

From The President

As you read this in mid 2011, we know you are fully engaged in aquatic plant management activities. The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation is also hard at work on your behalf. The AERF is a great organization that has the stated objective of supporting research that benefits aquatic plant managers. This has always been our top priority, and is outlined in our Mission Statement as you can see on Page 5.



But the AERF does much more beyond supporting research. Just to give an example of how hard the AERF is working for you, all one has to do is look at the minutes of our recent Board of Directors meeting. In this meeting we discussed and made decisions on a wide variety of issues, including NPDES, supporting invasive species symposia, the role of social networking in aquatics, and US ARMY Corps Aquatic Plant Control Research Program funding. You will see how active this organization is on these items and more in an informative 15th anniversary publication coming soon.

In addition, the AERF continues to support graduate level training in universities and you can see the success of these programs by looking around the industry. We absolutely have to continue this training to ensure a ready supply of people with the knowledge and credibility the industry deserves to move forward with issues facing us.

Speaking of research, are you aware that the AERF has a Technical Advisory Committee? The TAC is led by Dr. Kurt Getsinger and is supported by researchers from several universities prominent in aquatic plant control research. The AERF frequently calls on this team of experts when faced with tough questions from the aquatic plant control community.

Everyone always hears that 'change is the only constant'. This really fits the aquatic plant management community, whether it's on (or under) water, or in the courts, or in EPA. I would encourage everyone to become active in our market. One direct way you can do that is by joining this very active organization called the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation.

Michael S. Riffle, Ph.D.



Call To Action!

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation blasts off into the Social Media world! We now have a Facebook page dedicated to Aquatic Plant Management. The objective of the site is to provide content concerning aquatic plant management that the community finds useful and to provide a 'one stop shop' for discussions on aquatic plant management. Our target audience is anyone involved in aquatic plant management, including aquatic applicators, regulators, and state agencies as well as outdoors enthusiasts including fisherman, hunters, duck hunters, lake property owners, HOA's, etc. As you may know, Facebook provides a dynamic interactive way to learn about nearly anything. In this case, this site will function as an interactive discussion board on anything about aquatic plant management. We're just getting started on this project. Please come join us!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Aquatic-Ecosystem-Restoration-Foundation/112961218773688>

BUDGET CUTS WOULD ELIMINATE THE NATION'S ONLY FEDERAL RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

The US Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) is the Nation's only federally authorized research program directed to develop technology for the management of invasive aquatic plant species. With its origins arising in the River and Harbor Act of 1958, APCRP was officially established in 1973 at the US Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, MS. Since then, the program has provided research and technology development in the areas of chemical, biological, mechanical and integrated control strategies, as well as ecological studies.

The first budget blow to the program occurred in 1995, when its funding was cut by 65%. This was one of the landmark events leading to the establishment of the AERF in 1996, which established a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRDA) with the program. This agreement allowed the private sector to fund research conducted by the APCRP scientists. Since that time, the program has been funded at approximately 50% of its previous peak budget level, supplemented by projects conducted through the AERF CRDA and other sponsors. It's during this period of partnership between APCRP and AERF that we have seen the surge in new products and technologies for the control of aquatic weed species.

Now this program faces complete elimination from the 2012 budget. This action has led to an outcry in the weed science community and letters have been sent to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works from the Weed Science Society of America and its regional chapters, The Aquatic Plant Management Society and its regional chapters, as well as the AERF, urging restoration of the program's funding at \$4 million for FY 2012 (1 October 2011).

In part, the letter from AERF says:

Through the AERF/APCRP collaboration, a strong relationship has finally been established between the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Corps, and other Federal agencies for registering new environmentally compatible products – essentially doubling those available for aquatic use since 2002. This revolutionary process has occurred while simultaneously refining and streamlining the registration process utilizing a peer-reviewed science-based approach. Leveraging APCPR and AERF resources is a key to maintaining this meaningful and critical interaction with the regulatory community. More products are under development, but those may be lost to managers if the CRADA partnership is dissolved due to lack of Corps funding.

Clearly the APCRP is of vital importance to the maintenance of water resources, transportation infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and National security. Unfortunately, with an unbudgeted APCRP and the loss of leveraging capabilities that this Corps program provides, our important cooperative work will be greatly diminished and the Nation's water resources will suffer for it.

Without this program there will be no National R&D effort for aquatic plant control. If you wish to lend your support to the restoration of the APCRP budget in FY 12, we have provided Congressional subcommittee contact information on the next page.

David G. Petty
NDR Research

Contact Information

House Appropriations subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

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Cochran, Thad	MS	R	202- 224-5054	202-224-9450	113 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
McConnell, Mitch	KY	R	202- 224-2541	202-224-2499	317 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Hutchison, Kay Bailey	TX	R	202- 224-5922	202-224-0776	284 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Shelby, Richard C.	AL	R	202- 224-5744	202-224-3416	304 Russell Senate Office Bldg
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Murkowski, Lisa	AK	R	202- 224-6665	202-224-5301	709 Hart Senate Office Bldg
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NPDES Update

The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), thanks to a decision by the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, applies to the application of pesticides in, over and near waters of the United States (US). The past couple of years have revealed just how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to implement this court-ordered process. EPA retains jurisdiction over NPDES permitting in Alaska, Idaho, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, the District of Columbia, Indian Country, U.S. Territories, and federal reservations and installations. The remainder of the states have been delegated the authority to issue NPDES permits and have developed their own programs. Originally scheduled for implementation on April 9th, the EPA requested and was granted an additional stay by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals to last until October 21, 2010. Even though the federal program has been put on hold, several states had to proceed with implementation because of their own state procedures.

It's important to keep track of the federal program because it drives what the states will ultimately do. Several things have occurred since March 1st that warrant your attention.

The National Marine Fisheries Services provided EPA with a

draft Biological Opinion indicating the proposed EPA NPDES permitting program had not adequately considered the potential jeopardy to endangered species and/or their habitat. EPA has to resolve this issue before proceeding and the draft opinion was part of the justification for the request for the stay.

On April 1st the EPA published its final draft of the permit. The final permit will be issued later this summer.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed The Reducing Regulatory Burdens Bill Of 2011 (H.R.872). Co-sponsored by over 75 Representatives, the bill passed by a vote of 292 – 130. This Bill, should it become law, would amend both the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Clean Water Act and remove the requirement for NPDES permits for aquatic applications of pesticides and would reinstate FIFRA as the sole federal law authorized to regulate pesticides.

Watch your email for “Calls to Action” sent out by AERF on behalf of RISE. These messages contain important updates on issues that impact you directly.

A Senate Bill was introduced in the Senate Agriculture Committee; but, at the urging of the Republican members of the committee, Chairman [Debbie Stabenow](#), D Michigan, has indicated that the Committee will pass House Bill No. 872 through to the full Senate for a vote.

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF) and Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) has once again sent out a “Call for Action” wherein you, your family, relatives, neighbors, colleagues, employees, friends and enemies can make your wishes known to the Senate. This bill needs to be passed and sent to the President for signature. With a Democrat majority and mounting pressure against the bill from environmental activists, this will be an uphill battle that will require the involvement of everyone involved in the world of responsible aquatic plant management. Please be ready to help us out in this monumental task.

Thank you all for your continued support of the AERF through your membership and donations.

*Carlton R. Layne
Executive Director.*

AERF

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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

Sponsorship

The AERF respectfully requests that you consider sponsorship. 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.

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.

Upcoming Meetings

Jul 24-27	APMS 51st Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
Aug 17-19	SCAPMS, Clemson, SC
Oct 10-13	FAPMS, St. Augustine, FL
Oct 26-28	NALMS, Spokane, WA
Oct 24-27	TAPMS, Bandera, TX
Jan 17-19, 2012	NEAPMS, New Castle, NH
Feb 6-9, 2012	WSSA, Big Island, HI
Feb 26-29, 2012	MAPMS, Milwaukee, WI

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