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A Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Publication

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Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter

On the Water

President's Update *Emily Griffith—SprayCo*

Hello TAPMS members! It is such an honor to serve as the 2016 Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society President. I am excited for another great year with the society, and would like to first thank you for the much needed support and involvement that keeps our Society functioning and relevant. Just as with any company or team, our non-profit is only as strong as its members; so please know that anything you do, large or small, is crucial to the strength of our society, Thank you!

The year is in full swing and we are entering into our industry's busiest and most demanding time of year. As many of you know, aquatic plant populations in Texas are not easily forecasted. When we think we have it figured out, the numerous variables change once again, and leave us searching for the best management practices for each unique season and situation. The spring of 2016 has proven no different. The mild winter and scarcity of hard freezes would suggest large plant populations early in the season; however, record rainfall and flooding seem to have flushed many of the waterways. This has left many lake managers and biologists with either a relatively balanced system, or a mess of aquatic plants spread all over their lake, river, or in this year's case the bay. If you are a coastal fisherman, you may have noticed what this year's record breaking rainfall has

produced in our bay system; a hard day fishing! We all know a day spent fishing is not "hard" by any means, but if you've tried to land any big reds lately, you know it's just been off. In addition to the imbalanced fauna, the substantial influx of fresh water has produced such low salinity that fresh water plants such as Hyacinth are flourishing around the Clear Lake area. The coastal wetlands will recover; the fish will once again jump on our lines, and the Hyacinth will turn that perfect shade of brown we all love to see.

Society News: Thanks to your financial contributions, sponsorships, and annual dues, TAPMS has already contributed in many ways to the aquatics industry this year. An ongoing annual donation of \$2,000 was given to the Aquatics Ecosystem Restoration Foundation to support the essential work they do on behalf of us all. Our society also supported the student scholarship fund of our national group APMS, with a contribution of \$1,000. The funds used to make this contribution came from your giving towards the TAPMS student endowment. In the past we have had Texas students benefit from our endowment; however, there has been a decline in student interest in TAPMS. Therefore, I urge you to network and spread the word about TAPMS opportunities for student research and financial

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Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society

Annual Conference October 10-12, 2016

Located at:
Tapatio Springs Resort & Spa
Boerne, TX
Register online @ www.tapms.org



Education, Networking, Exhibitors, Industry Information, Food, Golf.

All TAPMS members and others who are interested in aquatic plant management, biology or ecology, or who are involved in the protection, management and restoration of water and wetland resources, are invited to attend the 2016 TAPMS Annual Conference. Whether you work in the public or private sector, as an aquatic weed management professional, water resource manager, researcher, or regulatory official, the 2016 conference will deliver up to date information on aquatic weed management tools and techniques, recent technological advances, research results that are relevant to your work, laws and regulations, public outreach initiatives, and TAPMS business. TDA certified aquatic pesticide applicators will receive CEU credits for attending.

The 2016 TAPMS Annual Conference will be held on October 10-12 2016, at Tapatio Springs Resort & Spa. Meals included in conference registration include: Tuesday breakfast, AM & PM breaks, lunch, and banquet dinner; Wednesday breakfast and AM break. TAPMS currently has rooms blocked at a discounted price of \$129/ night for the nights of October 10 & 11. Please contact Tapatio Springs Resort with the information provided below to make your reservations in advance and ensure you receive the accommodations you desire.

assistance within our industry. On that note, we have also financially supported the Texas Bass Brigade by sponsoring a \$500 meal at this year's camp. The Bass Brigade is engaging and encouraging the next generation of biologists, lake managers, and so on; therefore, TAPMS is pleased to contribute to this groups cause.

Industry News: If you are lucky enough to know Earl Chilton, you know how much he is missed by not only his colleagues at TPWD, but by the entire Aquatics industry in Texas. This spring Dr. Earl Chilton II retired from TPWD after a very dedicated 26 years in the Aquatic Invasive Species Program. A great number of folks celebrated his accomplishments and unmatched character at his retirement party held at McKinney Falls State Park. TAPMS board members: Dave Bass of LCRA, Monica McGarrity of TPWD, and myself (Emily Griffith of Sprayco) represented our society at the event. We presented Dr. Chilton with an engraved crystal plaque and an embroidered TAPMS jacket, thanking him for his many contributions to the Society. Fare the well Earl!

Also, if you do not subscribe to TPWD Magazine, you're missing out. It's a great read and an easy way to support the agency. In the May 2016 issue, aquatic invasives were highlighted; stating that with "record funding approved by Texas Legislature in 2015, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is ramping up an unprecedented, two-year effort to control and stop the spread of aquatic invasive plants and creatures". The magazine joins the effort with its new monthly series profiling invasive species; rightfully so, Giant Salvinia was the initial honorary species. In reference to a recent invasion, author Dyanne Fry Cortez reminds us all that "Salvinia Molesta is a threat to reckon with".

Looking forward: The 2016 TAPMS Conference will be here before we know it! Considering the success of last year's event, I'm glad to announce that this year's conference will be held once again at the beautiful Tapatio Spring Resort in Boerne, Texas. The dates are set for October 10-12, 2016. The schedule will be very similar to that of

last year; with a golf tournament the afternoon of Monday 10/12 followed up by a welcome reception Monday night. Plan on a full day of great speakers and enjoyable networking Tuesday, ending with a half day of presentations on Wednesday before we depart at lunch. Please look out for sponsorship opportunities and registration info at www.TAPMS.org very soon!

If you would like to present at this year's conference, or refer a speaker / topic, please email:

Trent Lewis
Trent@PondMedics.com

Again, thank you for your support and involvement in TAPMS. Have a safe, productive summer. I look forward to seeing each of you in Boerne this October!

Emily Griffith
2016 TAPMS President



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Bass Brigade Youth Leadership

Steven Bardin



When the 30 high-school youth come through the gates of the Warren Ranch this July the 11th Battalion of the Bass Brigade youth leadership camp will officially begin. Over the next 4.5 days the students are not attending just another fishing camp but an immersive experience in all aspects of fisheries management. The 24 new and 6 returning students will be taught by volunteers from TPWD, TAMU Agrilife Extension, and the private sector. This year Bass Brigade students are ages 13-17, they will come from 22 counties and 3 states.

One of the mantras of the camp is “tell me I forget, show me I remember, involve me I understand”. Every activity throughout camp follows that mantra. The students will not only learn methods to sample fisheries, they will actually boat electrofish, backpack electrofish, seine, set traps, kick net invertebrates, and test water quality. They won’t just learn to cast and make their own lures, but they will also fish a tournament against legendary Bassmaster Elite Series angler Gary Klein. The students will learn to identify aquatic plants, then how to control them, and have a mock town hall meeting were

they debate the use of using Mozambique Tilapia as biologic control. The camp culminates with the students writing recommendations for the ranch lake management plan, creating trifolds to take back into their communities and teach what they have learned, and a graduation ceremony.

Former students who are attending camp for their second or third time are invited back due to their extraordinary work in their own communities putting on conservation and fisheries related presentations to spread the ideas they were taught throughout camp. These students are rewarded with college scholarships donated from sponsors including Triton Boats, Repel, Power-Pole and Gary Klein.

Bass Brigade is part of the Texas Brigades system which is comprised of 8 camp; Bass, two Buckskin, two Bobwhite, Coastal, Ranch and Waterfowl. Each camp follows a similar hands on method of teaching with a specific species or environment as the main focus. To learn more about any of the camps visit TexasBrigades.org.



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Editor's Notes

All members and advertisers are welcomed and encouraged to contribute articles and information to the newsletter... Please contact Editor, Chris Smith for more information.

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Managing Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation in the Highland Lakes of Central Texas

Dave Bass

The Highland Lakes are a chain of five reservoirs on the Colorado River located between Bend and Austin, TX. The reservoirs are operated by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). Lakes Buchanan and Travis are storage reservoirs and the other three lakes (Inks, LBJ and Marble Falls) are smaller pass-through reservoirs. Originally designed for flood control and hydroelectric generation, many people now reside on their shores and use the lake water for recreation and irrigation.

Lakes Inks, LBJ and Marble Falls have had reports of nuisance aquatic vegetation in the past. The vast majority of the complaints have been about Eurasian watermilfoil (milfoil). Although historically present, infestations of milfoil have been controlled through the use of periodic lake drawdowns. However, in recent years it has not been possible to lower these lakes due to the prolonged Central Texas drought. Consequently, milfoil has infested much of the shoreline of the lakes, especially Lake LBJ.

Vegetation management in the Highland Lakes using herbicides is a tricky business. Management on public waterways requires permitting by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the waterbody's controlling entity (LCRA). There are also provisions for public notification, including municipalities, water systems and other interested parties. Additionally, there are over 2000 domestic water users and more than a dozen municipal potable water intakes on the affected reservoirs. These users hold contracts with LCRA for the water they use and there is an understanding that irrigation and drinking will be among the uses of the lake water; therefore public notification of aquatic herbicide use is necessary. Because of the many intricacies of treating aquatic plants in public waters, LCRA recommends using a licensed applicator but cannot require it.

In the past, with the exception of lake drawdowns, milfoil control was left to the discretion of individual

property owners. This placed the burden of public notification on them.

In 2014, LCRA and TPWD developed a zonal approach for vegetation management for lakes Inks, LBJ and Marble Falls. The perimeters of the lakes were split into five zones. Under this plan, lakeside property owners in each zone will have three one-week treatment periods per growing season to manage vegetation. While still requiring permitting from both TPWD and LCRA, public notification has simplified. Through open house events, email reminders and postings at property owners associations and newspapers, lakeside residents are aware of what zone they are in and when irrigation should be avoided.

The zonal approach applies to all herbicide use with the exception of copper-based products – these products can be used outside of a zone's treatment period. Physical and mechanical treatment options are exempt from the zonal approach as well. Because there are public water supply intakes scattered around the lakes, special consultation is required when treating near these areas.

With this plan in place, the notification process has been simplified. Also, there may be efficiencies gained in management results because treatments will be concentrated into defined areas at the same time.

To find out more information about the zone approach, visit <http://lcra.org/waterweeds> . B



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SOLitude Lake Management Expands to Texas with Acquisition of Total Lake Management

College Station, TX, March 30, 2016 – SOLitude Lake Management, an industry leader in lake and pond management, fisheries management and related environmental services for the United States, has expanded their national presence with the acquisition of Total Lake Management in Bryan, Texas.

Total Lake Management, founded by Paul Dorsett, has been managing water resources for private ranches, businesses, municipalities and mining facilities in the greater College Station area of Texas since 1998. Paul and his wife Dawn (office manager), along with six other full-time employees, have joined the SOLitude team. They bring with them a broad range of lake and pond management experience and have a particular focus on fisheries management, including electrofishing, fish stocking and fish habitat management. The office is centrally located in the Texas Triangle to conveniently service clients in Austin, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston, San Antonio and the surrounding areas.

Paul Dorsett began working in the lake and pond management industry in 1989. Paul holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University. He is licensed by the Texas Department of Agriculture as a commercial aquatic herbicide applicator, is a member of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and serves on the board of directors for the Texas Aquaculture Association. At SOLitude, Paul now serves as a fisheries biologist as well as territory leader in the Texas region.

In addition to Paul and Dawn, SOLitude's team in Texas consists of Biologist and Project Manager Matthew Ward, Aquatic Specialists Robert Callaway and Cole Kabella, Aquatic Technicians Logan Cowan and Ryan Young, and Operations Specialist Paul Whitmore. "We're excited to join SOLitude Lake Management, one of the most respected leaders in the lake management industry," said Paul Dorsett. "Our focus has always been to provide our clients with the best value in lake and

pond management products and services through superior customer service, expertise, integrity and an unconditional duty to conserve our natural resources. Joining SOLitude allows us to continue to provide quality services to our current clients, while better meeting the expanding need for aquatic services throughout Texas."

"I'm thrilled to have Paul Dorsett and his team join the SOLitude family," said Kevin Tucker, CEO of SOLitude Lake Management. "SOLitude will benefit from their strong work ethic and highly specialized experience in lake, pond and fisheries management. We're proud to have them represent the SOLitude brand as we continue to expand to new territories across the country."



EPA Proposes Stronger Standards for People Applying Pesticides

The EPA is proposing stronger training and certification standards for pesticide applicators who are certified to apply the riskiest pesticides, known as restricted use pesticides (RUPs). Federal regulations require applicators to be certified in order to apply RUPs. Additionally, RUPs may be used only by, or under the direct supervision of, certified applicators. The goal is to reduce the likelihood of harm from the misapplication of RUPs and ensure a consistent level of protection among states.

There are approximately one million pesticide applicators in the United States using RUPs and the proposed rule would impact all of those applicators, including commercial pesticide applicators and private pesticide applicators, such as farmers and ranchers.

The proposed rule would also impact states and tribes that operate certification programs. The impact on

applicators and states and tribes would vary based on the current state or tribal requirements.

Most states already have in place some or many of the elements of the rule that EPA is proposing, such as mandatory recertification, specialized certification to use high risk application methods (aerial and fumigation), more stringent certification requirements for private applicators, and training for noncertified applicators.

For more information on the proposed regulation visit these sites:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/epa-proposes-stronger-standards-people-applying-riskiest-pesticides>

<http://agrilife.org/aes/>

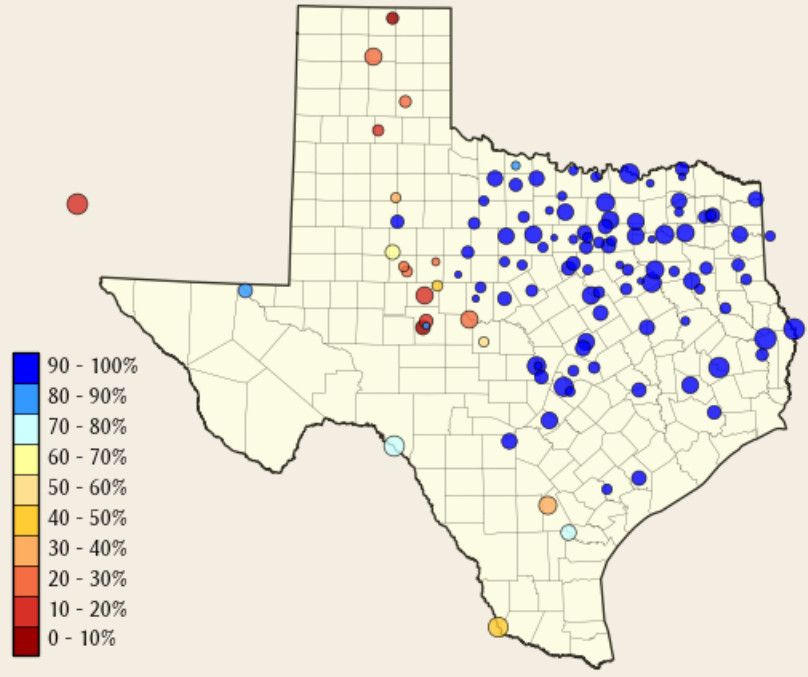
Lake Levels Across the State of Texas as of 9-1-2015

- Lake Buchanan: -0.24 (99.4%)
- Caddo Lake: +1.25' (100%)
- Coleta Creek: +0.35' (100%)
- Lake Conroe: +0.23' (100%)
- Lake Fork: +0.07' (100%)
- Lake Houston: +0.46' (100%)
- Lake Lewisville: +6.26' (100%)
- Lake Livingston: +0.15' (100%)
- Possum Kingdom: -0.55' (98.3%)
- Ray Hubbard: +0.03' (100%)
- Sam Rayburn: +5.31" (100%)
- Lake Somerville: +20.95' (100%)
- Toledo Bend: +0.50 (100%)
- Lake Travis: +11.69' (100%)

*Information from Water Data for Texas Website

Texas Reservoirs

Date	Percent Full	Reservoir Storage (acre-ft)	Conservation Capacity (acre-ft)
Today 2016-06-07	88.2	38,896,196	31,397,743
Yesterday 2016-06-06	88.2	38,907,376	31,397,743
1 week ago 2016-05-31	87.9	36,618,419	31,479,629
1 month ago 2016-05-07	87.3	36,598,411	31,476,629
3 months ago 2016-03-07	85.4	33,530,567	31,305,340
6 months ago 2015-12-07	84.8	35,166,227	31,305,340
1 year ago 2015-06-07	83.7	39,376,315	31,305,340



Monitored Water Supply Reservoirs are 88.2% full on 06-07-2016

