



2010 Year In Review

The past year was especially challenging year for our industry. As you faced these challenges head on, so did AERF. As you maintained your organization's principles, AERF maintained its mission to support research and development that provides strategies and techniques for the environmentally sound management, conservation, and restoration of aquatic ecosystems.

To be sure, maintaining our mission and support for the industry included a great deal of effort this year. As you are aware, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program has been progressing this year. AERF deployed significant resources to represent the interests of our industry and to help develop a fair and equitable permit process.

This past year, AERF produced and distributed thousands of copies of the Best Management Practices Handbook to APMS and Chapter members and federal and state regulators all over the country. EPA has acknowledged the usefulness of the BMP to comply with its IPM plan requirements for NPDES.

The Foundation has made a concerted effort to keep all aquatic plant managers aware and up to date in regards to NPDES activities on both the federal and state levels. AERF extensively reviewed draft NPDES documents and commented to EPA on how this permit process will affect aquatic plant managers. AERF also provided guidance to other concerned organizations on how they could comment to EPA.

AERF is currently working with representatives of all 50 states to provide members with the latest information regarding NPDES and its possible impacts on aquatic plant

Upcoming Meetings

Feb 27- Mar 2	Midwest APMS, Grand Rapids, MI
Mar 28-30	Western APMS, Denver, CO
April 11-13	AERF Board of Directors and Planning Meetings, Indianapolis, IN
May 3-5	Aquatic Weed Short Course, Coral Springs, FL
Jul 24-27	Aquatic Plant Management Society, Baltimore, MD
Aug 17-19	South Carolina APMS, Clemson, SC
Oct 10-13	Florida APMS, St. Augustine, FL

NPDES

As an NPDES Pesticide General Permit requirement approaches, the world of aquatic plant management is essentially on hold. The long awaited EPA Final Regulation for a Pesticide General Permit that was supposed to be published by December 31, 2010, is still unborn with no indications when we might see it. Over a

third of the States are waiting for the federal requirements before their programs are published or even considered for implementation. The April 9, 2011 deadline looms as states try to get their programs in place to keep applicators in compliance. Speculation is growing that EPA will have to request a continuation of

the stay granted by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in 2009.

As the potential economic impact on governments and small businesses is realized, the attention of several congressmen has been attained. Draft legislation is soon to be introduced in the House of Representatives following a House hearing. (cont p3)

Biology and Control of Aquatic Plants

Biology and Control of Aquatic Plants: A Best Management Practices Handbook is the second edition of a handbook produced by the AERF. The mission of the AERF is to support research and development which provides strategies and techniques for the environmentally and scientifically sound management, conservation and

restoration of aquatic ecosystems. One way the Foundation accomplishes this mission is by producing this handbook to provide information to the public regarding the benefits of aquatic ecosystem conservation and aquatic plant management. The first edition of this handbook became one of the most widely consulted references in the aquatic

plant management community. This second edition has been specifically designed with water resource managers, water management associations, homeowners and customers and operators of aquatic plant management companies and districts in mind. PDF copies are available online, or you can order a free hardcopy.

2011 Officers and Directors

President	Mike Riffle, Valent USA
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Technical Advisory Chair	Kurt Getsinger, USAE

AERF 2010 Participation

- Aquatic Plant Management Society Board of Directors Meeting
- Southeastern Aeroculture Fair
- Alabama Vegetation Management Association
- Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society
- American Association of Pesticide Control Officials
- Western Aquatic Plant Management Society
- Crop Life America/RISE Spring Conference
- Georgia Vegetation Management Association
- University of Florida Short Course for Aquatic Plant Managers
- University of Florida Plant Camp for High School Teachers
- EPA NPDES hearing
- Aquatic Plant Management Society
- Montana State sponsored training sessions in Trout River and Helena
- South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society
- RISE Annual Meeting
- National Roadside Vegetation Management Association
- Florida DEP, DACS and FWCC NPDES Meeting
- Florida Mosquito Control Association Annual Short Course
- National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses 7th Annual Sportsman-Legislator Summit

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**BIOLOGY AND
 CONTROL OF
 AQUATIC PLANTS**



**A Best Management Practices
 Handbook**

Lyn A. Gettys, William T. Haller and Marc Belland, editors

The AERF Mission

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation supports research and development that provides strategies and techniques for the environmentally sound management, conservation, and restoration of aquatic ecosystems. Our research provides the basis for the effective control of nuisance and invasive aquatic and wetland plants and algae.

Strategic Goals

- Provide the public information concerning the benefits and value of conserving aquatic ecosystems including the aquatic use of herbicides and algaecides in the aquatic environment.
- Provide information and resources to assist regulatory agencies and other entities making decisions that impact aquatic plant management.
- Fund research in applied aquatic plant management at major universities.

NPDES cont.

The intent is to amend FIFRA and/or the Clean Water Act to make it clear that otherwise lawful applications of EPA registered pesticides in, over or near waters of the United States are exempt from the provisions of NPDES.

This approach might be a long shot so don't count on it. AERF's best advice is to keep the pressure on you federal Representatives and Senators to achieve the legislative fix. At the same time stay involved as stakeholders in your own state's effort to comply with EPA's pending regulations. Fashion the best deal for your business as possible. Check the AERF website for updates in your state's NPDES permit process. Where draft permits exist we have links to them for your use.

Help Support Our Efforts Through Membership

The AERF respectfully requests that you consider membership. AERF will continue to work on your behalf, and as a member, you will greatly benefit from our work on regulatory and research aspects of aquatic plant management. With changes in the regulatory environment now and in the future, it is essential to be involved and to support all the hard work of your AERF associates.

Please contact Carlton Layne for information on how you can best participate with the AERF.