

**Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) – Report to the WSSA Board of Directors
2010 Annual Meeting – Denver, CO
Linda Nelson**

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APMS Website: www.apms.org

Current Society Membership: 300 members

2010 Annual Meeting: The 50th Annual Meeting of the APMS will be held in Bonita Springs, Florida at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, July 11-14, 2010. Meeting information will be posted soon on the APMS website; the abstract submission deadline is April 16, 2010. As President Elect, I serve as the 2010 Program Chair. A special agenda is being prepared for our 50th meeting, including a symposium on hydrilla, invited speakers and panel discussion on the current NPDES legislation, and presentations on the history of the APMS and aquatic plant management. We will also host several special social events to mark this milestone meeting including a President’s Reception (Sunday, July 11), Evening Poster Reception (Monday, July 12), and a Banquet/Awards Ceremony (Wednesday, July 14) with special musical entertainment by “The Weeds Band.” I welcome all of you to attend and participate in our 50th Annual Meeting – it will be a memorable one!

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, free lodging (based on double occupancy), and a text book (student’s choice). Cash awards are presented to contest winners. There were eighteen student papers and 10 student posters from 12 Universities in the contest in 2009. In addition to the contest, a post-meeting field trip highlighting regional aquatic and wetland weed issues is being organized for all students attending the 2010 annual meeting. This years’ tour will likely include demonstrations of helicopter herbicide applications and airboat tours of aquatic plant problems in Lake

Okeechobee. The contest announcement will be posted soon 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 2010 contest. Pass the word to any student that may be interested – this is a great opportunity with many costs and meals covered by the APMS and AERF.

Future APMS Meetings: The 51st Annual APMS Meeting (2011) will be held at a northeast US location TBD. Sites that will be investigated include: Lake Placid, NY, Portland, ME, and Baltimore, MD.

Meeting Management: In July 2009, the APMS Board of Directors voted to advertise via RFP for meeting management services. Previously, the APMS relied on an “all volunteer” Meeting Planning Committee, but with the recent retirement of a very active committee chair, it was becoming increasingly difficult to find enough volunteers to fulfill this role. We received 16 proposals in response to the RFP and selected our first Meeting Manager for 2010 (selection to be announced soon).

New Journal Editor: Dr. Mike Netherland will step down as the Editor for the Journal of Aquatic Plant Management (JAPM) in July 2010. Mike has served as JAPM Editor since 2004. The JAPM is published 2 times per year (January and July). The APMS will be searching for a new Editor and will also investigate an online submission review process.

APMS Graduate Student Research Grant: The APMS will be soliciting proposals for the next recipient of the APMS Graduate Student Research Grant in 2010. Watch the APMS website for the announcement. The objective of this grant is to provide a stipend for a full-time graduate student to conduct research in the area of aquatic plant management or in aquatic ecology related to the management of regionally or nationally recognized nuisance aquatic and wetland vegetation. The grant will be for a total of \$40,000 to be awarded over two years (\$20K each year). A call for proposals will be posted soon on the APMS website. Notification of award will be provided at the Annual Meeting in July 2010 with initiation of the stipend scheduled for the 2011-2012 academic year.

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

1) The interactive, on-line version of the popular elementary education booklet titled “Understanding Invasive Aquatic Weeds” was completed in December 2009. 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 was jointly funded and developed by the APMS, University of Florida-IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, and Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. The on-line booklet features five of the worst aquatic weeds found in North America (hydrilla, purple loosestrife, Eurasian watermilfoil, water hyacinth and giant salvinia) accompanied by interactive links to key concepts and terminology, illustrations, video clips, and games to illustrate the serious problems associated with these plant species. To view the interactive booklet, go to: <http://www.apms.org/activity.htm>

2) The APMS will continue to support “Plant Camp 2010” 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 is looking for new education and outreach projects. Ideas for new initiatives include updating and expanding the existing content on our website pages, possible joint projects with the USDA Bugwood network, and development of an FAQ webpage on NPDES issues.

Legislative Issues: The APMS continues to monitor the NPDES legislative actions and on December 4, 2009, joined the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF) and 21 other pesticide user organizations and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in filing of an *Amicus* Brief.

New APMS Representative to the WSSA: February 2010 will end my 3-year term as the APMS Representative to the WSSA Board. It has been my pleasure serving in this capacity; I’ve enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you. Dr. Cody Gray has been selected by the current APMS President, Dr. Greg MacDonald, as my replacement and will begin his term at the post-conference BOD meeting in Denver. Cody will be an excellent candidate for this position – with his prior experience as the student representative for WSSA and his knowledge of aquatic plant management issues.