



Letter from the President

By: Rob Richardson, President SCAPMS

SCAPMS: Message from Your President



Greetings SCAPMS members! With the mild winter and warm spring, I'm sure most of you are in mid-season form right now. Our weed issues seem to be even worse this year with species like hydrilla and crested floating heart continuing to spread and all species getting an early start on the year. Hopefully, NPDES regulation has not slowed your management efforts.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our 2012 annual meeting will be held October 17-19 at the newly renovated Springmaid Beach Resort on the south end of Myrtle Beach. Room rates are highly discounted and meeting registration is only \$95 for individuals. The program will be jam packed again this year with the latest research reports, a NPDES session, state updates, and more.

Our meeting date is later this year as the Board of Directors wanted to make it easier for applicators to attend. While our August meetings were well attended, that was still during the busy season making it difficult for many applicators to attend. The later date also helps with seasonal rate reductions.

October is great time to visit Myrtle Beach with warm water and all the summer crowds gone.

We hope to see you there!

October 17th through October 19th
Room rate of \$55/night
1-800-670-6895 reference the South Carolina
Aquatic Plant Management Society
to receive our special room rate

www.scapms.org

Inside this issue...

Letter from the President

NPDES Update

**News from APMS and AERF
Reminder**

Alligator Flea Beetle Release

**SCAPMS Annual Meeting Date
Change**

NPDES Update

by: Carlton R. Layne

The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) has been in place since October 31 and the world hasn't ended. Of course that's scheduled for December 2012 according to the Mayan calendar. The last few states have brought their programs on line – Tennessee and Kentucky within the last few days.

Some interesting developments on the state fronts:

1. Within twenty-four hours of the first Notice of Intent (NOI) filed in Alabama for a treatment to take place in May, the first state challenge to an NOI was filed in Washington, D.C. with the EPA.
2. Applicators in Illinois crashed the Department of Natural Resources computer several times trying to comply with Illinois Endangered Species Act requirements associated with the applications to the broad definition of “waters of the state”.
3. Applicators in Kentucky could not file an NOI because the state permit wasn't final. AERF was told they've been hoping for a congressional fix since one of their U.S. Senators was Mitch McConnell the Senate Minority Leader.
4. Connecticut officials had to schedule a hearing on their rule to accommodate two persons who didn't think the permit went far enough and one of whom asserted that we just don't know enough about these pesticides.

I'm sure there are more stories out there that haven't been sent to us yet. Feel free to keep AERF informed. What were the outcomes of the aforementioned cases?

1. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management informed the applicator that he wasn't to worry. They would monitor the application. It should be OK given the applicator involved, but state agencies that fail to respond appropriately to objections to herbicide treatments may be creating a circumstance where all the elements exist for a citizen's suit under the Clean Water Act. Remember the Talent Irrigation case?
2. The Illinois NPDES general permit defines waters of the state as all waters. To comply with the permit, applicators have to check a website to be sure their proposed treatment site is not home to an endangered or threatened species. Despite verbal assurance that such a website analysis was unnecessary for waters smaller than ten acres. Applicators (one in particular) persisted until the wildlife agency responsible finally gave up and put it in writing. What looks good on paper often doesn't translate well during implementation.

3. In spite of Kentucky official's hopes and dreams House Bill 872 is still stuck on Senator Harry Reid's desk with holds on the bill by Boxer and Cardin. While the bill appears to be solidly mired with no real movement expected soon, efforts are ongoing to make something happen. The KY permit has now been finalized.

4. The Connecticut permit should have cleared by the time you get this. Jim Skillen, formerly of RISE, represented AERF and the aquatic community at the hearing and was able to present a more than adequate counter to the assertions of the pesticide naysayers who requested the hearing. The cost to the State for what ended up being a huge waste of time has not been toted yet.

The takeaway message from the four examples is that when members ask for AERF involvement, we'll do all we can to respond effectively. States aren't particularly happy with this court-ordered mandate either, but failure to respond to lawfully filed objections may open the door to bigger and more expensive problems for aquatic managers. Persistence can pay off. Don't settle for the "Don't worry about that" responses from regulators.

Get it in writing.

RISE is currently calling applicators and aquatic managers with a survey. AERF may be assisting in the distribution of it (at least we offered). The survey is an attempt to get some real-world feedback on the impact of the various NPDES requirements on individuals and businesses. The results will be taken to the hill to show Senators and Representatives how NPDES is affecting their constituents. The hope, not just for Kentuckians, is that this effort will shake loose HR-872 and let it come up for a vote. If you receive a call or a survey form, please be as helpful as you can be. Perhaps this effort will work.

I look forward to hearing from you, seeing you at the various meetings around the country, and responding to your requests. Thanks go out for those of you who became part of the AERF family this year and we are most grateful for those who renewed their sponsorship in the difficult economic times. Without your support, we could not do the things you have come to expect from us.



News from APMS and AERF Reminder

Aquatic Plant Management Society is now on LinkedIn!

The Aquatic Plant Management Society now has an online group through the social network LinkedIn, which is at <http://www.linkedin.com>. LinkedIn is a social network for professionals which emphasize developing a professional network of business colleagues. The APMS group has a discussion board, jobs board, and membership list. Opened by the Membership committee and moderated by the current chair, it is open to all individuals interested in aquatic plant management issues. So long as the discussions remain polite, all membership and postings will be open.

Of the more than 60 current members of this group, less than half are members of the national APMS. Our goal is to use this tool to encourage membership in the national and regional APMS and involvement at conferences.

To create an account on LinkedIn, go to <http://www.linkedin.com> or use the LinkedIn link under Social Networks on the APMS webpage. Once you have an account on LinkedIn, search for the Aquatic Plant Management Society group under the Groups Directory in LinkedIn.

Come join the discussion!

John D. Madsen

AERF E-Newsletter Reminder

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation is now publishing a quarterly newsletter which is delivered as a PDF email attachment. The next issue will be published in June. If you received the February newsletter or any of the Action Alert emails about the NPDES issue, you are already subscribed. New subscribers can sign up by visiting the AERF website at www.aquatics.org, clicking on the Subscribe button, and completing the opt-in form. You will receive a confirmation email. If you don't receive this email, please whitelist [aquatics.org](http://www.aquatics.org) as described below. This will also subscribe you to the occasional Action Alerts we issue. Each mailing will include a link that will allow you to unsubscribe.

If you are subscribed, and don't receive a confirmation email, or the newsletter mailings, please have your IT person "whitelist" the AERF domain [aquatics.org](http://www.aquatics.org) on both your email server and your individual email account.

David Petty
Editor, AERF



by: Michael W. Hook

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Ben Powell, a Natural Resources Agent working for the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, recently teamed up with staff from the SC Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Invasive Species Program and the US Army Corps of Engineers Invasive Species Management Branch to help alleviate some of the problems associated with Alligatorweed in the lower Pee Dee area of SC.

Each year a shipment of alligatorweed flea beetles, *Agasicles hygrophila*, comes from Jacksonville, Florida to South Carolina for dispersal. Approximately 6,000 beetles were released in SC this year. They are taken to areas with a high density of alligatorweed, released, and then they naturally migrate in search of more alligatorweed to feed upon. While they are not a magic bullet to eradicate alligatorweed, they are indeed a useful tool to be used in controlling some populations of the aggressive weed.



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Annual Meeting in October

by: Todd Horton

The annual SCAPMS meeting will be heading back to the newly renovated Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.



As a result from feedback at last year's Annual Meeting in Clemson, SC, this year's Annual Meeting will be held

October 17th through October 19th. Hopefully, this will allow for greater attendance as the field operations season winds down.

We were able to negotiate a great room rate at \$55/night. Please make your reservations soon by calling 1-800-670-6895 as our block of rooms are limited. Also, reference the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society to receive our special room rate. We are currently working on the location for the SCAPMS Scholarship Golf Tournament in hopes of landing one of the premier courses in the area.

South Carolina
Aquatic Plant
Management Society

Newsletter

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