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A Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Publication

Spring 2020

Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter

On the Water

President's Update

These past few months, the COVID-19 situation has brought significant changes around the world, throughout our nation, the state of Texas, and within our local communities. However, I am confident that together we will find a way to move forward and adapt to our new situation. The Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Board of Directors in conjunction with Aquatic Plant Management Society members have been assessing the potential effects that the COVID-19 situation will have on the 2020 APMS/TAPMS joint conference planned for mid-July in San Antonio, Texas. After discussions on potentially moving the meeting date, the decision was made to move forward with the July meeting. However, we understand the uncertainty that still remains, so TAPMS board will continue to monitor developments that might affect current plans. The call for papers has been extended until May 31st, so I highly encourage members to submit an abstract on their current research and work. Submissions can be made on the TAPMS website. A final decision regarding the July meeting will be made by early June and we will update everyone as the situation develops. I hope this newsletter finds you, your loved ones, friends and colleagues safe and healthy during this challenging time.

Kristy Kollaus



TAPMS 2020 Board of Directors



President Kristy Kollaus

Kristy Kollaus has a MS in Aquatic Resources from Texas State University and currently works for the Edwards Aquifer Authority as an Environmental Scientist. Prior to working at EAA, she was involved in completing aquatic vegetation restoration in the San Marcos River associated with the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan. She has been a member of TAPMS since 2017.



Past President - Chris Smith

Chris works for Winfield United in the Aquatics and Vegetation Management markets in Southeast and Central Texas. He primarily services lake management companies, industrial herbicide applicators, river and water authorities, utility companies, and various governmental agencies. He has been a member of TAPMS for 12 years and served as the Editor of TAPMS for 8 years before serving as President in 2019. He currently resides in The Woodlands, Texas with his wife, Tammy and their three children.



President-Elect Jason Chapman

Jason Chapman has served on the TAPMS board of directors since November of 2017. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 2006 with a B.S. in Fisheries Ecology and Management and now is the Operations Manager for Lochow Ranch Pond and Lake Management LLC. Jason has worked for Lochow Ranch since August of 2006 where he started as a field biologist. He has extensive experience in fisheries and aquatic vegetation management and leads crews to combat aquatic invasive species across the state and promote healthy aquatic environments. Jason has been a TAPMS member for 10 years.





Secretary Dave Bass

Dave has been involved with aquatic plant management for 12 of his 23 years at the Lower Colorado River Authority. He has focused on reservoir ecology, but aquatic plant management on the Highland Lakes in central Texas has recently become a substantial part of his work. Dave received a B.S from Louisiana Tech University in 1991 and a M.S from Texas State University in 2000. Dave has been a member of TAPMS for 13 years, and has served as a Board member, Treasurer and Secretary.



Treasurer John Findeisen

John earned a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University (1992) and a MS in Biology (emphasis in Aquatic Biology) from Southwest Texas State University (1997). He started his TPWD career in 1996 and has been involved with non-native aquatic vegetation since 1998. In 2016, John transferred to his current position as team leader of TPWD's Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Team overseeing the state's aquatic vegetation control program. John has been a member of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society since 1995 and served a co-chair of the Exhibits and Publicity Committee and a member of the Scholarship Committee. John has been a TAPMS member and served on the Board for 3 years.



Editor Melani Howard

Melani Howard is the Habitat Conservation Plan Manager for the City of San Marcos and Texas State University. She began working for the City and University in 1996 and completed her Master's Degree in Aquatic Ecology at Texas State University in 1998. She has implemented multiple programs to protect endangered species habitat in the San Marcos River – from removal of invasive species and community litter cleanups to restoration of degraded watersheds. She has been a member of TAPMS since 2017.



Director Joshua Flowers

Joshua Flowers is the chief steward at Twin Oaks Pond Lake Management & Consulting. Mr. Flowers is member of APMS/TAPMS and TCAFS/AFS, and currently volunteers as an instructor for Bass Brigade-Texas Brigades. Prior to becoming Chief Steward, Mr. Flowers was a Forest Service Fire Fighter, Resource Biologist trainee, and served for the United States Navy. Mr. Flowers is actively seeking out opportunities that challenge and teach him new skills in the industry. He loves teaching and encouraging others to become better versions of themselves.



Director Monica McGarrity

Monica holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Old Dominion University in Virginia and a Master of Science in Biology from Florida Atlantic University. Monica has 13 years of experience working with invasive species in many capacities—species ranging from aquatic/riparian plants to zebra mussels to pythons. She is currently Senior Scientist for Aquatic Invasive Species at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where her work encompasses diverse aspects of invasive species prevention, detection, ecology, management, and research. Monica represents TPWD on several interagency working groups including the Western, Mississippi River Basin, and Gulf and South Atlantic States Regional Panels of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, and the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee. Monica serves as a director on the board of the Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council. She has been a member of TAPMS for five years.



Director Jeffrey Hutchinson

Jeffrey Hutchinson is an assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Ecology at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He earned his BS in Wildlife Ecology and Forestry and PhD in Agronomy from the University of Florida, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, and his MS in Wildlife Ecology and Forestry from the University of Kentucky. His research interests are the ecology of aquatic and riparian plants, habitat restoration, pollutants from roadside runoff, carbon sequestration, and non-native plants. Previously, he has worked as a regional biologist for the Florida Park Service in southeastern Florida, land manager at Archbold Biological Station in south central Florida, and an aquatic botanist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in San Marcos, Texas. He is always looking for highly motivated graduate students to study aquatic plants. He has been a member of TAPMS for 3 years.



Director Brittany Chesser

Brittany is the Aquatic Vegetation Management Program Specialist for Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service. She earned her BS in Natural Resources from Delaware State University and her MS in Wildlife, Fisheries, & Aquaculture at Mississippi State University. Currently in her role at TAMU, she provides technical expertise on aquatic vegetation management to the general public through identifying specific plant species, recommending correct management practices, and delivering presentations; along with serving as the Lab Specialist for the TAMU Aquatics Diagnostic Laboratory. She has been a TAPMS member since 2019.



Director Andrew Labay

Andrew (Andy) Labay is a Certified Fisheries Professional through the American Fisheries Society and has been a member of TAPMS since 2013. He works for his family business, which is Southwest Aquatic Services in Altair, Texas. He and his wife Holly have worked in lake management industry since 1993. Their son, Zachary and daughter, Lauren also work for the family business. Andy also consults part-time as a fishery biologist for Freese and Nichols, Inc., on issues concerning water resource development and electric power generation. Andy also serves on the Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors.



Director Casey Williams

Casey is a graduate of Texas State University with a B.S. in Aquatic Biology and an M.S. in Aquatic Resources. As a graduate student he was an active student member in TAPMS and APMS and worked as a student research assistant for the River Systems Institute at Texas State University and the Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility. He has also had employment stints at Possum Kingdom state fish hatchery as well as A.E. Wood state fish hatchery. Currently he is employed at BIO-WEST Inc. in San Marcos Texas as an Aquatic Ecologist / Plant Ecologist where he oversees multiple projects including mapping aquatic vegetation in the San Marcos and Comal Rivers as part of bio-monitoring for the endangered fountain darter and annual mapping and surveying for federally listed Texas wild-rice. He is also lead ecologist for the Comal river aquatic restoration project, part of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan. Other projects he has been involved with as part of BIO-WEST include Provo River Delta Restoration Project in Provo, Utah and various riparian and coastal ecology projects. Casey has been a member of TAPMS since 2010.



Recap of the 2019 Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Conference

We would like to thank all the presenters, sponsors, and attendees that made the 2019 TAPMS meeting a success! Below are a few highlights from the meeting.



Mark Heilman, APMS president, presenting APMS updates. He encouraged society members to highlight their successful stories in aquatic plant management on social media and emphasized the importance of increasing student interest and funding opportunities within the society.

Just a note: we would love to include your stories (success, humor, etc) in the newsletter – please send them to the TAPMS website or directly to me at: mhoward@sanmarcostx.gov





Presenters included Dr. Lyn Gettys (far right) and several of her students, who were also recipients of TAPMS student awards. Joseph Sigmon (second from the left) was awarded best student presentation. Ian Markovich (middle) was awarded the master's student scholarship and Mohsen Tootoonchi (second from the left) was the recipient of the PHD student scholarship.



Past president, Brad Vollmar, presented the 2019 TAPMS president, Chris Smith, with a plaque recognizing his dedicated service to TAPMS over the past several years.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month our Member Spotlight is on Gary Brown. His story is told in his own words.....” I hooked up with Malcom Johnson in September of 1985 as the number two guy with Johnson Lake Management Service. There were only a few lake management companies in Texas at that time. At this time hydrilla was really becoming an issue in Texas and a group was formed known as the Texas Hydrilla Task Force. It was led by Joyce Johnson with Texas Parks and Wildlife. In our first meeting I believe we had all of fourteen in attendance. It was not long after that the group joined up with APMS to become the Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society. I have not missed a meeting yet to this day.



To me the TAPMS meetings are somewhat of a family reunion of friends and associates. There is always something to learn about new products and tricks that other folks have figured out. If I ever have questions about aquatics there will be someone there with an answer.

I attended Memorial High School in Houston and then Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. After graduating with a degree in aquatic biology I moved to West Virginia to help in the family strip mine, mining coal. That lasted about three years before the coal business went down the tubes. It took me about two weeks to decide I would rather be a broke cowboy in Texas as opposed to a broke hillbilly in West Virginia. Once back in Texas I started working for a rancher in Wimberley building log homes. Many were on various ranches, where I met up with Malcolm Johnson several different times as he was managing the lakes on the ranches. It seemed like a very interesting line of work. That was when I started working part

time, which lasted two weeks and I have been full time ever since. We have mostly worked on private waters, but I have sprayed on various lakes for GBRA as well as for Texas Parks and Wildlife. One of the most interesting jobs was spraying water hyacinths for TPWD on a sixty-mile-long stretch of the Rio Grande River. You wouldn't catch me down there today though. I have been able to see many beautiful ranches throughout the state and meet many wonderful and interesting people.

I have lived in Wimberley, Texas for thirty-eight years. I am married to my wonderful wife Cass and we have four kids between us. We now also have four grandchildren. Cass has five brothers and sisters, all of which live in Wimberley as well as her mom. We enjoy having family gatherings and spending time with each other. My mother in law lives on the Blanco River, so in the summer this is the primary meeting spot. We enjoy boating with the kids as well as deep sea fishing with a friend of mine from high school. We have had several pets over the years, but we are down to two cats and seventeen chickens now. I am already sixty-six years old but will continue with the lake management business for a few more years because I feel helping people with their lakes is quite rewarding. Life is good and continues to be so.”

Thank you Gary!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Our new member spotlight is on Dr. Jason Martina. Jason is new to TAPMS and attended his first annual meeting at College Station in 2019. Jason's interest in ecological restoration and management started in the summer of his freshman year in college when he worked as a conservation technician at Volo Bog State Natural Area (VBSN), IL. VBSN contains the last open-water quaking bog in Illinois and wetlands in the park were being invaded by purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), an introduced wetland species. Jason assisted park staff control its spread through a biocontrol method (*Gale rucella*

Jason also spent a summer working for the McHenry County Conservation District (IL) on invasive species control and large-scale stream restoration projects. Since then Jason has focused on better understanding the causes and consequences of invasive species in wetlands, as well as how to control them.

Jason completed his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Northern Illinois University and earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University working on the impacts of plant invasion on carbon and nitrogen cycling in Michigan wetlands. After completing his Ph.D., Jason did a postdoc at the University of Michigan, where he continued investigating the causes and consequences of plant invasion in coastal Great Lakes wetlands through a combination of computational modeling, mesocosm experiments, and field surveys.

Jason is very interested in integrating conservation theory with hands-on practice, without which real-world progress is hard to achieve. Jason works with land managers as often as possible and has

been a part of large interdisciplinary teams working to find solutions to difficult management problems. For example, while at Texas A&M University, Jason and colleagues from the University of Michigan and the University of Northern Iowa used Mondrian, an individual based computer simulation model, to model the efficacy of management techniques (mowing, burning, and herbicide application) on the control of *Phragmites australis* in the Great Lakes region. They worked with land managers and NGOs to implement management techniques recommended by the simulation model with good success.

Jason started a faculty position at Texas State University in fall 2019 and is excited to fill his lab with motivated undergraduates, graduate students and postdocs. Jason has started to focus on Texas aquatic issues, from aggressive terrestrial invaders, like *Arundo donax*, to threatened aquatic plant species, like *Zizania texana*. For the last few years, Jason has expanded his research interests to include global change issues in both grasslands and wetlands, but wetland plant invasions will always be of special interest to him and his research group.








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Student Highlight

An opportunity to meet Texas students involved in freshwater aquatic systems

Angela Maroti grew up in Seguin, Texas and graduated from Texas A&M University in 2018 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. She is now pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Environmental Science and Ecology at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Angela is researching a method to suppress hydrilla through competition with water stargrass and Texas wild rice in the San Marcos River. Last summer, she completed an internship last summer at Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga where she developed an interest in conserving freshwater ecosystems. She will be presenting her research to us at TAPMS in 2021.




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AQUATIC PLANTS

The native *Carex emoryi*, common name - **riverbank sedge** or **Emory's sedge**, is a species of sedge native to Canada, the United States, and the states of Chihuahua and Coahuila in northern Mexico.



Distinctive truncate ligule of *Carex emoryi*

Carex emoryi is a formidable sedge for stabilizing river and stream banks with its sod forming colonies. Riverbank Sedge is naturally found along rivers and floodplain seeps, giving this sedge its name. It also occurs on sand and gravel bars in streams. It spreads by means of underground rhizomes. *Carex emoryi* is sometimes planted in retention ponds for erosion prevention and maintenance reduction along shorelines.



Emory's Sedge growing along the San Marcos River



Pistillate flowers



Dense root system makes it a great bank stabilizer

Another native, water pennywort, or *Hydrocotyle spp*, is a relatively small perennial plant that seldom exceeds 10 inches in height. Leaf petioles arise from creeping stems and attach to the center of the leaf. Leaves are round with bluntly rounded toothed margins, up to 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Flowers are borne on separate stalks as tall or taller than the leaves. Flowers are white to greenish-white somewhat inconspicuous with tiny simple flowers that arise from a single point on the stalk Pennywort can spread across moist soil or form floating mats on the water's surface

Submerged portions of all aquatic plants provide habitats for many micro and macro invertebrates. These invertebrates in turn are used as food by fish and other wildlife species (e.g. amphibians, reptiles, ducks, etc.). After aquatic plants die, their decomposition by bacteria and fungi provides food (called "detritus") for many aquatic invertebrates. The seeds of pennywort are used occasionally as food by waterfowl.



Flowering water pennywort

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Growing submersed in the San Marcos River along with Texas wild-rice and hydrilla



Manyflower Pennywort

Washington Report (APMS) Highlights

FY 2020 Federal Budget is Final: On December 20, Congress agreed to a final appropriations package funding all the government for the remainder of FY 2020. The biggest increase, a 3X increase over FY 2019, went to the Watercraft Inspection Stations. In the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that was signed into law last year, several new river basins were approved for inspection stations, in addition to the existing Columbia River Basin. The new ones include: 1) the Upper Missouri River Basin; 2) the Upper Colorado River Basin; and 3) the South Platte and Arizona River Basin. There was language in the 2018 WRDA directing ACOE to conduct a “Harmful Algal Bloom Technology Demonstration,” but there don’t appear to be any additional appropriations in the conference report specifically earmarked for this purpose. However, what it does say about HABs in the FY 2020 Conference report for Energy & Water Appropriations is the following:

Aquatic Nuisance Research Program - Concerns persist about the increasing threat to human health and public safety from harmful algal blooms (HABs) on our nation's surface waters. The agreement provides additional funds in Aquatic Nuisance Research Program to address HABs and to develop next generation ecological models to maintain inland and intracoastal waterways, which contribute over \$649,000,000,000 annually to the U.S. economy. The agreement also provides additional funds to support research and development that will identify the formation of HABs and develop improved strategies for early detection, prevention, and management techniques and procedures to reduce the occurrence and impacts of HABs in the nation's water resources. The Corps is urged to work collaboratively with appropriate university *partners* to address these issues. The Corps is encouraged to explore opportunities to address HABs in the Great Lakes given the historic lake levels in the region.

New WOTUS Rule: EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers released their new definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) in January. To be brief, WOTUS’s covered under the Clean Water Act are: 1. traditional navigable waters and territorial seas 2. perennial and intermittent tributaries 3. certain lakes, ponds, and impoundments 4. wetlands that are adjacent to jurisdictional waters Waters NOT subject to federal control: 1. features that only contain water in direct response to rainfall 2. groundwater 3. many ditches, including most farm and roadside ditches 4. prior converted cropland and farm and stock watering ponds 5. waste treatment systems.

EPA Finalizes Interim Registration Review for Glyphosate. EPA has concluded its regulatory review of glyphosate—the most widely used herbicide in the United States. After a thorough review of the best available science, as required under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA has concluded that there are no risks of concern to human health when glyphosate is used according to the label and that it is not a carcinogen. These findings on human health risk are consistent with the conclusions of science reviews by many other countries and other federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency, the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority, the European Food Safety Authority, and the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The agency is requiring additional mitigation measures to help farmers target pesticide sprays to the intended pest and reduce the problem of increasing glyphosate resistance in weeds.

National Survey of Common and Troublesome Weeds: The 2019 survey results for weeds in broadleaf crops, fruits & vegetables are posted at <http://wssa.net/wssa/weed/surveys/>. The 2020 weed survey will focus on weeds in grass crops, pastures, and turf and be sent out to society members by Memorial Day and will conclude by Labor Day.

USACE and EPA Publish New Navigable Waters Protection Rule – On April 21, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the

Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) in the Federal Register, with a scheduled implementation date of June 22, 2020. When implemented, the NWPR will result in several significant changes to the extent of waters of the U.S. (i.e. those features which are subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction), including, but not limited to Ephemeral Waters, Wetlands, and Interstate Waters. Additionally, many of the aquatic resources which have been generally considered non-waters of the U.S. as a matter of policy are codified as such by the NWPR

SWCA expects that over the course of the coming weeks and months, there will be developing clarity regarding the rule’s likelihood for implementation as scheduled and how the USACE will interpret the NWPR once it replaces the existing regulations.



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Federal Noxious Weeds: The Aquatics

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for preventing the spread of certain foreign weeds into and through the United States. Aquatic weeds pose a significant risk to the Nation's surface water resources. Free-floating and rooted aquatic weeds can clog irrigation channels and cover lakes, threatening crops and wildlife.

Although outlawed, some species on the Federal Noxious Weeds List have been introduced intentionally through aquatic garden and aquarium plant sales and distributed at swap meets. Others have come here unintentionally as contaminants in legal shipments, in ballast water, etc.

For more information on the Federal Noxious Weeds List, including more aquatics, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds/ on the World Wide Web.



Giant salvinia
Salvinia auriculata complex



Anchored waterhyacinth
Eichhornia azurea



Hydrilla
Hydrilla verticillata



Indian hygrophylla
Hygrophylla polysperma



Oxygen weed
Lagarosiphon major



Limnophila
Limnophila sessiliflora



Monochoria
Monochoria vaginalis



Caulerpa
Caulerpa taxifolia



Pinnate mosquitofern
Azolla pinnata

Photo credits: The photograph of *Monochoria vaginalis* was taken by C. Barre Heliquet of the biology department at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and is reproduced by permission. The photograph of *Caulerpa taxifolia* was taken by Alexandre Meiries, Laboratoire Environnement Marin Littoral, Université de Nice-Sophia Antipolis, and is reproduced by permission. The remaining images are from APHIS photo library.



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Program Aid No. 1688
Issued February 2001

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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
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Vollmar Pond and Lake Management, LLC
Brad Vollmar
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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!

