

**Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) – Report to the WSSA Board of Directors
2009 Annual Meeting – Orlando, FL
Linda Nelson**

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APMS Website: www.apms.org

Current Society Membership: 293 members

2009 Annual Meeting: The 49th Annual Meeting of the APMS will be held in Milwaukee, WI, at the Hyatt Regency, July 12-15, 2009. Meeting information can be found on the APMS website; the abstract submission deadline is April 15, 2009. Greg MacDonald is the 2009 Program Chair.

As in previous years, the APMS will hold a graduate student paper and poster contest at the annual meeting. 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. Seventeen students competed in the contests in 2008. In addition, a post-meeting field trip highlighting regional aquatic and wetland weed issues was organized for all students attending the 2008 annual meeting in Charleston. The tour was a big success and plans are underway to conduct a similar tour in conjunction with the Milwaukee meeting in July. The contest announcement is posted on the APMS website. We encourage all students with research projects involving any aspect of aquatic and wetland weed science (management, biology, ecology, etc.) to consider participating in the 2009 contest.

Similar to the WSSA, the APMS also has a student representative on the Board of Directors; the student representative is selected for a 1-yr term (renewable) by student members and attends and participates in Board meetings and functions. As of July 2008, the Bylaws were amended to allow the student representative to serve as a voting member of the Board. The current student representative (July 2008-July 2009) is Josh Chesier from Mississippi State University.

Future APMS Meetings: The 50th Annual APMS Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency

Resort & Spa in Bonita Springs, FL. A special program is being planned for the milestone event.

Education and Outreach Projects: New education and outreach funded initiatives include:

1) Developing an interactive, on-line version of the popular elementary education booklet titled “Understanding Invasive Aquatic Weeds.” The booklet was developed by the APMS Education & Outreach Committee in 2005 with 400,000 copies printed and distributed around the country. Rather than pay for printing again, the Society chose to develop an on-line version. The project should be completed and posted on the APMS website in July 2009.

2) The APMS will help support “Plant Camp 2009” which is an education initiative by the University of Florida-IFAS designed to “teach the teachers” and provide educational materials to high school educators about aquatic invasive species.

3) The APMS has agreed to sponsor a luncheon and provide a speaker for the BASS Federation Nation meeting to be held during the Bassmaster’s Classic, February 19-22, 2009. The audience includes State Conservation Directors and Fisheries Chiefs. This is a good opportunity for us as a Society to discuss the importance of aquatic plant management, the tools we use; and the impacts to fisheries management. Our goal is to continue to gain acceptance and support from this group.

2,4-D Response Letter to EPA: As requested by the WSSA Science Policy Committee, the APMS will respond to the petition filed by the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) regarding the cancellation of all 2,4-D registrations. APMS affiliate chapters will also be notified and asked to submit letters urging the EPA to deny the NRDC petition.

Other Legislative Issues: The APMS is concerned about the proposed Oberstar Bill (H.R. 2421) which seeks to amend the Clean Water Act (CWA) by deleting the term “navigable waters” and replacing it with “waters of the United States.” This would extend CWA authority to all waters. By removing the word “navigable,” the law has the potential to allow virtually any body of water that stays wet for 21 consecutive days, including a ditch in someone’s backyard that fills up with water or snow melt during certain months of the year, to be regulated. The regulatory implications (e.g., NPDES permitting if the 6th Circuit Court decision stands) of this change to aquatic herbicide applications, mosquito control and agriculture are far reaching. The APMS Board discussed the Oberstar Bill at our Mid-winter Board meeting held 24 Jan 09; the plan is for Greg MacDonald and/or Carlton Layne to contact Lee Van Wychen on behalf of the APMS for support, advice and guidance concerning this issue.