

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter, Summer 2010

WAPMS 2010 Conference: Seattle Sophisticates

President's Message

Thomas Moorhouse, WAPMS President

Greetings to everybody! It's that time of year again and though the summer season isn't quite over, it's time to take a moment to catch up with society news.

It had been 13 years (1997) since WAPMS last met in Seattle and this year's meeting in downtown was well attended. For those of you who could not attend, the agenda and abstracts are available on the WAPMS website (www.wapms.org).

At the Business Meeting session of the WAPMS meeting, Toni Pennington was elected Vice-President and Program Chair. Andrea Austel was elected to the three year Secretary-Treasurer position replacing Scott Shuler, while Cody Gray and Scott Nissen were elected to serve the two year terms as Directors replacing outgoing Directors Thomas Woolf and Jill Winfield. Thomas McNabb was appointed to serve the one year balance that remained due to Toni's election to Vice President. Thanks go to Robert Leavitt (now Past President), Scott Shuler, Thomas Woolf, and Jill Winfield for the contributions made over the past several years.

WAPMS awarded a scholarship during the meeting (more about that below) and the BOD voted to approve \$2,000 for the 2011 Scholarship award. A contribution of \$2,000 was also approved to the 2010 Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) Graduate Student Research Award.

WAPMS continues to be represented by Toni Pennington on the Western Regional Panel (WRP) of the Aquatic Nuisance

Species task force. The task force is a group dedicated to aquatic invasive species issues in the west. Quagga and Zebra Mussels have been a major topic of discussion of this Panel recently, though we keep aquatic plants on the radar screen of this panel.

The 50th meeting of the APMS was held in Bonita Springs, FL in mid July. The entire WAPMS BOD was present, with the exception of Andrea, which I believe shows the dedication this board has to the issues associated with aquatic plant management. It was a great meeting and a time to renew contacts with old friends and others from across the US. As can be imagined, a major topic both in and out of meetings was development of the NPDES permit, but more about that below.

We will be returning to the Denver, CO area for the 30th annual meeting of the WAPMS, to be held at the Westin Hotel in Westminster from March 28 to March 30. Next year's meeting is tentatively scheduled to be a 2-day meeting to be kicked off with a President's reception Monday night. Toni Pennington will be the Program Chair for next year's meeting and the program is beginning to take shape as outlined in Toni's remarks below. Additional information will be updated to the website, so be sure to check it from time to time. The WAPMS Board looks forward to seeing you all there, so put it on your calendars and make plans now to attend.

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter, Summer 2010

Notes on the 2010 Program Toni Pennington, Vice-President and Program Chair

WAPMS will hold its 30th Annual meeting in Westminster, CO (northwest of Denver) from March 28 to 30, 2011. In addition to our silver anniversary, this is an important time with respect to NPDES permitting, increases in other aquatic invasive species, and finding solutions to emerging problems in aquatic plant management. The WAPMS Board sincerely hopes you will attend the 2011 meeting to learn and discuss these issues with our colleagues from across the western U.S.

Our previous VP and current president, Tom Moorhouse, did an excellent job in preparing the agenda and arranging the venue for the 2010 meeting in Seattle. He has also been instrumental in securing the 2011 venue in Westminster – many thanks to Tom! As the current vice-president, I'm very proud to assemble the program for next year's meeting. The Board decided to break from tradition and try a different format: the President's Reception will be on Monday evening, there will be two days of sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the banquet will be held on Tuesday evening. Getting started on Tuesday will allow folks to travel during the week rather than Sunday – allowing more time for families and R & R over the weekend. If an overwhelming number of abstracts are received, we may go back to our two and half day program.

Current plans allow for seven sessions on the agenda and the Board will be looking for about 35 speakers. Tentative session topics include:

- State updates
- NPDES permitting
- Managing for plants and fish

- Plant-animal interactions (e.g. one invasion facilitates another)
- Invasive plant management in irrigation canals
- General aquatic invasive species (e.g. emerging problems and solutions, research)
- Regional issues

Please let this short note serve as the first CALL FOR PAPERS. The final call for papers will be in mid-December. While this may seem early, Jill Winfield needs abstracts to coordinate the CE credits for licensed applicators. Given that our chapter covers the entire western U.S., this is quite an onerous task. Many thanks to Jill for organizing this tremendous effort!

Reservation details:

The meeting will be held Monday March 28 to Wednesday March 30, 2011, at The Westin Westminster, 10600 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CO 80020. We have several rooms blocked for the rate of \$158 per night plus taxes (currently 12.6%). This rate will be available from March 25 to April 3, 2011, for those who wish to come early or stay late. **To obtain this rate, rooms must be booked by March 8, 2011, at 5:00 pm (MST).** To make your reservation, call the hotel directly at (303) 410-5000 or the Westin Central Reservation Office at (800) WESTIN1 (937-8461) and be sure to mention WAPMS to receive the discounted room rate. For those who wish to hit the slopes before or after the meeting, Eldorado, Vail, Loveland, Winter Park, Breckenridge are within 30 to 90 miles of the hotel. Also nearby is the Denver Art Museum, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Aquarium, and Coors Brewery. See the hotel website for more information:

<http://www.westindenverboulder.com/>.

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter, Summer 2010

Additional information about the meeting will be provided in the next newsletter, or feel free to contact me at toni.pennington@tetrattech.com.

WAPMS Scholarship Award for 2010 Scott Nissen, Scholarship Chair

The WAPMS Barbra H. Mullin Memorial Scholarship for 2010 was awarded to Mr. Joe Vassios of Colorado State University. Joe was the co-recipient of the award in 2008 along with Mara Evans of UD-Davis. Joe has been active in the WAPMS and APMS for the past several years sharing his research results as both oral and poster presentations. Joe completed his MS in 2010 and has decided to pursue a Ph.D. by continuing to conduct research in aquatic plant management at Colorado State University. Joe was selected from an outstanding group of applicants from across the US. This scholarship is not restricted to students conducting graduate research in what would traditionally be considered the Western US. Society members are encouraged to work with students that they advise or simply have contact with to help them submit quality applications for the 2011 WAPMS Barbra H. Mullin Memorial Scholarship. The 2011 scholarship will be presented at the 30th annual WAPMS meeting in Westminster, CO. The official announcement of the 2011 scholarship and application deadlines will be made later this year.

I would like to thank Drs. Toni Pennington, Cody Gray and Kim Patten for taking on the difficult task of reviewing the scholarship applications.

NPDES Permit Update Thomas Moorhouse, WAPMS President

The National Pesticide Discharge Elimination System Permit is on everybody's mind these days. California and Washington have had Statewide permits available for several years now, but most states in the west have not had an NPDES Permit system in place. As it stands now, beginning April 9, 2011, pesticide applications into a water body of the US will require coverage under an NPDES permit. The western states of Alaska, Idaho, and New Mexico will have Pesticide General Permits managed and issued by the USEPA. All other states have NPDES Program Authorizations so it is expected that state agencies currently handling NPDES permits at the state level will be responsible for development and issuance of permits. All those involved with aquatic weed management programs should contact their state agency to comment on any draft permits in preparation and to support compliance next spring. For more information about efforts being carried out by USEPA, go to: http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=410

A recent development may change the requirement for an NPDES permit, however. The following is an excerpt from a press release available at US Senator Lincoln's website. "U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.) today announced they

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter, Summer 2010

have introduced legislation that aims to clarify that additional permits are not required for pesticide application in accordance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The bill, S. 3735, will bring legal and regulatory certainty for our farmers, foresters and ranchers regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent actions related to the Clean Water Act. The bill makes it clear that producers that are in compliance with requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) do not need to obtain Clean Water Act permits. The bill will protect public health and safeguard the environment by ensuring that producers are in strict compliance with FIFRA while simultaneously eliminating duplicative regulatory obligations that would be imposed if Clean Water Act permits are required. During the more than 35 years since the enactment of the Clean Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency has never required a Clean Water Act permit for the application of FIFRA-registered farm chemicals. The FIFRA Paperwork Reduction Act will prevent EPA from doing so in the future".

As you can see, the NPDES issue is far from resolved so stay tuned for the latest developments.

Ideas for the Western Regional Panel? Toni Pennington, WAPMS representative to the WRP

As your representative on the Western Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, I encourage you all to start thinking about the message about aquatic plants we'd like to convey to this group. I only have three minutes for the WAPMS update, but as with any conference/meeting - a lot of talking

happens away from the event. If you are not familiar with the WRP, go to:

<http://www.fws.gov/answest/index.htm>.

You'll notice that aquatic plants are poorly represented, which is why we are participating. There is a membership list on the website and we are curiously not listed; however, they confirmed our voting membership and the list will be updated.

The goal of the WRP is to protect limited western aquatic resources by preventing the introduction and spread of exotic nuisance species into western marine and freshwater systems through the coordinated management and research activities of state, tribal, federal, commercial, environmental, research entities and other regional panels. It is a panel of public and private entities, formed in 1997 to help limit the introduction, spread and impacts of aquatic nuisance species into the Western Region of North America, as a provision in the National Invasive Species Act of 1996. However, much of that legislation was inspired by the invasion of the zebra mussel, so the programs often have an orientation to fisheries and often overlook plants. The WRP encompasses an extensive geographic range, all states and provinces west of the 100th Meridian as well as Guam, Hawaii and Alaska.

Aquatic Plant Notes from Washington State

**Patrick Akers and Toni Pennington,
WAPMS Board**

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has issued a draft general permit to cover aquatic plant and algae management activities in the surface freshwaters of the state, says Kathy Hamel of the Department. The Aquatic Plant and Algae General Permit (Permit) covers the

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter, Summer 2010

discharge of chemicals to control aquatic plants and algae in Washington lakes and other fresh waters. These products include aquatic herbicides, algaecides, biological clarification products, aquatic dyes, adjuvants, and nutrient inactivation products such as alum. Ecology invites comments on the draft permit and fact sheet. To view or download the permit and fact sheet, and other accompanying documents visit http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/final_pesticide_permits/aquatic_plants/aquatic_plant_permit_index.html

Ecology expects to issue a final permit by March 2011. They will accept public comments on the permit from September 1, 2010 until 5 p.m., October 15, 2010. All written comments must include the commenter's name and address and may be made at aquaticpermitcomments@ecy.wa.gov. Ecology will also accept oral comments during the public hearings in Lacey on October 4 at 1 p.m., and in Spokane Valley, October 6, 1 p.m. For more information contact kathy.hamel@ecy.wa.gov.

In other news from Washington, Hamel said the state is on the last leg of its hydrilla eradication program, with this being the last year for treatment. No hydrilla has been detected for three years now in any infested lake, and Washington soon will be hydrilla-free.

The weed board made *Spartina alterniflora* a Class A noxious weed because it is now to the stage where all plants can be controlled in any one year. This is down from literally thousands of acres at the start of the program to just a few acres today.

Ecology is seeing more invasive arrowhead species appearing in Washington lakes.

Washington state is partnering with Pierce and Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Boards to eradicate *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* in the five lakes that it occurs in Washington. This species was just added to Agriculture's quarantine list so it can no longer be sold in the state.

Ecology is funding a flowering rush project on the Yakima River and plans to tackle the second flowering rush infestation in Silver Lake in Whatcom County next year.

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter, Summer 2010

Treasurer's Report, January 1 to August 15, 2010 Scott Shuler, retiring Secretary/Treasurer

Balance as of January 1, 2010			
	Checking Balance		\$17,259.41
		Subtotal	\$17,259.41
Income			
	Income from 2010 Conference		\$23,400.00
	Membership (2010)		\$110.00
	Checking Account Interest		\$11.63
		Subtotal	\$23,521.63
Expenditures			
	CE Hours Application		\$135.00
	2010 Conference Hotel		\$16,225.87
	2010 Conference Printing		\$577.16
	2010 Conference Refunds		\$300.00
	2010 Conference Scholarship		\$1,000.00
	2011 Conference Hotel		\$4,500.00
	APM Graduate Research		\$2,000.00
	Office Supplies		\$86.90
	Corporation Fees		\$100.00
	Association Dues		\$250.00
	Utilities: Internet		\$224.85
		Subtotal	\$25,399.78
Balance as of August 15, 2010			\$15,381.26

* **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.