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A Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Publication

Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter

On the Water

President's Update

TAPMS members, I am honored to serve as the President of TAPMS for 2021. Coming off of a year many would like to forget, one bright moment is that our virtual conference in 2020 was a success. We appreciate all of the speakers as well as all of those in attendance. We look forward to this fall when we will get back together in person for our annual conference. This will be held again at the Stella Hotel in Bryan, TX on November 15th-17th. Please consider if you would like to serve on the board of directors for 2022 or if you would like to nominate any other individuals please send names to jchapman@lochowranch.com. Don't forget to follow TAPMS on Facebook for up to date information on our conference, as well as information from our aquatic vegetation management community.

Jason Chapman

2021 Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Meeting

TAPMS will have their first virtual meeting on **November 15 - 17, 2021 at Stella Hotel.**



Registration and abstract submission will open soon, so check the TAPMS website <https://www.tapms.org/2021-annual-meeting/> for more information.

Who should attend: All TAPMS members and anyone 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. Whether you work in the public or private sector, as an aquatic weed management professional, water resource manager, researcher, or regulatory official, the TAPMS annual conference delivers up to date information.

Topics covered: Aquatic plant management tools and techniques, recent technological advances, new research relevant to your work, environmental laws and regulations, public outreach initiatives, business development, and TAPMS business. All TDA certified aquatic pesticide applicators can receive up to 5 CEU credits.



Sponsorship Levels and Benefits

SPONSOR LEVELS AND BENEFITS	DIAMOND	PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	CONFERENCE SPECIAL	SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTOR
Available Number of Sponsor spots per year	1	1	2	2	4	Unlimited	Unlimited
Contribution	\$2,800	\$1,950	\$1,700	\$1,400	\$1,100	\$560.00	
Exhibitor Booth (\$380)	2	1	1	1	1	1	
Conference Registration with Membership (\$190/each)	4	3	2	1	1	1	
Acknowledgement on TAPMS Website with direct link to your company	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Acknowledgement on TAPMS Meeting Sponsors Program Page	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
One rotating banner ad on each TAPMS webpage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Advertisement in Newsletter	Full Page	Half-Page	Third Page	Quarter Page	Business Card		
Acknowledgement on TAPMS conference Sponsor Sign for Break	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Acknowledgement on TAPMS conference Sponsor Sign for Lunch	✓	✓	✓				
Present Current Data on research / operations related to Plant Management	10 min	5 min					
Acknowledgement on TAPMS conference Sponsor Sign for President Reception	✓	✓					
Acknowledgement on TAPMS conference Sponsor Sign for Dinner Banquet	✓						
Acknowledgement on TAPMS conference Sponsor for Golf Tournament	✓						

Student Scholarship Award Criteria

TAPMS is seeking deserving college students currently enrolled in relevant academic programs and who are interested in applying for a \$1,500 scholarship. The 2021 scholarship will be awarded during

the TAPMS banquet on November 17, 2021. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the banquet. Scholarships will be awarded based on academic excellence, professional and extracurricular activities, career goals, and contributions to aquatic plant science and management or contributions relevant to the TAPMS focus in the fields of biology and ecology. **Applicants must be registered for the 2021 conference to apply for a scholarship;** a presentation is preferred but not required.

For student attendees: Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation will be covering airfare, if applicable, and lodging and meals that are not covered by the conference and for the dates of the conference only; receipts are required to be submitted and meals are limited to GSA rates.

Scholarship applications must be received by October 20, 2021, and should be submitted via email to Monica McGarrity at monica.mcgarrrity@tpwd.texas.gov . Please prepare your application as a PDF or Microsoft Word document in the following format (incomplete applications will not be considered):

- Provide applicant information:
 - Contact information: include name, institution, department, mailing address, phone number, and email.
 - Student classification (i.e., Undergraduate, Masters program, Ph.D. program), expected graduation date, and current GPA.
- If you will be a student presenter, please attach a copy of your presentation abstract.
- List honors, fellowships, and scholarships you have received, publications, and professional society membership, as applicable.
- Describe relevant professional or extracurricular activities.
- Describe your work experience since beginning college-level studies; please include all experience, even if not directly related to this field.
- Provide at least one academic or professional reference: include name, institution, department, phone number, email, and their role (e.g., major professor, internship/job supervisor).
- Provide a statement of your future career goals and motivations for pursuing a career in this field (e.g., aquatic plant science/management, aquatic ecology, or other biology/ecology relevant to TAPMS focus).



Officers and Board of Directors



Past President - Kristy Smith



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President - Jason Chapman



Secretary - Casey Williams



Treasurer - Thomas Decker



Editor - Melani Howard



Bill Torres – Executive Director



Kristina Tolman – Director



Haley Kokel – Director



Monica McGarrity – Director



Jeff Hutchinson – Director



Andy Labay - Director

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Casey Williams

Casey Williams works for Bio-West and is proactively branching out to try some new types of projects. Casey describes his efforts below:

This is a new effort to help improve and promote aquatic plant diversity and restoration in Texas. Over the last several years I have witnessed increasing inquiry into restoration of aquatic plants/habitats and increasing interest in availability. Sadly, in Texas, our locally native aquatic plant diversity is not well represented in large scale aquatic projects.

Usually this is because there is a lack of knowledge in our native aquatic flora and their ecology. In the past, many restoration and habitat projects have turned to buying plants from out of state commercial nurseries. This both limits the diversity of species available for projects as nurseries will only grow a few common species and introduces plants that likely do not have local genetic origin. Furthermore, introducing plants from out of state suppliers can lead to the introduction of unwanted aquatic organisms like the bluefin killifish, a native of Florida inadvertently introduced to Texas through a wetland restoration project.

With this new endeavor, I hope to promote native aquatic flora to potential clients, as well as educate customers and others on the ecology of these lesser studied plant groups.



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RESOURCES

Aquatic Plant Identification and Management Information:

- [Aquaplant- A Diagnostics Tool for Pond Plants and Algae](#)
- [Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants](#)
- [Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Pond Management](#)

Management:

- [Texas Parks and Wildlife](#)
- [TPWD's Aquatic Vegetation Management Guidance](#)
- [Why Aquatic Herbicides Affect Aquatic Plants and Not You!](#)

Aquatic Plant Related Societies, Foundations and Agencies:

- [Aquatic Plant Management Society](#)
- [Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation](#)
- [Botanical Society of America](#)
- [Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society](#)
- [Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority](#)
- [Lavaca-Navidad River Authority](#)
- [Lower Colorado River Authority](#)
- [Midsouth Aquatic Plant Management Society](#)
- [Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society](#)
- [North American Lake Management Society](#)
- [Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society](#)
- [Sabine River Authority of Texas](#)
- [San Jacinto River Authority](#)
- [Society of Wetland Scientists](#)
- [South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society](#)
- [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)
- [Texas Invasives](#)
- [Texas Society for Ecological Restoration](#)
- [Texas State Soil & Water Conservation](#)
- [Texas Water Development Board](#)
- [Trinity River Authority](#)
- [US Army Corps of Engineers](#)
- [US EPA Region 6](#)
- [USGS Texas](#)
- [Western Aquatic Plant Management Society](#)

LIKE TAPMS on Facebook!

Below are some interesting posts from our FB page

Hydrodictyon algae is quite unique in that it almost always produces hexagonal shapes. It can occur in non-polluted eutrophic waterbodies, usually seasonal depressions. Sometimes marshes and backwater areas.



Texas has ramped up the fight against aquatic invasive species that harm our waterways. Here's what we've accomplished: <http://bit.ly/AquaticInvasives5>



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

2020 WRDA Authorizes Over \$100 Million for Invasive Species Management

The 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) was included as part of the massive 5000+ page Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. WRDA bills are authorization bills enacted by Congress to deal with various aspects of water resources such as environmental, navigational, and flood protection issues that are mostly administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). This is the 14th WRDA bill enacted since 1974 and the fourth since 2014. New invasive species provisions included in 2020 WRDA: •

- Authorizes \$25 million for a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) demonstration program to “determine the causes of, and implement measures to effectively detect, prevent, treat, and eliminate, harmful algal blooms associated with water resources development projects.” The HAB demonstration program will be carried out by ACOE with focus areas in the Great Lakes, the tidal and inland waters of New Jersey, the coastal and tidal waters of Louisiana, the waterways of the counties that comprise the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California, the Allegheny Reservoir Watershed in New York, and Lake Okeechobee, Florida.
- Requires the Army Corps to add “prevention” to its aquatic invasives species research (33 U.S. Code § 2263a). Specifically: “As part of the ongoing activities of the Engineer Research and Development Center to address the spread and impacts of aquatic invasive species, the Secretary (of the Army) shall undertake research on the PREVENTION, management and eradication of aquatic invasive species, including Asian carp, ELODEA, MUSSELS, and zebra mussels.”
- Directs the Army Corps to conduct a terrestrial noxious weed control pilot program in consultation with the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) “to identify and develop new and improved strategies for terrestrial noxious weed control on federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary (of the Army)”.
- Authorizes \$50 million per year for FY 2021 - 2024 for ACOE to “enter into partnerships with applicable States and other Federal agencies to carry out actions to prevent the introduction of, control, or eradicate invasive species that adversely affect water quantity or water quality” in the Platte River Basin, the Upper Colorado River Basin, the Upper Snake River Basin, and the Upper Missouri River Basin. ACOE shall give priority to projects that are intended to control or eradicate Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) or saltcedar (of the genus *Tamarix*).
- Authorizes \$10 million for the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the U.S. FWS, to establish a pilot program “to remove invasive plant species in riparian areas that contribute to drought conditions” in the Lower Colorado River Basin; the Rio Grande River Basin; the Texas Gulf Coast Basin; and the Arkansas-White-Red Basin; and where appropriate, to replace the invasive plant species with ecologically suitable native species and to maintain and monitor those riparian areas.
- Authorizes \$25 million for the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the U.S. FWS, to establish a pilot program “to develop and carry out effective measures necessary to prevent, control, or eradicate aquatic invasive species in alpine lakes that are not located within a unit of the National Park System.”

WSSA Comments on Endangered Species Act Assessments for Triazines and Glyphosate

Last fall, EPA released its draft biological evaluations (BEs) for the triazines and glyphosate for review and comment. Biological evaluations (BEs) are the beginning of EPA’s Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation review process for pesticides where they determine if an endangered or threatened species or critical habitat could be affected by the use of that pesticide. The WSSA submitted separate comments for the triazines and glyphosate. In general, EPA’s biological evaluations (BEs) lack a workable and consistent approach to endangered species assessments. An assessment process which essentially equates any exposure to a pesticide as a possible concern to any species does little to advance appropriate options

which could be tailored to improve species protection. The implications of unrealistic analyses will result in unjustified restrictions on the use of both triazine and glyphosate products which remain critical weed management tools across the U.S.

Weed Science Societies Support Federal Investment in Ag Research Infrastructure

In 2021, Gordian assessed the state of facilities at U.S. Land Grant colleges of agriculture (1862, 1890, 1994) and reported that 69% of these buildings are at the end of their useful life. The report stated that the cost of upgrading deferred maintenance now is \$11.5 billion, and the replacement cost for the dilapidated facilities is \$38.1 billion. The National and Regional Weed Science Societies joined many other stakeholder groups in a letter to the House and Senate Ag Committees strongly urging them to include a federal agricultural research infrastructure investment of \$11.5 billion over a period of five years. Such an investment is necessary to advance the critical work being done at Land Grant Universities across the country to support American jobs, recruit and graduate 60,000 new U.S. graduates annually with ag and natural resource management expertise, and ensure ongoing U.S. leadership in food and agricultural innovation.





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STUDENT RESEARCH UPDATE

As covered in our last newsletter, Angela Maroti, student at UTSA, is evaluating the competitive nature of hydrilla, water stargrass and Illinois pondweed. Angela has finished several interaction studies comparing these macrophytes and is currently writing up the results. Angela is also evaluating the ability of Texas wild rice and water stargrass to compete with hydrilla in the San Marcos River. The first phase of the study will end in August 2021 when the plants will be harvested for dry weight biomass. Angela is expected to graduate with Master's of Science degree in December 2021.



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SERVICE PROVIDERS LIST

Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society members are a diverse group that includes professionals who are experts in the management of aquatic plants to

promote business, recreation and other aquatic uses and most importantly to preserve the natural aquatic environments. The TAPMS website is now featuring a list of companies owned/managed by our members that provide aquatic plant management services--similar to the 'TAA Availability List' on the Texas Aquaculture Association website.

Aquatic Features, Inc
Scott Smith
scott@aquaticfeaturesinc.com

AquaMaste Fountains
Rudi Huber
rhuber@aquamasterfountains.com

Helena Agri-Enterprises
Kelly Duffie
duffie@helenaagri.com

Kasco Marine, Inc
Paul Amos
paul@kascomarine.com

Keycolour
Rick Purcell
rpurcell@keycolour.net

Lochow Ranch Pond and Lake Management
Jason Chapman
jchapman@lochowranch.com

Solitude Lake Management
Cole Kabella
ckabella@solitudelake.com

Vollmar Pond and Lake Management, LLC
Brad Vollmar
brad@texaspondmanagement.com

To be listed as a service provider, please provide your information online at <http://bit.ly/TAPMS-ServiceProviders>. The person completing the form must be a current TAPMS member. Please coordinate on a single company response to ensure that the appropriate contact person is listed and help to prevent duplicate entries that might delay publication of the list on the website.

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Participation in TAPMS shouldn't end after the conference and this newsletter is a great way to share information. Our editor needs your help to keep the newsletter interesting, timely, and relevant.

Want to share information about an event of interest to the society? Have an interim update on new research or new product testing results? Willing to share a "day in the life of" story for students as a professional in our field or want to write a member highlight about a TAPMS colleague? Have a funny story from field work?

Don't keep it to yourself—email the editor!

The newsletter is what you make it...