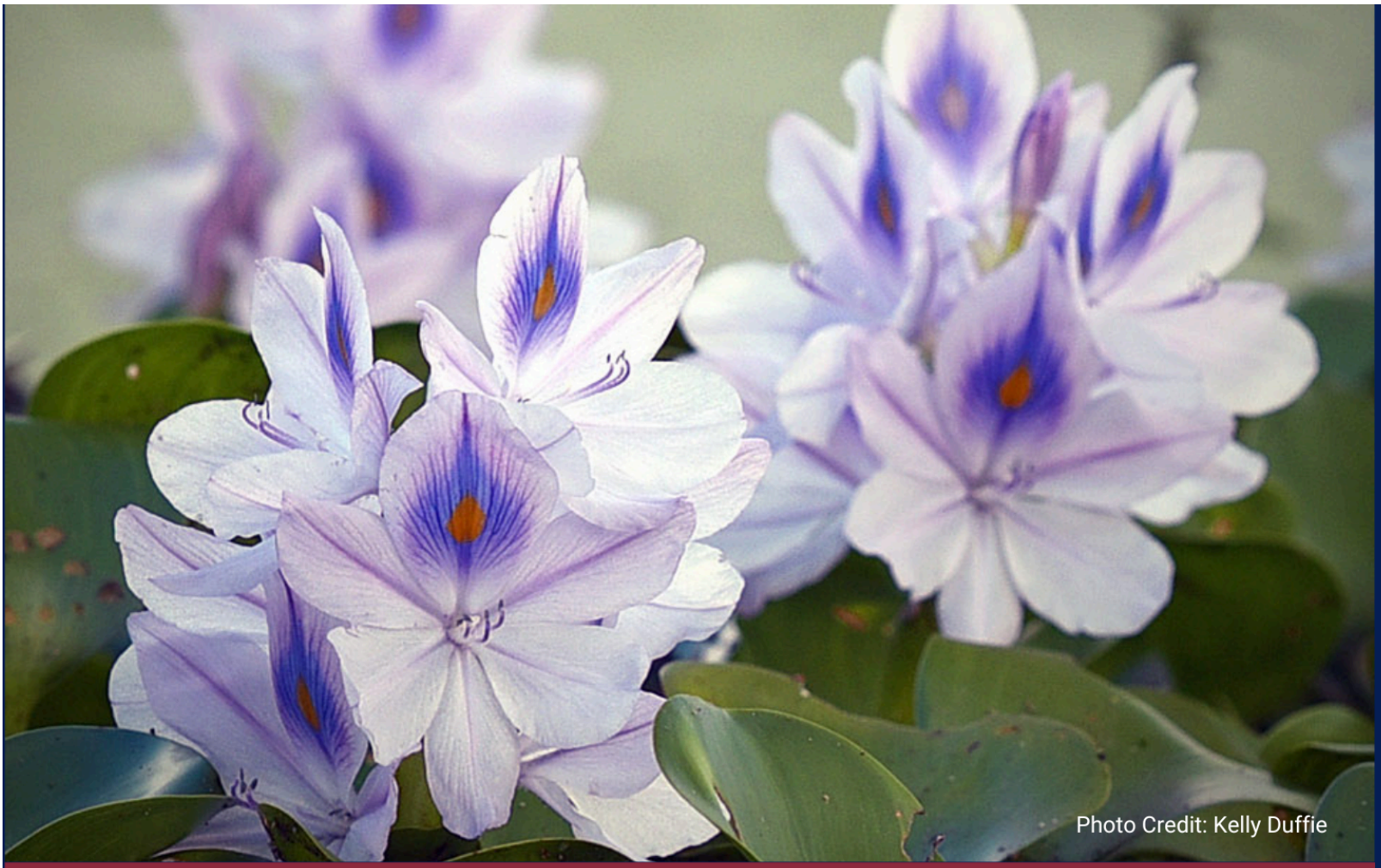


Photo Credit: Kelly Duffie

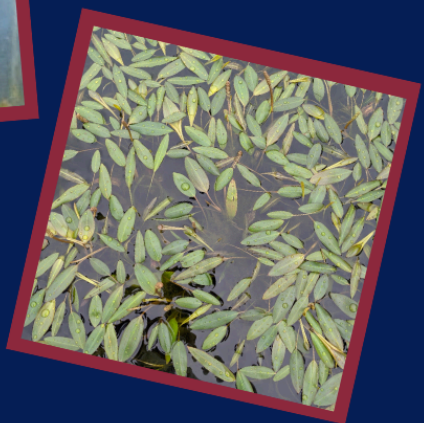
2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Athens, Texas

November 9-11, 2026







Texas AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

ABOUT THE TEXAS AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY (TAPMS)

The TAPMS is a regional chapter of the Aquatic Plant Management Society—an international organization of scientists, educators, students, aquatic herbicide applicators, administrators, and concerned individuals interested in the management and study of aquatic plants. The Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society consists of aquatic vegetation management professionals, companies, researchers, students, and Extension specialists dedicated to aquatic vegetation management issues in Texas. Our focus is informing youth and adults about aquatic vegetation management and preservation of natural aquatic environments, including control of invasive aquatic plant species and conservation and propagation of native aquatic plant species including rare or threatened species.

Webpage: http://www.tapms.org

2026 TAPMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ryan O'Hanlon
President
Stonefly Aquatic Nursery

Weston Jordan
Immediate Past President
Pond Medics

Jessica Metz
President-Elect
Texas Parks and Wildlife

Levi Sparks
Treasurer
Tetra Tech

Bryan Farquhar
Editor
Magnolia Fisheries

Kanyan Klein
Secretary
Texas Pro Lake Management

Andy Labay
Director
Southwest Aquatic Services

Daniel Hoffman
Director
Trophy Fisheries

Breck Holmes
Director
Trophy Fisheries

Special Acknowledgments: The 2026 Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Conference would not have been possible without the efforts of the TAPMS Board of Directors and the many presenters and exhibitors who helped to make this conference an outstanding event. We are especially grateful for the support of our conference sponsors, which are acknowledged in this program.

Special thanks to our sponsors for making Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society 2026 Annual Meeting possible!

GOLD SPONSORS

Alligare LLC
A member of the ADAMA Group

SILVER SPONSORS

AIRMAX®

BRONZE SPONSORS

JONES™ LAKE MANAGEMENT

Sharda CropChem Ltd
(Sharda USA – Aquatics Division)

Special Sponsor

trwd Tarrant Regional Water District watershed protection

Kasco®

Outdoor water solutions

Fish On Aquatic Plants

Agenda-AT-A-GLANCE

See Agenda on the following pages for event times.

Monday November 9th, 2026

11:00 AM-1:00 PM: TFFC Tour

11:00 AM-5:00 PM: Vendors Set-up

3:30-4:00 PM: Pre-Conference Board Meeting

4:00 PM-5:00 PM: Conference Early Check-In

6:00 PM-8:00 PM: President's Receptions (*Athens Brewing Co.*)

Tuesday November 10th, 2026

7:30 AM- 8:00 AM: Conference Check-In, Vendors Set-up

8:00 AM-10:15 AM: President's Welcome & CEU Session

10:15 AM-10:35 AM: Morning Refreshment Break, Applicators CEU Sign In

10:35 AM-11:35 AM: CEU Session

11:35 AM-12:45 PM: Box Lunch (*TFFC*)

12:45 PM-2:45 PM: CEU Session Continued

2:45 PM-3:00 PM: Afternoon Refreshment Break, Applicators CEU Sign In

3:00 PM-4:40 PM:General Session

4:40 PM-4:45 PM: Day Closing Remarks

4:45 PM-5:00 PM: Pesticide Applicators Receive CEU Certificates

5:00 PM-5:45 PM: Annual TAPMS Business Meeting (*TFFC*)

6:30 PM-9:00 PM: Banquet Dinner & Awards (*TFFC)*

Wednesday November 11th, 2026

7:00-8:00 AM: Breakfast (*On Your Own*)

8:30 AM-9:55 AM: General Session

9:55 AM-11:00 AM: Vendor Clean Up/Check Out

11:15 AM-12:45 PM: Post Conference Board Meeting (*TBD*)

SOCIAL EVENTS INFORMATION

President's Reception: *Monday, November 9, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Athens Brewing Co. 101 E Tyler St, Athens, TX 75751*

Join your TAPMS friends and colleagues at the Presidents' Reception to network and socialize while enjoying food and beverages. The President's Reception is open to all registered attendees. Non-registered guests may purchase tickets at the meeting registration desk.

Annual Business Meeting: *Tuesday, November 101, 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm, Hart Morton Consv. Center*

All TAPMS members are encouraged to attend the TAPMS Annual Business Meeting for Society updates. It will be held following the conclusion of the Thursday General Session.

Banquet Dinner & Awards: *Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm, Hart Morton Consv. Center*

Registered attendees are invited to attend the Awards Banquet. Non-registered guests may purchase tickets at the meeting registration desk. During/after dinner, we will recognize those who have served TAPMS, welcome new officers and directors, and present this year's student presentation award and scholarship recipients.



Full Agenda

Monday November 9th, 2026

11:00 AM-1:00 PM: AFFC Tour

11:00 AM-5:00 PM: Vendors Set-up

6:00 PM-8:00 PM: President's Receptions (*Athens Brewing Co.*)

Tuesday November 10th, 2026

7:30 AM- 8:00 AM: Conference Check-In
Vendors Set-up

Session 1: Moderator, Ryan O'Hanlon

8:00 AM-8:15 AM: Presidents' Welcome

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM: Tyson Keese- Aquatic Plant ID & Control in Texas Private Ponds (1 General)
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM: Theresa Carr, Bowman, and Maserang- TCEQ TXG870000 Pesticides General Permit: Applicability, Authorization, and Compliance (1 Laws & Regulations)
TCEQ

10:15 AM - 10:35 AM: Morning Refreshment Break

10:35 AM - 11:35 AM: Monica McGarrity and Jessica Metz- Statewide Integrated Pest Management of Aquatic and Riparian Invasive Species (1 IPM)
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

11:35 AM - 12:45 PM: Box Lunch-6 Forks

Session 2: Moderator, Weston Jordan

12:45 PM - 1:45 AM: Chris Smith- Making Safe and Effective Herbicide Applications (1 Drift)
Orion

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM: Wells Shartle- Balancing Vegetation Management, Water Quality Treatment, and Waterfowl Habitat in the George Shannon Wetland
Tarrant Regional Water District

2:45 PM-3:00 PM: Afternoon Refreshment Break

3:00 PM-3:20 PM: Jim Caldwell-Cost-Effective Vegetation Management on Wetland Mitigation Sites
RES

3:20 PM-3:40 PM: Dr. Brittany Chesser-APMS Update
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

3:40 PM-4:00 PM: Kori Paliwoda-Seasonal Efficacy of Herbicide Mixtures for Giant Salvinia Management in Mesocosms
Student, Texas A&M University

4:00 PM-4:20 PM: Jessica Metz-TPWD Treatment Proposal Process
Texas Parks and Wildlife

4:20 PM-4:30 PM: Day Closing Remarks

4:30 PM-5:00 PM: Pesticide Applicators Receive CEU Certificates

5:00 PM-5:45 PM: Annual TAPMS Business Meeting (*TFFC*)

6:30 PM-9:00 PM: Banquet Dinner & Awards (*TFFC*)

Wednesday November 11th, 2026

Session 3: Moderator Kanyan Klein

8:30 AM-8:35 AM: Opening Remarks

8:35 AM-8:55 AM: Marcos DeJesus-TFFC: Engaging People with Freshwater Resources
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

8:55 AM-9:15 AM: Jake Norman-VegetationManagement in Public Texas Waters
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

9:15 AM-9:35 AM: Harry Knight-Precision Mapping and Volume Measurement for Pesticide Applications
Optix Technologies

9:35 AM-9:55 AM: Zach Pritchard-TBD
Texoma Pond Management

9:55 AM-10:15 AM: Ryan O'Hanlon-Exploring Native Aquatic Plants for Aesthetics
Stonefly Aquatic Nursery

10:15 AM-11:00 AM: Vendor Clean Up/Check Out

11:15 AM-12:45 PM: Post Conference Board Meeting (*TBD*)

SITE INFORMATION & MAP

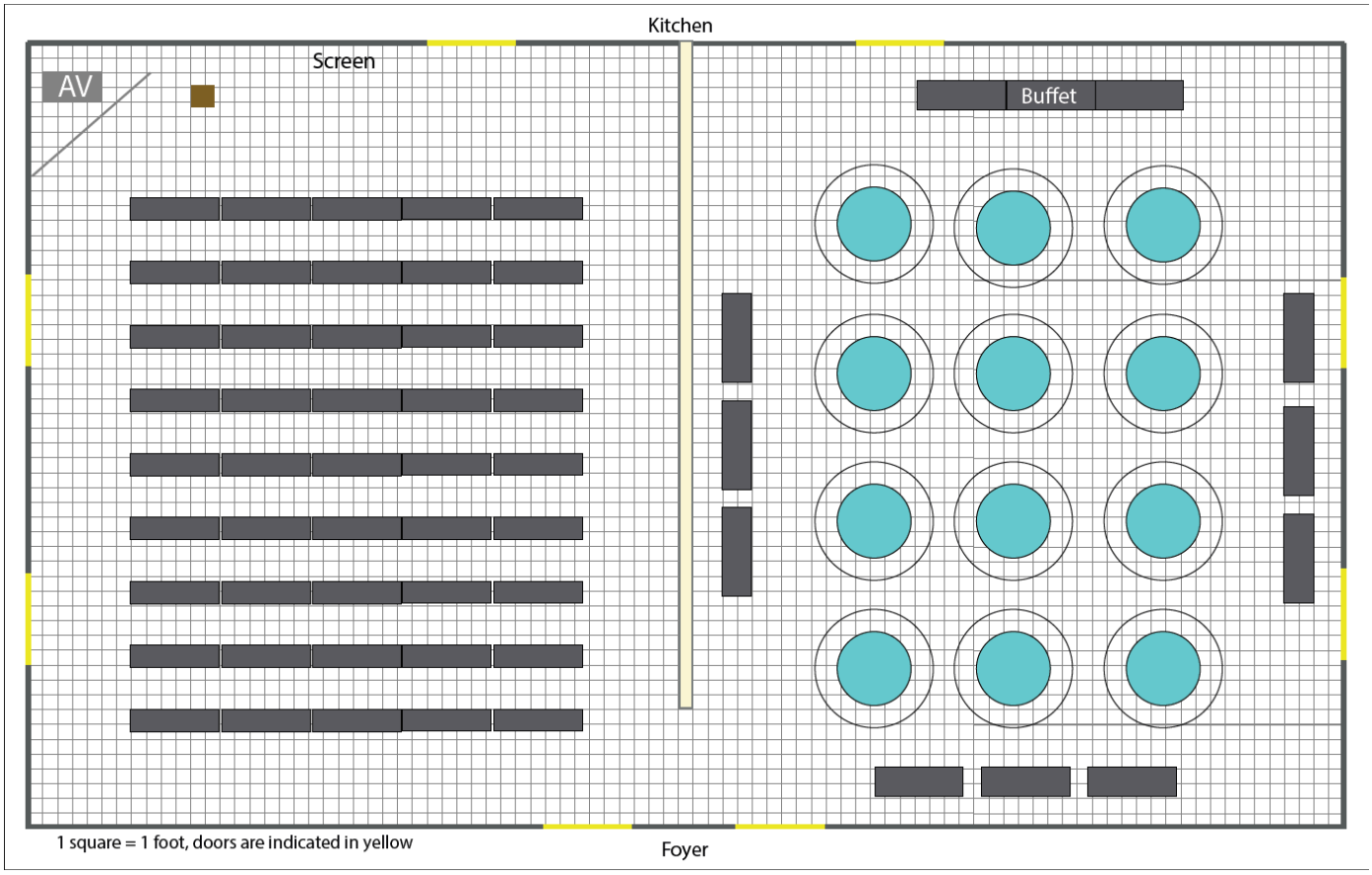
Hart-Morris Conservation Center

5300 Co Rd 4812, Athens, TX 75752

Directions from Athens:

After crossing Lake Athens, driving east on FM 2495, take the second right (Peninsula Point Drive, CR 4812). Drive 0.2 miles along the chain-link fence on your left and turn left through Gate E. Drive straight ahead to the parking lot; the Conservation Center is the first building on the left. You can find directions on the TFFC website, go to visit, then directions and click the link "Directions to Conservation Center."

Floor Plan/Layout: Talks will be on the left side of the layout. The banquet, vendor set up, and breaks will be on the right side of this layout.




Save The Date
2027 JOINT APMS & TAPMS ANNUAL MEETING
July 12-16 2027
Austin, Texas
APMS
The Aquatic Plant Management Society
Texas
AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Presenter Abstracts and Biographies

Biographies are listed alphabetically by presenter last name

Cost-Effective Vegetation Management on Wetland Mitigation Sites

Caldwell, Jim
RES

Abstract: Vegetation management is a key component of compensatory wetland mitigation. Effective ecological restoration requires suppression of non-native invasive plant species to foster the development of desirable native vegetation communities. Approved performance standards and success criteria for mitigation projects commonly include provisions for maximum ground coverage of such invasive species, and effective site preparation and ongoing management efforts can result in significant and varying costs to project budgets. Thorough planning, frequent monitoring, and leveraging of lessons learned can minimize these costs and allow for maximum treatment efficacy and accurate time, labor, and cost estimation.

Bio: Jim Caldwell, with RES in Houston, is a career Restoration Ecologist with over 10 years of experience in planning, managing, and monitoring ecological restoration and wetland mitigation projects along the Texas Gulf Coast. As part of his daily work, Jim supports the coordination of large-scale vegetation management efforts on RES' portfolio of wetland mitigation banks and permittee responsible mitigation sites. Prior to his work with RES, Jim served as Biologist and Project Manager for Apache Ecological Service, specializing in wetland vegetation establishment projects. Jim holds a Texas Commercial Pesticide Applicator License as well as Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP) and Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) certifications. Jim attended Texas A&M University, and his graduate work involved the study of pesticide usage to combat red imported fire ants and increase bobwhite quail abundance on the Texas coastal prairie.

CEU TCEQ TXG870000 Pesticides General Permit: Applicability, Authorization, and Compliance

Carr, Bowman, and Maserang
TCEQ

Abstract: This presentation provides a practical overview of TCEQ's TXG870000 Pesticides General Permit, which authorizes discharges of certain pesticides for the control of mosquitoes and other insects, vegetation and algae, animal pests, area-wide pests, and forest-canopy pests. Topics include determining when coverage is required; the five covered pest management categories—mosquitoes and other insects, vegetation and algae, animal pests, area-wide pests, and forest-canopy pests; and the responsibilities of Level IA, IB, II, and III operators. The presentation will address Notices of Intent and self-certification, annual thresholds, pest management areas, recordkeeping, reporting, adverse incident reporting, and common compliance considerations. Real-world examples will illustrate how permittees and regulators evaluate applicability and compliance. The presentation will conclude with an overview of proposed renewal and amendments to TXG870000, including potential changes for regulated entities. The current permit is scheduled to expire on November 2, 2026.

APMS Update

Chesser, Brittany, Ph.D.
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Abstract: Updates from the national society, including updates on the APMS x TAPMS joint meeting taking place in Austin TX in July 2027.

Bio: Brittany Chesser earned her B.S. in Natural Resources from Delaware State University and her M.S. in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture from Mississippi State University. She joined the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in 2019 and earned her Ph.D. from the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management at Texas A&M University in May 2026. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor and Extension Aquatic Vegetation Specialist. Her primary responsibilities include providing technical expertise in aquatic vegetation management through plant identification, research-based management recommendations, educational presentations, outreach materials, and maintenance of AquaPlant.tamu.edu. Brittany also serves as the laboratory specialist for the Texas A&M Aquatic Diagnostics Laboratory, where she conducts routine water-quality analyses and other diagnostic services, prepares client reports, and recommends appropriate water-quality amendments. Her professional service includes serving as president of the Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society in 2022 and as a member of the national Aquatic Plant Management Society Board of Directors from 2023 to 2026.

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center: Engaging People with Freshwater Resources

DeJesus, Marcos
Texas Parks and Wildlife

Abstract: The Edwin L. Cox Jr. Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC), in Athens, TX, is the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division's flagship destination to engage the public with our outdoor-driven mission. The division's mission is to connect people to the outdoors via freshwater fishing and aquatic conservation education. TFFC is a 106-acre facility encompassing a state fish hatchery and an interactive 23,000 square-foot visitor center, where visitors can learn about fishing, fisheries management, hatchery production, and conservation. Interactive exhibits include 300,000 gallons of aquaria, including a 25,000-gallon dive tank aquarium in a dive theatre, 1.2-mile wetland trail, and three full-service stocked fishing ponds. The Center and staff focus visitor experiences on engagement with conserving aquatic resources through a user pay-user benefit conservation model, driven by fishing. Important fishing programs, like the Toyota ShareLunker Program are housed at TFFC. Great fisheries in Texas rely on healthy aquatic habitat, which tend to be driven by aquatic vegetation. The success stories we tell at TFFC directly or indirectly benefit from healthy aquatic environments with plants amidst that winning formula. The presentation will touch on examples anchored at TFFC.

Bio: Marcos De Jesus has been a fisheries scientist for 28 years. He started his career as a researcher, developing native species aquaculture in the Peruvian Amazon, and worked with the Peruvian Ministry of Fisheries to analyze commercial harvest trends in the Iquitos International Market. His career transitioned to fisheries management, where he started with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission serving roles as an aquatic plant biologist managing nuisance exotic species and restoring native plant communities; later transitioning to developing an innovative urban fisheries program in Orlando. He has served as an Inland Fisheries management biologist and a fisheries administrator for the past 20 years with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Today he also acts as Interim Director for the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

[CEU] Aquatic Plant ID & Control in Texas Private Ponds

Keese, Tyson
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Abstract: Successful aquatic plant management begins with accurate identification, but identification alone does not determine the best control strategy. This presentation examines integrated pest management (IPM) approaches for aquatic vegetation in Texas private ponds, with an emphasis on identifying common problem species and selecting appropriate biological, mechanical, and chemical control strategies. Aquatic plants and their corresponding management strategies are broken into four major groupings; algae/plankton, submerged plants, floating plants, and emergent or shoreline plants. Management options include biological control using herbivorous fish, mechanical control or physical removal, and chemical control with herbicides labeled for aquatic use. Participants will leave with a practical framework for selecting appropriate aquatic plant management strategies based on plant identification, pond conditions, and management objectives.

Bio: Tyson has a Wildlife and Fisheries Science degree from Texas A&M and works for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension as an Extension Program Specialist for Pond Management. His job is to teach and provide management advice to private pond owners, County Extension Agents, students, and industry professionals.

Precision Mapping and Volume Measurement for Pesticide Applications

Knight, Harry
Optix Technologies

Abstract: Our responsibilities as the caretakers of aquatic environments, are to be as judicious and precise as possible with all our treatments. This technology allows for the precision mapping of your treatments as well as the precision monitoring of your flows. Each treatment now becomes a building block for data collection of man hours, pesticide use, plant populations and lake conditions. Along with this capability comes better documentation and reporting for all spray activity and vegetation in our systems.

Bio: Harry Knight started his career in lake management ‘MANY’ years ago. His career has always been aquatic in some form or fashion to include; fisheries surveys, aquaculture, hatchery, aeration, application, chemical and sales and representation. With this he has worked coast to coast and north/south border to border. Essentially he has always been; a ‘fish head or nozzle head’!

TPWD Treatment Proposal Process

Metz, Jessica
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Abstract: This presentation will discuss different control methods that can be used to manage nuisance aquatic vegetation in Texas waters as well as the Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Proposal process implemented by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Nuisance aquatic vegetation management in Texas—regardless of method—must be done in accordance with the State Aquatic Vegetation Plan following key treatment approval and/or permitting processes for most activities. Successfully managing aquatic vegetation in public waterbodies in Texas begins by understanding and navigating these requirements for implementing chemical, mechanical, biological, or cultural control methods in compliance with the state plan.

Bio: Jessica Metz holds a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University. Jessica has 10 years of experience with aquatic vegetation management and is currently a biologist for Aquatic Habitat Enhancement at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where she works with district biologists and controlling authorities to manage nuisance and invasive aquatic plants in public waterbodies that impact angler and boater access. Jessica is a member of the TPWD Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group and is the President-elect for the Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society.

[CEU]Statewide Integrated Pest Management of Aquatic and Riparian Invasive Species

McGarity, Monica
Metz, Jessica
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Abstract: This presentation will provide an update on Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's aquatic vegetation and invasive species management efforts in Fiscal Year 2026 (Sept. 2025 – Aug. 2026), with a focus on implementation of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy. Texas' IPM strategy employs a combination of prevention, herbicide treatments, biological control efforts, and outreach for not only prevention but also to promote environmental stewardship (e.g., enhancing creek health) and involvement in community science monitoring efforts. Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) capacity is vital to efforts to monitor for new infestations of the most problematic species such as giant salvinia (Salvinia molesta) and zebra mussels (Dreissena polymorpha) and mount a rapid response when feasible. Management efforts continue to focus on floating and other aquatic invasive plants and riparian invasive plants; these focal species crowd or shade out native plants, degrade habitat for fish and wildlife, and inhibit boater access. Management of aquatic and riparian invasive species using an IPM approach plays a key role in conserving Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and providing hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Bio: Monica McGarrity 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 20 years of experience working with invasive species in many capacities and is currently Senior Scientist for Aquatic Invasive Species/AIS Coordinator at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where her work as a subject matter expert encompasses diverse aspects of aquatic invasive species interagency/national coordination, prevention and outreach, regulations and policy, early detection, ecology, management, and research. Monica co-chairs the TPWD Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group and represents TPWD on numerous interagency working groups at state, regional, and national scales that focus on coordination/information sharing, guiding large-scale AIS taxa-specific efforts, and research and other special projects.

Vegetation Management in Public Texas Waters

Norman, Jake
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Abstract: Aquatic Vegetation is often the lifeline to maintaining stable freshwater fisheries in Southern, lowland reservoirs. In most situations, waterbodies that have limited or completely lack aquatic vegetation are left with minimal quality habitat for both juvenile and adult fish. While every waterbody faces different challenges, vegetation typically has a direct correlation with sportfish recruitment, and ultimately fish abundance. However, aquatic vegetation management on public waterbodies is a complex issue. Fisheries scientists are dealt with challenges that influence how they manage aquatic vegetation among waterbodies. Public perceptions, angler preferences, exotic species introductions and lakefront property owners are just a few considerations that influence managers' decisions. Effectively managing public fisheries forces resource managers to make difficult decisions around aquatic vegetation management that address the desires of diverse user groups, while striving to maintain and improve quality fishing opportunities.

Bio: Jake has been a fish biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department-Inland Fisheries Division in Tyler, Texas, since 2013. Jake is originally from Grafton, IL (near St. Louis, MO) and received a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Missouri, and later completed a M.S. degree in Zoology from Southern Illinois University, before eventually landing in Texas. Currently, Jake is the district supervisor for the Tyler District of Inland Fisheries and is responsible for managing the resources on all public waters within a fourteen-county area. Jake's primary focus is on managing sport fish in large East Texas reservoirs including Fork, Tawakoni, Cedar Creek, Richland Chambers, Palestine and Cooper, along with over 20 other quality lakes. Outside of work, Jake is an outdoor enthusiast and tries to spend as much time as possible with his family, enjoying the resources he manages.

Exploring Native Aquatic Plants for Aesthetics

O'Hanlon, Ryan
Stonefly Aquatic Nursery

Abstract: This presentation will explore the diverse and essential native aquatic plants, their benefits and how they can be used in ponds and lakes. We'll introduce and identify key native species, such as pickerelweed, white water lily, and eelgrass**.** A key focus will be on how to use these species to benefit fisheries oriented ponds and lakes.

Bio: Ryan earned his Bachelor's and Master's of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University, College Station. His experience expands from lake ecology studies with TAMU and Texas Parks and Wildlife to aquatic plant propagation and control in the private sector. He's currently the Lead Aquatic Horticulturalist for Stonefly Aquatic Nursery. Outside of work Ryan can be found with his wife and three kids running around the house or around a pond.

Seasonal Efficacy of Herbicide Mixtures for Giant Salvinia Management in Mesocosms

Paliwoda, Kori
Student, Texas A&M University

Abstract: Giant salvinia (Salvinia molesta) is an invasive floating macrophyte capable of forming dense surface mats in lentic systems throughout the southern United States. Although foliar herbicide applications are widely used for management, treatment efficacy may vary with seasonal photoperiod and temperature. Mesocosm trials were conducted to evaluate herbicide mixtures currently or historically used by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) under natural winter and summer photothermal regimes. Treatments were arranged in a completely randomized design with three replicates per treatment and applied following an establishment period. Treatment responses were evaluated for 8-12 weeks using visual estimates of total surface coverage and the percentage of chlorotic, necrotic, or dead plant tissue. At trial termination, plant material was harvested to determine final wet and dry biomass relative to pretreatment biomass. The winter trial consisted of an untreated reference and eight foliar treatments containing flumioxazin, diquat, or combinations of these active ingredients. All winter herbicide treatments produced complete foliar browning, although the persistence and buoyancy of necrotic biomass varied among treatments. Freezing conditions caused substantial biomass loss in untreated mesocosms; however, surviving plants subsequently produced new fronds and daughter ramets, indicating that freeze-induced foliar injury did not result in complete mortality. The summer trial consisted of an untreated reference and six foliar treatments containing flumioxazin, glyphosate, metsulfuron-methyl, or combinations of these active ingredients. Treatments were applied following an establishment period, and treatment responses are currently being evaluated. Surface coverage, plant injury, and final wet and dry biomass will be analyzed using one-way analysis of variance followed by Bonferroni-adjusted multiple comparisons at $\alpha = 0.05$. Both seasonal trials will be repeated to assess the reproducibility of treatment responses. Herbicide efficacy will also be evaluated relative to treatment cost. Results from these trials will inform TPWD in selecting seasonally appropriate and cost-effective herbicide mixtures that provide sustained biomass reduction and limit post-treatment recovery of giant salvinia.

Bio: Kori Paliwoda is a junior undergraduate student majoring in Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management at Texas A&M University. She currently works as a student technician for the Texas A&M AgriLife Aquatic Diagnostics Laboratory and is extremely active in undergraduate research projects through the Aquatic Diagnostic Laboratory. Kori has authored two peer-reviewed AquaExtension fact sheets through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and is an active member of the Texas A&M University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Texas A&M AquaExtension. She has recently received scholarships from the Waller County Master Gardener Association and Joseph L. Schuster Scholarship for her academic efforts, contributions to science, and assistance to natural resource managers.

Aquatic Weed Identification: Common Misidentifications and Why They Matter

Pritchard, Zachary
Texoma Pond Management

Abstract: Proper identification of aquatic vegetation is essential for effective pond and lake management. Many aquatic plant species share similar characteristics, making misidentification a common issue that can lead to ineffective treatments, unnecessary expenses, and unintended impacts on aquatic ecosystems. This presentation will highlight commonly confused aquatic plants, discuss key identification features, and provide practical tips for distinguishing between similar species. Attendees will gain a better understanding of how accurate plant identification leads to better management decisions and more successful vegetation control.

Bio: Zach Pritchard is the owner of Texoma Pond Management LLC, a North Texas-based company specializing in pond and lake management. He is married with three kids 10, 11, & 16 and resides in Howe Tx. His 12 years of hands-on experience includes aquatic vegetation identification and control, fish stocking, water quality management, aeration systems, and pond restoration. Through his work with private landowners, ranches, and property managers, Zach focuses on practical, effective solutions that improve aquatic ecosystems and promote long-term pond health.

[CEU]Balancing Vegetation Management, Water Quality Treatment, and Waterfowl Habitat in the George Shannon Wetland

Shartle, Wells
Tarrant Regional Water District

Abstract: The George Shannon Wetland is a 1,880-acre constructed treatment wetland operated by the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) to enhance drought-resilient water supplies. The wetland polishes up to 100 MGD of Trinity River water before delivery to Richland-Chambers Reservoir, reducing sediment and nutrient loads through natural treatment processes.

This presentation will summarize more than a decade of aquatic vegetation management within a large-scale treatment wetland, highlighting successful control strategies, ongoing challenges, and lessons learned. Case studies will demonstrate how vegetation management influences plant community composition, habitat quality, and operational objectives. Water quality monitoring results will also be presented to illustrate the role of active vegetation management in supporting nutrient and sediment reduction within an operational water reuse system.

Bio: Wells Shartle is an Environmental Technician III with the Tarrant Regional Water District, where he manages water quality monitoring and vegetation management activities for the 1,880-acre George Shannon Wetland. With over 10 years of experience in wetland operations and environmental monitoring, his work focuses on the intersection of aquatic plant management, nutrient reduction, and treatment wetland performance. Wells earned an MS in Environmental Science from Stephen F. Austin State University, studying nutrient cycling in :treatment wetland soils, and a BBA in Management from Baylor University. He works closely with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to develop and implement vegetation management strategies that support both water quality treatment and waterfowl habitat objectives.

[CEU]Making Safe and Effective Herbicide Applications

Smith, Chris
Orion

Abstract: This session provides a comprehensive framework for planning and executing herbicide applications that achieve target control while minimizing risk. Attendees will learn how environmental factors, plant physiology, application timing, formulation selection, mixing order, equipment calibration, and delivery techniques influence results. The presentation will emphasize best practices that increase efficacy, reduce drift and off-target movement, and ensure treatments remain compliant with state and federal regulations. Participants will leave with actionable strategies for improving consistency and performance in the field.

Bio: Chris earned his BS in Agronomy from Texas A&M University and has spent the past 18 years in the aquatic and industrial vegetation management industry, serving customers across Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. In the aquatic market, Chris helps lake management companies, river authorities, irrigation districts, municipalities, public agencies, and others address their aquatic vegetation management and water quality needs. As challenges with nuisance vegetation continue to evolve, Chris helps customers adapt their approaches to stay effective over the long term. Chris has been an active leader in the Texas Aquatic Plant Management Society, where he served as editor for nine years and as President. His practical, field-level experience and commitment to responsible herbicide use make him a trusted resource for vegetation managers throughout the region.