic pesticides in public waters (See previous SCAPMS newsletters for details). The decision has created turmoil and great uncertainty in the aquatics profession. In response to that decision, a diverse group of companies and organizations representing public and private water resource managers, electric and water utilities, agriculture, mosquito control entities, and pesticide manufacturers have formed the Aquatic Pesticide Coalition (APC).

The APC believes that EPA's longstanding practice of not requiring NPDES permits to apply a registered aquatic pesticide according to its label is correct and sound, and to change that practice is wrong. Aquatic pesticides receive thorough scrutiny through the rigorous FIFRA registration process prior to approval by EPA for use in water, so these products should not be considered a "pollutant" when applied. To the contrary these products are designed specifically to provide benefits to public health, safety, economic activity, and improve aquatic environments.

The goals of APC are (1) ensure that the 9th Circuit's decision does not spread to the rest of the country or to other pesticide uses, (2) ultimately eliminate NPDES permitting for use of aquatic pesticides in the 9th Circuit, and (3) ensure, in the interim period, that the general permits being established in the 9th Circuit are minimally disruptive. The Ninth Circuit Court includes the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii.

New Board Members Elected

The membership voted into office two new directors Ken Robinson and Jack Whetstone, and recruited past director John Hayes for VP.

John Hayes manages Outdoor Appearance, LLC, a lawn and shrub care company, and Carolina Aquatics, LLC, an aquatic plant management company in Dalzell (Sumter), SC. He is also involved with the Clemson Extension Pesticide Advisory Committee, the SC Landscape and Turfgrass Association board of directors, and is a part-time TV star with his wife Debbie on the popular ETV show "Making It Grow".

Ken Robinson is manager at Professional Lake Management, an aquatic plant management company in Myrtle Beach, SC. Ken is a respected aquatic applicator and longstanding member of the society.

Jack Whetstone is the Aquaculture Specialist for Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. In addition to his aquaculture responsibilities he is the Extension expert in aquatic plant control and coordinates aquatic plant control education among county agents. Jack lives in Georgetown, SC, but travels the state. Jack has served on the SCAPMS Board of Directors before and served a term as President from 1997-98.



Society Supports APMS Education Outreach Program

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to give \$2000 to our parent organization in support of the Education Outreach Program. The program is aimed at providing approximately 8000 elementary schools across the country with education packets about invasive aquatic plants.

APMS President David Tarver was presented with a check from the Board following his presentation at the annual meeting. "Invasive species education needs to begin with our children", says Tarver, "and this contribution (from SCAPMS) will help us meet that goal." APMS is coordinating efforts with the national Sea Grant office to design an educational yet fun packet for school children.

SCAPMS plans to work with APMS and South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium in the coming years to incorporate the invasive species education packets in the South Carolina public school curriculum.



Tarver accepts "big" check from SCAPMS



Two Species Added to State Illegal List

The South Carolina State Crop Pest Commission has added two additional aquatic plant species, water lettuce (*Pistia stratioides*) and Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), to its Plant Pest List. Plants on this list are illegal to import, sell, distribute, or possess in South Carolina.

Both species are known to develop large populations in the wild that impair water use activities and aquatic ecosystems. An outbreak of water lettuce in 1991 impaired navigation on the Waccamaw River near Georgetown and could impact other waterways in South Carolina if introduced. Purple loosestrife has overrun wetland areas in many northern states and has been found as far south as North Carolina.

“These invasive species have been of concern to us for years,” says Jack Jackson, Director of Clemson University Department of Plant Industry. “Having these species on the list reduces the chances that they will end up in our waterways and cause problems for agriculture, industry and the environment.”

The State Crop Pest Commission is responsible for control of plant pests that constitute a threat to production agriculture. As such, the Commission is the primary contact point for cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The Commission enforces provisions of the State Crop Pest Act including the Plant Pest List through the Department of Plant Industry at Clemson University.

The Department of Plant Industry works closely with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources in preventing the occurrence and spread of invasive aquatic plant species through regular inspections of commercial plant nurseries. Infestations by invasive aquatic plant species have impacted over 60,000 acres of public waterways and cost over \$18 million to control since 1980.

Questions regarding the State Crop Pest Commission and the Pest Plant List should be directed to Dr. Jack Jackson at 864-646-2131 and questions about prevention efforts by the State Aquatic Nuisance Species Program should be directed to Chris Page, S.C. Dept. of Natural Resource at 803-734-9113.



Water lettuce



Purple loosestrife



Member of the Year

Congratulations are extended to Joe Dennis recipient of the SCAPMS 2001 Member of the Year Award! Joe is coordinator of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources Shoreline Habitat Enhancement Program responsible for introducing beneficial aquatic plant species in public lakes for shoreline stabilization and to enhance fish and wildlife habitat. The program has expanded under his leadership and moved further and further into deeper water. Joe also serves as assistant field supervisor where he assists with control operations on public waters statewide. His major job there is keeping Phil straight.

The Society has several indispensable people who work behind the scenes to keep the society running smoothly and Joe is one of those essential personnel. He has worked tirelessly at SCAPMS annual meetings for years making sure the hospitality functions run smoothly, that everyone has enough beverage, and steps in to help whenever and wherever needed. His friendly demeanor makes everyone who meets him feel at home at our Society functions.

Joe, thanks for all you do!!



Joe Dennis (right) receives MOY Award



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Dorn Wins Student Paper Contest

Clemson students cleaned up at this year's student paper contest capturing the first three places. Michael Dorn won first place and \$200 with his paper titled *Grasses for Piedmont Reservoir Shorelines: Experimental Result*.

Second place was captured by Crystal Hammond for her presentation on *Establishment of Native Littoral Plants Along a Shoreline on Lake Keowee*. And third place was awarded to Lee Edwards for her paper titled *Shoreline Restoration: The Importance of Mycorrhizal Association*. Checks for \$150 and \$100 were presented to the second and third place winners, respectively. All three participants are students of Dr. Larry Dyck at Clemson University.



Crystal Hammond receives second place.

The Society holds a student paper contest each year to encourage student participation in the field of aquatic plant management and to help them hone their presentation skills before a friendly audience.



Dorn Receives Grant...Again!

Michael Dorn, a graduate student at Clemson University, was awarded the **\$2,000 SCAPMS Scholarship Grant** for the second year in a row. Michael received the check at a special ceremony at the Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach.

Mr. Dorn has received a Bachelors Degree in Horticulture from Clemson University and is currently completing work on a Master Degree in Botany at Clemson. Under the direction of Dr. Larry Dyck, he is conducting research on the use of grasses for shoreline stabilization and habitat enhancement on Piedmont reservoirs. In addition to being an excellent student, he also finds time to manage the Aquatic Shoreline Plants Nursery at Clemson and assists with the installation of plants in shoreline restoration projects.

"Competition for the grant this year was particularly tough" said Danny Johnson, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, "but Michael exemplifies the type of student we hope to encourage in the profession."



Michael Dorn awarded \$2000 Scholarship Grant

Congratulations Michael!!



\$2000 College Grant Now Available!

The Society is seeking applications for its annual scholarship grant. The Society intends to award a \$2,000 grant to the successful applicant in the fall of 2002. Grant funds may be used by the recipient to cover costs associated with education and research expenses.

Eligible applicants must be enrolled as full time undergraduate or graduate students in an accredited college or university in the United States. Course work or research in an area related to the biology, ecology or management of aquatic plants in the Southeast is also required.

Applications must be received no later than May 1, 2002 and will be evaluated on the basis of relevant test scores (ACT, SAT, GRE, etc.), high school and/or college grades, quality and relevance of course work or research, a proposed budget, information obtained from references, and other related considerations. Other factors being equal, preference will be given to applicants enrolled in Southeastern and South Carolina academic institutions.

The successful applicant may be requested to present an oral report on research activities at the annual meeting of the Society.

Persons interested in applying for the scholarship grant should contact Danny Johnson, SC Department of Natural Resources, 2221 Devine Street, Suite 222, Columbia, SC 29205, phone (803) 734-9099, or E-mail at johnsond@water.dnr.state.sc.us for additional information on application procedures.

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