



THE NORTHERN LAKES MANAGER

SPRING 2021

WWW.MAPMS.ORG

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT: MATTHEW JOHNSON

I would like to begin by thanking the MAPMS membership for the honor to serve as the newly elected president of this highly respected society. My thoughts, prayers, and continued support go out to all that were impacted by COVID 19. 2020 is a year that we will not soon forget, but it does seem that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Focusing on the positive accomplishments will get us through each day. Our industry remained strong and essential in protecting and improving the freshwater resources throughout the greater Midwest region. Most of our membership that I have been in touch with have shared that while challenging, they remain positive about the outlook of our industry and ultimately have become stronger organizations as a result.

While we did not have our normal conference in 2021, we did have a successful virtual business meeting in February. On behalf of the board of directors, thank you for your attendance! Our membership and sponsorships are solid, which is reflective of the dedicated members and organizations that make up MAPMS. Between negotiating an amended contract for meeting in Grand Rapids in 2023 and the generous donations we have received, our society continues to maintain strength financially, preparing us well for our future. We continue to focus on the business of the society, how we can continue to work on fulfillment of our Mission while actively pursuing several initiatives to continue advancing outreach and education of what benefits result from science based APM activities. My fellow board members are very passionate about our society and we had a great response from membership to join committees in 2021. We are all volunteers on the board and feel that we are here to serve the society. Please share ideas, news, success stories, challenges, and ultimately get involved to make MAPMS even better. I encourage all membership to focus in on the reports and efforts from each of our committees not only in this newsletter, but also over the next year.

During my first term as president of the society, it was 2013 and NPDES was a new challenge our industry was facing. NPDES Pesticide General Permits, Waters of the United States, and Endangered Species Effects continue to be topics we discuss often in our industry. Historically, our general message has been focused on our ability to efficiently manage invasive aquatic plants to prevent spread of exotics, protect natural habitat and property values, and stewardship of our freshwater resources. As some have added harmful algal bloom (HAB) monitoring and management to their focus, wildlife and human health impacts from these blooms can be added to the conversation. Protection of drinking water, refining industrial water outflow, improving native plant diversity, and mitigating nutrient pollution continues to drive our industry forward. While our industry has remained focused on addressing these evolving issues, the conversation has changed. It is more important than ever to have a very strong understanding of what we do. The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF) is a long-standing sponsor and supporter of MAPMS. They should also be a part of your toolbox. If you are not aware, the 4th edition of the Best Management Practices (BMP) manual is available on their website. This BMP covers most aspects of aquatic plant management. I would strongly suggest that all members download a copy or bookmark this for reference. I challenge you to use this resource in future discussions around APM activities that you face in the upcoming season. If you find something that is not covered in this manual, I am confident that the team of scientists involved in the document will be more than happy to consider it in the future. I'll leave you with this, no matter your feelings around pesticides, most in our industry utilize them as part of their management toolbox. The term itself can be enough to create anxiety in the world today. Do yourself a favor and accept my challenge, if you can't take the time to read the entire BMP, at least focus in on this one section to better educate, explain, and help aid a better understanding of the history and development facts around one tool that we use. [Click here to download the referenced section of AERF's BMP manual](#). After you review this, take a look at the table of contents, I bet you will find at least one more section that would be worth your investment of time.

Thank you again for your support to MAPMS! You are among the top professionals in the industry, and I commend you for continuing to grow personally and professionally by being involved in science-based societies like MAPMS. I wish each of you the most success, best health, and continued happiness until we meet again. We are excited to begin the planning for our 42nd Conference at the beautiful Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin!

Take care and be well!

Matthew Johnson

2021 MAPMS President

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE: DAVE NICHOLSON

Welcome to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin – we are very excited to announce that our 42nd Annual Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference will be held at the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa - Program planning is underway to make 2022 a destination not to be missed!

Highlights of MAPMS 2022: The dates of the conference are February 27-March 3, 2022. Situated on 1,300 acres in the woodlands of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Grand Geneva Resort & Spa offers a variety of adventures one can only experience at this AAA Four Diamond Wisconsin resort. Enjoy the landscape of Wisconsin's rolling hills as the backdrop to your Lake Geneva experience. With two championship golf courses, family-friendly ski hills, and an award-winning spa. Grand Geneva offers guests several of Lake Geneva's best restaurants & fine dining options: Geneva ChopHouse®, Ristorante Brissago®, and the Grand Café. For the happy hour special seekers, guest can enjoy Links Bar & Grill and Leinenkugel's Mountain Top Lodge. Visit www.grandgenevaresort.com for more information.

The preferred airport for Grand Geneva Resort & Spa is General Mitchell Intl. Airport (MKE). The airport is conveniently located when visiting this Lake Geneva hotel. The Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) is another option with similar proximity to Resort while offering several traveling options.

As we all continue to monitor Covid-19 and constant change with this Pandemic, be assured that your Board of Directors are working hard to keep your best interest, safety and health in mind – it is our number one priority. We are very hopeful with the launch of vaccinations, that we will all be reunited in Lake Geneva. There seems to be a very good potential to return to some sort of normalcy and regroup. And with that positive thinking, we look forward to seeing everyone at the 2022 Annual Conference.

If you have any questions or comments regarding local arrangements, please contact Committee Chair, Dave Nicholson, davidn@sepro.com. Thank you for your support!

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR: EDDIE HEATH

Greetings from the Student Affairs Committee,

Student involvement and support is critical to fulfilling the mission and vision of MAPMS. Without an annual conference occurring in 2021, this committee will strive more than ever to increase student attendance at the 2022 annual conference, as well as provide a platform for students to share their research with the MAPMS membership.

The Robert L. Johnson Memorial Research Grant is the primary mechanism through which MAPMS supports graduate student research. This year's \$10,000 grant award was divided equally between two doctoral students: Amber White of the University of Wisconsin and Michael Verhoeven of the University of Minnesota. Amber will be researching the Photodegradation and long-term persistence of fluridone in whole-lake treatments, a compliment endeavor to her research looking at degradation of other chemistries (i.e. 2, 4-D and florypyrauxifen-benzyl). Michael's project will investigate the Re-establishment of native species after invasive species control, a project based in better understanding one of the core invasive plant management principals. We congratulate both students, wish them well in their research activities, and look forward to seeing a research update presented at the 2022 annual conference.

The Student Affairs Committee would like to thank Greg Chorak (Montana State University) for serving as the Student Representative of the MAPMS Board of Directors the past two years. We would also like to welcome Michael Verhoeven, serving as the Student Representative for the next year.

Submitted on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee – Eddie Heath

OUTGOING STUDENT DIRECTOR: GREGORY CHORAK



For the past two years I have served as the student director for the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society. Serving as the student director for the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society gave me valuable insight into the workings of a society's board of directors. I was able to attend board meetings and gain first-hand experience of the board's decision-making process. I was also able to provide a student perspective for issues when necessary. I see myself serving as a board member of professional societies in the future and I believe this experience gave me a better understanding of board member duties. The Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society has been very welcoming, and I am glad I was able to serve it in a small way.

My research focuses on the evolution and ecology of aquatic invasive plants with a specific goal of understanding herbicide resistance and the genes associated with it. My PhD research has greatly benefitted from the Robert L. Johnson Memorial Research Grant. I am currently in the final year of my PhD program at Montana State University and after its completion I plan to pursue jobs in a university setting.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Chorak

EDITORIAL UPDATE: LEIF WILLEY

The 2021 MAPMS virtual business meeting went very well. Many thanks to MAPMS member Eric Schutman for helping run the virtual meeting format! Website updates have already begun for the 2022 conference with creating a new page for the conference specific details that will be updated in an ongoing fashion leading up to the event. This includes updating the online registration and payment forms which will be linked to the 2022 conference page later this year following the fall board meeting. I for one, am very much looking forward to seeing everyone in-person again!

After the annual business meeting some questions were brought up regarding the MAPMS jobs board page. These issues were taken into consideration, reviewed by the by-laws committee and a legal representative. As a result, jobs will continue to be posted on the page but the page banner, which was copied from the “Water Creates Memories” document developed by Past President Tyler Koschnick, was replaced with another image from that document.

The Editorial Committee would also like to announce an upcoming opportunity for the membership to show off their photography skills! We have recently proposed the idea of hosting a MAPMS photo contest at the annual conference. The purpose of this contest will be to gather new, relevant imagery for the website each year, with the winning photo being featured as the home page background of the website and the owner of the picture receiving credit and recognition. Rules are currently being drafted and the membership will be notified of the contest and rules once determined and approved by the Board of Directors.

You also may have noticed recently additional MAPMS social media channels and increased posting activity. We have partnered with Amy Giannotti of AquaSTEM Consulting (similar to what APMS has done) to help increase our virtual presence and informational outreach. Read Amy Kay’s Publicity committee article for more information.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas regarding our social media pages or website, do not hesitate to reach out to the Editorial Committee chair, Leif Willey, at admin@mapms.org.

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: MATTHEW JOHNSON

In addition to the topics presented at the 2021 Annual Business meeting, the following topics are relevant to the membership of the society.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s Draft Biological Evaluation (BE) for Glyphosate can be viewed by searching: EPA Docket Number EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0585

The Waters Advocacy Coalition (WAC) is in full defense mode to protect the new **Navigable Waters Rule**. The new EPA team, is looking at options to overturn the new rule. RISE has conducted outreach to the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee to demonstrate that the new rule was written with strong science in mind. There has been outreach to incoming EPA Administrator Regan to support the rule. Regan has a reputation for being tough, but fair, and willing to listen. It is not easy to vacate and rewrite a rule. It took the last EPA four years to replace WOTUS using the Administrative Procedures Act and it would take the same amount of energy and time to reverse the Navigable Waters Rule.

EPA’s Federal Register Notice NPDES PGP 2021: The Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Pesticide General Permit for Point Source Discharges from the Application of Pesticides. Comments were due on or before March 16, 2021.

Wisconsin DNR Starry Stonewort Management Guidance: The Wisconsin DNR released permitting guidance on Starry Stonewort management on April 2, 2021. The following linked text will take you to the page on WI DNR website in which a public review is requested for [Starry Stonewort Permitting Guidance document](#). This public review period is currently closed, but the governmental affairs committee did draft and submit comments on behalf of the MAPMS. A copy of the letter submitted can be found in the back of this newsletter

Wisconsin DNR APM Rule Revision Update: The Wisconsin DNR conducted a public meeting on April 15, 2021 titled, APM Treatments – Public Notification Methods and Criteria Alternative. The white paper on this subject as well as the meeting recording is available [here](#). The DNR will be accepting public comments on this white paper through May 15, 2021. Written comments may be sent to Madi Johansen via email: Madison.johansen@wisconsin.gov, or mail: Wisconsin DNR – Attn: Madi Johansen, PO Box 7185, Madison, WI 53707-7185.

2022 MAPMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE RETURNS TO TRADITIONAL FORMAT



LAKE GENEVA, WI: FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3, 2022

A BIG THANKS TO OUR 2021 SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS!

DIAMOND (\$1,250 OR MORE)

Aquatic Control, Inc.
Cygnet Enterprises, Inc.
SePRO Corporation
Syngenta Professional Products
UPL Aquatics

PLATINUM (\$500-\$1,249)

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Aquatic Enhancement and Survey
Clarke
EasyPro Pond Products

GOLD (\$375-\$499)

Brewer International
Naturalake Biosciences

SILVER(\$175-\$374)

Aquatic Management

BRONZE (\$50-\$174)

Clear Water Lake Management
Michigan Lakefront Solutions
Rollins Aquatics

THE NORTHERN LAKES MANAGER SPONSORS:

Joe Bondra, Cygnet Enterprises
Nancy Healy, Brewer International
Matthew Johnson, Aquatic Control
Guy Savin, Savin Lake Services

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: PETER FILPANSICK

The COVID-19 pandemic and government responses created a new course for our society. This past year, the society was forced to consider a virtual conference and settled on a virtual business meeting. It is safe to say that we all hope to meet at the Grand Geneva Resort in 2022 for an in-person conference and getting back to business as usual for MAPMS.

The next strategic planning session is scheduled for the 2022 Fall Board Meeting. This timeline allows our committee to observe a second Covid-era conference and better gauge how important virtual options will be in the future. The strategic plan may need to be updated to increase accessibility to our conference while keeping members safe and complying with gathering restrictions.

At this time, we are beginning to review the existing strategic plan and considering: (1) which strategic goals the society is adequately completing, (2) which goals the society struggles to meet and how we can improve, (3) which goals are obsolete, and (4) what new goals should the society work toward.

If you would like a copy of the current strategic plan or have feedback about the society's direction, please contact a committee member. We appreciate the participation from every member. After all, this is your society and your input will help steer it into the future.

On behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee,
Pete Filpansick
Committee Chair

MIDWEST AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society's EIN# 35-1870325

Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society is registered as a 501c(5) non-profit organization. For more information please contact MAPMS treasurer Steve Zulinski at treasurer@mapms.org

Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society is funded by donations and dues from its members, individuals, corporations and foundations.

THE SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE COMMITTEE: CASEY THOMPSON

All funds generated from the silent auction and raffle go to support the Robert L. Johnson Memorial Research Grant. This grant is awarded each year to support research in the field of aquatic plant management. With the unfortunate cancelation of the 2021 conference, we were not able to have the silent auction and raffle, we look forward to making it better than ever for the 2022 conference in Lake Geneva. **THANK YOU** to everyone that donated to the Robert L. Johnson Memorial Research Grant.

We are always looking for volunteers to help organize the silent auction and raffle, solicit item donations, sell raffle tickets, etc. If you are interested in serving on the Silent Auction & Raffle Committee for 2021-2022 please contact Committee Chair, Casey Thompson. casey@aquaweed.com

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE: DAVE NICHOLSON

There is no doubt that at the conclusion of our 2020 conference, not one of us would have anticipated the absence of the 2021 Conference due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Thankfully, we are moving forward and looking ahead to our 42nd Annual MAPMS 2022 Lake Geneva Conference. With the onset of vaccinations being administered, we are well positioned and anticipating the reuniting of our members, amazing conference, the awesome support from our Exhibitors and Sponsors...and getting back to some sort of normalcy and in-person interaction with one another!

So, looking ahead to Lake Geneva, I remind you all that exhibit space is available on a first come first serve basis. We encourage all exhibitors to register early, ensure you secure your spot, and join us for what is sure to be a great reunion and event. To all valued exhibitors, please feel free to reach out to me or a committee member and make suggestions for how we can improve your overall conference and experience...your committee is listening.

As your committee chair, I am always interested to explore new ideas that drive exhibitor value and interest, and look forward to seeing you next year in Lake Geneva! For questions or comments, please contact Dave Nicholson at davidn@sepro.com. Thank you for your support!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: AMY KAY

While 2021 continued to throw some additional challenges our way as COVID-19 progressed, the strength of the MAPMS membership unsurprisingly remains strong. We believe a record turnout for the virtual business meeting as well as participation in committee volunteers occurred this year...which leads us to believe that perhaps we should always host the business meeting virtually! But all jokes aside, our Membership is what makes MAPMS what it is, and we cannot wait to gather with everyone in Lake Geneva next winter. We look forward to connecting with seasoned members as well as welcoming all of our new ones! Please contact Committee Chair Amy Kay at akay@clarke.com with any feedback, questions or suggestions on how MAPMS can continue to support the Membership.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: AMY KAY

The Publicity Committee is excited to announce the addition of a Social Media Manager supporting MAPMS with communication and outreach. The Committee, with Board support, took careful consideration on how we could continue to fulfill our mission and meet the needs of our membership while aligning with our strategic plan. Social Media provides us with a platform to reach our current membership while connecting with others we are looking to reach in a consistent, logical, and engaging fashion.

Please join our Board in welcoming Amy Giannotti as the new Social Media Manager for MAPMS. Amy is the founder of AquaSTEM Consulting, LLC – an environmental consulting company specializing in lake and aquatic plant management, aquatic restoration, and STEM outreach initiatives. Amy is a Certified Lake Manager and has over 20 years of experience working in temperate and subtropical marine and freshwater systems, including coastal and freshwater vegetation dynamics, exotic species management, impacts of nutrient enrichment and remediation efforts, stormwater management and watershed hydrology, and public speaking on environmental issues affecting lakes, springs, and karst community ecology.

Amy is passionate about education outreach and science communication, and she is looking forward to working with MAPMS. She loves helping people learn about conservation initiatives, invasive species management, and habitat protection - which is clear through her content delivery. Amy has been managing the social media platforms for the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), the Western Society of Weed Science, Schoolyard Films, and several private clients in lake and wetland management. Amy holds a B.S. in biology from Marietta College (Ohio), and earned her M.S. in environmental science from the University of Virginia, with a specialty in marine ecology. Her professional affiliations include APMS, Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society, Florida Lake Management Society, North American Lake Management Society, Western Society of Weed Science, Florida Marine Science Educators Association, and the Boston Sea Rovers. She also serves on the Advisory Board for the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants at the University of Florida and as editor of the journal *Aquatics*. Amy is a certified scuba diver (open water, EANx, and cavern diver), airboat pilot, outboard motor operator, and a licensed aquatics herbicide applicator in Florida. So it can go without saying we have the best possible in the roll of Social Media Manager for MAPMS! Please feel free to contact Amy with images and/or ideas for stories/posts at amy@aquastemconsulting.com.

Go follow us now on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram (our pages are linked in the logos below)! For additional information, feedback or questions regarding the Publicity Committee please contact Committee Chair, Amy Kay at akay@clarke.com



2021-22 MIDWEST AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

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Nominating: Ryan Thum(Chair), Jake Britton, Nate Long, Landon Wiet

Past-Presidents Advisory: Ryan Thum(Chair), All MAPMS Past Presidents

Program(2022): Garrett McClain(Chair), Board of Directors

Publicity: Amy Kay(Chair), Michael Kroll, Leif Willey, Zach Haas, Eric Goebel

Silent Auction and Raffle: Landon Wiet(Chair), Casey Thompson, Ed Spanopolous, Pete Filpansick, Garrett McClain

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Strategic Planning: Pete Filpansick(Chair), Travis Grana, Eric Goebel, Eric Schutman, Ryan Thum, Landon Wiet, Casey Thompson

Student Affairs: Eddie Heath(Chair), Ryan Thum, Pete Filpansick, Blake Mallory, Garrett Schwarz, Alexandria Vukovic, Eric Goebel, Michael Verhoeven(Student Representative)

AD HOC EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

PLANT CAMP UPDATE

Educational Outreach - Pennsylvania DCNR Plant Camp

At the request of the MAPMS Past Presidents, the Board of Directors investigated options for educational outreach in the Midwest, similar to the University of Florida's Plant Camp. The board discussed starting our own program but realized running such a program was beyond our capacity. We refocused our efforts toward identifying programs ran by other organizations with whom we could partner. And it turned out that MAPMS was not the only organization thinking about this idea.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, along with support from nine other groups, will host its first Plant Camp in August 2021. The three-day program will give 15 teachers the opportunity to learn more about aquatic plant management. The teachers will receive classroom instruction, field training, and materials to take back to their own classrooms.

The program will be based at Pymatuning State Park in Jamestown, PA. The program staff and participants will be lodged at the University of Pittsburgh's Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology. The program will also visit Presque Isle State Park, Conneaut Lake, Erie National Wildlife Refuge, and MK Goddard State Park. The participants will see a variety of waterbodies and aquatic plant communities. The camp will cover aquatic plant identification, management methods, and survey techniques.

Consistent with our strategic goal of expanding communication with students, the MAPMS Board of Directors approved a contribution of \$2,000 to support this program in 2021. The contribution is contingent upon MAPMS involvement in the planning and execution of the camp.

This partnership gives us the chance to observe and learn more about running this type of program. There are also ongoing discussions, such as increasing the attendance, lengthening the program, and alternating locations to Midwest areas. In the future, the MAPMS Board of Directors may reopen the discussion about our own "plant camp". At the end of the newsletter please see the Plant Camp announcement and program highlights. The announcement is hyperlinked to the online application form (click link near bottom on the next page). Please send this announcement along to any educator you know that may be interested in this opportunity.

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Educational Outreach Committee,
Pete Filpansick

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE YOUR SOCIETY?

The Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for positions on the 2022-23 Board of Directors.

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

Ryan Thum: ryan.thum@montana.edu

Attention 9th through 12th Grade Educators (Both Formal and Informal): Want the Opportunity to Expand Your Understanding and Knowledge on Aquatic Plants Through Hands-On Interactive Learning Experiences "Waterside" in Northwestern PA and the ability to receive ACT 48 credits?



Plant Camp

Tuesday, August 10th- Thursday, August 12th, 2021

Locations: Pymatuning State Park, Presque Isle State Park, Conneaut Lake, Maurice K. Goddard State Park

**Note: Pymatuning State Park (2547 Marina Dr. Jamestown, PA 16134) will be the HUB from which this camp functions; Cabin accommodations are available on-site at Pymatuning State Park*

Applications
due by June
1st

Program Highlights

Cost: \$25



Expand Knowledge and Understanding of Aquatic Ecosystems and the Pivotal Role Aquatic Plants Play



Learn How to Identify Aquatic Species and the Differences Between Native, Non-Native, and Invasive Species



Explore Local Water Resources and Gain a Deeper Understanding of Lake Management



Participate in Hands-On Laboratory/ Field Experiences Through New Investigation Techniques and Instructional Methods



Discover ways to Incorporate Your Experience Into Your Teaching (using the Resources, Lesson Plans, and Tools Provided to You) Emphasizing to Students The Important Role of Community Science

Meals (except for Wednesday evening) and Transportation to all field trips will be provided.

*Note: All COVID-19 Restrictions will be followed at the time of the workshop.
DCNR reserves the right to alter the format or cancel the workshop if necessary.*

Space is limited to 15 educators. For more details and to apply, contact Emily Borcz at eborcz@pa.gov or call (724) 932-3142 ext. 106.
To Apply: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXx6gNASaUow2HfMGrIh6H-OfL3uJwmtrM3sSplg7Iqyalw/viewform?usp=sf_link





MIDWEST AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

www.mapms.org

April 30, 2021

Madi Johansen

Aquatic Plant Management Team Leader - Bureau of Water Quality

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

(608) 712-2798 – Work Cell

Madison.johansen@wisconsin.gov

Dear Ms. Johansen,

The purpose of the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society (MAPMS) is to promote science-based technologies for the management of aquatic resources by providing opportunities for educational advancement, supporting relevant scientific research, facilitating exchange of information, promoting the protection and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems, and expanding and developing public interest in aquatic resources and their sustainable management. MAPMS is a leading regional science-based resource for the sound management of plants and algae. MAPMS provides information and assistance required by those who work with the unique ecological, sociological, economical, and regulatory concerns associated with managing aquatic plants in lake systems affected by exotic species, nutrient pollution, use conflicts, and intense recreational demands. MAPMS works very closely with the national parent chapter of APMS, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation, Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, and other relevant associations. MAPMS would be more than happy to aid in facilitating a gathering of the leading scientists in the United States to provide further discussion on selectivity, non-target impacts, and APM concerns from the department.

In relation to the WI DNR Starry Stonewort Guidance Document provided for public comment, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comment and the following is respectfully submitted for consideration.

Management Efficacy

- Wisconsin DNR should better define “effectively control” or consider using different language. Control can be defined in terms of weeks/months vs. years depending on the goal of the management strategy.
- While we would agree that to date, chemical management strategies have not resulted in long-term control, as aquatic resource stewards, there are benefits of keeping invasive species limited the best we can even if multiple or ongoing efforts per season need to be conducted. Copper based herbicides have been shown to control Starry Stonewort. The length of time of control can vary depending on timing, level of establishment or infestation, and other lake characteristics.

Ecological Effects

- While the data may not be there to support the extent and nature of SSW’s adverse effects on Wisconsin’s aquatic ecosystems, there have been enough data and observations in other states that would point towards more harm to native plants, fisheries, and benthic habitat vs. any potential for co-existence.
- Ecological effects of Starry Stonewort have been made in *A Decade of Starry Stonewort in Michigan, 2010*. G.D. Pullman and G. Crawford, Lakeline. Pg 36-42.
- When considering management efforts, we encourage strong consideration of spread to other waterbodies and not only spread of the species in the same waterbody.

- The goal of invasive species management is to preserve biodiversity, protect endangered species, and improve ecosystem health.
- Invasive species threaten ecosystem health.
- Invasive species cost the US economy in excess of \$170 billion per year in management, mitigation, and agricultural losses (Pimentel, D., Zuniga, R., and D. Morrison. 2005). Waiting to see if they become a problem in Wisconsin vs. observation in other areas is not a positive move towards ecosystem preservation.

Recreational Effects

- Recreation, navigation, and property values are all things that should be considered in approval of management programs.
- Impaired Aquatic Resources have a dramatic impact to local economies. This perspective should also be evaluated when determining whether to manage or not manage invasive species.
- Human health hazards are associated with invasive species like Starry Stonewort. These human health risks should be a heavy focus within the evaluation of recreational impacts.

Determination

- If funding or supporting projects to better learn how to manage this species are available, Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society would like to have further discussion. Our membership is comprised of leading scientists, academic programs, and product development professionals in the aquatics field. We are confident that we could help connect with our membership.

Sincerely,



Matthew K. Johnson
MAPMS Governmental Affairs Chair