

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

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April, 2003



Grass Carp Stocking In Lake Murray Begins

The first installments of sterile grass carp have been released at Lake Murray, a 48,500-acre lake located near Columbia, to help control a rapidly expanding hydrilla problem.

“This is the right decision at the right time,” said Tommy Boozer, SCE&G’s Lake Manager, “SCE&G fully supports this effort and will work closely with the DNR to make this work.” South Carolina Electric and Gas Company owns and manages the lake for hydroelectric power production.

The stocking of the plant-eating fish in Lake Murray is in response to the rapid spread of the aquatic weed hydrilla. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources in conjunction with the S.C. Aquatic Plant Management Council developed a management plan that calls for the release of 64,500 sterile grass carp in the lake this spring. A key element of the plan is to achieve measurable control during the two-year period the lake is drawn down for construction of the back-up dam.

SCDNR Aquatic Nuisance Species staff, Phil Fields, Chris Page, and Joe Dennis are responsible for coordinating the stocking and checking the fish before they go in the lake. “These are big beautiful fish,” says Phil Fields, DNR’s Field Supervisor, “All the fish are supposed to be at least 12 inches long, but a lot are even bigger than that.”

The total cost of the project is expected to be about \$365,000. No state funds will be used for this project. South Carolina Electric and Gas Company will provide most of the funding with additional contributions by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lexington County, and Richland County.

Hydrilla has been in the lake since 1993. Treatments with aquatic herbicides and periodic drawdowns have kept it under control. But its rapid spread last year to over 6,700 acres combined with the decision to halt the use of aquatic herbicides prompted the use of grass carp. If left unchecked, the DNR estimates that hydrilla could infest up to 18,000 acres or 38% of the lake.

Hydrilla’s thick growth impairs public access and use of this popular midlands lake, and threatens its use as an important water supply for local residents and the Columbia metropolitan area.



Chris Page and Tommy Boozer count fish.

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Studies Linking AVM to Aquatic Vegetation

By Anna Birrendott, Clemson University

Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy (AVM) is a neurological disorder that has killed numerous waterfowl and bald eagles in South Carolina and neighboring states. Over the past 2 years, a cooperative research project on AVM has been conducted at Clemson University. The cooperators in this project have included the Army Corps of Engineers, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at the University of Georgia, South Carolina DNR: Wildlife and Marine Divisions, Georgia DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA.

Anna Birrenkott has been the Master's research assistant working on the project under the direction of Dr. William Bowerman. The unique nature of this cooperative project has been its total lack of external funding, all of the cooperators have donated time and effort or been reimbursed solely for their costs.

During this study, aquatic plant material (hydrilla and associated materials) from J. Strom Thurmond Lake has been fed to mallard ducks in order to determine if this could cause AVM in a laboratory setting. The 2001 results were inconclusive, but during 2002 lab experiments,

AVM was confirmed in some of the ducks by Dr. John Fischer at SCWDS. This completed the lower end of the AVM food chain. The results of a study done by SCWDS (currently In Press) which fed non-releasable red-tailed hawks frozen coots that had AVM, and produced AVM in the hawks, proved the upper end of the food chain. Therefore, the results of these two studies confirm a linkage from "something" in aquatic vegetation causing AVM in waterfowl which are then eaten by birds of prey causing AVM in them.

Although this study linked AVM transmission from aquatic vegetation to waterfowl, the exact etiologic agent has yet to be identified. Future studies will include attempts to isolate the causative agent from the aquatic vegetation material. Identifying the causative agent will be the basis for management decisions concerning AVM. Additionally, future research will evaluate mammalian susceptibility to the AVM.



Study one step closer to solving brain lesion disease in Bald Eagles and Coots.



Finally a New Aquatic Herbicide...Renovate 3!

SePRO Corporation is proud to introduce Renovate 3, which received Federal EPA registration in November 2002 making it the first aquatic herbicide to receive registration since 1988.

"Renovate represents the first new class of chemistry to be registered for aquatics in the last 15 years," said Steve Cockreham, Vice President of Research and Regulatory Affairs for SePRO.

The active ingredient, triclopyr, provides systemic control for a variety of emersed, submersed, and floating aquatic plant species including Eurasian watermilfoil, alligatorweed, American lotus, American frogbit, aquatic sodaapple, watermilfoil species, nuphar (spatterdock), parrotfeather, pickerelweed, pennywort, purple loosestrife, water hyacinth, waterlily, and water primrose.

Renovate can be used in virtually all aquatic sites except irrigation canals, salt-water bays or estuaries, and rivers or streams. Water use restrictions include waiting 120 days to use treated water for irrigation. Water may be used earlier if a water analysis shows no detection for the active ingredient triclopyr. There are not irrigation restrictions for established grasses. Treatment setbacks from functioning potable water intakes will vary up to 1300 feet depending on the application rate and size of area treated. There are no restrictions for use of treated water for recreational purposes, such as swimming and fishing, nor restrictions on livestock consumption of water.

For more information about Renovate 3 Aquatic Herbicide contact Bo Burns, SePRO at 919-844-5375 or at bo@sepro.com.





2003 Meeting Back to Our Roots, Aug. 13-15

2003 Meeting Calendar

Florida Aquatic Weed Control Short Course

Fort Lauderdale Marriott North
Fort Lauderdale, FL
May 19-22, 2003
Contact: Maryann Edge (352) 392-5930
medge@mail.ifas.ufl.edu
Web site: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/index.html>

12th Annual Southeastern Lakes Management Conference

Hyatt Orlando-Kissimmee
Orlando, FL
June 2-5, 2003
Contact: Shailesh Patel (386) 304-6505
spatel@dmces.com

Aquatic Plant Management Society

Holiday Inn by the Bay
Portland, ME
July 20-23, 2003
Contact: Ken Manuel 704-875-5424
kmanuel@duke-energy.com
Web site: www.apms.org

South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society

Cypress Gardens
Moncks Corner, SC
August 13-15, 2003
Contact: Chris Page 803-755-2836

Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society

Adam's Mark Hotel
Daytona Beach, FL
October 13-16, 2003
Contact: Bill Torres, 850-245-2809
William.torres@dep.state.fl.us

7th International Conference: Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions

Wyhdham Bonaventure Resort,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
November 3-7, 2003
Web site: <http://www.esa.org/ipinams-emap7/>

Cypress Gardens



2003

25 years



It all started in Moncks Corner in 1979, so it only seems right that our 25th anniversary meeting return to that special place in all our hearts. The 2003 Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 13-15 at the unique and beautiful Cypress Gardens.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the new Holiday Inn Express in Moncks Corner at a special rate of \$69 per night. Early reservations are encouraged since we are limited on the number of rooms we can hold. So, please contact the hotel at (843) 761-5900 (or 800-774-0600) and make your reservations. Ask for the SCAPMS discount.

Additional detailed registration and hotel accommodation information will be provided at a later date. Check the SCAPMS web site for up-to-date meeting information.



APMS Student Paper Contest

The Aquatic Plant Management Society is soliciting student papers for their upcoming annual meeting to be held July 20-23, 2003, at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, in Portland, Maine. Presentations of original research on the biology or ecology of aquatic or wetland plants, control methods (biological, chemical, mechanical, cultural) for invasive or nuisance native plants, and restoration projects involving wetland or aquatic plants are solicited. Papers that emphasize nuisance algae control or ecology, the impact of aquatic plant management on fisheries, and the relationship between aquatic plant management and water quality are also highly encouraged.

The Society encourages students that have conducted original research on aquatic plants to present their findings, and gain a valuable perspective on aquatic plant problems and various management applications throughout the US. The meeting locale in Portland, Maine provides an excellent opportunity for students from the Northeastern US to attend and present research on aquatic plants in this region.

The APMS has a strong ethic of student support and all qualified attendees will be provided free room accommodations (based on double occupancy), waiver of registration fees, banquet meals, and social functions. In addition, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize money will be awarded. This meeting presents an opportunity for students to develop their presentation skills, learn about the field of aquatic plant management, meet with key Government, University, and Industry representatives, and peers with similar educational or professional interests.

Please log on to www.apms.org to learn more about the Aquatic Plant Management Society. For more information on the contest please contact by mail, phone, or e-mail.

Dr. Michael D. Netherland
SePRO Corporation
1730 East 156th St.
Carmel, IN 46033
317-216-8289
miken@sepro.com



Call for Papers

The Program Committee is accepting requests for presentations at the 2003 SCAPMS Annual Meeting. Papers covering all aspects of aquatic and wetland plant biology, use, and control will be considered. Student presentations are encouraged with possible cash prizes to be determined later.

We are requesting that all persons using PowerPoint bring their presentations on 3.5" floppy disk or CD. A laptop and projector will be provided. A slide carousel projector and overhead projector or VCR will also be provided if requested.

Fifteen minutes will be allowed for presentations. Special requests for additional time or equipment should be directed to the Program Chairman. Please pass this information along to others!

Those interested should contact the Vice President/Program Chairman:

Steve T. Hoyle
Agricultural Research Tech. III
Weed Biology
Crop Science Dept.
NC State University
Box 7620
Raleigh, NC 27695-7620
Office (919) 515-5272
Fax (919) 515-5315
e-mail steve_hoyle@ncsu.edu

- ✓ **Submit—Title, author, organization, and address exactly as you want it to appear on the program.**
- ✓ **If more than one author is listed, place an asterisk after the name of the author who will present the paper.**
- ✓ **Two or three sentence abstracts are needed to ensure recertification credits for attendees.**

**Please reply on or before
June 15, 2003**

Bowen Steps Down

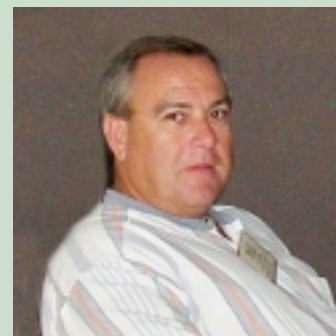
After 11 years of serving as the Secretary-Treasurer for the Society, Tommy Bowen is taking a break. "I hate the thought of resigning," said Tommy at the last Board of Directors meeting, "But this has been a very rewarding experience for me and I'm sure the Society will do just fine without me".

We doubt it!! Tommy has served longer as Secretary-Treasurer than any other officer in the history of the society. His dedication to detail and conscientious maintenance of the society's finances have helped keep the society on an even financial keel and allowed us to give the membership great value for their money.

If you've ever wondered why the society has run so smoothly for the past decade, it's because of Tommy. Just ask any of the past eleven presidents. "If it weren't for Tommy, our board meetings would take twice as long, says John Hayes, current SCAPMS President, "but he develops the agendas and keeps us all on track."

The Board is now in search of a new Secretary-Treasurer. Volunteers should contact Troy Diel at 843-761-8000. Tommy will be sorely missed, but has agreed to assist with the transition.

In the mean time, Chris Page, SCDNR Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, will serve as Acting Secretary-Treasurer. All correspondence with the Society should be sent to him at Chris Page, SCDNR, 2221 Devine Street, Suite 222, Columbia, SC, 29205; phone 803-755-2836.



2002-03 Board of Directors Officers

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Message From The President

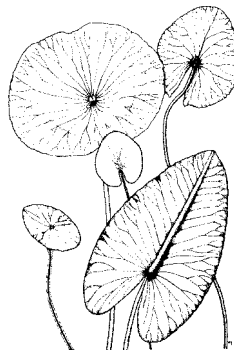
I hope everyone is having their best year yet! As temperatures and waters warm up this spring, you can be assured that aquatic weeds are warming up too. Early intervention control programs make it easier to decrease weed populations. The larger the plant, the more material it takes, and time too. Lots of recent rainfall has raised water levels. Some areas were previously dry and made access to ponds more difficult. So in some respects the water will make boat access easier. This is good news to applicators. Conversely some areas are flooded because of the amount of rainfall we have received this year.

I am excited about this year's annual meeting. The South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society marks its 25th anniversary in 2003. We are inviting past presidents to attend this special meeting. It will be held at beautiful Cypress Gardens, near Moncks Corner, South Carolina. Mark your calendars now for August 13th to 15th. There will be many opportunities for hands-on experiences. With a beautiful pond and aquarium, attendees can see first-hand, weeds we have in our South Carolina waters. Families of attendees will have many opportunities to take in beauty with numerous nature walks, a butterfly house, and boat rides. Get set for a relaxing time at Cypress Gardens.

Our topics this year are sure to be informative and interesting. We will hear about new products available for weed control, updates from around the Carolinas, wetlands construction and remediation, and of course, applicators' workshops. Make sure to start saving your change for purchasing tickets for our scholarship program. We need your support for this worthwhile program, and we have some great prizes to boot. We have so much fun and animation from our lively bunch on banquet night. I sure hope you join us again, or for the first time!

The scholarship papers are always interesting and we invite students to attend our meeting and to submit appropriate papers for consideration of scholarship fund awards. If you know a student studying our area of science, please pass this information on to them.

I look forward to seeing each of you at this year's meeting.



John Hayes

South Carolina
Aquatic Plant
Management Society

Newsletter

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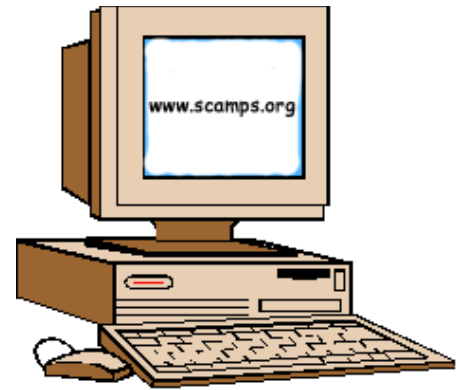


New Web Address. . .www.scapms.org!!

The Society now has a new web address to make it easier for members and browsers to find us. The Board of Directors approved the recommendation by the Web Site/Education Committee to purchase a web address specifically for the society. For a nominal fee, the society has a much shortened and easy to locate web address.

“Now that we have our own domain name, we can provide information to the membership in a more timely manner” says Chris Page, SCAPMS Webmaster and Chairman of the Web Site/Education Committee.

Now that SCAPMS.ORG is a registered name on the internet, no one else can use our society name as a web site. So in the future if you lose your address book, just type “SCAPMS” in your favorite browser and you can find your way back home.



Newsletter

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