

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter, Summer 2011

WAPMS 2011 Conference: Warm San Diego Nights

President's Message

Toni Pennington, WAPMS President

The 30th annual WAPMS conference was held in Westminster, Colorado March 28 – 30, 2011. Members of the Board of Directors made significant contributions to make the meeting a success. Specifically, Tom Moorhouse of Clean Lakes (then President) worked very hard behind the scenes to secure the venue and navigate the logistics. Tom Moorhouse and Andrea Austel of Cygnet Enterprises (Treasurer) coordinated with our sponsors and exhibitors to whom we are grateful for their continued support of WAPMS. Tom also coordinated the continuing education credits...for most all the western states. Whew! All board members kindly assisted me to pull together the agenda and chair the sessions. In addition to Robert Leavitt of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), we thank John Goidosik, also of Cygnet Enterprises, for assisting Andrea in running the registration table. New to the agenda this year, Cody Gray of UPI rallied our sponsors and exhibitors for a “vendor moment” where they each had approximately 5 minutes to speak about their products and services. Though we were shooting from the hip this year, we received sufficient positive feedback to continue providing the vendor moment in 2012.

Other items for the 30th annual meeting included an insightful keynote presentation from Dr. Tom Remington, Director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, followed by Ms. Elizabeth Brown, Colorado's Invasive Species Coordinator. Being something of a landmark meeting, Lars Anderson of USDA-ARS (a founding member) walked

us through the Society's history from its formative meeting in San Diego in 1981 to the present (many thanks to Lars for his past and continued contributions!). Other presentations included NPDES updates, regional issues such as tamarisk in the southwest, controlling invasive plants in flowing waters, current research and innovative methods for aquatic weed control, and emerging weed problems such as South American Spongeplant. If you were unable to attend, the agenda and abstracts may be found at www.wapms.org.

Again this year, Scott Nissen coordinated the Barbra H. Mullin Scholarship. The Society was very pleased to provide \$2,000 to Mr. Joe Vassios of Colorado State University. Many may know Joe from the national APMS meetings where he has been recognized for his M.S. and Ph.D. research. The WAPMS is very proud of Joe and wish him the best as he wraps up his dissertation research this fall!

Board Update: Mark Sytsma of Portland State University was elected vice-president and Program Chair for the 2012 meeting, Tom Moorhouse became past-president, replacing outgoing past-president Robert Leavitt, and Mike Stephenson of Big Bear Municipal Water District and Pat Akers of CDFA, were elected to two-year director positions, replacing outgoing Directors Lars Anderson and Tom McNabb of Clean Lakes. As many of you know, Pat has been our newsletter editor for several years. Many thanks to Pat for all his contributions to the Society as well as to our outgoing directors and immediate Past-President. Welcome new board members!

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In other news, I am continuing my involvement with the Western Regional Panel (WRP) on Aquatic Nuisance Species, doing my part to keep nuisance aquatic vegetation on the radar. Members of the WRP include state, federal, tribal, Canadian providence, and other non-profit and private interest group representatives. This year will be the third of my five-year appointment and the annual meeting will be held in Oakland, CA Oct 12-14, 2011.

The 31st annual meeting will be held April 2-4, 2012 at the downtown Westin in San Diego, California. As vice-president, Mark Systma will be the Program Chair. Look for a call for papers from him this fall.

Respectfully,
Toni Pennington
WAPMS President

Notes on the 2011 Program Mark Sytsma, Vice-President and Program Chair

Plan on San Diego in April 2012!

WAPMS will hold its 31st Annual meeting in sunny San Diego, CA on April 2-4, 2012 at the downtown Westin Hotel. Water is precious in the West and management of aquatic plants is increasingly complicated by presence of threatened and endangered species, NPDES permitting, and new species. As always, WAPMS is the place to be for up-to-date information on issues related to aquatic weed management in the West. The WAPMS Board sincerely hopes you will attend the 2012 meeting to learn and discuss these issues with our colleagues from across the western U.S.

Our previous Vice President and current President, Toni Pennington, did an excellent

job in preparing the agenda for the 2011 meeting in Colorado – thanks Toni! It's my pleasure to assemble the program for next year's meeting. This short note serves as the first CALL FOR PAPERS. The final call for papers will be in mid-December.

The Board received positive comments on the meeting format for the 2011 meeting, so we will repeat it in 2012. The meeting will kick off the evening of Monday, April 2, with general session talks on Tuesday and Wednesday. We are planning a special session on managing aquatic plants in the presence of threatened and endangered species. Other possible session topics for the 2012 meeting include:

- Plant-animal interactions (how do invasive aquatic plants influence fish populations?)
- Invasive plant management in flowing water
- General aquatic invasive species including non-plant groups, especially if they share topics with plants
- Sublethal effects of herbicides on fish

We have several rooms blocked at \$131+tax for a single or double room, \$151+tax for a triple room, and \$171+tax for a quadruple room. More information on online room reservations will be provided in the next newsletter. Visit the hotel website for a preview of the excellent venue:

www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1762 .

Additional information about the meeting will appear in the next newsletter, or feel free to contact me at sytsmam@pdx.edu. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego in April next year.

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Rescue Your Continuing Education Credits!

Tom Moorhouse
Past President and CE Coordinator

If you're from Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, or Utah and you're planning on getting CE credits at next year's WAPMS conference, you may be disappointed unless you help out!

Continuing Education credits are needed by many applicators and advisors that attend our annual meetings. For the last several years we had a single person handling Continuing Education (CE) related matters for all of the states. The job was

overwhelming, so for the 2012 annual meeting we decided to have several people share this task. But we need volunteers. To date we have volunteers for California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. We still need volunteer(s) for Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. Tom Moorhouse has agreed to coordinate with the Program Chair to help volunteers with the process. If there are no volunteers for the remaining states there will be no credits for them. Contact Tom at tmoorhouse@cleanlake.com to volunteer.

Member's Contributions

Flowering Rush in Washington

Jenifer Parsons
Washington Dept. of Ecology

We first noticed flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) in 1997 in Silver Lake, about 30 miles east of Bellingham in the state's northwest corner. It was already well established, growing from shore to a depth of about 15 ft. However, it seemed isolated so no one chose to try to control it at the time. Within a few years, the large flowering rush infestation in Flathead Lake, Montana, gained our attention, and in Washington we began to grow concerned. In 2008 an alert weed board member found another population along the lower Yakima River in central Washington. In spring 2009 the State added flowering rush to the Class A noxious weed list, meaning eradication was the goal. This seemed feasible at the time, but in summer 2009 additional survey and control work along the Yakima River showed the plant was distributed along more than 40 river-miles and had reached the Columbia River. In 2010 another

population was found in the Spokane River in Lake Spokane (a reservoir). This population consisted of scattered patches concentrated at the upstream end of the reservoir, but trickling down throughout the 25 mile reservoir and into Little Falls reservoir downstream. In the meantime flowering rush was working its way downstream from Flathead Lake, and made it as far as the Pend Oreille River in Washington in 2010. In 2011 another site was brought to our attention on Joint Base Lewis/McCord south of Tacoma. We have not sat idly by and watched it spread. The Yakima River population has been treated with herbicide, control experiments have taken place in Silver Lake, the military biologist has been spraying and digging the population on Ft. Lewis/McCord, and hand pulling and covering with bottom barrier is being used to try to reduce the populations in Lake Spokane and the Pend Oreille River. So far, results from herbicides have been disappointing, so we are hoping results from experiments in Montana, Minnesota and at

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the Corps facility in Vicksburg can shed some light on effective ways to kill the larger populations.

The State is considering changing flowering rush from a Class A weed to a Class B, which would make containment as the goal rather than eradication. Even so, with this plant's ability to spread downstream via rhizome buds and fragments, and its presence in three major tributaries to the Columbia River, and the Columbia itself downstream of the Yakima, containment will be a goal requiring much work and dedication.

For additional information contact jenp461@ecy.wa.gov

Flowering Rush Update

Tom Moorhouse
Clean Lakes, Inc.

The Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe, the University of Montana and Clean Lakes, Inc., are currently cooperating to demonstrate the feasibility of suppressing submerged flowering rush on the Flathead Indian Reservation, Flathead Lake, Montana. On August 2nd and 3rd, 2011, block treatments were carried out utilizing the Littline[®] (Littoral Treatment Technology) on four plots with single product or product combinations of liquid endothall, triclopyr and 2,4-D. Efforts are currently underway to quantify efficacy relative to an untreated control through pre-treatment and post-treatment sample evaluation. Once data collection and analysis of data is complete these applied research results will be disseminated to beneficiaries and managers of aquatic resources.

Flowering rush was first reported in Montana in 1964 in Peaceful Bay along the northwest shore of Flathead Lake. Since

then it has circled the entire lake. Mapping and spatial modeling based on satellite imagery provides a 2008 best estimate of 2,036 acres in the lake (Rice, Reddish, Dupuis and Mitchell 2010;

<http://www.weedcenter.org/research/docs/Flowering%20Rush%20Spatial%20Final%20Report.pdf>).

There is an emergent phenotype in water to ~ 8 ft depth and a fully submerged phenotype at depths of ~8 to ~22 feet. It is estimated that 1,036 infested acres are rooted above the Flathead Lake 10-foot low pool drawdown zone and at least another 1,000 acres are rooted below the 10-foot depth. In the Upper Flathead River there are



at least 90 acres of dense infestations in sloughs. Flowering rush has dispersed through Kerr Dam on Flathead Lake and traveled 165 miles downstream to the Pend Oreille Lake system (Idaho) and beyond.

Mystery of the Inconstant Widgeongrass

Richard Bailey
The Lake Merritt Institute

It's been five years (2006 – 2010) since large amounts of widgeongrass (*Ruppia maritima*) grew in Lake Merritt, but it's starting to re-appear this year. Why it has not grown here in recent years is a mystery we would like to solve, so if you have any

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answers based on local data, please contact us (lmi@netwiz.net).

Lake Merritt is a 140 acre tidal lagoon in downtown Oakland. It is typically brackish but there is no formal, ongoing water quality monitoring (temperature, salinity etc.).

Back in the '80's, widgeongrass grew so thick during June that boats got trapped in its mats. The City responded by using herbicides, then dredging, and finally by harvesting. Dredging knocked back widgeongrass growth in the late '80's, but it returned in force in the early '90's, only to disappear almost completely in about '06.

Without environmental data, not much can be done to look for patterns, but if others have experienced similar ups and downs that were correlated to data, we would very much like to know.

There is no active management plan for widgeongrass in Lake Merritt but goals would be to keep it a few feet below the surface so that it would not impede boating, and to prevent large quantities from decaying along the shoreline, which would lower oxygen levels and create odors. The only management activity is harvesting, which used to occur daily for several weeks but was only needed for about two weeks this year. Widgeongrass is a favorite food of many waterfowl and provides underwater structure in an otherwise barren environment, so the City wishes to encourage moderate populations of the plant.

New AERF Newsletter Available
David Petty, Editor, AERF

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation is now publishing a quarterly newsletter which is delivered as a PDF

email attachment. The next issue will be published in June. If you received the February newsletter or any of the Action Alert emails about the NPDES issue, you are already subscribed. New subscribers can sign up by visiting the AERF website at www.aquatics.org, clicking on the Subscribe button, and completing the opt-in form. You will receive a confirmation email. If you don't receive this email, please whitelist aquatics.org as described below. This will also subscribe you to the occasional Action Alerts we issue. Each mailing will include a link that will allow you to unsubscribe.

If you are subscribed, and don't receive a confirmation email, or the newsletter mailings, please have your IT person "whitelist" the AERF domain aquatics.org on both your email server and your individual email account.

Quaggas plus Plants = Threat to Lake Havasu's Parker Dam

Patrick Akers, newsletter editor

Quagga mussels and submerged plants have conspired to create a critical blockage of the water outlets from Parker Dam to the Colorado River Aqueduct, threatening to shut it down. Greg Finnegan of the US Bureau of Reclamation reported in an email September 2 that his group had used a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to inspect the trash racks leading to the water projects. They found a mat of plants extending down 20 feet onto the racks and so packed that, "You could stand on it." The water level was almost a foot higher upstream of the mat than on the downstream side.

Maintenance workers were trying to clear the rack but had only a backhoe for the task, and it was proving inefficient. The hope was to obtain a harvester to help remove the plants. Phone calls to Finnegan's office for

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more information did not get through by press time.

The quaggas worked with the plants in two ways to create this situation. First, according to a comment by Dave Arend, the quaggas have cleared the water column in Lake Havasu, allowing much more sunlight to penetrate and causing an “amazing” amount of additional plant growth. Second, the quaggas have infested the trash racks at Parker Dam and by themselves decreased the racks’ open area by about 50%. The

narrowed openings in the racks then backed up the plants even more tenaciously than they would have normally. The predicament started when a strong windstorm broke off a large mat of plants in the Bill William’s bay near Parker Dam and pushed the mat into the Parker channel. Parker Dam itself is not in danger as water can be bypassed through the spillways, but the plants and quaggas threaten a major source of water for the Los Angeles area.

*** 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.