

**Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) – Report to the WSSA Board of Directors
2008 Summer Board Meeting – Orlando, FL
Linda Nelson**

APMS Officers and Board of Directors for July 2007-July 2008:

President	Jim Petta; (361) 986-0009; jim.petta@syngenta.com
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Student Rep	Wilfredo Robles; (662) 323-9123; wr40@pss.msstate.edu

APMS Website: www.apms.org

Membership: The APMS membership remains stable at 250 members.

2008 Annual Meeting: The 48th Annual Meeting of the APMS will be held in Charleston, SC, at the Mills House Hotel, July 13-16, 2008. This will be a joint meeting with the South Carolina Chapter of the APMS. Lars Anderson will be setting up the WSSA-Invasive Plant Science and Management journal display at the Charleston meeting.

New Officers/Directors: Jennifer Vollmer and Mike Grodowitz will rotate off the Board of Directors after the July 2008 Annual Meeting. In addition, Bob Gunkel will conclude his term as Treasurer. Candidates nominated for open positions on the Board, will be voted in by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting scheduled for July 14, 2008. Only one nominee for each position was selected by the Nomination Committee, so unless there are nominations from the floor during the Annual Business Meeting, the following individuals will likely fill these open positions:

Vice President: Linda Nelson, US Army Engineer R & D Center
Treasurer: Sherry Whitaker, US Army Engineer R & D Center
Director: Susan Wilde, University of Georgia
Director: Alan “Bo” Burns, BASF Corporation

As in previous years, the APMS will hold a graduate student paper and poster contest at the annual meeting. Eighteen students are participating this year. All students that participate in the contest receive complementary meeting registration, lodging (based on double occupancy), and a text book (student's choice). Cash awards are presented to contest winners. For the first time this year, a special post-meeting field tour of the Santee Cooper lake system will be organized for all students attending the annual meeting. The tour will give students the opportunity to learn about aquatic weed problems and issues in South Carolina.

Future APMS Meetings: The 49th Annual APMS Meeting will be held July 12-15, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee, WI. The 50th Annual Meeting will be held in Florida (dates and location to be determined).

NIWAW: As requested by the NIWAW Committee, the APMS contributed \$2500 to the Ninth Annual National Invasive Weed Awareness Week. The current APMS Board has not decided whether or not they will financially support NIWAW in 2009. There is concern that NIWAW objectives are not clear and that there is less focus on aquatic weed issues.

USDA Letter of Support: As requested by the WSSA Board, the APMS sent a letter (dated February 25, 2008) to The Honorable Edward Schafer, Secretary of Agriculture, in support of filling the position of National Program Leader for Weed Science within the USDA-ARS.

WSSA Undergraduate Research Award: The announcement for the 2009 WSSA Undergraduate Research Award has been placed on the APMS website and appeared in the June APMS newsletter. It will be published again in the October newsletter.

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF): As requested by Jeff Derr, I am including some information about the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation in this report. The AERF is a separate organization from APMS, but may serve as a model for setting up a similar foundation in weed science. I will distribute an AERF brochure at the Board meeting; the file is too large to include as an E-mail attachment.

The AERF was founded in 1996 as a non-profit organization (501c3) dedicated to the development and use of environmentally sound aquatic plant management practices for conserving and restoring aquatic ecosystems. Membership (~ 85 members) includes: private industry, lake management companies, aquatic applicators, distributors, professional societies (APMS is a member), lake management associations, and individuals. The AERF funds research, graduate students and educational seminars to support their mission. Recent AERF-funded projects include:

- Partial financial support of an aquatic plant management subject matter expert (SME) located at the USEPA-OPP (Dr. Kurt Getsinger).
- Financial support for graduate student research through the APMS Graduate Student Scholarship Award and a graduate stipend at the University of Florida.
- Partner with other organizations and agencies to fund, organize and conduct seminars and symposia on aquatic plant management practices.

- Published a “Best Management Practices Manual” on aquatic plant management.
- Funded a literature search and publication on the economic impacts of aquatic weeds.
- Support aquatic plant management research at numerous institutions and agencies including: USAERDC, USBOR, USDA-APHIS, Purdue University, Portland State University, Colorado State University, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University and others.
- Support and participate in NIWAW.
- Most recently, partnered with the Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture to develop operational control strategies for Eurasian watermilfoil and to provide guidance on vegetation sampling methods. This partnership developed in response to the recent establishment of Eurasian watermilfoil in Idaho lakes, rivers, and reservoirs.

The AERF Board of Directors includes:

President, Bill Culpepper, SePRO Corporation

Executive Director, Carlton Layne (retired; formerly from EPA-Region 4)

Immediate Past President, Jim Petta, Syngenta Professional Products

Vice President, Gerald Adrian, United Phosphorus, Inc.

Treasurer, Richard Hinterman, Cygnet Enterprises

Directors: Brad Howell, Applied Biochemists

John Jachetta, Dow AgroSciences

Jennifer Vollmer, BASF Corporation

Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Kurt Getsinger, USAERDC

Technical Advisory Committee: Katia Englehardt, University of Maryland

Bill Haller, University of Florida

Kathy Hamel, Washington Department of Ecology

John Madsen, Mississippi State University

Rob Richardson, North Carolina State University

The role of the Technical Advisory Committee is to review research proposals that are submitted to AERF for potential sponsorship, make recommendations to the Board on technical issues, and help prioritize funding dedicated for research.

The AERF maintains a website at: **www.aquatics.org**