

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter, Summer 2008



President's Message **Thomas J. McNabb**

Greetings to all, and I hope as the summer season comes to an end, this newsletter finds you all safe and healthy. 2008 has transformed into a year of change for the society, with the adoption of new bylaws, the addition of two board members, an updated webpage, and the financial status that has allowed additional support to students and others involved in our field. With these changes, we are in a stronger position both financially and as a society (our bank account balance is higher than it has ever been, and we have more people on the board to support current and additional activities). We encourage everybody to continue providing the great support into 2009 and beyond.

We will be returning to Hawaii in 2009 (WAPMS's last meeting in Hawaii was in 1989 or 1990). The dates for the 2009 WAPMS meeting are set for March 29th through April 1st in Honolulu at the Moana Surfrider, a Westin Resort. Additional information on the meeting venue and accommodations are below.

The program for the 2009 meeting is beginning to take shape, as is outlined in the Program Chair's (Robert Leavitt) update below. Additional information will be available on the website, via the next

newsletter, and through the upcoming Call for Papers announcement.

The WAPMS Board and fellow members look forward to seeing all of you in Hawaii in 2009.

2009 Annual Conference Program Update

Robert Leavitt, Program Chair

As Tom said in his President's message, we are looking forward to a great meeting in Hawaii. It's my privilege to be Program Chair this year. I'm please to say that planning for the program is already underway.

We will start the meeting with a special session on "Invasive Seaweeds" that Lars Anderson is organizing. We will have another special session on "Adaptive and Prescriptive Aquatic Plant Management" regarding the Eurasian watermilfoil program in Idaho, organized by Tom McNabb. So, we are off to a great start.

We can still fit in one or two more special sessions if anyone wishes to organize one. Please e-mail me by mid-October what your session topic will be and a rough idea of whom the speakers will be. Call me at 916-651-0582 if you'd like to discuss.

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| Steps to the 2009 Program: | Date (approximate) |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Call for Papers | October 15 |
| Titles and Abstracts due | December 31 |
| Final Program | Feb. 15, 2009 |

I'll also send out a regular "Call for Papers" about mid-October. As always, I anticipate we'll have great presentations covering the full spectrum of subjects in regards to aquatic weed management in the Western states. The WAPMS is a "big umbrella" and welcomes papers on management and

control, biological control, basic aquatic weed biology, environmental and health aspects, non-chemical control and IPM strategies, and aquatic weed monitoring and mapping. I'm hoping that I can have all titles and abstracts by the end of December, so that I can get a final program posted on the web site by mid February.

So, start thinking about your WAPMS presentation now! What could be better: sun, surf, hula, and aquatic weeds.



A view from the dining room at the Moana Surfrider

2009 Annual Conference: Hotel info **Thomas J. McNabb**

The 28th Annual WAPMS Meeting will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, March 29th through April 1, 2009. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Moana Surfrider (www.moana-surfrider.com), and across the street at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Hotel (www.princess-kaiulani.com). Room

rates at the Moana Surfrider are \$255.00 (Run of House), \$285.00 (Run of Ocean), and rates at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani Hotel are \$150.00 (Run of House), and \$170.00 (Run of Ocean). The Hotels will offer these room rates for three (3) days prior and three (3) days after the meeting dates, subject to availability at the time of reservation. Individual attendees may reserve rooms by calling the resort desk at

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(800) 782-9488 and making reservations on their own (reference the WAPMS Meeting when calling for reservations). A deposit equal to one night's stay is required to hold the reservation for the date(s) indicated. Upon check-in, it shall be applied to the first night's stay. The deposit is refundable with at least seventy-two (72) hours notice prior to arrival. If cancellation is made within seventy-two (72) hours of arrival, it will be retained as a cancellation fee.

Meeting registration and exhibitor setup will begin at 2:00 PM on Sunday, March 29th at the Moana Surf rider, and will be followed by a reception that evening.

The facilities are great, and there is a lot to see and do on the island of Oahu, so bring your family and friends and enjoy the aloha atmosphere for up to three days before and after the meeting.

Student Scholarship Program: The Ties Have It **Toni Pennington, Scholarship Committee Chair**

The 2008 Barbra H. Mullin Memorial Scholarship attracted 11 students this year representing five Western states. In alphabetical order, the following students submitted a scholarship application:

- Mara Evans, PhD student, University of California at Davis
- Laura Feinstein, PhD student, University of California at Davis
- Micah Horwith, PhD student, University of Washington
- Thaddeus Hunt, MS student, University of California at Davis
- Karoline Lambert, MS student, University of Idaho at Moscow
- Lynda Moore, MS student, Portland State University

- Jennifer Reiners, MSCE student, University of Washington
- Gwen Santos-Conahan, undergraduate student, San Francisco State University
- Whitney Temple, MS student, Portland State University
- Joe Vassios, MS student, Colorado State University
- Marion Wittmann, PhD student, University of California at Santa Barbara

Students were evaluated based on a written statement, resume, academic transcripts, and letters of support.

After painstaking review, the Judges' decision was tied between Ms. Mara Evans and Mr. Joe Vassios. In lieu of splitting hairs or appointing a second place winner, the Board agreed to allow the tie and award both students a \$1,000 scholarship. The Board also unanimously agreed to send our winners to the 2008 Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) meeting in Charleston, South Carolina in July. The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF) generously provides lodging for students competing in the APMS student paper competition. Ms. Evans' work is in its beginning stages so the Board agreed to send her to the 2009 meeting to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Joe was able to attend the 2008 meeting where he made quite an impressive showing – he tied for first place again. I believe I speak for the entire Board when I say we are very proud of Joe and wish him the best of luck as he begins his research at the University of Florida under the guidance of Dr. William Haller. I wish all the applicants the very best of luck throughout their academic and career endeavors. Also, I encourage eligible students to re-apply for the 2009 scholarship.

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I'd like to thank our distinguished (and hard working) judges: Dr. Mariana Tamayo (former WAPMS scholarship recipient), Ms. Jenifer Parsons, Washington Department of Ecology (former WAPMS President) and Dr. Robert Levitt, California Department of Food and Agriculture (WAPMS President-elect). Also, many thanks to the 2007-2008 Board of Directors for awarding *two* scholarships and for sending our winners to the APMS meetings.

Looking ahead, I managed to cajole at least two judges (and you know who you are) for the 2009 scholarship and am seeking a third volunteer. If you are interested, please contact me at Toni.Pennington@tetrattech.com.

Please see the website for the 2009 announcement and look for electronic versions in your mailbox to distribute to potential students or academic advisors.

The 2009 scholarship recipient will be announced in Honolulu, Hawaii.

WAPMS Website Updated!

If you haven't seen the WAPMS website for a few months, you'll find a new look on your next visit. Kathy Hamel kept up the site for many years, but after much pleading the Board finally had a fit of conscience and arranged for a new Webmaster. Patrick Akers and Robert Leavitt of the California Department of Food and Agriculture arranged for their Branch's Web technician, Gali Morales, to take over the upkeep of the site. Gali is very fast and accurate, plus he has a good eye for design. Working with Kathy and Tom Moorhouse, he re-designed the site and moved all the content over to the new structure. Tom weeded through and updated the content and checked it all for accuracy.

Thanks to all involved for a much-needed freshening of the site!

Members' Submissions Short Notes of Interest to the Society*

Update from Clean Lakes, Inc., on the new LitLineT Treatment System

Thomas J. McNabb

Clean Lakes, Inc. announces the development and successful field trials of LitLineT, a patent-pending Littoral Zone Treatment Technology. Clean Lakes developed LitLineT to accomplish aquatic herbicide applications in the lower portion of the water column. During initial trials on June 19, 2008, in Hayden Lake, Idaho, divers determined that, at 5 mph with 40 feet of hose deployed in 12 feet of water, the hoses discharged the herbicide at a depth of 10 feet. At 3 mph with 90 feet of hose

deployed in 17 feet of water, the hoses discharged at a 15-foot depth. During the initial herbicide applications performed on



LitLineT hose discharging herbicide in a weed bed

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the Pend Oreille Lake and River system during June and July 2008, the LitLineT system treated over 1,000 acres with a combination of aquatic herbicides for the control of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) without equipment failures, or hose snags. The US Army Corps of Engineers' Environmental Research and Development Center carried out Water Exchange Evaluations on the project, and the initial data shows that the LitLineT was able to make the herbicide applications at desired depths within the water column. The great news is that via this approach, the bottom half of the water column can be treated, rather than the entire water column, cutting herbicide use by up to 50% in some instances, as was achieved in the Pend Oreille EWM project during the summer of 2008.



Clean Lakes boat with LitLineT hoses deployed

An open letter from Brad Bluemer and the Bonner County Weed Dept.: “Thanks to WAPMS and friends for help with the Lake Pend O’reille EWM Project!”

Bonner County residents are very pleased to have the support of so many great organizations assisting with the Eurasian watermilfoil problem in Idaho. It really can humble one’s heart to find this kind of

cooperation and dedication among agencies and professional people in the industry.

The Aquatic Environmental Research Foundation, U.S. Army Corps ERDC Project Team with Dr. Getsinger, MSU-GRI Project Team with Dr. Madsen, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Bonner County AISTF, County Commissioners, and other dedicated people have joined efforts all in one year to provide data to this effort. Special efforts and support was organized by these people and our contractor Clean Lakes Inc. or it would not have happened. For this we in Bonner County are most grateful!! Early results indicate that the data collected, when complete, could change the industry. This work could save us thousands of dollars in herbicides, by knowing we’re doing the right thing at the right time. Maybe we can prove how valuable research really is to aquatic managers.

Since safety and weed control are primary goals of managers, this year’s work will likely show how less herbicides can be used for safer water with better efficacy while reducing costs, too, all in a flowing lake water system. Our excitement is high and the final results will tell a better story later this year.

The aquatic professionals deserve a big thank you for all this research and their help with the Lake Pend O’reille Project this year!!

Respectfully,

Brad Bluemer, Bonner County Weed Superintendent

South American spongeplant...another problem to look for?

Patrick Akers, CA Dept. of Food and Agric.

Spongeplant (*Limnobium laevigatum*, also often called frogbit) is a water-hyacinth wannabe that, in California at least, can develop heavy infestations in some situations. It's starting to show up more frequently in our state, indicating that people are moving it around. California's first infestation appeared about 2002, in the northern part of the Central Valley. That was the only infestation for several years, but in August 2007, the plant cropped up in scattered patches along ten to 15 miles of the San Joaquin River in Fresno, and a small



Several hundred feet of spongeplant in a 4.5-acre pond in Redding, CA

infestation appeared in a slough about 50 miles to the northwest. Just before Christmas, a large isolated patch appeared on the western edge of the Sacramento Delta, but apparently a heavy storm destroyed it. In February 2008, biologists found another infestation near the Kings River southeast of Fresno, and this summer another small spot appeared in a canal in the heart of the southern Central Valley. So far, the infestations have been relatively easy to beat back, but the sudden rash of new finds is alarming.

Under crowded conditions, mature spongeplants look similar to water hyacinth

but are smaller, as the plants generally only grow 8-12 inches tall. With water hyacinth,



Side view of spongeplant showing leaf, root, and flower

the leaf stem provides the floatation for the plant, while in spongeplant, the leaves themselves float, particularly in smaller plants in un-crowded conditions. In hyacinth, the leaf blades are uniformly thin, while spongeplant leaves are strongly keeled: they are thick near the stem and curve smoothly to the edge of the leaf. The shape is particularly noticeable in un-crowded plants. In such conditions, leaves range from less than ¼ inch across to two to three inches in mature plants. In top view, they are round to slightly heart-shaped and lie flat on the water.

* Editorial Guidelines for Members' Submissions:

Articles may be on any subject of general interest to the Society, such as news on members, updates on projects, or announcements of new products. They must include a byline with the authors' names. Responsibility for the article lies with the authors. All articles of 300 words or less will be printed, as long as they pertain to the business of the Society. The Newsletter editor will edit them only for spelling, grammar, or readability. Articles longer than 300 words will be submitted to the editorial board for approval. They may be edited for length or content, in consultation with the author. Articles may be submitted as a Word document, a text file, or text in an email message.