

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

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Habitattitude™ Hopes to Stem Releases of Aquatic Plants and Fish

(Excerpt from an article by Marie Zhuikov)

Go on, try to say **Habitattitude**. Campaign partners hope this new word will become common among aquarium owners and water gardeners. **Habitattitude™** is the name for a national public campaign launched September 23 in Las Vegas, NV. The campaign is designed to help aquarium and water garden owners become part of the solution in preventing the release of aquatic fish and plants. The campaign's logo and "don't release" message will soon appear on fish bags, new aquariums, brochures, and ads in hobbyist magazines. This is due to a cooperative effort among the pet and water garden industries, academia, and the federal government.



Habitattitude™

"While most invasive species come into the country as hitchhikers through commercial trade, some aquarium owners and water gardeners have unknowingly complicated the challenge invasive species pose for conserving America's wildlife and landscapes," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Steve Williams. "**Habitattitude™** will give them the knowledge they need to help them prevent invasive species introductions and conserve the natural world they appreciate so much."

The Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), through the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), have teamed up under the auspices of the national Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force to create **Habitattitude™**, which was unveiled at Super Zoo, one of the largest pet industry tradeshows held in the U.S.

Habitattitude™ encourages consumers to help avoid invasive species problems by promoting simple actions when faced with an unwanted aquatic plant or fish. These include:

- *Contact a retailer for proper handling advice or for possible returns.*
- *Give/trade with another aquarist, pond owner or water gardener.*
- *Donate to a local aquarium society, school, or aquatic business.*
- *Seal aquatic plants in plastic bags and dispose in the trash.*
- *Contact a veterinarian or pet retailer for humane disposal of animals.*

The partners have created a campaign Web site: www.habitattitude.net. The site includes recommended alternatives to release, how individuals and clubs can get involved, information on the federal and state laws and statutes that regulate aquatic organisms, and information on some of the more problematic species already in native aquatic systems.

NOAA Administrator and retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher agreed that proactive programming is needed to promote responsible consumer behaviors and to raise awareness about invasive species. "If aquarists and water gardeners continue to do this unknowingly, these species can cause irreparable harm to the environment and can negatively impact recreational and commercial uses of our aquatic resources."

Look for **Habitattitude™** coming to pet stores and plant nurseries near you.

*Editor's Note: The SCDNR is an active partner of the **Habitattitude™** campaign.*

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S.C. Task Group on Harmful Algae Needs Your Help

What better way to find harmful algal blooms than to tap the folks who work on lakes for a living? Members of the S.C. Task Group on Harmful Algae, a multi-institutional collaboration to monitor, study, and provide public education about harmful algal blooms (HABs), addressed the membership at the SCAPMS Annual Meeting. Following the special session, Rick DeVoe, the Task Group chairman and executive director of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, requested assistance from the SCAPMS membership in reporting occurrences of algal blooms.

Aquatic plant managers and applicators are an invaluable resource because they come into contact with potentially harmful algae while surveying or treating aquatic vegetation. “Your involvement is important,” said Dr. Alan Lewitus, research associate professor at USC and associate marine scientist at SCDNR, “because it will help expand the Task Group’s early detection and rapid response to potentially harmful algal blooms and fish kill events, especially in inland freshwater ponds, lakes, and rivers.”



The S.C. Task Group on Harmful Algae was organized in 1997 as a proactive response to a *Pfiesteria* outbreak in Maryland. The Task Group is at the forefront of scientific research, human health surveillance, and public education about HABs. The mission of the Task Group is to discuss, plan, develop, and coordinate the activities of scientists, medical professionals, natural resource managers, communications staff, and extension personnel to inform South Carolinians about HABs and prepare them in the event of a harmful algae outbreak in the state’s waterways. Their goal is to establish the steps necessary to prevent HABs from becoming an environmental and public health problem.

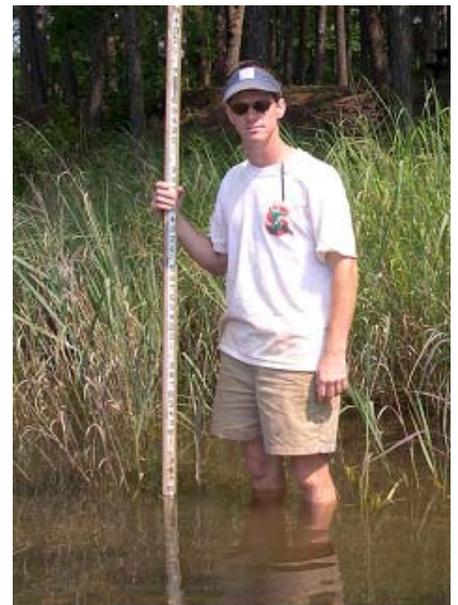
The S.C. Task Group on Harmful Algae receives funding support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To learn more about the S.C. Task Group on Harmful Algae, visit the Web site www.scseagrant.org/schab.htm or contact Susan Ferris at Susan.Ferris@scseagrant.org or (843) 727-2078. **To report a harmful algal bloom or fish kill, contact Lara Mason with the USC/SCDNR S.C. Algal Ecology Lab at masonl@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us or 843-953-9077.**



Where Are They Now?

In our continuing series on the status of our scholarship winners, we present this update on Michael Dorn.

Michael received the Society’s scholarship two times as well as recognition of presentations at the annual meeting. Michael received his Masters Degree from Clemson University in August of 2002. His thesis title was: “Evaluation of eleven native grasses exposed to piedmont reservoir conditions.” Upon graduation Michael took the position of Research Associate with the Clemson University Shoreline Restoration Research Program under the direction of Larry Dyck. His responsibilities include managing the Clemson University Shoreline Plants Nursery which provides native plants to reservoir managers, agencies and homeowners for the purpose of shoreline and habitat restoration. Currently the nursery propagates about 50 species of native shoreline plants and is evaluating dozens of others. Michael is also involved in research on native-plant propagation, the development of habitat installation techniques and with demonstration projects performed on reservoirs throughout the South Carolina and the southeast.





Thank You Sustaining Members!

On behalf of the membership of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society I would like to express our appreciation to the sustaining members of our society. Our sustaining members are usually businesses associated with aquatic plant management products or services. Their membership dues significantly assist in maintaining a solid financial foundation for our society and help sustain the many benefits provided to all of the members of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society.

A sound understanding of available technical products and services is fundamental knowledge needed by all successful aquatic resource professionals. This ever changing technical knowledge, provided to a great extent by the product representatives of our sustaining member organizations, is part of the continuing education in aquatic plant management facilitated by our Society. We thank our sustaining members for the strong partnership and support they continue to provide to the aquatic plant management professionals of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society.

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Student Paper Contest Winners

The student papers seem to get better every year. This year we had five excellent presentations on a wide variety of aquatic plant topics. All the participants received copies of "Aquatic and Wetland Plants of South Carolina" and were supported by the society during their stay.

The Howard B. Roach Student Paper Award for first place plus \$250 was presented to Sarah Habrun, College of Charleston, for her presentation "Investigation of a Novel Cyanobacterium Linked to Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy". Second place (\$150) was earned by Sarah Sundburg, Clemson University, for her paper titled "Roles of *Typha anustifolia* and *Schoenoplectus californicus* in Constructed Wetland Treatment Systems". Larissa Mason, College of Charleston, won third place (\$100) for her presentation "Phytoplankton Ecology and Nutrient dynamics in Two Eutrophic Detention Ponds".



.....**Congratulations to all the students!**



In Memory Of Brad Hartman

Brad Hartman was born on January 26, 1967 in Great Falls, Montana. He died suddenly in his home in Jacksonville, Florida on October 12, 2004.

Brad served as the contract applicator for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources for ten years. "He was a great applicator and a great guy", says Chris Page, Program Coordinator. "You could always count on Brad to get the job done right and be smiling at the end of the day. We're really going to miss him."

Brad graduated from Salisbury State University in Maryland where he received a BS degree in Marine Biology in 1989. Immediately after graduation, he moved to Jacksonville, Florida where he accepted a position in weed management, which became his lifelong



career. Later, with his best friend Brian Wall, Brad established Weed Solutions, Incorporated. For the next six years, Brad, Brian and their wives devoted a lot of time and effort to make the business successful.

Another one of Brad's passions was his dogs. His beloved pets through the years included his "kids," Baxter, Sydney, Barkley and Spencer. It was obvious that Brad would do anything for his dogs, and they adored him.

"None of us will ever understand why this tragedy had to happen", says good friend Geer DeBose with Helena Chemical. "It was all so terribly sad but he'll live forever in our hearts and memories."

2005 Meeting Calendar

Dec 6-10, 2004

First National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration
Lake Buena Vista, FL
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ecosystem/>

Jan 17-19, 2005

Northeast APMS
Saratoga Springs, NY
www.neapms.org

Feb 7-10, 2005

Weed Science Society America
Honolulu, HI
www.wssa.net

Mar 5-7, 2005

Midwest APMS
Indianapolis, IN
www.mapms.org

Mar 10-11, 2005

Western APMS
Denver, CO
www.wapms.org

July 10-13, 2005

APMS 45th Annual Meeting
San Antonio, TX.
www.apms.org

Aug 17-19, 2005

South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting
Springmaid Beach-Myrtle Beach, SC
www.scapms.org/meetings

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Bo Chosen Member of the Year

Bo Burns was chosen for this award due to his willingness to provide technical assistance to applicators in the field both as a representative of SePro Corporation and, more recently, as a representative of BASF. His field knowledge of a variety of products and his partnerships with customers throughout the Carolinas has greatly improved aquatic weed treatments over the past decade.



Bo has also demonstrated a commitment to SCAPMS serving on committees, organizing the scholarship golf tournaments, serving as a director for years, and as its current Vice President. His dedication to the society, as well as to the applicators in the field, is unsurpassed in the industry.



Mason Receives First Fields Scholarship Award

Larissa Mason is the recipient of the 2004 Phillip M. Fields Scholarship Award. Larissa has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Ecology from Emory University and is currently working toward a Masters of Environmental Studies Degree at the College of Charleston.

She is working under the direction of Dr. Alan Lewitus on a research project to investigate anthropogenic inputs affecting phytoplankton community structure and promoting harmful algal blooms in South Carolina storm water retention ponds. She is also evaluating the impacts on community structure of implementation of a proposed mitigation strategy of wetland restoration using native plants.

She is interested in the integration of science and policy and has taken graduate coursework in land use law, economic theory for policy analysis, environmental statistics, aquatic toxicology, benthic ecology, and wetlands protection. Larissa is an excellent student and promising researcher, and SCAPMS is honored and proud to present her with the Phillip M. Fields Scholarship Award.





SCAPMS Scholarship Fund Raising Events

SCAPMS Scholarship Fishing Tournament



Although the catch was limited (see little bag in Larry's hand), everyone had fun and raised a little money toward the Scholarship Fund.

SCAPMS Scholarship Golf Tournament

The annual SCAPMS Scholarship Golf Tournament attracted 14 players to the beautiful International Club in Myrtle Beach. The tournament, sponsored by SePRO Corporation, raised over \$600 for the student scholarship fund.

Special awards were presented to Bob Gunkel for shooting low net, Shaun Hyde for crushing the longest drive, Greg Reynolds for sticking one closest to the pin, and Paul Kurilla for taking the *most* swings to get around the course (high gross). Congratulations and thanks to all the golfers for supporting the kids.

Happy Holidays and We hope to see everyone next year at Springmaid Beach Resort, August 17-19, 2005.

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