

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

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SCAPMS 20th Annual Meeting

Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort combined with beautiful clear fall weather provided the perfect setting for our 20th Annual Meeting. The hurricane may have delayed the meeting but not the enthusiasm.

Our curious mix of 70 resource managers, researchers, commercial representatives, herbicide applicators, and others made for another interesting and fun-packed annual meeting. As our Key Note speaker and second president, John Inabinet, put it so eloquently "Eggheads + Nozzleheads = Successful Diversity. It's the people that make our society so great and our meetings so special."

In addition to the usual agency program updates and nuisance plant control talks, there were presentations on the results of angler surveys on the management of aquatic plants, the effects of excess fertilization on water quality and aquatic habitat, and several talks on bioengineering to prevent shoreline erosion and habitat enhancement. The program clearly reflected the diversity of management interests within our society.

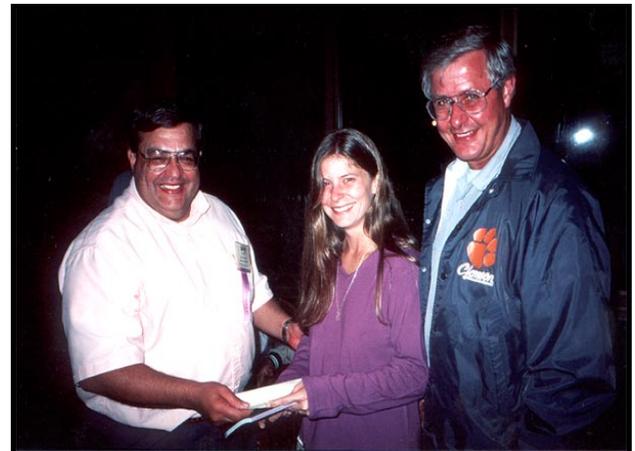
The five student presentations this year were superb making decisions for the judges especially difficult. The Student Paper Contest winners were: first place, Chris Nietch (USC), second place, Paul Kurilla (NC State), and third place, Robert Daoust (USC). All participants received a copy of *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of South Carolina* and the top winners also received prize money.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Member of the Year to Chris Page with the SC Department of Natural Resource (see page 2) and the special presentation of the society's fourth Award of Honor to John Gallagher for his many years of service and leadership in the field of aquatic plant management (see page 4).

This year \$200 were raised for the SCAPMS Scholarship Fund by the Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament held at beautiful Wilbrook Plantation prior to the meeting. Lewis Decell continued his decade of dominance by winning longest drive, closest to the hole, and tying Bob Gunkle for low gross. Dan McMillan won low net score and the "winner" of high score asked to remain nameless. The society extends it's appreciation to Eric Barkemyer and Elf Atochem for coordinating and sponsoring the tournament.

Many thanks to all our sustaining members for their extra support during the meeting with door prizes, socials, and scholarship donations. And a special thanks to Larry Feller with Zeneca for rolling in with his cooker and rolling up his sleeves to personally cook up a society favorite, Beaufort Stew, for the Awards Banquet.

To add to the festivities, free specially designed anniversary T-shirts were given to all meeting attendees. The new T-shirts are available to all members for \$10 each. Contact Tommy Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer, for details at 704-875-5422.



Meredith Womble from Clemson University accepts SCAPMS \$2,000 scholarship grant.

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2,4-D Aquatic Registration And Label Update

Don Page, Executive Director, 2,4-D Task Force

The 2,4-D Task Force, the group of manufacturers and major formulators who have funded the 270 new research studies required by EPA for the reregistration of 2,4-D, will reregister all current aquatic uses for the dimethylamine salts of 2,4-D (i.e. Weedar 64, etc.) and the granular form of the butoxyethyl ester of 2,4-D (Aqua-Kleen, Navigate). These are the only forms of 2,4-D having an adequate database to allow reregistration of the current aquatic uses. Certain improvements in the labeling of these products are planned, although significant label changes will not be possible until the RED (Registration Eligibility Document) has been issued.

Although the last of the 270 research studies was submitted to EPA in December, 1996, (at a cost in excess of \$25 million) the Task Force does not expect EPA to issue the RED until the year 2000 or later. This delay is caused partly by the recent Food Quality Protection Act's (FQPA) mandate that all pesticides be tested for the hypothetical activity known as "endocrine disruption." In July, 1998, EPA issued their first draft of candidate chemicals for their endocrine disruption high throughput screening (HTPS) studies. The list, containing 168 chemicals, was divided into three categories: 1. suspected of endocrine disruption, 2. unknown as to endocrine potential, and 3. known to have no endocrine effect. Although 2,4-D was placed in Category 3, the Task Force must nevertheless complete the new studies, currently estimated to cost \$1.3 million.

Information on 2,4-D can be obtained by visiting the 2,4-D Web Page (www.24d.org), by calling the North American 2,4-D Information Line (1-800-345-5109) or by contacting the 2,4-D Task Force's Executive Director by e-mail at (donpage@24d.org). Additionally, a copy of the 2,4-D Data Disk, a CD-ROM containing more than 600 pages of EPA and other government reports, peer-reviewed, published studies, etc., can be obtained free of charge from the 2,4-D Task Force. Many of the 2,4-D reports and studies on the CD-ROM are also available on the web page in the "2,4-D Publication Review Site."

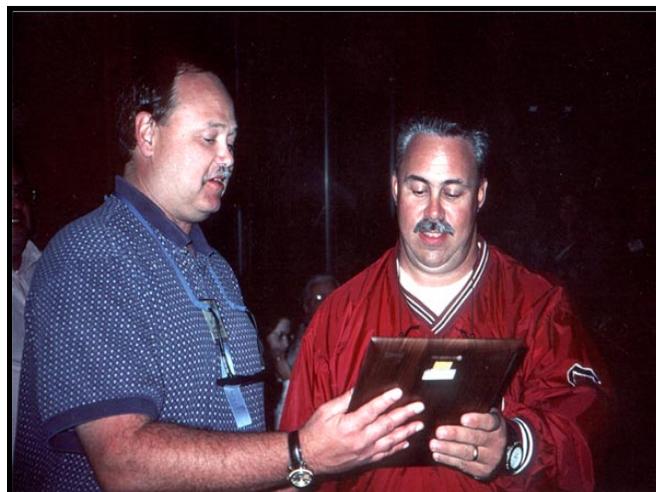


Page Awarded Member of the Year

The Member of the Year Award is one of the Society's most prestigious honors. Each year the award is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the Society and to the field of aquatic plant management.

This year the award was presented to Chris Page, Prevention Coordinator for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program at the S.C. Department of Natural Resources. In his role as Prevention Coordinator, Chris has greatly expanded public awareness of nuisance aquatic species through the development and distribution of brochures and booklets, radio public service announcements, presentations at workshops, and displays at conventions. He has created and maintains the DNR's Aquatic Nuisance Species web site which reaches thousands of people annually in South Carolina and around the world. Chris has enhanced coordination efforts with Clemson University Department of Plant Industry, SC Department of Agriculture, and US Department of Agriculture in inspecting for the sale of illegal aquatic plant species in plant nurseries and garden centers.

As a member since 1995, Chris has been actively involved in assisting the society from day one. He is currently serving his second year as Director and has served on several committees over the years. He helped design the new layout for the newsletter, and created and maintains the SCAPMS web site which was one of the first and best of all APMS chapters. Generally, he just chips in whenever he is needed, like becoming one of the last minute assistant chefs for the Awards Banquet this year.



Congratulations and thanks Chris for all your efforts.



Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) Invades NC

Stratford H. Kay, Ph.D., Aquatic Weed Management Specialist, North Carolina State University

On October 16, 1998, Mr. Steve Hoyle, Aquatic Weed Management Research Technician in the Department of Crop Science, discovered an unusually large and robust floating aquatic fern in a water garden display at the North Carolina State Fair. His description of the plant made me suspect that it could be giant salvinia. I reported the incident to Mr. Gene Cross of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS), and the following week he visited the display at the fair and collected samples of the plant in question. The plant subsequently has been confirmed as *Salvinia molesta*. The plant was traced to an aquatic nursery near Beaufort, NC, where it apparently has been sold as an ornamental for water gardens for the past two or three years. As of the date of this note, giant salvinia also has been found in a dealership and one private water garden in Wilmington and at one nursery and three dealerships in the Raleigh vicinity. The discovery of this weed has generated considerable activity within NCDA&CS, including the issuance of several stop sale notices at the nurseries and dealerships and training of field personnel to begin a statewide survey of aquatic nurseries and water garden and aquarium dealerships.

The big question is exactly what does this mean for North Carolina? There have been no reports yet of its escape into natural areas anywhere in data indicate that sensitive to cold, but water's surface, as productive bud, could tolerate sub-tion from the litera-male sporocarps pro-hence, the plant is not ally. However, this clude entirely that the spore production

or ecotypes. Climatic data for the U.S. indicate that the current location of *Salvinia molesta* in Toledo Bend Reservoir (northeastern Texas) is in plant hardiness zone eight. Hardiness zone eight extends into portions of southeastern and southern North Carolina and along the Atlantic coastal counties of the state. Based on this information, it would appear that there is significant potential for *Salvinia molesta* to become well established in some areas of the eastern and southern coastal plain.

This weed has the potential to over-run most of the coastal swamps, wetlands, and the Carolina bays wherever there may be permanent, fresh, standing water. Because waterhyacinth has overwintered for several years in the north-central piedmont of North Carolina and cold tolerance of *Salvinia molesta* appears to be similar to that of waterhyacinth, I feel that there is significant potential for it to become established inland, particularly if a mild winter occurs. This and the fact that it has been sold openly as a water garden plant increase the potential for this plant to become a major noxious aquatic weed here in North Carolina in the near future.

Serious efforts need to be focused on preventing the further spread of this weed and on eliminating any escaped infestations as soon as they may be discovered. The discovery of this plant in water gardens in North Carolina should serve as a signal to other states in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions to begin a careful review of what plants are being sold for use in aquariums and ornamental water gardens. We need to determine the status of this plant in the ornamental, water garden, and aquarium trade elsewhere in the South and Southeast. Attention needs to be directed especially to mail-order sales houses, some of which are openly advertising a number of plants that are listed as Federal Noxious Weeds or are included in state noxious weed listings. Any findings of *Salvinia molesta* or other noxious weeds should be reported immediately to the appropriate regulatory agency in your state.

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North Carolina. Available *Salvinia molesta* is fairly that leaves beneath the well as the vegetative re-would be protected and stantial cold. Informa-ture indicates that the duces non-viable spores, able to reproduce sexu-definitely does not pre-possibility for viable may exist in some clones





Gallagher Receives SCAPMS Award of Honor

The highlight of the SCAPMS 20th Annual Meeting was the presentation of the society's coveted Award of Honor to Mr. John Gallagher. John has been a long-standing Charter Member of our society, but even more importantly he has made significant contributions to the field of aquatic plant management during his illustrious career.

Beginning with his employment with Amchem Products Co. in 1954, John has been involved in innovating and developing products and control strategies for aquatic weed control in the United States and several foreign countries.

He was a strong supporter of cooperative efforts between state and federal agencies to decide the most efficacious control of problem aquatic weeds, and in determining the end user's responsibility for utilizing aquatic herbicides safely. John served as a member of several U.S. Environmental Protection Agency workshops to establish guidelines and feasibility methods for aquatic weed control programs. He also served on the North Carolina Governor's Interagency Council on Aquatic Weed Control.



John worked with the Egyptian Agricultural Ministry as part of a team to resolve Typha and *Phragmites* problems infesting the Nile Valley irrigation drainage ditches. He was a member of a National Academy of Science team advising the government of Sudan on controlling weeds in Gezira irrigation canals. He also accompanied a team of aquatic weed control professionals to Columbia, South America to provide assistance to that developing country.

The SCAPMS Award of Honor is presented to individuals who have made significant life-long contributions to the aquatic plant management profession. The Award of Honor has been presented to only three other individuals, Mr. Howard Roach (Santee Cooper), Mr. Johnnie Frizzel (Elf Atochem), and Mr. Lewis Decell (US Army Corps of Engineers).

PLANT IDENTIFICATION CHART

The very popular, laminated "Aquatic Plant Identification Chart" is available again.

These full color 8 1/2 " by 11" charts depict 22 of Florida's most common aquatic plants. Plant descriptions, noted facts and features are also included. The cost is only \$2.00 each, which includes postage and shipping. To order, or for more information, contact:

Nancy Allen, USACE

APC Field Unit

P.O. Box 1317

Palatka FL 32177-1317

904-328-2737

Checks should be made payable to FAPMS. Payment must be received before order can be sent.

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New Board Members

The membership voted in three new board members at the annual business meeting: Vice President, Dr. Larry Dyck; Directors, Larry Feller and Troy Diel.

Larry Dyck is a Professor in the Department of Biological Services at Clemson University. Larry wrote the algae section in *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of South Carolina* and has conducted numerous research projects related to aquatic ecosystems. He is currently involved in the development of a "Cooperative Nursery" of aquatic plants and planting techniques for use in shoreline erosion stabilization projects in piedmont reservoirs.

Larry Feller is a sales representative for Zeneca Professional Products serving the Carolinas and Georgia. He specializes in aquatic herbicides such as Reward and a full line of turf and ornamental products. Larry lives with his wife and two children in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

Troy Diel is a Technical Associate for the Analytical and Biological Services Section of Santee Cooper. Troy is responsible for conducting aquatic weed control activities and ambient water quality monitoring on Lakes Marion and Moultrie. He is lives in Goose Creek, South Carolina.



South Carolina
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Welcome Aboard New Members

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John Gallagher
Judson Goff
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HK Meyer IV
Walt Rucker
Darrell Russell
Jeff Snyder
Scott Towns
Jim Tuten
Haverson Ward
Paige Womble
Gayland Perry
Joe Pfeiffer



'99 College Scholarship 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 1999. 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 April 1, 1999 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) 734-9100, or E-mail at johnsond@water.dnr.state.sc.us** for additional information on application procedures, or fill in the following form for more information!

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