



*A Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Publication*

**Newsletter 1 2014 | Volume 27, No. 1**

## Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Newsletter

# On the Water

## *President's Update*

*Matt Ward-Total Lake Management*

As many of the Texas plant managers will attest, this year's extended winter has given way to a seemingly frantic spring. Plants of all kinds seem to have appeared out of no-where as they often do, with aquatic resource owners suddenly fearful of losing their precious aquatic habitat to the latest vegetation growth they observe. Of course their early revulsion leads to a more sensible approach as they seek advice from professionals and educators that help them to put things in perspective. Calming the reactionary approach often seems to be the first step in good management.

It is important that we solve problems and provide expedient solutions, but at times it can get tempting to overreact and then to end up creating management solutions that incite a host of new problems. Proper integrated management principles are essential and after all, are a founding purpose of our organization. As we move forward, we welcome the input of the community of managers as a whole, as we seek to promote the most innovative and scientifically based aquatic plant management practices available in our field. For any of you who are reading this address, uncertain as to whether or not your preferred approach to aquatic plant management would fit into this society, we want to

personally invite you to join our discussion and to help us learn all we can about good water resource stewardship.

In the spirit of expanding our membership and encouraging increased participation, I am pleased to announce the location of the annual conference at a brand new venue in Hamilton Texas. Many thanks to the board members who found the location, taking time out of their busy schedules to work out the logistics of another classic Texas conference venue. The Inn at Circle T boasts an Old West themed inn adjacent to a high fenced, exotic game ranch and first class rodeo arena. The richly appointed western themed rooms boast all the modern amenities while situating you on the side of a rugged hill in the northern half of the hill country. In addition to good ol' southern hospitality, the facility boasts an excellent steakhouse that will really round out our stay.

With the move to Hamilton, we have finally broken the South Texas penchant to the TAPMS venues and will hopefully be encouraging some of our north Texas peers to join the fun. For all of those who have not attended in the past, please come join us and if you have any research or experience to report, please submit your abstracts for

***Continued on Page 3***





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review so that we can provide our members with the most up to date methods available.

Remember that TAPMS exists to serve the needs of the aquatic plant management community (academic, professional, or amateur participants) and as such we always welcome your questions and comments concerning our work. We want to provide good current information but we are only as good as the members and advisors who participate in our efforts.

On another note and as a part of the TAPMS mission statement, we do wish to increase our outreach efforts towards the public at large. Up until now, we have attended other like-minded organizations conferences along with the Texas Forestry Expo. While these events do allow us some exposure, we would like to broaden our horizons. If any of our membership has ideas towards this end, we would welcome the feedback.

In that same vein, your board is very much aware of the needed revamp of our society's website. We are working very hard towards that end. The new website will seek to remake this newsletter and to provide an effective forum for the transmission of aquatic plant management knowledge. We will be particularly focused on directing our visitors to as much good information as we can, providing a resource that will accomplish what a plethora of public appearances cannot-namely a 24 hour public presence. Bear with us during the transition but we trust you will thoroughly enjoy the final product.

As always, we very much appreciate your support and look forward to working with you to make the most of Texas aquatic resources.

*Matt Ward*

# Save the Date



## 2014 TAPMS Conference

### October 12-14

### Circle T Ranch

### Hamilton, TX

## ***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.***

***[cjsmith@landolakes.com](mailto:cjsmith@landolakes.com)***

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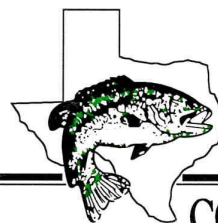
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# Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Conference October 12-14, 2014

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Hamilton, Texas

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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 2014 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 2014 conference will satisfy your need for 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.

**The 2014 TAPMS Annual Conference will be held on October 12-14, 2014,** at the Circle T Ranch in Hamilton, TX. The conference will be held in the same location as the Inn located at the Circle T Ranch. TAPMS currently has rooms blocked at a discounted price for the nights of October 12-13. Rooms blocked include: 10 King Standard at \$85/night, 25 Double Queen Standard at \$85/night, and 17 King Suites at \$95/night. Please contact the Circle T Ranch with the information provided below to make your reservations in advance and ensure you receive the accommodations you desire.

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### **Call for Presentations**

You are invited to give a presentation at the 2014 TAPMS Annual Conference. 20 minute presentations covering all aspects of the management, biology and ecology of aquatic plants and management and restoration of aquatic and wetland ecosystems are welcome. Presentations should not be used to advertise a specific product, brand, or service. Oral presentations are preferred, but poster presentations are acceptable.

Further information regarding the conference and registration will follow this announcement at a later date. If you have any questions regarding the conference or would like to inquire about being a presenter, please contact Jordan Austin at [jaustin@sjra.net](mailto:jaustin@sjra.net), President-elect and Program Chair. B



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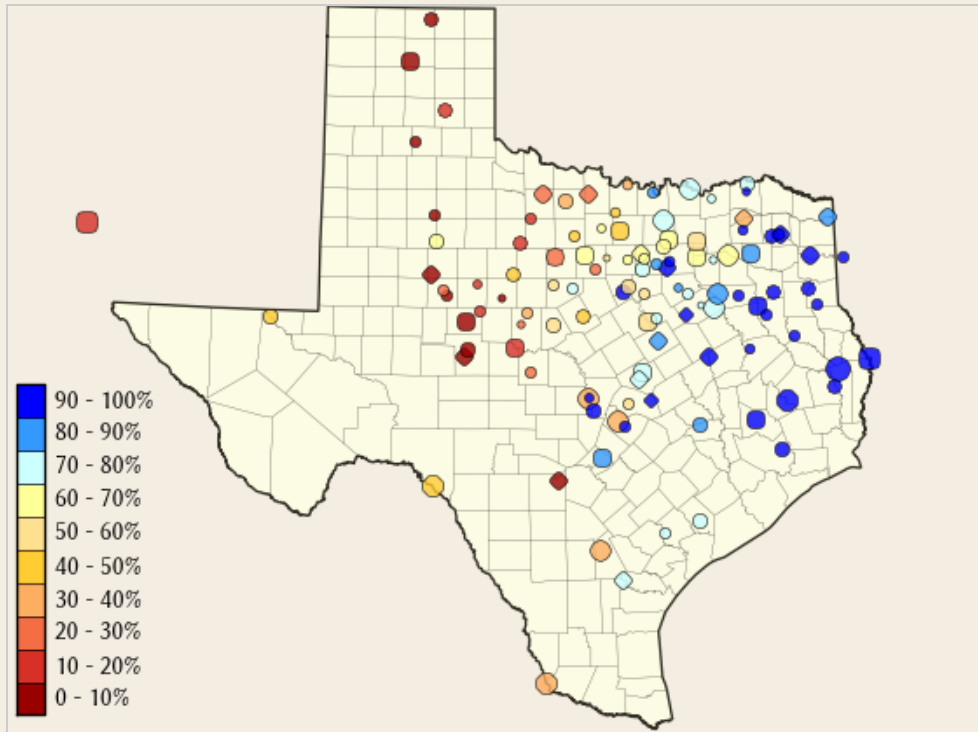


Lake Levels Across the State of Texas as of 4-30-2014

# Texas Reservoirs

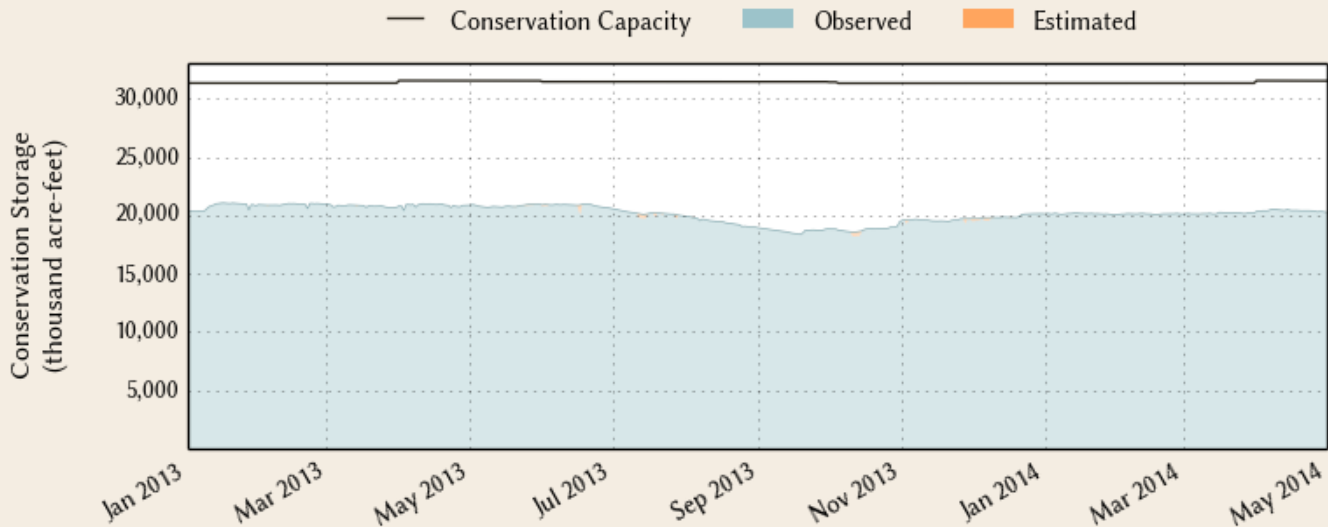
- Lake Buchanan: -29.98' (38.1%)
- Caddo Lake: +0.48' (100%)
- Coleta Creek: -4.00' (70.2%)
- Lake Conroe: -0.55' (97.4%)
- Lake Fork: -3.57' (85.3%)
- Lake Houston: +0.09' (100%)
- Lake Lewisville: -7.69' (66.8%)
- Lake Livingston: +0.22' (100%)
- Possum Kingdom: -14.60' (62.4%)
- Ray Hubbard: -7.73' (67.2%)
- Sam Rayburn: -1.93' (92.5%)
- Lake Somerville: -2.68' (81.1%)
- Toledo Bend: -1.36' (94.8%)
- Lake Travis: -54.82' (34.5%)

Date	Percent Full	Reservoir Storage (acre-ft)	Conservation Capacity (acre-ft)
Today 2013-04-30	64.2	24,705,771	31,550,150
Yesterday 2014-04-29	64.3	24,768,903	31,566,650
1 week ago 2014-04-22	64.6	24,922,179	31,566,650
1 month ago 2014-03-30	64.5	20,945,285	31,566,650
3 months ago 2014-01-30	64.0	24,574,243	31,355,357
6 months ago 2013-10-30	62.4	24,178,931	31,355,357
1 year ago 2013-04-30	66.2	24,697,598	31,555,268



\*Information from Water Data for Texas Website

## Monitored Water Supply Reservoirs are 64.2% full on 2014-04-30



# Fishery Habitat Restoration: Establishing Native Aquatic Vegetation in Lake Conroe, TX

Lynde L. Dodd<sup>1</sup>, Gary O. Dick<sup>1</sup> and Aaron N. Schad<sup>2</sup>  
Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility  
USACE-ERDC<sup>1</sup>, University of North Texas<sup>2</sup>

Restoration efforts coordinated between the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA), Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility (LAERF, University of North Texas researchers, USACE technical advisors) and many other conservation organizations have been conducted in Caney Creek Arm located in Lake Conroe, TX since summer 2011 and will continue through 2014. In May 2013, this work was recognized by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality through a Texas Environmental Excellence Award (Civic/Community Category).

Plantings were conducted in 2013 in Lake Conroe within the Five Mile Habitat Restoration Site (a founder colony site that spans five miles along most of the northern and a portion of the southern shoreline of Caney Creek Arm and includes 36 pens spaced approximately 600-ft apart constructed of



Figure 1. Waterwillow colonies established in deeper water in Lake Conroe at the 5 mile Fish Habitat Restoration Project observed in June 2013 - waterwillow planted in August 2011 had grown into 10-ft to 15-ft diameter colonies two growing seasons later (approximately 900X to 1,300X original planting size). Note the colony of giant bulrush on the point.



Figure 2. Pen installed in Caney Creek Arm (top) within the Five Mile Habitat Restoration Site located on Lake Conroe, May 2013. Robust, mature plants produced at the native aquatic plant nursery located in Conroe, TX used to plant pens in 2013 (Illinois pondweed, bottom left and wild celery, bottom right).

2x4 inch mesh, PVC coated welded wire, measuring 10-ft x 20-ft, 5-ft tall). These pens (installed in August 2011) have been planted with a diverse mix of submersed and floating-leaved species with emergent species planted between pens along the shoreline (Figure 1). Our efforts in 2013 consisted of numerous supplemental plantings of emergents (mostly giant bulrush and water smartweed, water hyssop, pickerelweed, delta arrowhead, and spikerushes in an effort to increase diversity) along the shoreline of the founder colony as well as submersed (wild celery, American pondweed, Illinois pondweed, and water stargrass) and floating-leaved species (American waterlily and American lotus) planted as needed within pens. As a result of these plantings, and including other plantings in 2011 and 2012, emergents have been planted a minimum of every 25-ft along the shore of the founder colony site since the initiation of the project in August 2011. In addition to these supplemental plantings, two 5-ft tall pens were constructed from 2-in x 2-in mesh, PVC coated welded wire and planted with submersed and floating leaved species grown in the native aquatic plant nursery located at the SJRA Lake Conroe Division facility, Conroe, TX (Figure 2).

Continued on page 12





# Too Many Weeds Spoil the Fishing

Exotic invasive aquatic plants such as Hydrilla, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curlyleaf Pondweed, Water Chestnut and Water Hyacinth can be detrimental to a healthy fishery in lakes across the country. These invasive plants when left unmanaged can alter the ecosystem of lakes and reservoirs, causing a decline in the fishery, as well as interfering with other valued uses of waterbodies.

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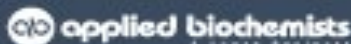


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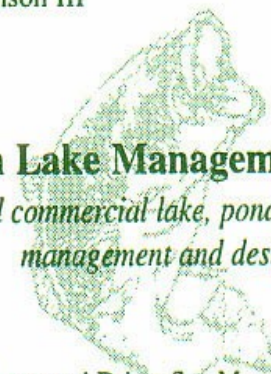
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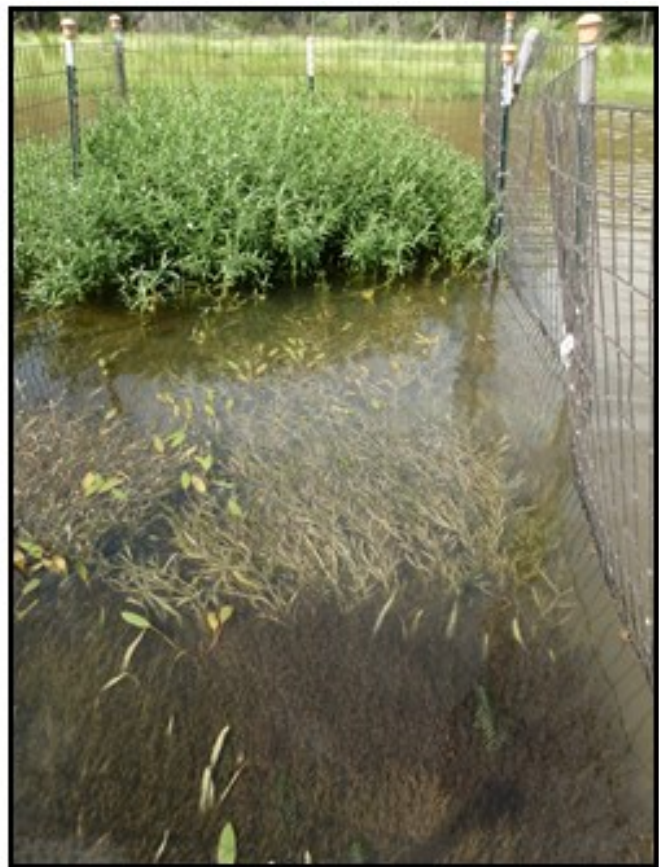


Figure 3. Newly constructed founder colony pen installed in August 2011 (top left) and diverse mix of native species (waterwillow, American pondweed, water stargrass and southern najas – a native annual volunteers species) with a few sprigs of hydrilla in June (above) and 100% cover of American pondweed observed in another pen in November (bottom left), 2013.

Evaluations conducted periodically throughout 2013 indicated that natives were established in the pens and along the shoreline within the founder colony site. Although hydrilla growth was initially observed within pens shortly after construction (over half of pens in 2012), by the fall of 2013 transplanted native species dominated with only 5 of 36 (14%) pens observed to support, in many cases a paucity, of hydrilla. This implies that where grass carp are excluded, these native species (American waterlily, American lotus, wild celery, American pondweed, and water stargrass) can compete with and overwhelm hydrilla under conditions occurring in Lake Conroe, including those associated with severe fluctuating water levels (fluctuations of up to 8-ft below conservation pool occurred during the project). Overplantings (high density, 1-ft on-centers) were conducted in November 2013 in an effort to outcompete remaining hydrilla within pens. Our evaluations in 2013 also included observations of unprotected wild celery (spread from exclosures) in shallow water as well as American lotus, which was originally planted in pens located in the north-west portion of Scott's Ridge, which had spread and expanded out at least 40-ft at one pen and evidence of senescing plants were observed at several other pens.

Work to be conducted in 2014 will consist of monitoring and maintenance of the restoration site as exclosure integrity will be a key factor in continued successful establishment. Pen extensions are planned in order to increase protected area, which will in turn strengthen recruitment from founder colonies by permitting higher rates of propagule production, thereby increasing the likelihood of establishment in others areas of Caney Creek Arm. Masking will also be employed as a mechanism to encourage spread where species like waterwillow and bulrushes (both of which appear to grow unhampered by herbivory in the lake) are used to "mask" or protect other species giving these plants an opportunity to establish without the protection of exclosures. Additional pens may be installed and plantings will be made as needed, with emphasis based upon those species considered most successful.



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**Texas Aquatic Plant Management**

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