

FLORIDA AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME 49

Editor: Angie L. Huebner

FIRST QUARTER, 2003 NEWSLETTER

AN OVERVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PLAN ON FLORIDA'S AQUATIC AND UPLAND INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL EFFORT

Paul C. "P.J." Myers Jr.

General Manager—Applied Aquatic Management, Inc., Bartow, Florida

President—Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society

February 8, 2003

Florida harbors a plethora of nonindigenous species that cause devastating environmental and economic impacts. Statewide, there are approximately 120 exotic plant species that are invading and disrupting the natural environment, some much more harmful than others. Without consistent and coordinated management efforts, these species overwhelm native plants, alter natural water flows, reduce sunlight and displace natural vegetation and wildlife. In a matter of one or two growing seasons, nonnative plants can outcompete native species forming monocultures consisting solely of nonnative plants.

Significant Invasive Aquatic Plants

Hydrilla
Water Hyacinth
Water Lettuce

Significant Invasive Upland Plants

Melaleuca, Brazilian Pepper,
Australian Pine, Cogan Grass,
Chinese Tallow, Old World Climbing Fern

Over the past several years, the Florida Legislature has stabilized the statewide effort to manage invasive exotic plants by establishing targeted transfers of state revenue sources to the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund. The purpose of establishing these dedicated transfers was to provide a sufficient level of recurring funds necessary to maintain effective aquatic and upland invasive plant control programs.

The governor's budget plan for invasive plant control eliminates dedicated funding sources that provide stable funding levels and reduces funding for invasive plant control efforts by \$9.33 million. The governor's plan reduces invasive plant control funding from \$37 million to about \$28 million, and redirects funding currently dedicated for the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund into general revenue forcing this recurring environmental problem to annually compete for funding required to implement control efforts.

Acceptance of the governor's proposals for invasive plant control by the legislature would significantly destabilize multi-year control efforts and undermine the continuity of funding required to fight aquatic and upland invasive plant infestations on an annual basis. More importantly, the governor's budget recommendations would not provide the funding to address the identified need and would prevent adequate management of areas already under maintenance control. If areas that are currently under maintenance control are not properly maintained, the funding previously used to treat those areas will have been wasted. Without dedicated funding for management, many waterways would become unusable, flooding would become a major problem, water delivery for irrigation would be impeded, biodiversity and public health would be threatened,

and the over \$1 billion sport fish/water recreation industry threatened due to excessive plant growth.

In order to maintain Florida's effort to control invasive plants, the 2003 legislature must:

- Maintain the dedicated funding sources to provide the necessary level of funding on a recurring basis;
- Maintain existing funding levels that are needed to maintain a comprehensive invasive plant control effort.

Background

Florida's Department of Environmental Protection has the primary responsibility for managing invasive plants and leads a multi-agency effort to document infestations and manage a coordinated control effort on a statewide basis. In 1999, the Florida House of Representatives Committee on Environmental Protection conducted a study of invasive plant management programs and concluded: **"Overall, DEP's Bureau of Invasive Plant Management Program is administered efficiently and is currently being used by other states and countries as a model program."**

For detailed information on invasive plant control in Florida go to the following website:

http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/invaspec/AR00_Introduction.pdf

Statewide Need Is Based On Annual Documented Surveys Of Infestations

Based on previous funding requests and documented reviews, the estimated expenditure level for invasive plant control within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is projected annually to be around \$37.5 million. This is the level of funding identified to maintain control efforts within upland and aquatic plant control programs.

How Are Funds Used?

In FY 2003, invasive plant control funds are being used as follows:

- \$25.7 million is allocated on approved lake treatments for 126,000 acres of aquatic plant infestations in 39 counties.
- \$7.67 million will be used on upland plant infestations.
- \$2.1 million in appropriated funds are flow-through transfers to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry.

- Approximately \$1.7 is allocated for program expenses, salaries, and administrative costs.

Invasive Plant Control Funding Sources Are User-Related

Dedicated state-level funding sources:

1. Recreational boat registration (\$2 per pleasure boat—approximately \$1,284,306 annually).
2. Commercial boat registration (40% commercial boat—approximately \$351,000 annually).
3. Gas tax transfer (\$6.3 million annually).
4. Documentary stamp tax proceeds (2.28% of collections—approximately \$27 million, 80% dedicated to aquatic and 20% dedicated to upland invasive plant control programs).

Justification for dedicated revenue sources to the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund:

- Boat registration fees are justified as a dedicated funding source because aquatic plant infestations threaten the use and enjoyment of water bodies by boaters throughout the State of Florida.
- Gas tax revenues are justified based on the amount of gas taxes paid by individuals purchasing fuel to use their boats in Florida waters. Estimated boat-related gas tax revenues at marina pumps only is \$35 million. This does not include collections from boater-related gas purchases by boats on trailers.
- Documentary stamp tax revenues are appropriate because a portion of the revenues collected on land sales in the State of Florida should be used on land management, including the control of invasive plants that threaten these lands.

What Needs To Be Done?

- Contact your local legislator to express concern regarding the governor's proposals for invasive plant control and request the current funding levels and dedicated sources for invasive plant programs be maintained.
- Contact your water management district to convey your concerns.
- Contact the governor's office to express concern about the impact of his recommendations on the invasive plant control efforts.

Note: P.J. Myers holds a B.S. in Agronomy from the University of Florida and is the General Manager of Applied Aquatic Management, an invasive plant control company based in Bartow, Florida. Polk County has some of the most serious invasive plant problems in the state of Florida.

FIRST QUARTER 2003 FAPMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Officers:

President—PJ Myers
President Elect—Steve Weinsier
Past President—John Rodgers
Secretary—Angie Huebner
Treasurer—David Farr
Editor—Judy Ludlow

Directors:

Mike Baker	Chance Dubose
Bill Moore	Todd Olson
Vicki Pontius	

Absent: Catherine Johnson (Nathalie Visscher and Shannon Brittain, proxy), Jim Cuda, Steve Smith (Jackie Smith, proxy), Christine Bauer

Location: Reedy Creek Improvement District, 2191 South Service Lane, Orlando, FL

Date and Time: January 14, 2003, 10:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Myers called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL AND MINUTES

Angie Huebner took the roll and President Myers declared a quorum. President Myers asked if there were any deletions, omissions, or modifications that should be made to the fourth quarter 2002 meeting minutes. Jackie Smith made a motion to accept the fourth quarter 2002 Board of Directors' Meeting minutes. The motion received a second by Mike Baker and passed unanimously.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

President Myers mentioned a letter written to Don Doggett from John Rodgers regarding a request from APMS. The topic was tabled and will be discussed under old business.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT—Rebecca Gubert

Rebecca reported the following balances: checking, \$4,585.49; savings, \$5,868.93; estimated CD value, \$10,074.68. The maturation date for the CD was January 11, 2003. A decision must be made by January 18, 2003 regarding either rolling over the CD or

moving the money to savings and investigating other investment options. Jackie Smith made a motion to move the money from the CD to the savings account so that investment opportunities may be investigated. The motion received a second from Jennifer Myers and the motion passed unanimously. The money market 4th quarter, 2002 statement has not been received at this time. The 3rd quarter value was \$13,282.06. Rebecca reported the society has to pay sales tax for 2002 on merchandise sales. Overdraft protection was added to the checking account. Two suggestions were made for the meeting next year (1) define pre-registration as receipt of payment not just the form to ensure money is received in time to pay meeting expenses, (2) set a deadline for pre-registration at least two weeks before the meeting. Rebecca also suggested investigating the possibility of hiring an administrative assistant to maintain the database, receipts, nametags, the meeting packets, etc.

David Farr, the new treasurer, suggested purchasing software to assist in assigned duties. There was a lengthy discussion about various options. Todd Olson made a motion to address the issue with the financial committee, the committee should research the options and determine the most efficient long term accounting system for the society and report findings to the board at the next meeting. The motion received a second from Vicki Pontius and the motion passed unanimously. Steve Weinsier made a motion to authorize David Farr to research various accounting programs and if deemed appropriate to purchase software with a purchasing limit of \$300.00. Vicki Pontius made a second and the motion passed.

V. SECRETARY'S REPORT—Angie Huebner

Angie reported the 1st quarter board meeting books were completed and sent electronically and asked for comments and suggestions. She also reported the newsletter advertisement registration form will be sent to advertisers soon.

VI. EDITOR'S REPORT—Judy Ludlow

Judy reported David Tarver sent out approximately 20 information packets to acquire advertisement for the *Aquatics* magazine. Currently there are approximately 20 to 22 advertisers.

Mike Baker made a motion to accept the treasurer's, secretary's and editor's reports. The motion received a second from Todd Olson and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Advisory

No report was given.

2. Auditing—Steve Weinsier

Steve reported he was waiting for the end of the year numbers for taxes. He will work with Rebecca Gubert in order to send information to the accounting firm in order to complete the society's 2002 taxes.

3. Awards—Bill Moore

Bill suggested presenting letters of appreciation to the vendors instead of plaques. Jennifer Myers suggested presenting outgoing Board of Directors plaques in order to recognize them for 3 years of service for the society.

4. By-laws—P.J. Meyers

No Report was given.

5. Financial—Steve Weinsier

No report was given. President Myers stated the financial committee shall consist of the president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer and the president shall appoint to board of directors. President Myers asked for volunteers from the board of directors to serve on the financial committee. Todd Olson and Vicki Pontius volunteered to serve on the financial committee.

6. Government Affairs—Jeff Schardt

Jeff submitted a report for the committee that addressed an article in *Chemically Speaking* regarding the US Court of Appeals in the 9th Circuit ruling that aerial pesticide applications require a Clean Water Act permit. The 9th Circuit has also ruled ground-based pesticide applications require CWA permits. Jeff Schardt spoke with Carlton Layne with the EPA regarding this ruling. This ruling only applies to the 9th Circuit and has no bearing on aquatic plant management activities in Florida. Jeff also submitted a recent Legislative Committee Report from the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council that summarizes invasive plant related issues in the forefront on the Federal government level.

7. Historical—Terry Warson

No report was given.

8. Local Arrangements—Bill Torres

Bill reported the Society members provided several recommendations for the next annual training conference. He provided information regarding three different locations and hotels for the 2004 annual training conference. The next BOD meeting will be held in Jacksonville in order to tour the facilities of the Adam's Mark Hotel.

9. Mailing List—Jackie Smith

Jackie reported the mailing list has been sent for the *Aquatics* magazine. Jackie suggested sending post card reminders to individuals whose membership has or will soon expire. Approximately 137 memberships have or will soon expire. Steve Weinsier made a motion to send post card reminders in order to renew annual memberships for the society. The motion received a second from Bill Moore and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Merchandising—Jennifer Myers

Jennifer reported there are hats, coffee mugs and plant identification charts in the merchandise inventory. She plans to order button-up shirts, jackets and T-shirts for next year. She requested guidance about the budget and purchasing new merchandise. The board suggested creating a new design for the T-shirts.

11. Nominating—John Rodgers

No report was given.

12. Past President's Advisory—John Rodgers

No report was given.

13. Program—Vicki Pontius

Vicki reported she has been working with David Sutton regarding applicator papers for the next annual training conference. In order to achieve more participation from applicators to present at the conference, it was recommended to increase the amount of money awarded. It was recommended to increase the 1st place award to \$300 and 2nd place award to \$100. Several different options were discussed. Steve Weinsier made a motion to award the 1st place applicator paper \$300 and every participant will receive a plaque. The motion received a second and the motion passed unanimously.

14. Membership and Publicity—Steve Weinsier

Steve would like some direction from the board of directors. It was suggested to include the membership application form in the newsletter and *Aquatics* magazine. It was also suggested to advertise the annual training conference at the Aquatic Weed Control Short Course, May 19-22, 2003. A suggestion was also made to acquire a list of all certified applicators from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in order to inform them about FAPMS membership, annual training conferences and continuing education units.

15. Resource Demonstration—Trace Wolfe

Trace sent a report with suggestions for the resource demonstration that included a snake identification display and GPS/GIS demo to demonstrate various techniques to aid in the completion of field

activities. Trace would like any suggestions the group may have for the resource demonstration. Jackie Smith suggested plant identification and a demo for herbicide mixing and setup.

16. Scholarship—Don Doggett

No report was given.

17. Vendor—Lonnie Pell

Lonnie reported the Society received support from several new vendors. He suggested reviewing the paperwork required to be completed by sponsors for registration for the annual training conference due to possible duplications in paperwork. Lonnie also mentioned possibly adjusting the level of sponsorship.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A letter was sent to Don Doggett from John Rodgers regarding a request from APMS for \$2,500 for a second printing of the educational brochure "Understanding Invasive Aquatic Plants." There was some discussion concerning the packets. Todd Olson made a motion to submit \$2,500 for the outreach publication. The motion received a second from Judy Ludlow and the motion passed unanimously.

During the 4th quarter BOD meeting, the board discussed the invitation for the society from Michael Moore with AERF to become a bronze sponsor for \$250.00. The board agreed more information about AERF is needed in order to make a decision.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A budget should be prepared for the upcoming year.

ADJOURNMENT

John Rodgers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion received a second from Mike Baker. President Myers adjourned the meeting.

The next BOD meeting will be held in Jacksonville at the Adam's Mark Hotel during the month of April. The date will be announced at a later time. Directions will be sent in the next board book.

CHECK OUT THE FAPMS WEBSITE!

Visit the website at fapms.org to find out the latest information about our society. The website contains a list of the society's officers, directors and committee chairs. Other items on the website include a membership application form, a picture page and links to other websites. Information about membership benefits and how to order the FAPMS plant identification charts can also be found on the website. Information regarding the 27th annual training conference will be placed on the website soon.

Scholarship Available

The Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society Scholarship and Research Foundation Inc. announces the availability of the following scholarship.

FAPMS Dependent Scholarship. This scholarship provides up to a \$1,500 scholarship to deserving dependents of FAPMS members. The scholarship award is based on the following:

1. The applicant's parent or guardian having been a FAPMS member in good standing for at least three (3) consecutive years.
2. Financial need will be determined based on need and the expected family contribution amount indicated on the processing results of a Student Aid Report (OMB No. 1845-0008). This report is available by completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid Federal Form.
3. The applicant being a high school senior entering college the next academic year, attending junior college or be a college undergraduate.
4. An evaluation of the quality of the application and required essay by the Scholarship Selection Committee composed of three FAPMS members and four FAPMS Scholarship and Research Foundation members.
5. Submission of a completed application by June 1, 2003.

For further information or to request an application to apply for the scholarship, please contact Don Doggett, Lee County Hyacinth Control District, PO Box 60005, Ft. Myers, Florida, 33906.



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FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS—FAPMS 2003 MEETING

The 27th annual training conference will be held at the Adam's Mark Resort, Daytona Beach in October, 2003. You don't have to be a professional speaker in order to give a paper! We are looking for papers on herbicide application and mechanical techniques (aquatic and right-of-way), mixtures, innovative control measures, revegetation projects, new plant introductions, research projects, etc. Remember this society was formed for the applicator, and the annual meeting is a chance to share what you have learned with other members. Each year the society awards all field applicators who present a paper with a plaque. The field applicator presenting the best paper will receive a plaque and \$300.

NOTE: DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS JULY 12, 2003

Title _____

Author(s)*: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Title of Talk & Brief Abstract: _____

Biography of Presenter: _____

* If more than one author, please circle the name of the person who will present the paper at the meeting.

NOTE: Length of talk is usually 15 minutes. If your presentation is shorter or longer, please indicate the length of talk:
_____ minutes

Check as appropriate: ☐ Applicator paper ☐ Slide projector ☐ Overhead projector (transparencies) ☐ Video projector
☐ Computer (PowerPoint) Other needs _____

The preferred format for talks will be with PowerPoint. Anyone needing assistance with the preparation of a PowerPoint presentation may contact David Sutton, 3205 College Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314, or e-mail: dlsutton@ufl.edu.

Submit this form to: Vicki Pontius, 4344 George Blvd., Sebring, FL 33875, or fax to (863) 402-6899.

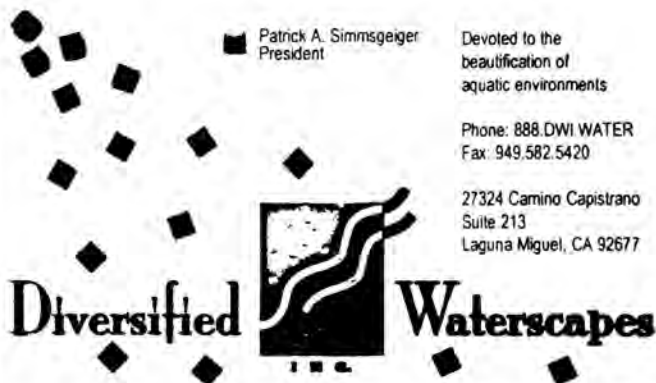


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One issue - \$30.00 \$ _____

One year (four issues) — \$100.00 \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Receipt requested from FAPMS? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Thank you for your support, if you have any other questions concerning this matter please contact Angie Huebner, Secretary, at 863-983-8101



Lonnie Pell

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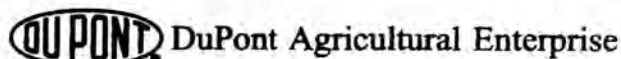
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Name _____ Date _____

Representing _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

If this is a renewal application, please indicate the year(s) dues are payable for: _____

Membership includes four issues of *Aquatics* and the *Newsletter*. Annual dues are \$20.00.

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David Farr

East Volusia Mosquito Control

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New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

Phone: 386-424-2920

Fax: 386-424-2924

Please note: If you need to change, correct, or check on your membership, please call Jackie Smith at 561-791-4720.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 16, 2003 10am
FAPMS 2nd Qtr. BOD meeting
Location: Jacksonville Adam's Mark
Angie Huebner 863-983-8101

May 15-17, 2003
5th Annual SE-EPPC Plant Symposium
Campbell House Inn
Lexington, Kentucky
www.se-eppc.org/

May 19-23, 2003
Aquatic Weed Control Short Course
Fort Lauderdale Marriott North
conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/

June 5-6, 2003
FLEPPC Annual Symposium
Renaissance Vinoy, St. Petersburg
www.fleppc.org

July 20-23, 2003
APMS 43rd Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn, Portland, Maine
www.apms.org

FAPMS OFFICERS AND CHAIRS 2002-2003

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President -Elect	
Steve Weinsier.....	954-382-9766
Past President	
John Rodgers.....	813-744-6163
Secretary	
Angie Huebner.....	863-983-8101
Treasurer	
David Farr.....	386-424-2920
Editor	
Judy Ludlow.....	850-245-2816
Directors	
Catherine Johnson (3rd year).....	407-380-2024
Mike Baker (3rd year).....	561-498-5363
Bill Moore (3rd year).....	352-242-2360
Vicki Pontius (2nd year).....	863-402-6812
Jim Cuda (2nd year).....	352-392-1901
Steve Smith (2nd year).....	561-924-5310
Christine Bauer (1st year).....	904-542-2717
Todd Olson (1st year).....	800-327-8745
Chance DuBose (1st year).....	386-328-2737

Committee Chairs

Auditing	
Steve Weinsier.....	954-382-9766

Awards

Scott Glasscock.....	407-824-7210
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By-laws

P.J. Meyers.....	863-533-8882
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Financial

Steve Weinsier.....	954-382-9766
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Governmental Affairs

P.J. Meyers.....	863-533-8882
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Historical

Terry Warson.....	352-344-2646
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Local Arrangements

Bill Torres.....	850-245-2814
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Mailing List Coordinator

Jackie Smith.....	561-791-4720
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Merchandising

Jennifer Myers.....	863-533-8882
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Nominating

John Rodgers.....	813-744-6163
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Past President Advisory

John Rodgers.....	813-744-6163
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Program

Vicki Pontius.....	863-402-6813
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Resource Demonstration

Trace Wolfe.....	386-409-0019
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Scholarship

Don Doggett.....	239-694-2174
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Vendor

Lonnie Pell.....	321-636-2617
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