



Spring 2025

www.mapms.org

From the desk of the President: Peter Filpansick

Dear MAPMS Members,

What a fantastic week we shared in Chicago at the 45th Annual MAPMS Conference! The theme of “Coordination” resonated throughout the conference and I'm still buzzing with the energy and enthusiasm that filled The Palmer House. The conference reaffirmed the vital role that MAPMS plays in advancing the field of aquatic plant management and protecting our precious freshwater resources. We were fortunate to kick off the conference with a keynote from two-time MAPMS Past President, Dick Pinagel. His inspiring message to educate, coordinate, and operate ethically highlighted the importance of community and collaboration in our industry. At the banquet, Dick received the Joe Bondra Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his decades-long service and leadership within the society and the aquatics industry.

MAPMS is a society built on shared knowledge and mutual support, and the conference provided a perfect platform for strengthening those bonds. We heard from experts on a range of topics, including cutting-edge research findings, innovative management strategies, and vital industry updates. The student presentations were particularly impressive, showcasing the bright future of aquatic plant management. It was great to see so many familiar faces and to welcome new members into our society, and a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this event such a resounding success. Thank you to all attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, presenters, and the MAPMS Board of Directors.

Looking ahead, I am incredibly excited about the future of MAPMS. We will continue to build on the momentum of this successful conference, and the board is already planning exciting initiatives for the coming year. Early plans include increasing member engagement, improving sponsor recognition, expanding fundraising activities, and fostering greater coordination throughout the society and its board. I encourage every member to increase their participation in the society, its committees, and its outreach. Volunteering your time, skills, and effort are essential to our continued growth and success.

Thank you again to everyone who made the 45th Annual MAPMS Conference such a memorable and impactful event. Your dedication to the society and the industry is truly inspiring. I am already looking forward to seeing everyone again at next year's conference in Indianapolis!

Have a great summer on the water,
Pete Filpansick
MAPMS President

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Local Arrangements Committee: Cory Richmond

How about that Palmer House!?! What a beautiful hotel and conference center. While parking and hotel navigation may have been a pain, it was made up for 10-fold in the beauty and history of that gorgeous building. I hope you enjoyed the venue as much as I did.

From the 2nd largest city in the Midwest in 2024 (Columbus) to the largest in 2025 (Chicago) to the third in 2026. That’s right, we are headed to the “Crossroads of America”, Indianapolis. Please join us February 9-12 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis for the best lake and pond meeting in the world (yeah, I said it!).

Although the Hyatt Regency may not have the laundry list of historical events like the 2025 MAPMS venue, The Palmer House of Chicago, the city of Indianapolis does. My favorite piece of history and one that I feel is pertinent to the current sociological climate is the Robert F Kennedy (RFK) speech delivered at the current location of Dr Martin Luther King Jr Park. This speech was delivered hours after the assassination of Dr Martin Luther King Jr (MLK) on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN. RFK spoke with compassion and a desire for unity of our nation at a very tumultuous time. If you can find 6 minutes, I strongly recommend giving it a listen.

Important information regarding hotel reservations, parking, local transportation and entertainment will be published in the fall newsletter. Until then, I hope you all have an excellent busy season and I look forward to seeing you all again next February.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact me at cory.r@kascomarine.com.

Mark your calendars! 46th Annual MAPMS Conference and Banquet

February 9-12, 2026.

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Indianapolis, IN.



A Big Thanks To Our 2025 Conference Sponsors!

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The Northern Lakes Manager is sponsored by the following organizations



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Eric Schutman



Jacob Meganck



TJ McCloud



Cory Richmond



Debbie Haste



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Guy Savin

MAPMS would also like to thank our Sustaining Member Sponsors

The Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society is mainly comprised of small businesses and we recognize that these entities are a very important part of the aquatics industry. Sustaining memberships are opportunities for small companies and their key employees to provide donations to the MAPMS general fund. For a donation of \$200 contributors will receive special recognition in the MAPMS newsletter, conference program, MAPMS banquet and on our website at mapms.org/membership/sustaining-members

Sponsor Name	Corporate Affiliation
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Student Affairs Committee Chair: Dr. Ryan Wersal

Student involvement is critical to fulfilling the mission and vision of MAPMS. Four students registered for the 2025 conference, all of whom presented their research. The following students were awarded for contributing their presentations at the conference:

First Place (\$300) Delaney Davenport, North Carolina State University, Response of Vallisneria taxa to combination herbicide treatment.

Second Place (\$200) Maxwell Gebhart, Mississippi State University, Herbicide efficacy on invasive Vallisneria x Pseudorasulata and Vallisneria spiralis.

Third Place (\$100) Kara Foley, North Carolina State University, Evaluation of herbicide efficacy on Hottonia palustris (Water Violet).

The Robert L. Johnson Memorial Research Grant is the primary mechanism through which MAPMS supports graduate student research. It was our pleasure to welcome the 2024 grant recipient, Maxwell Gebhart, to the conference where he updated the society on his research on invasive Vallisneria species. **There were two applications** for the **2025 Robert L. Johnson Memorial Research Grant** and **we are honored to share this year's grant equally with:**

Corrina Vuillequez, University of Florida, Dr. Benjamin Sperry, Evaluation of novel herbicide application techniques for control of Crested Floating Heart

Anna Agi, North Carolina State University, Dr. Rob Richardson, Curly-leaf Pondweed (Potamogeton crispus L.): Effect of mechanical harvesting on turion production and potential nutrient release at senescence

Each winner will receive \$5,000 to help fund their research. Please join us in congratulating Corrina and Anna, both of whom will be invited to present at the 2026 conference in Indianapolis; we hope you will attend to learn more from their research findings.

Lastly, the Student Affairs Committee would like to thank Ashley Wolfe, Montana State University, for serving as the Student Representative to the MAPMS Board of Directors over the past two years. Ashley provided invaluable input to the board and acted as a liaison to other students. Please join us in welcoming Delaney Davenport as the Student Representative for the 2025-26 cycle. Delaney volunteered for the role and was approved with the board's unanimous vote at the post-conference board meeting. We look forward to Delaney's input and guidance for growing grow student involvement in the Society. Welcome, Delaney!

Congratulations to all of our 2025 MAPMS Student Presentation and Robert L. Johnson Memorial Research Grant Winners! Your contributions to our conference and Society are greatly appreciated. Pictured from left to right:



If you would like to make an additional contribution to the Robert L. Johnson Memorial Research Grant scan the QR code below!



Editorial Update: Jacob Meganck

With Leif Willey being elected to VP at this year's conference, the board needed to select a new editor to appoint and finish out the current term, and I was selected. I am no stranger to the position as I have helped with the Editorial committee in the past. A lot has changed, but Leif has put together a wonderful Operations Manual to aid people in adjusting to the Editor position. Leif, Thank you for that as it will aid I and others as we continue our work within MAPMS. Post conference updates to the website are completed, but there will be some ongoing updates, so please continue to check in often. One addition I have already made is the addition of a QR code for donations to the Robert L. Johnson Research Grant. This will enable easier donations should you feel generous throughout the year, or simply know of someone that would like to support our cause.

Additionally the member directory has been updated, and with that, the password has changed as well. Please check the bottom of this page for the new password to access the member directory.

As we transition out of the conference season, the admin@mapms.org email address will continue to be monitored for communications and we need your help in keeping track of bugs within our website. Please report any issues you come across to the above email address so we can address them quickly.

Editorial Committee Chair- Jacob Meganck

News From the Government Affairs Committee: Eddie Heath

At the 2025 Conference in Chicago, IL, eight states had agency representation, with four states having in-person participation. The joint Student & Government Affairs Luncheon was a success, with excellent food and dialogue had by all. We appreciate AERF's presence and support for this great opportunity.

The conference program featured presentations from agency and non-profit organizations, relaying important industry updates and potential policy changes facing our constituents. Many took advantage of the Continuing Certification Hours (CCH) program, which were available for five states in our region. The Government Affairs Committee would like to thank outgoing Committee Chair Jason Euchner (Iowa DNR) for his efforts these past years. It was an asset for MAPMS to have an agency perspective in this position.

With forthcoming regulatory changes proposed for Wisconsin, I have accepted the challenge of chairing the Government Affairs Committee for the coming year. The WI DNR is currently seeking a rule revision for the administrative codes that regulate herbicide treatment (NR107) and mechanical harvesting (NR 109). The goal is to consolidate these two rules into a single administrative code that establishes consistency and incorporates the latest scientific guidance to these programs. The Government Affairs Committee intends to track this process, providing updates to the membership, and offering feedback to the WI DNR when applicable.

The Government Affairs Committee will continue to track regulatory shifts in all Midwest states and at the federal level. We encourage the membership to provide information and perspective to this committee using the government affairs email address.

We can be reached at governmentaffairs@mapms.org if you have any questions or concerns about regulatory actions or become aware of new regulatory activity within our region.

MAPMS Website Membership Directory Information Updated

The MAPMS Member Directory is an exclusive service for MAPMS members. By entering the provided password and clicking "I Agree" in the Directory webpage, you agree that you have read and understand the Terms of Use below (also published on the website page).

Please note: there may be times that current members do not show up in the Member Directory search results based on their privacy settings.

By selecting "I Agree" on the MAPMS Directory entry page, you have entered into an agreement with MAPMS that your use of the Member Directory is for your personal use and professional development within the Aquatic Industry. You further agree that the results from the searches you perform will not be redistributed, used for research, transferred to magnetic media or otherwise duplicated. You also agree not to use the information contained in this database to conduct any solicitation of sales of merchandise or services or to otherwise promote your business or that of your clients.

Furthermore, your selection of "I Agree" indicates that you understand that the material contained in this database can be recognized as a trade secret, owned by the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society. Unauthorized use of the material contained in this database is prohibited and can subject you to damages plus attorney's fees under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act and Indiana IC 23-17.

Current Password: Coordination_25

Publicity Committee: Paul Conti

The Publicity Committee is working to expand our outreach via social media and to grow our engagement with students, universities, and government agencies. We hope to inspire and support more students and universities to join the society as they are the future of our industry and organization. The presence of government agencies is critical for our success as we look to bring all corners of the industry together to learn and collaborate with each other. Please be sure to follow and engage with MWPAMS on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to learn more.

We encourage you to come out and participate in the many other local societies that support our industry. MAPMS plans to have a booth at Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS), Ohio Aquatic Lake Management Society (OALMS), Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, National Aquatic Plants Management Society, and more.

If there are other conferences and meetings for MAPMS to attend, and if you have ideas for social media posts and public outreach please contact Paul.Conti@Alligare.com

Submitted on behalf of the Publicity Committee – Paul Conti

Silent Auction & Raffle Committee: Jake Britton

On behalf of the MAPMS Board of Directors I would like to say THANK YOU to everyone for your support of the Silent Auction and Raffle at the 2025 annual conference in Chicago. Whether you bid on a silent auction item, bought a card for the cooler giveaway or purchased box raffle tickets, your support is critical to supporting the Robert L. Johnson Memorial Research Grant. This grant is awarded annually, up to \$10,000, to university students actively involved in the research and management of aquatic plants or algae. Many of the past winners of the grant are still actively involved with our industry and MAPMS today.

Through your generosity, MAPMS raised over \$9500 this year. Each year, the goal is to raise enough money through the Silent Auction and Raffle efforts to offset the cost of the research grant. The Silent Auction and Raffle has been a longtime staple of our annual awards banquet as we conclude the conference. I would like to thank Kasco, Biobase and Aquatic Control for donating items for the Box Raffle this year, your support and generosity is very much appreciated!

If you have any ideas, thoughts or suggestions on how we can improve our fundraising efforts for the Robert L. Johnson Memorial Research Grant, please share them with me or another MAPMS Board Member.

Thank you for your support!

Submitted on behalf of the Silent Auction & Raffle Committee – Jake Britton

Exhibits Committee: Cory Richmond

How lucky are we to work in an industry where manufacturers, suppliers, consultants and representatives come together to provide knowledge, ideas, solutions and friendship to their constituents? I offer the sincerest gratitude to our 2025 exhibitors and invite all of you back to MAPMS 2026 in Indianapolis next February. A special thank you and congratulations to Jeffrey Randall of Agro Shield for being awarded the Exhibitor Excellence award. This award is given to the exhibitor that not only represents their company well with an impressive booth but also by engaging with visitors and clearly explaining their service or products and the differences it can make within their organization.

Exhibitor attendance was slightly down in 2025: 31 in 2024 to 29 in 2025. As a result, the MAPMS board of directors is asking that you please reach out to any of your business partners in an attempt to increase exhibitor attendance in 2026 in Indianapolis. (Think BIG! Invite vehicle, equipment, boat and sprayer manufacturers, etc.)

Lastly, I will be handing the reigns of the exhibits committee to Tim Holt of Aquatic Control for 2026. Tim is very capable and I am confident he will do a great job filling this role. Please don't hesitate to contact he or I with any questions.: cory.r@kascomarine.com timh@aquaticcontrol.com.

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Membership Committee: Michael Hiatt

On behalf of the Membership Committee and the entire Board of Directors, thank you for your participation at our 45th Annual Conference in Chicago. Your engagement and enthusiasm made this year's event a success.

As we reflect on this milestone gathering, we recognize that it is your continued support—whether as speakers, attendees, sponsors, or exhibitors—that makes our conference a valuable and enriching experience for all. The exchange of ideas, meaningful discussions, and professional connections formed during this event reinforce the strength of the MAPMS community and our shared commitment to growth and innovation.

We also want to express our appreciation for your participation in the Annual Membership Meeting and the in-person survey. Please look for the post-conference electronic survey in your email inbox in the coming weeks. We welcome your feedback as we look to continue providing value to all members.

Please feel free to reach with any questions or comments to Committee Chair, Michael Hiatt: michaelh@sepro.com.

Sponsorship Committee: Landon Wiet

On behalf of the Sponsorship Committee, Board of Directors, and membership, I would like to thank our generous sponsors who continue to provide support for the society. Although the conference is over, your support is appreciated and felt throughout the year. Our sponsors make the conference possible and help us reach the long term goals of the society. The sponsorship committee remains dedicated to finding ways to add more value to our sponsors and will be working throughout 2025 towards that goal. Sponsorship contributions are paramount to the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society's success, and we encourage anyone interested in sponsorship opportunities to reach out to us. Please feel free to contact Landon Wiet (landon.w@naturallake.com) or anyone else on the Sponsorship Committee with any inquiries or ideas. We look forward to building a more impactful future together.

Get Involved With MAPMS!

The Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for positions on the 2026-27 Board of Directors.

If you would like to be a part of our Societies leadership please contact the committee chair:

Nominating Committee Chair: Landon Wiet
landon.w@naturallake.com



New BOD Introductions!



Gregg Zink

Gregg Zink is the Vice President of ILM Environments, a leading ecological management company based in the northern suburbs of Chicago. With a degree in Field Ecology from the University of Wisconsin, Gregg has dedicated his career to advancing sustainable water and land management practices.

Since joining ILM in 1997, he has taken on numerous roles across all aspects of the business, most recently becoming a fully licensed spray drone operator. His expertise extends beyond ILM through his service on the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society (MAPMS) Board from 2011 to 2015. Additionally, he is an active member of the Illinois Invasive Species Council and the Illinois Hydrilla Task Force, where he contributes to the protection and restoration of regional ecosystems.

Gregg is also committed to environmental education, training citizen scientists through the Illinois RiverWatch program to assess stream health and promote community-based conservation efforts.

In his spare time Gregg enjoys spending time with his wife, two kids, two dogs, bass fishing, seeing live music, and playing guitar.

Gregg looks forward to bring a unique perspective to MAPMS to help further advance the Society for its members.

Paul Conti

I'm excited to serve on the board here at MAPMS and contribute to and grow an industry that I genuinely passionate about. As a lifelong fisherman, my curiosity in the industry began at a young age. That curiosity and love for the water led to my decision to focus my studies on Biology and Environmental Science at Mount St. Mary's and Drexel Universities. From there I begin working in the private management sector managing ponds, lakes, and wetlands across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. After nearly 9 years working in various roles in the private management sector, I moved to my current role at Alligare where I now supply and consult distributors and applicators with herbicides and algaecides needed to manage our aquatic systems. As a Board of Directors for the Northeast APMS I hope to bring ideas and new perspectives that could lend to this society. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time in the outdoors with my family and friends and am an avid fisherman, surfer, and skier.



Jacob Meganck

I started my journey in Aquatics 20 years ago this May. I fell into the industry upon the recommendation of Dr. Doug Pullman. At the time I was the Garden Specialist at Home Depot working my way through college for a BS in Biology with a focus on Microbiology. With Doug's recommendation I applied for and worked for a national distributor, and then ultimately at UPL for the last 14 years. However, I had interest in aquatics long before that, as I had performed science fair experiments on how oil spills affect aquatic life in science fairs, and in college was working on bacteria that could biodegrade gasoline in an effort to maybe help with oil spills in aquatic environments. I first became involved at MAPMS in 2005, ultimately joining the board for the first time in 2011, and becoming President in 2016. I have looked forward to re-joining the board as the Editor this time around and hope that I can make an impact once again in this different position. Reach out at admin@mapms.org if you would like, feedback is important!



Tim Holt was born and raised in Bremerton, Washington that is located on the Puget Sound near Seattle. Throughout his youth, he spent many hours swimming, water skiing, and fishing that deeply rooted his passion for water resources and guided him to seek a career in lake and pond management. Upon graduating from Indiana University in 2016, Tim sought a position at Aquatic Control providing lake management services throughout the Midwest. He started his career as an entry level Biologist in Seymour, IN, after 2 years in this position he was promoted to office manager and opened Aquatic Control's Illinois branch in 2019. In 2023 he moved on to a new role as Regional Manager working in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri. He has specialized in controlling aquatic vegetation, fountains and aeration systems, nutrient mitigation treatments, and fisheries management. He is honored and excited to join the MAPMS Board of Directors and hopes to increase our membership numbers, find new universities to connect with, continue to bring in quality students presentations, and to bring new vendors to exhibit at our annual conference. During his off time he enjoys playing the drums, remodeling his house with his wife Emily, and hiking with their two dogs Ranger and Flint Eastwood.





Student Representative Delaney Davenport is a Graduate Research Assistant at North Carolina State University, pursuing a Master's Degree under the direction of Dr. Rob Richardson. She is co-majoring in Crop Science and Fisheries, Wildlife Sciences, and Conservation Biology. Her research focuses on the ecology, competitiveness, and response to chemical control of several *Vallisneria* taxa. The results of this work aim to guide the management of these newly discovered species, and aid future research.



2025-26 Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society Board of Directors



Left to Right: Pictured above (left to right): Brian Isaacs, Jake Britton, Cory Richmond, Leif Willey, Casey Thompson, Tim Holt, Paul Conti, Pete Filpansick, Steve Zulinski, Landon Wiet. Not pictured due to post-con appointment Gregg Zink, and Jacob Meganck, Delaney Davenport

MAPMS Website Featured Photo Contest

MAPMS Editorial Committee wants your help to keep our website looking new with your photos! Submit your high resolution photos from the field to admin@mapms.org and each month the committee will select submissions to be featured images within the website. If your photo is selected, you will receive credit by name on the page. We encourage photos of any aquatic scene to be submitted, however some rules and restrictions do apply.

1. All photos must be original. No copied images will be accepted
2. All photos must be in landscape orientation and at the highest resolution possible
3. Photos must not contain company logos or names
4. Photos must be of aquatic scene, but may include people or equipment
5. If people other than yourself are in the photo, please be sure to obtain permission from them prior to submission
6. If picture is from private property, you must obtain permission from the landowner prior to submission
7. By submitting a photo you agree that you have permission to submit the image and to have it potentially used as a featured image on the website in exchange for name credit on the page of use

Thank you to Paul Hausler and Progressive AE for photo submissions for last year!

