Session 8: Eelgrass and product updates

8:05-8:55 **Chad Keates**: Genetics of eelgrass and other aquatic plants
University of Florida
chadkeates@ufl.edu

Native eelgrass is one of Florida's most beautiful and important aquatic plants. While the native eelgrass is an important component of our local aquatic ecosystems, non-native species and their hybrids (*V. spiralis* × *V. denseserrulata*) have the potential to do harm to these ecosystems, so it is important that we identify these plants and remove them. Unfortunately, native and non-native eelgrass are virtually impossible to tell apart with the naked eye. In this talk Dr. Keates will discuss how the FWC-sponsored Eelgrass Genetics Lab at the University of Florida is using genetics to identify these non-natives and how attendees can help us root out non-native eelgrass plants in Florida. Dr. Keates will also discuss using genetic tools to identify other aquatic species.

8:55-9:20 **Lyn Gettys**: Eelgrass research to support FWC's Richloam mass rearing facility
University of Florida
lgettys@ufl.edu

The FWC is in the process of converting the Richloam Bass Conservation Center in Webster, Florida, into an integrated modified hydroponic system to produce eelgrass for field planting and restoration projects. In this presentation Dr. Gettys will outline some of the experiments under way to support FWC's efforts to grow native plants with fish effluent and to optimize this novel system.

9:20-9:30 **James Boggs**: Platinum sponsor update: Helena

9:30-9:40 **Bush Heathman:** Platinum sponsor update: Phoslock

9:40-9:45 **Greg Wagner**: Gold sponsor update: Oase Professional

Session 9: Pondweed and product updates

10:15-10:25 **Lyn Gettys**: APMS update
University of Florida/President of APMS
lgettys@ufl.edu

The Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) is the national organization for aquatic resource managers in the US; FAPMS is a regional chapter of APMS. Dr. Gettys, APMS president, will update attendees with the latest information from APMS, including how the society is working to keep the tools in resource managers' toolboxes.

10:25-10:35 **Carlton Layne:** AERF update

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation
layn1111@bellsouth.net

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF) is a national organization that supports and advocates for aquatic resource managers in the US. Carlton Layne, AERF Executive Director, will update attendees with the latest information from AERF, including how the foundation is working to educate national and state regulators about the importance of aquatic resource management.

10:35-10:45 **Stephanie Walters:** Platinum sponsor update: Nutrien

10:45-10:50 **Conrad Oberweger:** Gold sponsor update: AVC

10:50-10:55 **Dharmen Setaram:** Gold sponsor update: Heritage

10:50-11:05 **Lyn Gettys**: Pondweed: Overview, goals and propagation research
University of Florida
lgettys@ufl.edu

Pondweed (*Potamogeton illinoensis*) is an important native submersed plant that provides a number of valuable ecosystem services, including habitat, food, substrate stabilization, and a diverse underwater architecture. This presentation will provide attendees with a broad overview of a large, multi-year project conducted by the Gettys lab with FWC AHRES funding. Dr. Gettys will discuss the overarching goals of the project and will describe the results of vegetative and seed-based propagation experiments that were designed to enhance field restoration and enhancement projects that utilize pondweed.

11:05-11:30 **Jennifer Bishop**: Common nursery and reciprocal plantings
University of Florida
jenniferbishop@ufl.edu

This presentation will focus on pondweed common nursery and reciprocal planting experiments conducted in the greenhouse with three primary goals. These are: 1) identifying more vigorous ecotypes of pondweed that may be useful in restoration plantings; 2) determining whether certain ecotypes are more broadly adapted and tolerant of a wide range of substrate conditions; and 3) evaluating how ecotypes from specific lakes grow in substrates collected from “non-host” lakes (i.e., lakes different from the ones where they were initially collected).

11:30-11:55 **Lyn Gettys**: Field planting experiments
University of Florida
lgettys@ufl.edu

This presentation will outline field experiments that evaluated the growth and establishment of two pondweed ecotypes (Okeechobee and Tarpon) as three propagule types (clumps, peat pots, and loose cuttings) planted in three spacings (1’, 2’ and 3’ centers) over three seasons (fall, spring, and summer). These experiments were originally planned to occur over two years but were instead performed at two lakes (Rosalie and Walk-in-Water) in a single year, with monitoring occurring for 12 months after initial plantings.