



THE NORTHERN LAKES MANAGER

SPRING 2020

WWW.MAPMS.ORG

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT: DR. RYAN THUM

Dear MAPMS membership,

Wow! It is an understatement to say that the entire world has changed in the short period of time since our annual conference in February!

As I write this, my University – as most others – is a shell of its former self. There are not masses of students, faculty, and staff bustling around as usual. Most students are off campus, taking their classes remotely from home. Research labs look more like a Saturday than a weekday on most labs, as most universities have put significant limitations on research capacity temporarily. The disruption to everyday life in the Ivory Tower pales in comparison to the large number of people that are completely out of work for some undetermined amount of time. Or, in the obviously worse case, to what several hundred thousand people across the globe who have contracted COVID-19 – and their loved ones – have gone through, or are going through. Indeed, these are unprecedented, uncertain, and anxious times.

MAPMS was fortunate in that our annual conference occurred before the US outbreak, whereas the outbreak has led to mass postponements and cancellations for professional societies around the world. This was MAPMS' 40th anniversary, and the annual conference was a great success. I would like to take this brief opportunity to thank all of those who attended, presented, and supported the conference. Special thanks goes to our generous sponsors, exhibitors, and silent auction/raffle donors and winners; their support is critical for the conference and for fulfilling the Society's mission and vision.

Although the timing of our conference was fortunate, the current mass global disruption to professional conferences is a powerful illustration of how well MAPMS has planned for uncertainty. Specifically, we have set aside 'emergency' funds to cover the estimated costs of two annual conferences in the event that we were forced to suddenly and unexpectedly cancel the annual conference while we were contractually obligated to the venue.

I am proud to be part of a Board of Directors that has a long history of thoughtfully and deeply thinking about how best to steer our Society, and following through responsibly with its tasks to define and fulfill its mission and vision. For many years, our Society's Board has stressed the importance of having emergency funds to cover losses in uncertain times like we are facing right now. While members undoubtedly have different opinions about how each Society dollar would be best spent, this moment in time makes it clear that our commitment to maintaining emergency funds was and is prudent.

When this time passes (as I'm told all shall), I look forward to seeing everyone in person again at the 41st annual conference in beautiful Grand Rapids, Michigan, if not sooner. I don't know if we will be back to handshakes and hugs, but I am certain there will be plenty of smiles (which I have heard are more contagious than COVID-19, although I have no way to empirically verify this).

In the meantime, please do all that is within your control to keep yourself and those in your community healthy.

Thank you,

MAPMS President, Ryan Thum

41st Annual MAPMS February 22-February 25, 2021. Amway Grand, Grand Rapids, MI.



LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE: DAVE NICHOLSON

Welcome back to Grand Rapids, Michigan – we are very excited to announce that our 41st Annual Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza. You will not want to miss all the exciting changes happening in downtown Grand Rapids! This is my hometown and Grand Rapids continues to thrive and revitalize our amazing downtown area. And speaking of amazing, program planning is underway to make 2021 a destination not to be missed!

Highlights of MAPMS 2021: The dates of the conference are February 22 – February 25! The Amway Grand has been and continues to undergo both exterior and interior renovations that you will not want to miss. GP Sports Bar, Wolfgang Puck, Lumber Baron Bar, Rendezvous Lounge, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse and Starbucks are all located on the Amway property. Staying at The Amway Grand Plaza by Hilton, places you in the Hotel District. The Hotel District is more than just the place to stay in Grand Rapids - it's the place to be in Grand Rapids - right in the center of everything you could ever need, want, or wish for. The hotel is surrounded by museums, theatres, parks, sports facilities, breweries, trendy restaurants and lively bars - all within walking distance!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2021 Annual Conference in Downtown Grand Rapids, MI. If you have any questions or comments regarding local arrangements, please contact Committee Chair, Dave Nicholson, david.nicholson@sigurawater.com. Thank you for your support!

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR: EDDIE HEATH

Student involvement and support is critical to fulfilling the mission and vision of MAPMS, and once again student involvement at the annual conference contributed to an excellent program. This committee strives to increase student attendance at the 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 top grant award (\$7,500) was provided to Hannah Hoff of Montana State University for *Biological control of Eurasian watermilfoil: An evolutionary approach*. This research will investigate the role of genetic variation within milfoil weevils to provide insight into more effective use of this management technique. Natalie Moses from Minnesota State University, Mankato received \$2,500 in grant funds for *Comparing Photosynthesis Yield and Biomass Components in Northern, Eurasian, and Hybrid Watermilfoil*. This research will investigate differences in watermilfoil photosynthesis rates, which are theorized to relate to being more invasive and more difficult to manage. We congratulate both students, and wish them well in their research endeavors.

Five student oral presentations took place at this year's conference in Indianapolis. The top three student presentations are shown below. We applaud the effort and commitment the students have exerted towards the aquatic plant management industry and specifically to MAPMS.

- 1st (\$300) - Estimating *Lyngbya wollei* Biomass Using Non-destructive Echo sounding Measures. **Andrew Howell** and Robert Richardson – North Carolina State University.
- 2nd (\$200) - European Frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* L.): Collaborative Efforts Towards an Adaptive Management Framework. **Blake C. Cahill**, Anna K. Monfils, Daniel J. Hribar, and Ryan T. Goebel – Central Michigan University.
- 3rd (\$100) - The Eurasian Watermilfoil Genome Sequencing Project: Implications for Identifying Genes Associated with Herbicide Response. **Jeff Pashnick**, Gregory Chorak, and Ryan A. Thum – Montana State University.

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 this past year and for his willingness to continue to fulfill this role in 2020.

Submitted on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee – Eddie Heath

Congratulations to our 2020 MAPMS Student Presentation Winners!

EDITORIAL UPDATE: LEIF WILLEY

The 2020 MAPMS conference in downtown Indianapolis, IN was once again a huge success, despite the earlier date and conflicts with conferences in more 'desirable' winter destinations. The editorial and publicity chairs once again hosted conference information and announcements via the WHOVA app. Adoption and use of the app continues to increase each year since it was first introduced to the Society, some use highlights are summarized at the end of this article.

Shortly after our 40th annual conference, many if not all of us began to adjust to a 'new normal' for the foreseeable future. There is no doubt that these are frustrating and confusing times as we navigate through the labyrinth of new health and safety guidelines, business de/regulations, travel restrictions and government orders that are being thrown at us from every perceivable angle. During this time MAPMS is working hard to stay at the forefront of information as it comes available and statements are made. The Editorial and Government affairs committees are working closely to review information and will distribute credibly sourced, helpful information to the membership through email and social media as it comes available during this time of uncertainty.

Whova Use Statistics:

- ⇒ 77% download rate (55% in 2019)
- ⇒ 70% announcement view rate (only 34% opened the same announcements via email)
- ⇒ Starry Stonewort and HAB sessions were most popular among users
- ⇒ 80 photos shared by members
- ⇒ Top 3 users: James Scharl, Zach Haas, Ava Boswell



As always, the editorial committee will distribute all Society relevant information throughout the year. If your company is hiring, let us know and we can post the announcement to the website and social media. We posted several job announcements to the Facebook page following the conference and gained applicant responses and applications that were sent to the employers very quickly.

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: MATTHEW JOHNSON

Our 2020 Annual conference was a great success and we had continuing education credits for 7 states. Our licensed members from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Maryland earned these continuing education credits. If there are MAPMS members with licenses in other states that offer credits and would like for those to be considered in the future, please send details or volunteer to take care of that for future conferences.

News in the world of governmental affairs hasn't changed a lot since the meeting...with one major exception (next paragraph). We have final Waters of the US Definition and clarification for our industry. We also heard updates at the conference around the Amicus Briefing from the US EPA further confirming their stance that glyphosate is not likely to cause cancer and that they are not only not recommending that warning on glyphosate products, but they are not willing to approve labels that contain warnings concerning/implying that the products do cause cancer. The EPA's re-approval of glyphosate has resulted in two recent lawsuits against the agency. The EPA remains firm in their scientific evaluation of glyphosate and has the support of most of the regulatory agencies throughout the world. We are now hearing a few states proceeding in banning a variety of pesticides. Currently, there are pending bills in New York, and included in that is glyphosate and rumors of other states moving in this direction. AERF and RISE are actively monitoring these activities and working on our behalf to protect the tools we use safely and effectively in our daily management of invasive species and protection of native plant communities and diversification.

Finally, COVID-19 (or the coronavirus) has no doubt had an impact around the world. We are seeing federal, state, and local shutdowns. Companies engaged in our industry have needed to determine how their various business activities and relationship fit relative to definitions of 'essential businesses' according to the guidelines put in place. These definitions have not always been uniform across states, so it is recommended to contact your appropriate state agency if you have specific questions that need to be clarified. The industry is implementing changes to make sure they are adhering to CDC guidelines, while continuing appropriate operations during this pandemic. These guidelines include: work from home if possible, do not work in groups of over 10 people (keep 6 feet apart when doing this), wash hands often and avoid touching your face, require those that become ill to stay home and quarantine for 14 days, and cleaning and disinfecting often. Social distancing is the biggest push for all the closures and when in the field, our industry is typically isolated from others and during application and handling already wearing PPE. On behalf of the MAPMS board, we wish to promote safety in this concern we are facing and all other aspects of our daily business.

Please send any governmental affairs topics, updates, or concerns to mattj@aquaticcontrol.com or any other board member. Best to all of you in the upcoming season. Stay safe, compliant, and most of all, stay in touch with MAPMS as we are all in this together.

A BIG THANKS TO OUR 2020 CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

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STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: PETER FILPANSICK

The society's focus and activities are guided by the Strategic Plan. The plan includes the Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals of the society, readily found inside the front cover of your annual meeting program and on the society's website. The plan was last updated in 2017 during a strategic planning session moderated by Dr. John Rogers. The next strategic planning session is slated for 2022, during which the Board of Directors will delve into the accomplishments, shortcomings, and goals of the society to redefine the strategic plan.

The Strategic Planning Committee reviews the goals of the society at every board meeting. We also present ways to accomplish the goals from a committee level. The board references the strategic goals when making decisions to keep the society moving forward in line with the plan. The strategic plan is our playbook, so we welcome feedback, suggestions, and ideas from members regarding the direction of the society.

THE SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE COMMITTEE: LANDON WIET

The Silent Auction and Raffle at the 2020 MAPMS conference was a great success. The generous donations, 50/50 cornhole raffle, silent auction items, and raffle items (Yeti Package, Grill, and \$1000 Gift Card) raised \$9,700 to support the Robert L. Johnson Memorial Research Grant. Thank you to everyone that donated or participated to help sustain this scholarship and congratulations to the recipients.

The Silent Auction and Raffle would not be so successful without the help and support of volunteers. If you are interested in serving on the Silent Auction and Raffle committee for 2020-2021 please contact me at Landon.w@naturalake.com. See you at MAPMS 2021 next year!

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE: DAVE NICHOLSON

Thank you for the Support and Participation from our 34 exhibitors at our 40th Annual MAPMS conference in Indianapolis. Congratulations to this year's best exhibit, Aquatic Control, "*this booth has swag!*" – and thank you students for your time and energy in helping the society vote for best exhibit each year! As a reminder, 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 MAPMS 2021 GRAND RAPIDS MI. To all valued exhibitors, please feel free to reach out to me and make suggestions for how we can improve your overall conference and experience.....we are listening! As your committee chair, I am always interested to explore new ideas that drive exhibitor value and interest – see you all in Grand Rapids next year! For questions or comments, please contact Dave Nicholson at david.nicholson@sigurawater.com. Thank you for your support!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: AMY KAY

It appeared that a good time was had by all that were able to attend the 40th Annual Conference this past February in Indianapolis! We are thankful that we were able to meet and that our conference took place earlier, before recent events impacted some of the other chapters and local conferences. The current MAPMS Membership sits at 217 Members. The New Member/Student mixer was a continued success being held for the 3rd year prior to the President's Reception at Punchbowl Social. This gathering provides a casual and fun atmosphere for new members and students to connect as well as an opportunity to talk with some of the board and seasoned members. Thank you to everyone who completed the post conference survey sent out via email following the conference. Your feedback is important to us as we want to continue to bring value to your membership and participation with MAPMS. If there is anything you would like to share in addition to your survey response, please feel free to reach out to the Committee Chair, Amy Kay: akay@clarke.com.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: AMY KAY

MAPMS will miss seeing you all at our local and state conferences throughout the Midwest this spring and summer that have been cancelled due to COVID-19, and hope to see you at some fall events if they go on as planned. The next time MAPMS will be exhibiting, you can expect to see our brand-new exhibit booth with updated panels reflecting the enhancements to our website and overall appearance. The Publicity Committee is seeking feedback on the Aquatic Plant Identification Chart, as we are in a revision year and want to be sure this continues to be a relevant and useful tool. If this is a project you would like to be involved in, please contact Committee Chair, Amy Kay: akay@clarke.com. Please also contact Amy should you need Plant ID charts and/or other MAPMS publications to support any of your lake groups, meetings or upcoming projects and we can be sure they are sent to you.



Facebook Search: *mapms*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE YOUR SOCIETY?

The Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations for positions on the 2021-22 board.

If you would like to be a part of leading this great organization please contact the committee chair:

Jake Britton: jbritton@clarke.com

2020-21 MIDWEST AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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