

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

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June, 2002



## Annual Meeting at Springmaid... Again: Aug. 14-16

We had such a good time last year that we're going back for more! The 2002 Annual Meeting will be held at Springmaid Beach Conference Center in Myrtle Beach on August 14-16. Springmaid Beach is located off Ocean Boulevard right next to Myrtle Beach State Park at the southern end of Myrtle Beach (see insert).

The Program Committee, chaired by Vice President John Hayes, has put together an exciting agenda of speakers covering a wide variety of aquatic plant management related topics ensuring a good number of applicator recertification credits.

Famous aquatic toxicologist and native son Dr. John Rodgers will be our keynote speaker. Dr. Rodgers is the Director of the Clemson Institute of Environmental Toxicology. He guides the development of programs producing information and students, as well as, facilitating research and education opportunities that will benefit the state, region, nation, and ultimately, the planet. His research program focuses on ecological risk assessment, aquatic and wetland toxicology, plant and sediment toxicology, and scaling in ecotoxicology.

The new format that we used last year worked so well that we decided to try it again this year. The meeting will start at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, August 14 and continue through Friday, August 16 at noon. Thursday afternoon is reserved for workshops/field trips and the Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at Arrowhead Country Club.

Springmaid Beach has completed major renovations with new conference facilities and new sleeping rooms. All the rooms are large efficiencies with two queen size beds, and you can have four adults per room at no extra charge. The discount prices are good through the weekend, so take the family for a little vacation. There is something for everybody; the hotel is right on the beach, it has its own fishing pier and swimming pools, and the greatest golf courses in the country are only minutes away.

And we don't care what they say, it's purely coincidental that our meeting is occurring at the same time as the NCAA Southeastern Cheerleader Camp... again.



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## More S.C. Bald Eagles Fall to Brain Disease

Lynne Langley, Charleston Post and Courier, Originally Published on: 02/16/02, Page: A1

More of South Carolina's nesting bald eagles have died this year from a neurological disease, now thought to be caused by a toxic alga growing on the common aquatic plant hydrilla.

Biologists have picked up six more dead eagles at Lake Strom Thurmond, where nesting has plummeted from 11 territories to one in just two years, according to Tom Murphy, S.C. Natural Resources Department eagle specialist.

"We could start seeing massive mortality," Murphy said.

"This is alarming," Russell Holliday told fellow members of the Natural Resources Board, which met Friday in Charleston.

"It's a scary situation. We know the prevalence of hydrilla," said Billy McTeer, deputy director of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries.

Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy, which breaks down the central nervous system and causes brain lesions, was first diagnosed in Arkansas in the winter of 1994-95 and in South Carolina four years later. The disease has been confirmed every year since at four South Carolina reservoirs: Lake Thurmond, Lake Murray and Par Pond and L Lake on the Savannah River Site, Murphy said.

The disease, diagnosed on 11 reservoirs in five Southeastern states, has only been found on inland, man-made reservoirs low in nutrients, not along the coast.

Reservoirs cover 521,737 acres in this state compared with 504,445 acres of coastal marshlands. Eagles, which once used only those coastal sites, increasingly have spread to inland reservoirs.

Between 150 and 200 eagles use South Carolina reservoirs, and 52 breeding pairs are known to nest on the largest ones, according to Murphy. Statewide, 162 pairs produced young in this state last winter.

It is now believed, but not proven, that AVM is caused by a naturally occurring biotoxin produced by an alga species, Murphy said, adding that the most likely suspect is a blue-green alga that grows on hydrilla.

That alga has been found in every reservoir where AVM has affected birds such as eagles and coots and in no bodies of water where the disease has not been confirmed, he said.

Hydrilla grows widely across the Southeast. Department aquatic nuisance species manager Steven de Kozlowski expects the non-native plant, which can cover up to 4,000 acres in one year, will spread into every reservoir in the state before long.

"It could take half the eagle territories in South Carolina," Murphy said.

At first, the disease appeared to be killing northern eagles that spend the winter here, but now local nesters are dying.

This winter, 10 of the 11 nest sites at Lake Thurmond and both nests on the Savannah River Site reservoirs sit empty, meaning that both eagles in the pair have died, Murphy said. Normally he expects to lose less than 2 percent of established territories in a year. He described the loss as catastrophic locally. As for a larger regional effect, he said, "The potential has us all edgy now."

Eagles appear to pick up the disease by eating sick coots, which feed on algae.

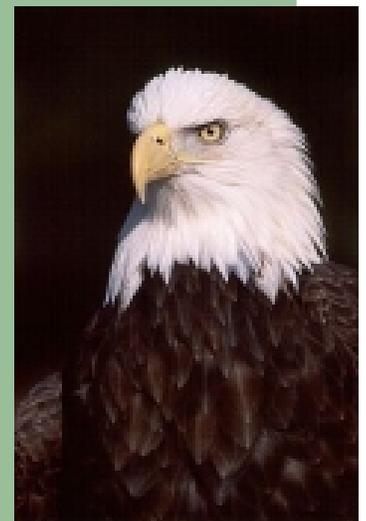
When a disabled coot can no longer fly, swim or dive normally, it becomes a magnet for eagles, Murphy said.

A bird develops symptoms five days after being introduced to an AVM site and is dead within seven days. Of SRS coots sampled last year, 95 percent had brain lesions even if they didn't show symptoms.

Sick coots on reservoirs that didn't contain hydrilla had the plant in their stomachs, indicating that coots could carry a death warrant with them, and eagles could die.

"We wouldn't know," Murphy said.

So far, eight species of birds ranging from waterfowl to great horned owls to killdeer have been confirmed as victims of AVM, but it has not been found in mammals or fish.



Photos by: Karen French

# SCAPMS 24th Annual Meeting Schedule and Information

## Wednesday, August 14, 2002

### Springmaid Beach

<b>Board Meeting</b>	10:00am - 11:00am TBA
<b>Registration</b>	11:00am - 5:00pm 2nd Fl. Conf. Ctr.
<b>Meeting</b>	1:00pm - 5:00pm 2nd Fl. Conf. Ctr.
<b>Hospitality</b>	6:00pm - 10:00pm Exhibits Area

## Thursday, August 15, 2002

### Springmaid Beach

<b>Registration</b>	8:00am - 5:00pm
<b>Meeting</b>	8:30am - 12:00pm
<b>Lunch</b>	12:00pm - 1:00pm
<b>Workshop/Field Trip</b>	1:00pm - 5:00pm

**Scholarship Golf Tournament** 12:00pm - 6:00pm

<b>Scholarship Fishing Tournament</b>	1:00pm - 5:00pm	Springmaid Beach Pier
<b>Stress Relief Session</b>	6:00pm - 7:00pm	Exhibits Area
<b>Awards Banquet</b>	7:00pm - 10:00pm	Exhibits Area

## Friday, August 16, 2002

### Springmaid Beach

<b>Registration</b>	8:00am - 12:00pm
<b>Meeting</b>	8:30am - 12:00pm
<b>Adjournment</b>	12:00pm

## Meeting Registration

Registration fees for the meeting are \$65 for regular members, \$30 for students, and \$215 for sustaining members if paid prior to July 30. After the deadline and on the day of the meeting all registration fees will increase by \$25. The \$30 student fee will be waived for students giving papers.

The registration fee includes admission to the meeting, the hospitality gathering on the 14<sup>th</sup>, lunch, dinner and stress relief session on the 15<sup>th</sup>, all breaks, and 2003 membership dues (old dues rate).

Please complete the attached pre-registration form and mail it in with the appropriate registration fee to Tommy Bowen, Sec/Tres. By pre-registering you save a little money (\$25) and help us in planning for the meals, breaks, and ice cold refreshments.



## Hotel Accommodations and Reservations

The Society has reserved a block of rooms at Springmaid Beach for \$79.00 per night, plus 10% tax.

Reservations at Springmaid Beach can be made by calling **1-800-770-6895** and remember to mention that you are with the **S.C. Aquatic Plant Management Society** (Group # 355748) to get your discounted room rate. Explore Springmaid Beach Resort and register online at [www.springmaidbeach.com](http://www.springmaidbeach.com). The special group rate is good through the weekend (August 17-18) depending on room availability, so make your reservations now!! **Reservations must be made prior to July 19, 2002 to get the discount rate.**

Springmaid Beach Conference Center is located on Ocean Boulevard in south Myrtle Beach adjacent to Myrtle Beach State Park. If you have any questions, contact Springmaid Beach at 800-770-6967.

## Exhibits

The annual meeting offers the opportunity for the membership to view our commercial member's displays and talk to them about their products and services. The time spent talking to technical representatives, obtaining new efficacy and safety literature is fundamental to the professional development of our membership. All breaks and hospitality functions will be held in the exhibits area to promote a relaxing atmosphere for obtaining technical assistance from our commercial sustaining members.

Please call Phil Fields at (803) 734-9490 or Tommy Bowen at (704) 875-5422 for further details.

## Scholarship Golf Tournament

The 2002 SCAPMS Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held at Arrowhead Country Club in Myrtle Beach. Arrowhead was named the 1998 South Carolina Course of the year by National Golf Course Owners Association and is still one of the finest courses in Myrtle Beach. Designed by Ray Floyd, this course "challenges players to think strategically and rewards good course management."

This year the tournament will be sponsored by our friends at SePRO Corporation. There will be awards for the longest drive and closest to the pin along with an award for the overall lowest score and overall highest score. All proceeds from the tournament will be donated to the SCAPMS scholarship fund. The cost of the tournament is only **\$40.00 per person** and will include a box lunch.

If interested in playing please call Bo Burns at (919) 844-5375 or email at [Bo@sepro.com](mailto:Bo@sepro.com). Spaces are limited so please call and reserve a spot.



### **2002 SCAPMS ANNUAL MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

**Complete form and mail with payment to:**

Regular Member:     \$65 \_\_\_\_\_

Student Member:     \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining Member:     \$215 \_\_\_\_\_

**Tommy Bowen, Sec/Treasurer  
13339 Hagers Ferry Rd. MGO3A3  
Huntersville, NC 28078**

## 2001-02 Board of Directors Officers

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Jack Whetstone  
Clemson University  
Georgetown, SC  
(843) 546-6321

Bo Burns  
SePro Corporation  
Raleigh, NC (919) 844-5375



## Final Call for Papers

The Program Committee is making its final request for presentations at the 2002 SCAPMS Annual Meeting. Papers covering all aspects of aquatic plant biology, use, and control will be considered. Those interested should submit an abstract, title, author, organization, and address to John Hayes at the address below by July 19, 2002 for consideration.

If more than one author is listed, place an asterisk after the name of the author who will present the paper. Abstracts should be 75 words or less. Abstracts are needed to ensure recertification credits for attendees.

A laptop computer and projector will be provided for PowerPoint presentations. Presenters are asked to bring PowerPoint presentations on CD's or email to the program chairman.

A carousel slide projector and overhead projector will be provided. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for presentations. Student presentations are encouraged with possible cash prizes to be determined later. Special requests for additional time or equipment should be directed to the Program Chairman.

**John Hayes**  
**Outdoor Appearance**  
**P.O. Box 41**  
**Dalzell, SC 29040**  
**803-469-9312**  
**Deborah\_hayes@msn.com**



## Board Recommends Dues Increase

The Board of Directors unanimously approved a recommendation to increase membership dues at their last meeting. If approved by the membership at the annual meeting, regular dues would increase from \$10 to \$15 per year and sustaining membership dues would increase from \$150 to \$175 per year starting in January 2003. Student membership will remain at \$5 per year.

"Membership dues have not increased since 1985, but costs to run the society have" says President Troy Diel citing the reason for the price hike. "We think this is a reasonable adjustment to maintain the quality of our society's membership benefits."

Printing costs for the newsletter and membership directory have increased dramatically over the past 20 years. In 1985, mailing costs were only 22 cents per newsletter, now it costs 37 cents to mail each newsletter, a 68% increase. The society is also planning to establish a new web site that will add to the cost of the society.

The Board discussed various options to keep costs down such as eliminating color from the newsletter, bulk mailing, selling advertising in the newsletter and web site, and providing only an online version of the newsletter. However, the board decided it was important for the members to receive a high quality printed newsletter and an easily accessed web site as society benefits.

In order to change the dues, Article 12 of the Society By-Laws requires the membership present at the annual meeting to approve the Board recommendation by a simple majority. The membership must be notified of the proposed change in dues at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. The members present will vote on the recommendation during the Business Meeting.

 **Newsletter**

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**Editor:** Steve de Kozlowski  
**Design/Production:** Bridget C. Leslie

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## Carp the Answer for Lake James, NC

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has initiated the stocking of 21,000 triploid grass carp into Lake James to control the rapid growth of hydrilla. The 6,500 acre Lake James is a hydropower impoundment owned by Duke Energy Corporation and is the upper most impoundment in the Catawba River Basin.

“The fish will have plenty to eat,” says Ken Manuel, head of Duke Energy’s aquatic plant management team; “our surveys indicate a lush early summer growth of hydrilla.”

Hydrilla was first discovered on Lake James in 1999 near the old North Fork Access Area located in the Catawba River arm of the lake. Despite annual herbicide treatments by Duke Energy Corporation to control the plant, coverage has expanded to over 350 acres with the potential to cover 1,400 acres. Recent surveys indicate that hydrilla populations have expanded to new areas down lake. The infestation is impacting public recreation and the lake’s ecology, and potentially threatens operation of municipal and industrial water intakes downstream.

The stocking is a cooperative effort between North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, North Carolina Water Resources Division, and Duke Energy Corporation. The sterile grass carp were purchased from Santee Cooper (S.C. Public Service Authority). NCWRC and Duke Energy staff will monitor the effectiveness of the stocking.



*South Carolina*  
*Aquatic Plant*  
*Management Society*

# Newsletter

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