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March 1989

10th Anniversary Issue

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Aquatics



March, 1989 / Volume 10, No. 4

EDITORIAL

From its conception in early 1977 to its inception in March of 1979, *Aquatics* has been the only magazine in the country to publish "information strictly dedicated to the needs of the people actually involved in the daily chore of controlling aquatic weeds", as Bill Maier editorialized in the first issue. I'm proud to be associated with the magazine and as the fourth editor of *Aquatics*, I have had to fill some pretty big shoes. Bill Maier, being the society's first editor, no doubt had the most difficult job of getting the first issue off the ground. As Bill pointed out in the first issue, it is an applicators' magazine, so "it is extremely important that you as a reader and worker help in maintaining the magazine".

Paul Myers "took over the helm" as editor in 1981, and as Bill had stressed previously, the magazine is a mirror of the applicator not the editor. Paul's first editorial reiterated that "if you have incorporated new ideas or old technology with a new twist into your aquatic plant control operations this magazine can be your vehicle to share your knowledge and experiences with other applicators."

David Tarver was the next editor to carry on the fine tradition of the magazine. David brought to the magazine a refinement that evolved into the format presently used today. In his final issue as editor, David spoke of the changes the magazine had taken and made mention of the fact that *Aquatics* had become a "national publication received by members of all chapters and the national organization."

It's been my pleasure to serve as editor and as I go into my fifth year, I cannot overemphasize what the past editors have stressed in regards to your involvement in the magazine.

I hope you enjoy the pictorial we have assembled from your contributions to this tenth anniversary issue.

Dan Thayer
Editor

About The Cover



Sunset at Lake Istokpoga in Highlands County, Florida.
Photo by Jeff Schardt

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AQUATICS: Published quarterly as the official publication of the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society. This publication is intended to keep all interested parties informed on matters as they relate to aquatic plant management particularly in Florida. To become a member of the FAPMS and receive the Society newsletter and Aquatics magazine, send \$10.00 plus your mailing address to the Treasurer.

EDITORIAL: Address all correspondence regarding editorial matter to Daniel Thayer, Editor, "Aquatics" Magazine,

"A WATERY JUNGLE" – REVISITED¹

By

Gordon E. Baker

FAPMS Historical Committee
South Florida Water Management District
West Palm Beach, Florida

An old adage states that you can't fully understand or appreciate the present (how and why it is structured as it is) without first knowing a little of its past (how it started). In a similar vein, one of our members told me recently that the really successful people in any organization are the ones that understand its history. In looking through the past issues of *Aquatics*, I discovered that there have been articles about the history of a lake, a history of weeds in lakes, a history of water management in Florida, and even a pictorial essay of this society's 10th anniversary. *HOWEVER*, there has never been an article on how our society started!

My first exposure to any weed society was in 1971 when the Hyacinth Control Society (later renamed the Aquatic Plant Management Society) held its eleventh annual meeting in Tampa. The society was then 10 years old. Prior to that all the meetings had been held in Florida except in 1970 when it was held in Huntsville, Alabama. A small number of the directors had felt that the Society was not ready to meet outside of Florida since the nucleus of the Society was in Florida. However, to everyone's surprise, the Huntsville meeting turned out to be one of the largest and most successful ever held by that society. During the next several years I remember hearing comments by the various "movers and shakers" of the Hyacinth Control Society concerning the

direction in which the Society was heading, especially in terms of its image. The consensus of opinion was that the Society was drawing away from the applicator and catering too much to the scientific community. By 1976 (the year the Society changed its name to reflect the more universal nature of the profession) these murmurings had become a ground swell within the Society and action was soon taken.

Now, why did I tell you this story? I did it so I could tell you the next story and to let you know that the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society (FAPMS) had its seeds planted in the Hyacinth Control Society at its inception in 1961!

The FAPMS was formally organized by those in the State who were (and still are) very much involved in aquatic plant management in Florida and were active members in the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS). They recognized that the applicator is the key link in a successful management program. However, there were aspects of aquatic plant management which seemed to be more relevant to the State of Florida. The aspects involved in the need for a Florida organization included:

1. Time of annual meetings – the Florida applicators and managers felt that the summer months were not the most advantageous months to hold meetings.
2. Structure of the Board of Directors – the majority of the Florida contingent felt an impera-

tive need to form a group which would reach the applicator and eliminate the practice of placing those who were governmentally affiliated as systematic, continuous candidates for leadership positions.

3. Costs – many felt that out-of-state travel and escalating meeting facility costs had eliminated a large spectrum of participants from active participation.

After many months of consideration, and with all due respect to the internationally involved APMS, the Florida Society was formed through the efforts of the following individuals who met in Lakeland, Florida and who were subscribers of the charter which was signed on November 12, 1976:

Leslie E. Bitting, Sr.
(President)
Harold F. Brown (Vice President)
Gordon E. Baker (Secretary)
Porter Lambert (Treasurer)
Robert J. Gates (Director)
Vernon W. Myers (Director)
Charles L. Hargrove (Director)
William L. Maier, Jr.
Robert P. Blakeley
Joseph A. Schweigart
Frank Wilson
J. Clarke Hudson
Robert Morrow

Our first annual meeting was held March 17, 1977, at the Polk County Agricultural Center. Membership at that time (less than five months after our formation) was an outstanding 306. Membership fees were set at \$5.00 per year and the first meeting registration

was set at \$10.00.

From the outset, one of the goals of the new society was to become very active in unifying the diverse forces involved in managing the aquatic plant resources of the State. Clarke Hudson, the first Legislative Committee Chairman, outlined three areas to which the Society should direct its attention:

1. Reorganization of aquatic plant control activities on the State level;
2. Dept. of Environmental Regulation's Chapter 17-3 proposed regulations regarding water quality;
3. Dept. of Natural Resources Chapter 16C-20 rules on permitting of aquatic weed control operations.

The Society decided to establish a dialogue with the heads of the Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Regulation, Agriculture, and the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, to present the problems in aquatic plant control and to ask how the FAPMS could

assist in alleviating the problems. In addition, the Board of Directors decided that the President should contact the Florida Sugarcane League, the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association, the Florida Agricultural Research Institute, the Florida Turfgrass Association, and the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association in an attempt to coordinate legislative and other statewide activities.

It should be noted that the FAPMS almost immediately petitioned the Board of Directors of the APMS for recognition as a chapter of that Society.

Before continuing with the story of the early years of FAPMS, let us return briefly to the original society and compare the stated goals and objectives of the two organizations to see how similar/diverse we are.

In the Certificate of Incorporation for the APMS, Article II states: "The general nature of the objects of this Society shall be to assist in promoting management of aquatic vegetation, to provide

for the scientific advancement of members of the Society, to encourage scientific research, to promote university scholarships and to extend and develop public interest in the movement." A nice, short, sweet and concise statement. On the other hand, the FAPMS' objectives are more detailed and encompass a broader spectrum of activities: "The objectives of this Society shall be:

1. To provide a common forum in which to meet, discuss, exchange ideas and information, and to assist all aquatic plant managers including private, commercial, and public agency personnel in all aspects of their profession, especially as they relate to Florida circumstances. To assist research scientists, legislators, planners, state and federal government agencies, lawyers, engineers, educational institutions, students, and others concerned with the general aims of this Society;
2. To encourage and assist in:
 - a. Gathering and making



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b. Research and development of chemical plant control.

c. Research and development of mechanical control of aquatic plants.

d. Research and development of biological control of aquatic plants.

e. Research and development of any other method or combination of methods that are potentially practical for field use.

f. Protection of water quality in the state, and upgrading in general the aquatic ecosystem.

g. Making available to the media, accurate information for education of the public as to the need, safety, advantages, and limitations of aquatic plant control.

h. Development of legislation and administrative rules beneficial to the aquatic plant management discipline.

i. Cooperation with other organizations as may be useful to the aims of this Society.

So, you see, our Society "hit the ground running" and we've been at high speed ever since. Now back to the initial activities.

A meeting was held by the Legislative Committee with DER, DNR, and GFC to discuss whether a permit would constitute a legally defensible right to conduct weed control operation, whether commercial applicators would be able to obtain liability insurance by virtue of permit protection, whether man-made canals would be permitted on a different basis than other aquatic sites, and what would be the specific procedures established in the event of a fish kill. We also requested that aquatic weed control and mosquito control activities be exempted from DER's water quality standards for the various classes of state waters. As a result of this meeting, an interagency agree-

ment was eventually drawn up between DER, DNR, and GFC.

Also, during our first year, we decided to publish a magazine to be called *Aquatics*. It was decided to hold annual meetings in October. Since we wanted to keep up the interest in the Society, having just held a meeting in March and not wanting a year and a half to go by before the next meeting, we decided to have a special field day and equipment demonstration, which was held at the Okee-Tantie Recreation Area on Lake Okeechobee in September, 1977. The activities began the evening before with a fish fry.

The year 1978 was devoted to a large extent to finalizing the agreement with a publisher to handle *Aquatics* magazine. The second annual meeting was held in Orlando at the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge. Because the Society had immersed itself so quickly into trying to bring about legislative change, the President asked the Board's opinion on the Society's role in legislative and political activity. Everyone present indicated that the Society should play an active role in determining legislation and rules which affect the interest of the Society members. We liked the Howard Johnson's as a meeting place so well that we stayed there for five more years.

During 1979 several important items were discussed on the State level concerning applicator recertification procedures, overall organization of aquatic plant control structure within the State, need for reclassification of Class III waters for permitting purposes, as well as the possibility of placing the permitting function with the water management districts. These discussions culminated in the American Assembly Conference in late 1979, which made a number of recommendations. Three of the major changes as a result of this Conference were that the DNR should be

the State's lead agency in permitting weed control activities, that the GFC would not pursue operational activities but would be solely responsible for permitting the use of the grass carp, and that an advisory council would be established to provide input to DNR as the lead agency.

Also in 1979 the first Awards Committee, chaired by John Adams, was establishing; South Carolina formed its Society based on By-laws very similar to the FAPMS, the need for an Auditing Committee was discussed; and Dee Brown volunteered to become the Society's Historian for at least one year. Finally, a finalized copy of the Society's proposed State Standards for Aquatic Weed Control was submitted to DNR for inclusion in the State Plan.

By 1980, the paid membership in the Society was 455. The Awards Committee initiated a motto contest, photo contest, and the "Applicator of the Year" award in addition to the door prizes. The winning motto, submitted by Len Bartos, is "Preserving Florida's Water Heritage". Now there's a trivia item for you! On the political scene, the Friends of the Earth had petitioned EPA and the FAA to change the rules concerning aerial application of pesticides so that the applicator would be required to obtain written permission from all adjacent property owners before spraying. A successful letter-writing campaign by many members of the Society helped to stop this proposal.

One of the big concerns during 1981 was the need to generate data in support of reregistration of various herbicides and to obtain an emergency label for a product that could be used on grasses in an aquatic site. Therefore, the Society encouraged and was instrumental in advising DNR to submit a Section 18 for Scout (later named Rodeo) to fill this void. Also the Society prepared letters

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to DNR, FDACS, and various chemical companies encouraging them to complete the required data necessary for 24C, Section 18, or EUP aquatic registrations. By this time there was also a Midwest and a Western chapter of APMS.

The annual meeting held a memorable barbeque and equipment demonstration on Lake Apopka. Membership in the Society included 610 names and we continued to meet at the Howard Johnson's in Orlando until 1983.

During the early 1980s, the Society came into its stride with business as usual. In 1983, the membership elected to hold its meeting in Plant City, Florida (keeping with the concept of maintaining a centralized location within the State). The theme for that meeting was PACE (Public Awareness, Communication and Education). The keynote speaker presented an informative presen-

tation on accuracy in the media. Dues were raised from \$5.00 to \$10.00 effective January, 1984. There was much discussion concerning the DNR's attempt to revise permit exemptions.

The 1984 annual meeting was also held in Plant City but it was not the same as in previous years. This was due to the untimely death of Bill Maier, one of the Society's pillars, on August 19, 1984. However, his was not the first death. Harry McGill had passed away on March 29, 1982.

Because of Bill Maier's intense interest in the Society, its members and its workings, a scholarship was established in his name. This fund is used to help promising individuals to complete their education in the field of aquatics. The scholarship fund currently has over \$12,000 based on fund raising activities at the annual meeting. It is interesting to note that the present membership

level is 603 paid members and we have \$24,000 available for use by the Society.

This brief outline of the beginnings of our Society should provide memories for some, enlightenment for others, and pleasure for all. For more details check past issues of this magazine. A sequel covering the past five years may appear in these pages in a not too distant future issue.

The author gratefully acknowledges the work done by the Society's first historian, Dee Brown, in summarizing the events of the early years. I would also like to thank Harold Brown for providing the records of the Society.

¹ Title borrowed from keynote address by Herbert Friedman: The Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc., Savannah, Georgia. July 13, 1987.

FAPMS PRESIDENTS 1976-1989



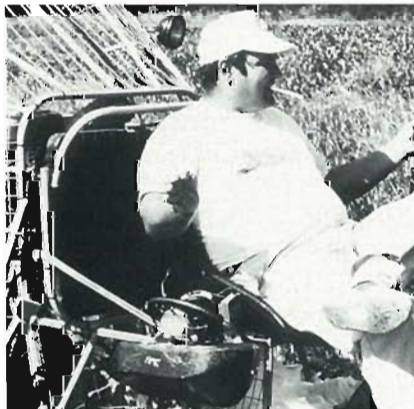
Leslie Bitting was the Society's first President. Photo by Bob Blackburn.



Les held this position through 1978. File photo.



President in 1979, Harold Brown is seen here giving the keynote address at the 1986 FAPMS annual meeting. Photo by Dan Thayer.



William Haller, president in 1980, is at home lecturing from the high-seat in his favorite environment. Photo by Ken Langeland.



Game Commission biologist and 1982 president William Maier with USDA scientist Dick Elliston are seen here spraying torpedograss along L-281 in South Florida. Photo by Gordon Baker.



Enjoying a little Southern hospitality at the APMS meeting held in Savannah. (Left to right) 1984 president Paul Myers, 1985 president Clarke Hudson and 1981 president Joseph Joyce. Photo by Ken Langeland.



Again working with torpedograss, Bill Maier evaluates research plots with "Wild" Bill Haller in Martin County. Photo by David Tarver.

Opposite page, top row: 1986 president David Tarver assists 1988 president Edward Knight with a pellet application at Rodman Reservoir. Michael Mahler, 1987 president, enjoys a little aquatic recreation. Middle photo: President in 1983, Carlton Layne, while conducting a courtesy inspection of the Center for Aquatic Plants, appears to be attempting a magic trick. The trick, it seems, is to convert an outdated material into a new product by simply wrapping a current EPA registration label around the suspect bottle and chanting NO PROBLEM. Bottom photo: Current president William Moore prepares for a long night of hospitality at one of the FAPMS annual meetings.

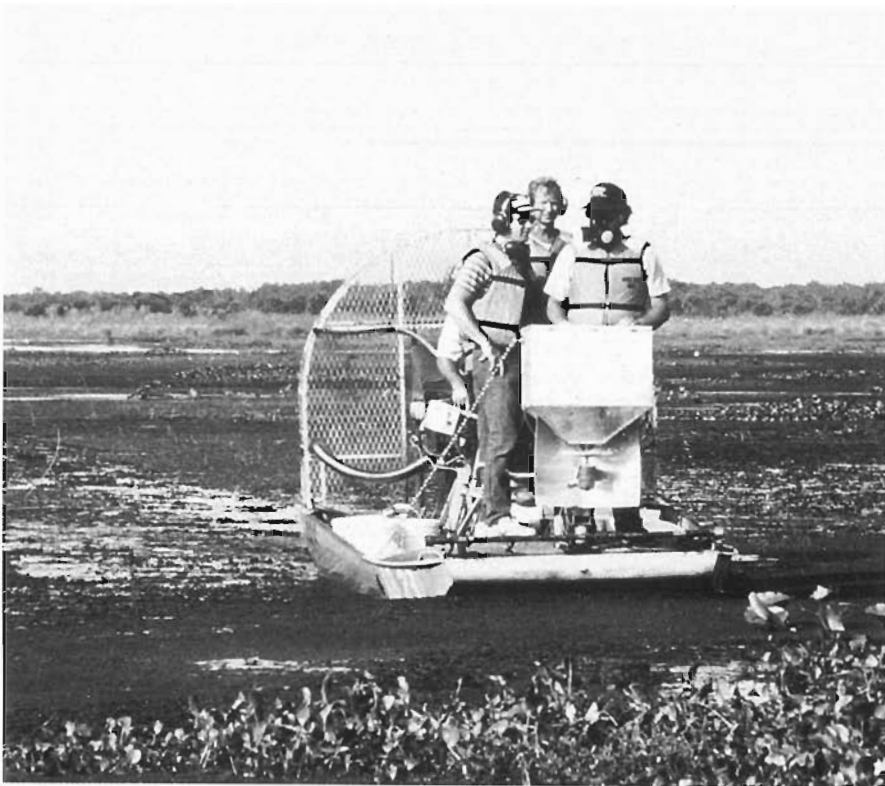


Photo by Mike Dupes.



Photo by David Tarver.



Photo by Ken Langeland.



Photo by Bill Moore.

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Photo by Bill Haller.

Extracurricular activities at the annual FAPMS meetings often include equipment demonstrations and the informal exchange of ideas at the ever popular hospitality suites.



Photo By David Tarver



Photo by Dan Thayer

FAPMS: A GREAT PLACE TO MEET



Every year the FAPMS, along with the other APMS chapters, present updates of local chapter news at the National Society meetings. Photo by Ken Langeland.



The banquet and the presentation of awards are an exciting part of the annual meeting. Photo by Dan Thayer.



Exhibitors display their wares and provide useful information. Photo by Dan Thayer.



Crewhand "Buck" keeps watch while Jim Wilmoth attends the presentations inside. Photo by Dan Thayer.



In September of 1977, a special field day and equipment demonstration was held at the Okee-Tantie Recreation Area on Lake Okeechobee. This was the first attempt at pulling together expertise from around the state to share management problems and solutions, spraying techniques and equipment designs, in an effort to unify this unique discipline. Photos by David Sutton and Clarke Hudson.



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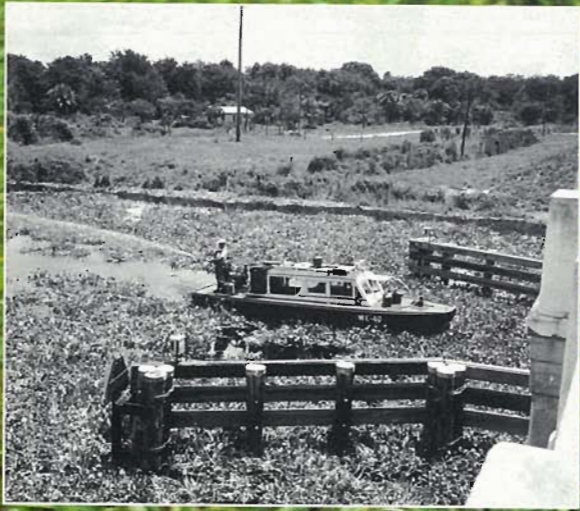
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Corps File Photo.

Soon after its introduction into Florida in the late 1800s, water hyacinth presented a challenge never before encountered in the aquatic environment. Upper left: Corps of Engineers battles water hyacinth in Taylor Creek at the Highway 441 bridge in Okeechobee City in the summer of 1959. Lower right: SFWMD staff literally stand on a floating mat of water hyacinth as they dislodge a jam in Arbuckle Creek at the SAL bridge in Highlands County.

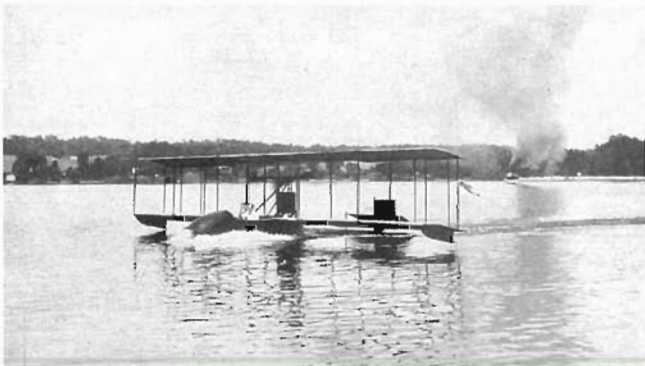


Photo by Dan Thayer.



Gordon Baker File Photo.

FAPMS: AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



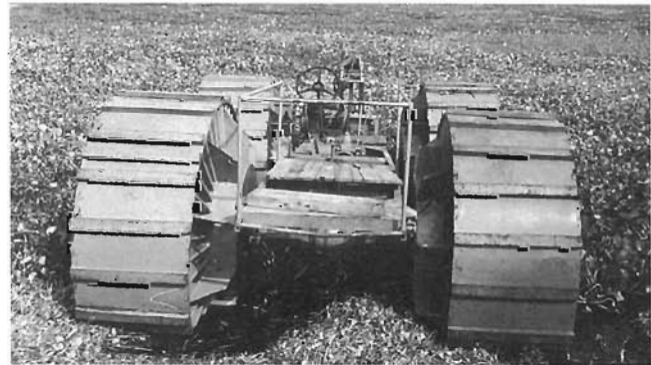
Picture post card of an early "airboat" from an exposition fair at Conneaut Lake, PA. The post card was sent to C.O. Thayer and was postmarked August 13, 1914. Lawrence Thayer File Photo.



Flood waters, such as this October, 1956 picture of downtown Kissimmee, remind us of how important water management is in Florida. Tom Brooks File Photo.



The creation of the "Drum Machine" was an early attempt at navigation through dense water hyacinth mats. Tom Brooks File Photo.



The "Drum Machine" was made from a Dodge chassis with the wheels replaced by telephone cable drums and 2x4s nailed on for traction. Tom Brooks File Photo.



Early water hyacinth control operation spraying sodium arsenite before Tyvek suits were popular. Mike Mahler File Photo.



Early water hyacinth control operation utilizing airboats before cages were popular. Mike Mahler File Photo.



Hydrilla application, circa 1960, using a truck to pull the boat while a spray boom is held under the water for deep injection. Photo by Bob Blackburn.



Spraying water hyacinth in Lake Okeechobee around the Eagle Bay area in October of 1960. Gordon Baker File Photo.



A stationary harvester tested by the DNR for river systems, where plants physically move to the harvester rather than the harvester moving to the plants. The operation was later abandoned. Photo by Clarke Hudson.



During the fuel shortages of the early 1970s, dual boat-carrying trailers were designed like this one at the Kissimmee Field Station of the SFWMD to conserve energy. Tom Brooks File Photo.

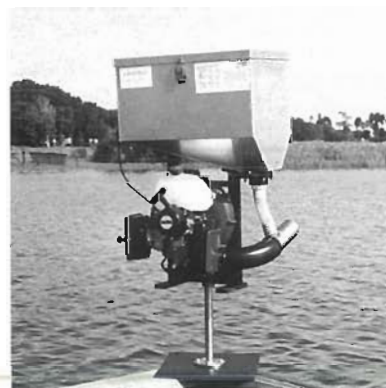


Manatees, like this one being lowered into the C-9 canal in Miami, were early attempts at biological control. File Photo.

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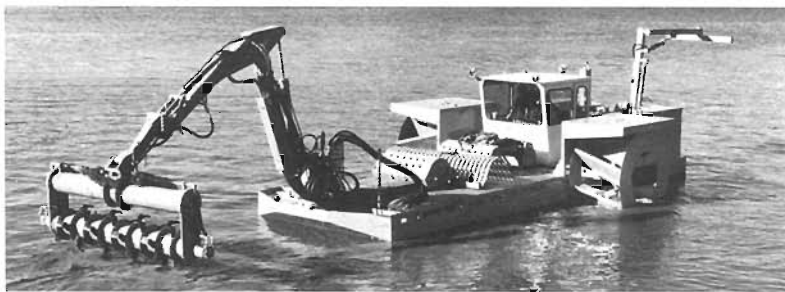
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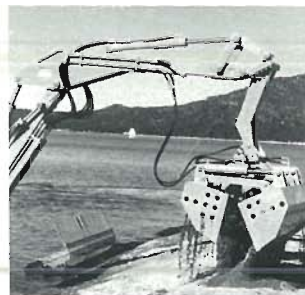
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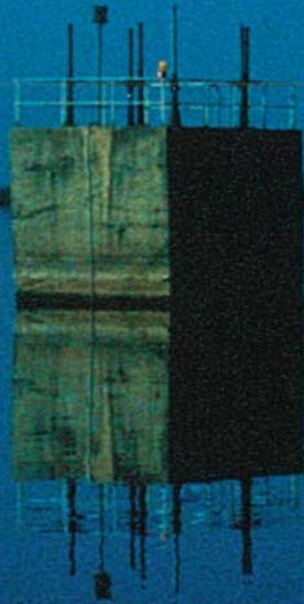


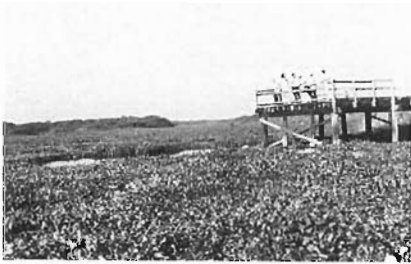
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Florida waters provide recreational value (aerial of EPCOT), as well as wildlife habitat (nesting osprey).

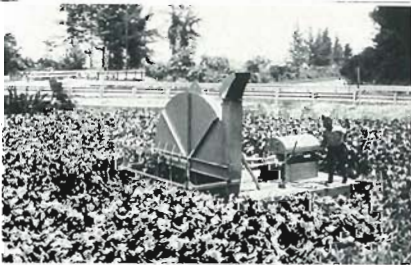
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*Upper St. Johns River, 1977.
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Water hyacinth clogging irrigation pump intake. File Photo.



Hyballer. File Photo.



"Cookie cutter." Photo by Dan Thayer.



*DNR harvester on the St. Johns River.
Photo by Bill Haller.*



Mechanical devices come....and mechanical devices go.. File Photo.



*APM, Lee County style.
Photo by Don Doggett.*



*Harvested boat trail in Orange Lake, 1978.
Photo by Bill Haller.*



*John Kelso mixing the morning load.
Photo by Bill Moore.*



Canal in South Florida left untreated for one year, 1982. Photos by Dan Thayer.



*"Tanking-up" for the Miami Canal, 1980.
Photo by Gordon Baker.*



*Lake Hellen Blazes on the St. Johns River,
1987. Photo by David Girardin.*



*Research assistance from Vic Ramey. Photo
by Dan Thayer.*



*Water hyacinth backed up at the Franklin
Locks. Photo by Don Doggett.*

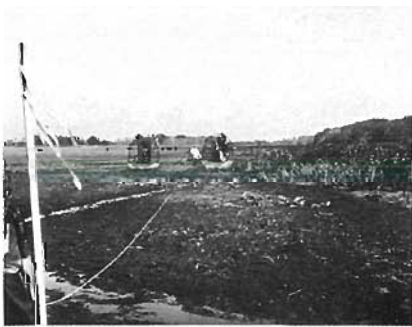




Who's Bad, We's Bad. Photo by Bill Haller.



Routine maintenance at the Moss Bluff lock on the Oklawaha River. Spray crews often do more than plant management. Photo by David Girardin.



Haller and the gang marking drawdown plots on Lake Tohopekaliga. Photo by Dan Thayer.



Cape Coral Canal network. Photo by Don Doggett.



Aerial view of the Withlacooche River back waters. Photo by Nancy Allen.



Wayne Corbin skids over airboat ramp used for passing over river dam. Photo by David Girardin.



Lochloosa, 1983
Photo by Wayne Corbin



Haller and the gang spraying drawdown plots on Rodman Reservoir as the sun cracks the horizon. Photo by Dan Thayer (with Bill Haller's camera.)



"Aqua-screen" test at Rodman Reservoir. Photo by Bill Haller.



Aerial of conservation areas and Ft. Lauderdale. Photo by Gorodn Baker.



St. Johns River WMD pushboat is used for water hyacinth jams and floating islands. Photo by David Girardin.

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Photo by Dan Guravich.



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Clockwise, starting from top left: Since the inception of the triploid grass carp permitting program in 1984, applications to the Game Commission for herbivorous fish stocking have been significant. It is estimated that more than 2500 permits have been issued to date. As the fog lifts and the sun rises over Orange Lake, the crews prepare for a day's work. Although many researchers have studied the subject, to date there are still no products produced economically from harvested aquatic plants. However, fisherman have been known to pick through harvested plants for the ample supply of fishing baits. Waterspouts are only one of Mother Nature's many hazards when working the the "great outdoors."



Photo by John Fernandes.



Photo by Jim Kelley.



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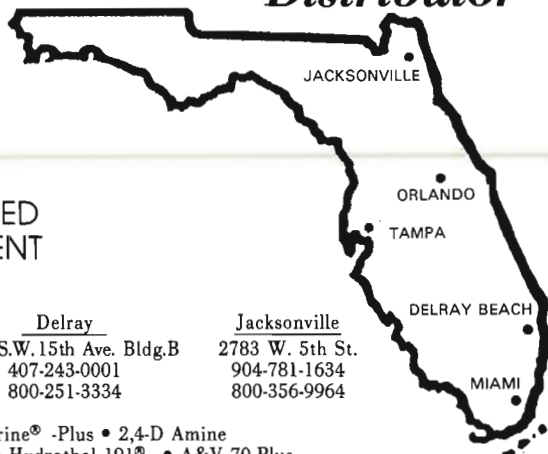
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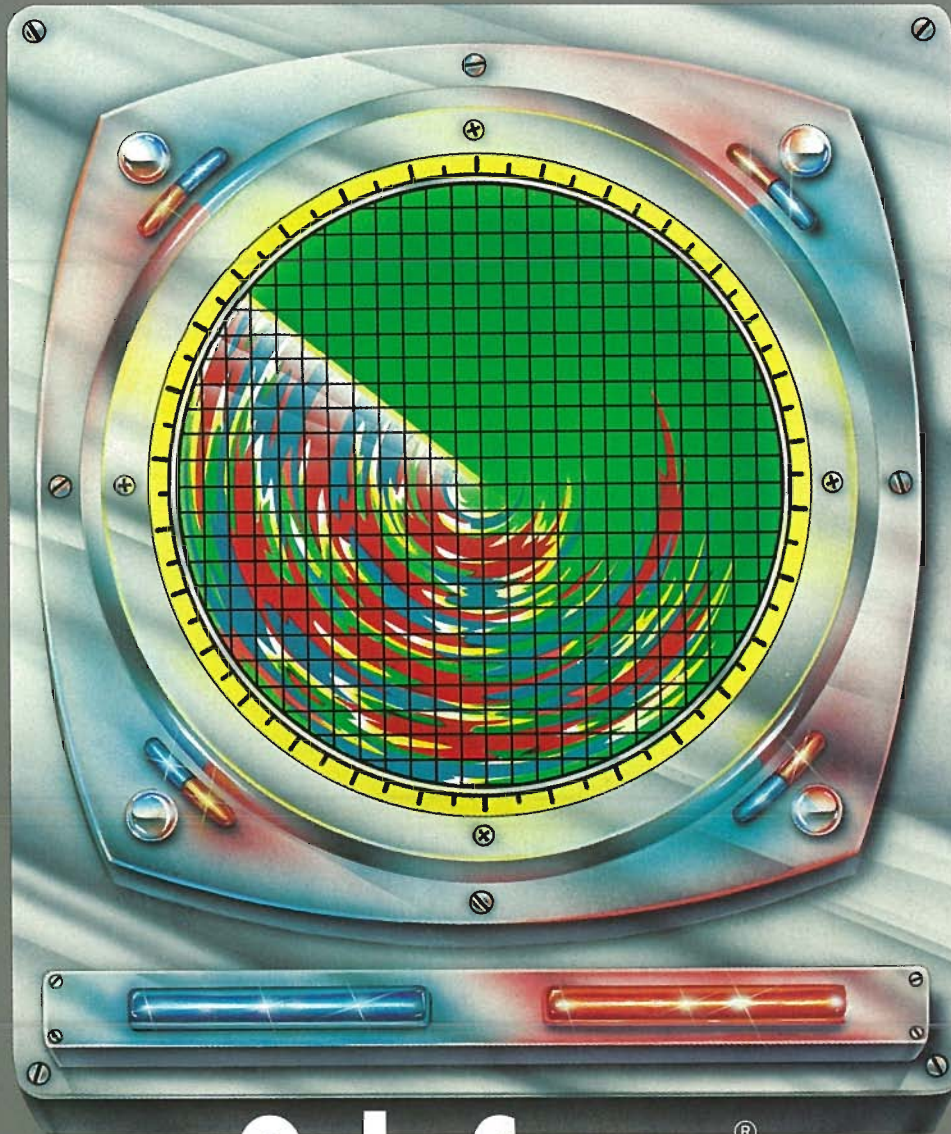
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Subject Index 1979 –1988

By
Jean Haller
and
Bill Haller
FAPMS Historical Committee
Gainesville, Florida

Aquatics has been published four times a year in March, June, September and December since the first issue in March 1979. The following index covers the first 40 issues of Aquatics. The code following the subject or authors name refers to the month and year of publication, i.e. M-81 means the article appeared in the March 1981 issue. We look forward to again indexing the next 10 volumes in 1998.

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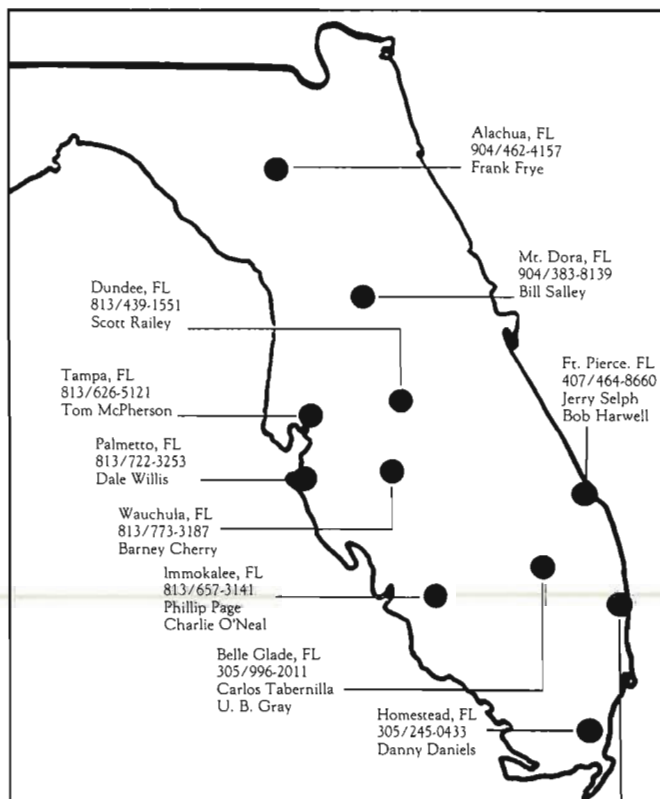
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