

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter, Summer 2012

President's Message **Mark Sytsma, WAPMS President**

The 31st annual WAPMS conference was held in San Diego, California, April 2 – 4, 2012. The meeting was a success thanks to the efforts of many people. Toni Pennington, Tom Moorhouse, and Paul Westcott organized the continuing education credits. Andrea Sealock coordinated our sponsors and exhibitors and Vanessa Morgan helped with the agenda and registration. Lastly, we couldn't hold our annual meeting without the support of our sponsors and exhibitors.

Lars Anderson provided the keynote address at the conference, "Thinking Outside the Boat: Perspectives on Aquatic Invasive Species Management in the West". Lars also became the first honorary member of WAPMS, as thanks for his three decades of service to the organization.

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation sponsored a special session on management of aquatic vegetation in the presence of threatened and endangered species. The session included updates on regulatory issues by Carlton Layne, fish impacts by Chris Grue and Lauren Courter, and habitat enhancement by Kurt Getsinger. The special session was followed by 26 other highly informative talks on various aspects of aquatic plant control. APMS President Tyler Koschnik opened the second day of the meeting with an insightful talk entitled "Balancing Emerging Threats with Strategic Goals". If you were unable to

attend the meeting, the agenda and abstracts of the talks are on the WAPMS website at www.wapms.org.

WAPMS continues to support students conducting research on aquatic plant management. Scott Nissen coordinated the Barbra H. Mullin Scholarship again this year. The Society was very pleased to provide \$2,000 to Amy Yahnke of the University Washington for work on pesticide toxicity to frogs. The raffle and silent auction generated \$3,282 for student support. The board also approved continued WAPMS support of the APMS student scholarship.

Board Update: Cody Gray from United Phosphorus completed a term as a director and was elected Vice-president and Program Chair for the 2013 meeting. Toni Pennington became Past-president. Hamish Kassa and Paul Westcott were elected to two-year terms as directors. Andrea Sealock continues as Secretary/Treasurer, Pat Akers continues as Newsletter Editor, and Mike Stephenson continues as director. Many thanks to outgoing Past-president Tom Moorhouse, and outgoing director Scott Nissen. Welcome new board members!

Hope to see you at the 31st annual conference in Coeur d'Alene.

Respectfully,
Mark Sytsma, WAPMS President



Notes on the 2013 Program
Cody Gray, Vice-President and Program
Chair

Coeur d'Alene in March 2013!

The 2013 WAPMS Annual Conference will be held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, ID on March 25-27, 2013. At this moment, the program is still under construction, so be thinking about titles for papers and posters of new and exciting aquatic management news.

This year, WAPMS will be using a new title and abstract submission platform. The first day to submit your title and abstract will be November 12, 2012, and the final day for submission will be December 14, 2012. Stay tuned and check the WAPMS website for additional information on the new submission platform and process. I believe you'll find the new platform easy to use and pain free!

Thank you and I look forward to putting together an excellent program for our upcoming 2013 annual conference.

Cody Gray, Program Chair,
cody.gray@uniphos.com

CE Credits for 2013: Help Needed
Toni Pennington, WAPMS Past-President

For the first time last year, we divided the task of organizing continuing education (CE) credits between two volunteers. Prior to that, the effort fell to one person each year, usually Jill Carding Winfield or Tom Moorhouse. It proved to be a heavy burden for one. Splitting the effort has helped and we are repeating the strategy for 2013. We have identified volunteers to organize credits for the following states: Idaho, Montana, and California (Tom Moorhouse), Arizona and New Mexico (Paul Westcott), and Oregon and Washington (Toni Pennington).

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If you're from Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, or another western state and you're hoping to get CE credits at the 2013 WAPMS conference, you may be disappointed unless you help out! If there are no volunteers for the remaining states, there will be no credits for them. Contact the 2013 Program Chair, Cody Gray (cody.gray@uniphos.com), to volunteer.

Results of Post-Conference Survey Toni Pennington, WAPMS Past President

Following the 2012 annual meeting, the organizers (Mark Sytsma and Vanessa Morgan of Portland State University) put together a short survey about the conference and other society interests. The survey was created using Survey Monkey, a free online survey tool, and distributed to all email addresses used for the WAPMS Newsletter. Many thanks to those who took the time to provide feedback. The information will be used by the Board to guide a variety of decisions, including meeting location and session topics. Some questions were specific to the 2012 meeting while others were broader in scope.

Overall, 40 to 46% of the respondents that attended the 2012 meeting were "very satisfied" and "satisfied", respectively, with the conference space (main conference room, exhibitor space, banquet rooms). One respondent was "unsatisfied" but no comment was provided. An overwhelming majority felt that the length of the program was appropriate (this was the second year the meeting has kicked off Monday evening with the president's reception, with two full days of oral presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday). The majority of respondents were also "satisfied" (58%) with the speakers and "satisfied" and "very satisfied" (44% and 50%, respectively) with the

registration process (this was the first year to use online registration and abstract submission).

Feedback on the reverse raffle and silent auction (the latter was also new this year) was very informative. Only 17% were "very satisfied" with the reverse raffle, while 40% and 28% were "satisfied" and "neutral", respectively. Results on the silent auction were comparable, with slightly fewer "very satisfied" (11%) and more "satisfied" (46%). Again, no comments were provided to suggest what worked and what did not work for participants. Feedback on the president's reception and the banquet were also very similar. Thirty percent and 39% were "very satisfied" and "satisfied", respectively, with the reception and 36% and 33% were "very satisfied" and "satisfied", respectively, with the banquet. One respondent was "very unsatisfied" with the reception, however, no comment was provided.

For those unable to attend the 2012 meeting, 33% indicated it was due to travel restrictions. As for future meeting locations, respondents were asked to rate 18 cities/regions according to their ability to participate and their interest. In order of high to low ranking, the top five cities were: Reno, NV; Las Vegas, NV; Seattle, WA; Spokane, WA; San Francisco/Bay Area. The content of the presentations were also ranked with the following results (again, high to low ranking): chemical control, biology/ecology, non-chemical control and impacts (tied), and regulations. A whopping 80% of the respondents said they would attend a pre- or post-meeting field trip to visit local aquatic plant management sites. Additionally, 77% said they would like the WAPMS meeting to include talks on the biology, impacts, and management of

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aquatic invasive species other than plants, such as zebra mussels and fish.

Where do we go with this information? The conference chair can use this information to 1) structure the sessions and enlist speakers whose work may be of interest to our members, but who may not be familiar with WAPMS, 2) continue to improve the registration and abstract submission process, 3) set up fund raising (e.g. silent auction) for the student scholarship, 4) determine what course we should take with the reception and banquet. The Board of Directors can also use this information to set future meeting locations in cities where we have the most interest and increased likelihood of participation.

Again, thanks very much to everyone who took the time to participate. The WAPMS is only as good as its members and your input is extremely valuable.

Barbra H. Mullin Memorial Scholarship Toni Pennington, WAPMS Past President

Again this year, Dr. Scott Nissen coordinated the Barbra H. Mullin Scholarship. The Society was very pleased to provide \$2,000 to Amy Yahnke. Amy is a PhD student in the School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences (Advisor: Dr. Chris Grue) at the University of Washington where she has, among other topics, conducted research on the effects of aquatic herbicides on amphibians. Amy attended the 2011 meeting in Westminster, Colorado and, along with Dr. Grue, submitted a poster to the 2012 meeting in San Diego. Congratulations, Amy!

Information about the 2013 scholarship will soon be available on the WAPMS website at www.wapms.org, so check back for details and deadlines.

Member's Contributions

Phoslock in Lakes: Good Twin, Evil Twin

Terry McNabb and Shaun Hyde,
Aquatechnex LLC

Aquatechnex LLC has been managing lakes for the past 35 years and we have learned that you have to struggle, adapt, and innovate to stay ahead of Mother Nature. As with every industry, technology marches on. We have been fortunate to be involved with developing several methods to manage aquatic plants, algae, and water quality. In most cases technology improves when an existing technology has limitations, has issues that affect its performance, or someone discovers a new way to accomplish

the same goal but more effectively or cheaply.

Phoslock phosphorus locking technology is an example. This technology was developed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australia's National Science Academy, in the 1990's, to address the need to improve upon existing technologies for mitigating internal phosphorus loading in waterbodies. Aquatechnex biologists brought this technology to the United States three years ago to help deal with phosphorus pollution in lake systems where existing technologies were challenged. We have successfully used Phoslock to inactive bio-available

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phosphorus in both the water column and reflux from the bottom sediments.

In May, 2012, the Washington State Department of Ecology issued our team the first permit for the application of Phoslock. The target waterbody was Lake Loraine, one of the Twin Lakes in Federal Way, WA. Its sister, Lake Jeanne, did not elect to employ Phoslock due to budgets. Both lakes are hyper-eutrophic as a result of age, runoff from the surrounding urban watershed, and accumulation of phosphorus in the lake sediments. We have managed these lakes using various integrated management strategies, from aeration to bacteria to algaecides. Over time the emergence of persistent annual cyanobacteria blooms made us realize we needed to get to the root of the water quality issue in Lake Loraine, which was the phosphorus pollution. We applied Phoslock on June 11, 2012, prior to the onset of cyanobacteria blooms. Free reactive phosphorus declined rapidly, with a subsequent decline in total phosphorus, as the Phoslock bound phosphorus in the water column and inactivated the available phosphorus in the top layer of sediment. As the end of the summer nears, the results in Lake Loraine have been very promising. Free phosphorus has declined 43% and total phosphorus has declined 66% from pre-application levels. The residents have not experienced any cyanobacteria issues and water clarity has been excellent all summer. This was not the case on the “evil” twin. Lake Jeanne has continued to experience severe cyanobacteria blooms all summer and we have battled to keep the water quality as good as possible with a mix of solutions.

Seattle-based King 5 Television did an excellent job of covering the application and you can view that story by clicking on this link: [News at Lake Lorene](#) .

Changes Coming to California’s NPDES Permit for Aquatic Herbicides Patrick Akers, California Department of Food and Agriculture

California’s State Water Resources Control Board is revising the current California NPDES aquatic herbicides permit, which has been in force in its current form since about 2004. The new permit has some changes which applicators should keep in mind.

One change is that the new permit will cover penoxsulam and sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate, in addition to previous active ingredients. There will also be an explicit requirement for dissolved oxygen levels in the receiving water, although that level must be found in the Basin Plan which covers your water body.

The requirements for monitoring are also undergoing some changes. They may require some initial extra work, but that could greatly decrease after a year. Currently, the permit requires that each AI you use must be monitored in both flowing- and still-water settings if treatments are made in each setting, and 10% of treatments must be monitored per year. The new permit requires that a minimum of six treatments be monitored per year, or every treatment if there are less than six. However, if the results show that the concentrations are less than the receiving water limits, sampling drops to one treatment per year. For many AIs, the concentration limits are near the upper range of application rates.

Other changes are procedural. Whereas previously applicants filed their Notice of Intent, treatment plans, and reports with the Regional Board covering the treated water body, now they will be filed with the State

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Board. In addition, your Aquatic Pesticide Application Plan must be filed at least 90 days before the anticipated start of treatments, which will include a new 30-day posting period for comments.

The Board is scheduled to adopt the final revise permit at the Board meeting on November 6.

You can find a summary list of changes between the old and the new permits, and the draft of the revised permit, at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/aquatic.shtml .

*** 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.