

THE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY, Incorporated

formerly

THE HYACINTH CONTROL SOCIETY, Incorporated

on January 1, 1976

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AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

Spring/Summer - 1976

WRONG AGAIN: The Board of Directors would not permit the publishing of the Newsletter monthly, but it will be published on a quarterly basis. The Board did approve a change in the format of the Newsletter. It will be up to the next editor to select the format. I have several suggestions that I would be happy to pass along to the new editor. I apologize for promising you a Newsletter in March.

1976 MEETING: Plans are progressing rapidly for the July meeting. By this time, you should have received your preregistration and hotel reservation forms. Please take care of these at your earliest convenience. We may have to place some in attendance at surrounding hotels. To be assured of a room in the convention hotel, I would suggest early reservations.

PAPERS: The president has informed me that the response from the call for papers has been excellent. The response for papers in the application section has been outstanding. I'm pleased to see that you fellows on the firing line are making presentations. The 1976 program should be of interest to all members, regardless of specific interest.

WSSA: The president of Weed Science Society of America, Dr. Charles Swanson stressed the importance of research for maintaining our recreational and agricultural waters free of weeds and hazardous control agents. The theme of the 1976 program was "Weeds and Water Management". Mr. Edwin F. Sullivan, Assistant Commissioner for Resource Management with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, pointed out during his talk that about 25% of the operation and maintenance costs for western irrigation projects is used for control of weeds. He stated aquatic and ditchbank weeds must be controlled to move water in the irrigation systems. This emphasizes the importance of aquatic plant management. It also emphasizes the need for the western area of the United States to become involved in APMS.

ATTENTION DIVERS: A number of persons have expressed an interest in participating in a dive trip while in Fort Lauderdale for our annual meeting. There are numerous places to charter a boat which can take a group out to some of the most beautiful reefs in Florida. The cost of such an excursion would vary depending on the number of divers. The cost would be approximately \$15.00 to \$20.00 per person, the more people the cheaper the cost! All divers must be certified. Rental equipment is available at an additional cost. Anyone interested in an excursion should contact: William L. Maier, 3994 S.W. 12th Terrace, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33315, before June 15, 1976, so that the necessary reservations can be made. The trip will be scheduled so as not to conflict with any of the other activities already planned. Bill looks forward to seeing you in July.

ALGAE CONTROL: Last year on the 112 acre Morses Pond in Wellesley, Mass., a new management technique was field tested. The technique used $KMnO_4$ to remove iron in-situ. The result was no blue-green algal blooms for the entire recreational season and no algicide use was required. Thus a lake that was lost to recreational use was fully used all summer. In addition, the field data supports the concept that Volvox releases natural algicide effective on phytoplankton. (A report on this work is available through Carr Research Laboratory, Inc. 17 Waban St., Wellesley, Mass. 02181 for \$3.00).

ATTENTION FLORIDA APPLICATORS: An interagency agreement has been signed by the Department of Environmental Regulations and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. This agreement, signed April 13, 1976, delineates the responsibility of each agency in regards to the Florida aquatic weed control program. Basically, what the agreement states is the Department of Environmental Regulations will accept permits issued pursuant to the authority granted to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission as valid and that the permit program will continue as it has in the past. It also states that any violation of a permit can be enforced by any agency that has authority under state statutes. Therefore, anyone involved in problems related to aquatic weed control can expect the DER to become involved in litigation. This agreement only covers permits for biological and chemical control measures. Mechanical control programs will need a separate permit from the DER. Anyone that would like to obtain a copy of this agreement, may do so by contacting one of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Regional Aquatic Botanists.

CERTIFICATION: The Florida Department of Natural Resources has just completed the first round of testing for the aquatic applicator. The state of Mississippi has also given the first set of tests. If you have not received information on certification in your state you may wish to check with your regulatory agency. I personally wonder what certification will mean to the aquatic applicator. We hope that these answers will be given in the near future.

PROFESSIONALISM: We had hoped that the certification program would be the first step in providing the aquatic applicator a bond with professionalism. The engineer, accountant, real estate salesman and fishery biologist is a few of the professions that have established standards to become a professional in a certain field. We in aquatics do not have any standards for the applicator. Anyone can become an aquatic applicator regardless of his training. In recent discussions with Florida DER representatives this factor has been strongly emphasized. We would like for the APMS to consider this in future efforts of the organization. I have heard many times in the last 2 years that it does not take a scientist or a trained individual to kill aquatic weeds. With this type of thinking we cannot expect to establish a sense of professionalism to our profession. Many of our regulations and present problems may have been avoided

if we could have established a symbol of professionalism. I think this would be a subject for discussion in APMS. What are the requirements for the professional aquatic applicator? I have ideas but many of you may have different ones. Perhaps we can publish in the Newsletter what various members consider to be important qualifications.

IWSS: Worldwide interest in weed science has resulted in the organization of the International Weed Science Society (IWSS). IWSS is viewed as a federation linking the multitude of national and regional weed science societies scattered around the world. It will try to improve international cooperation and coordination in the application and development of weed control technology. APMS board of directors authorized a donation to the international organization in the amount of \$500.00

WESTERN WEED WARRIOR: Received a very interesting letter from Mr. Ernest Hesser of the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla, Washington. Their weed problems are basically recreational sites, drainage canals and aesthetics. In and around cities the aquatic plants and algae are a problem in conjunction with mosquito control. Ernest sent along a publication which was put together for their District by the University of Idaho entitled "Aquatic Macrophytes of the Columbia and Snake River Drainages". The study describes the distribution of the aquatic vegetation and the habitat. The colored photographs of various habitats are excellent.

EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATIONS: Monday afternoon, July 12, has been set aside for equipment demonstration at the APMS meeting. If you have a piece of equipment you wish to show or operate, please contact Mr. Les Bitting, Sr. (305-472-5596). Les has put a lot of work into this portion of the meeting and I believe you'll be impressed with the equipment and his efforts. Buses will be provided to take you from the meeting hotel to the demonstration site and return.

COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS: I hope you have contacted Mr. Paul Brewer (305-592-6239) if you wish to have a display at the annual meeting. Commercial exhibits will be a large part of the meeting area. This is an excellent opportunity for the commercial members to show their products to the membership.

PUBLIC LAW 93-629: This law is known as the Federal Noxious Weed Act that was signed into law in January 1975. The agency assigned the duty of implementing this Act was the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS has delayed requesting money for this program to fiscal year 1978 or later. APMS members worked hard to get this legislation passed but our efforts may have been to no avail. We had only one aquatic plant placed on the list, Hydrilla, but it is anticipated this one will be removed. Attend the Ft. Lauderdale meeting of APMS and hear this discussed in greater detail.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: I had planned to include a plant each month in the Newsletter but these plans have been cancelled. Since we did have the first one completed I decided to include this one. Hygrophila has become well established in several miles of canals in south Florida. The plant is now presenting a problem in areas where Hydrilla has been controlled. Investigating the area I found that the canals flow through an area used for culture of tropical fish and plants for the commercial aquarium industry. How serious this problem will become cannot be predicted but it has spread rapidly in the last year. If you like the plant of the month idea discuss it with the new Newsletter editor.

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS: I asked the commercial members to send me comments on how APMS might better serve this important segment of our membership. I have to assume that many of you are very pleased because I have received no reply. Several did

reply and included what I consider to be helpful suggestions. We want to increase the interest and participation of this group in APMS.

CYANATRYN: Cyanatryn, 2-(4-ethylamino-6-methylthio-s-triazine-2-ylamino)-2-methylpropionitrile and its formulations has shown excellent results on milfoil, elodea, coontail, pondweeds, vallisneria, chara and certain algae species. Rates of 0.01 to 0.01 ppm have given good control in static or flowing water. It is formulated as a 10% slow release pellet. Cyanatryn is registered for use in aquatic situations in United Kingdom and Australia. It must be applied by approved users. Attend the APMS meeting and hear Mr. G. R. Sainty from Australia discuss the use of this product in North South Wales.

S.O.L.: In January I helped a central Florida group organize a movement called Save Our Lakes. This group (Winter Haven Garden Club) has taken S.O.L. as their bicentennial project for 1976. They have created a tremendous interest in the area about the problems that exist in central Florida Lakes. This was a take off on a program that I initiated in the fall of 1975. As usual, it takes the ladies to get the ball rolling. One of their major objectives is the management of aquatic vegetation.

FUTURE: It is the bicentennial year in the U.S. and we should take the time to look in the past and predict the future. We in aquatic plant management are in a new area of science. As stated earlier we are so new that we have not established our professional status. We are made up of many groups, looking for a common leader, and I think APMS can be that leader. I have made the statement many times that our future is bright and I'm still convinced this is true. We may have new regulations or restrictions that affect our industry but the future is still bright. APMS leadership we need and the effectiveness of the leadership can be determined by the elected officers. For the benefit of APMS and our industry, consider the qualifications of each member before nominating one for an elected office.

LETS TRAVEL: The Aloha Travel Agency, Inc. will staff a desk in the upper lobby adjacent to the convention registration section at the Bahia Mar for our convenience in arranging for an additional trip that you may wish to take while in South Florida. We have requested that the Travel Agency have available information for you on ship and air tours of the Islands. Now is the time for you to plan your trip to the Bahamas! In a short one-hour flight you can be vacationing in a beautiful tropical paradise.

RESIGNATION: This has become a habit but the time has arrived for me to resign as Newsletter Editor. I wrote the first Newsletter in 1966 for the Hyacinth Control Society. One decade later I had the pleasure of writing the first Newsletter for the Aquatic Plant Management Society. During this decade I have had the opportunity to express my opinions and philosophy on many areas of aquatic plant management. Some of them have been criticized and as editor I developed a tough skin. To continue as the Newsletter Editor may create internal problems in APMS. This I do not want and will attempt to avoid. I will continue to write about our field of aquatic plant management but I will be wearing a different hat. The base will be broader and the concept will be more direct.

Candy and I will see you in Fort Lauderdale, July 11-14, 1976.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Hygrophila polysperma (ROXB.) T. Anderson

Habitat: India to the Malay Peninsula

Description: The aquatic form has stems that grow up to 50 cm long, with few leaves. Leaves are opposed and are very variable shaped, bright green, elongated, egg shaped, 4 cm long, 1.5 cm wide. Leaves of the emergent forms are narrower and dark green.

Flowers are sessile in the axils of emergent leaves and 2 bracts, covered with hairs are 5 - 15 mm long.

Cultivation: This plant has no particular demands as to bottom being very hardy and adaptive. The optimum temperature is 64 to 77°F, but extreme temperatures of 54 to 86°F have been endured with no visible damage. Grows well in soft water but can adapt to hard, if need be.

Every part of the plant or leaf if broken off, can root at once and develop into a new plant. This is another plant for the aquarium trade.