

Aquatics

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Founder of FAPMS**

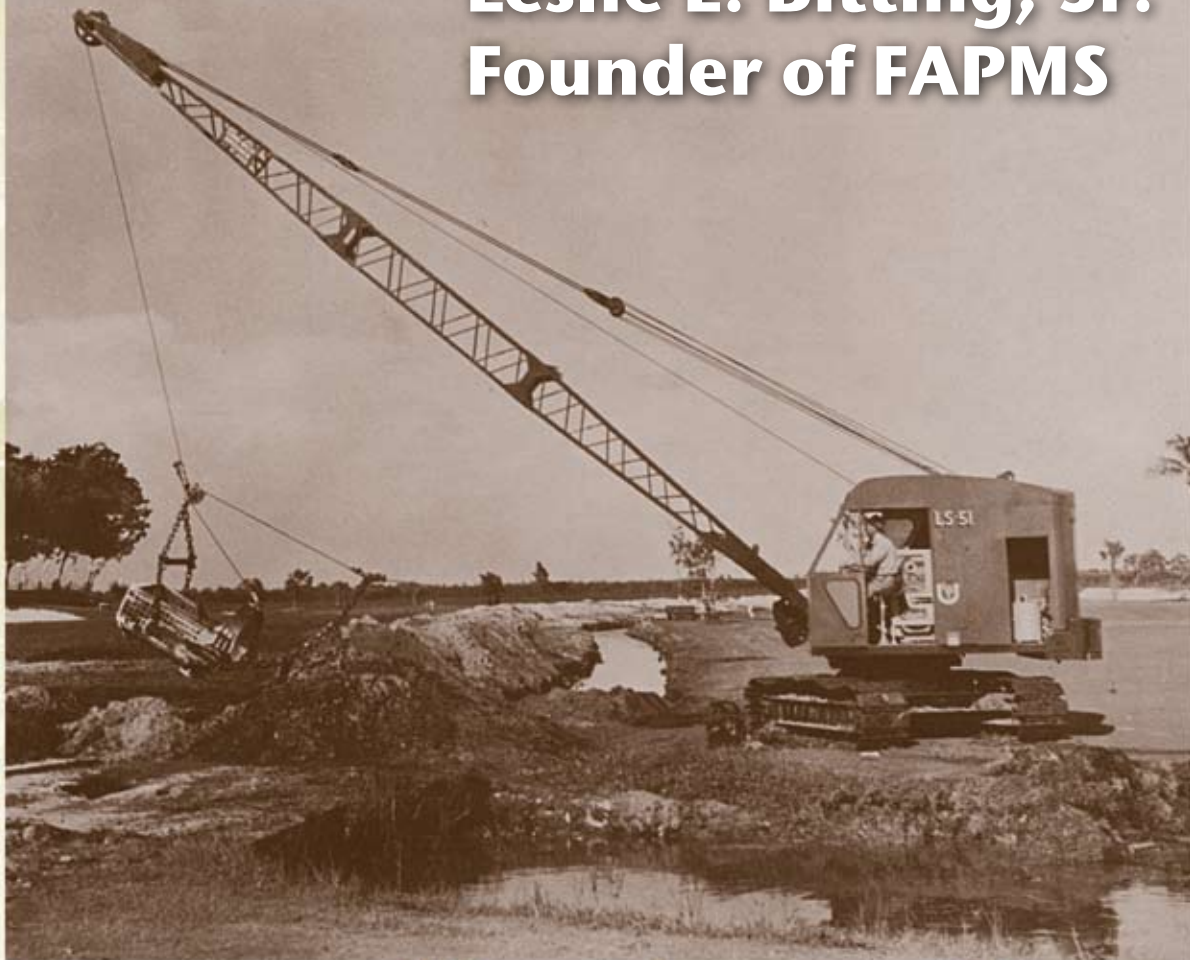




Figure 1: Hydrilla and Hygrophila Demonstration Project Homepage

Hydrilla and Hygrophila Demonstration Project Website

By Stacia Hetrick

Interested in controlling hydrilla and hygrophila? Want to learn more about the current research being done to find new and alternative methods to manage these troublesome weeds? Visit our newly updated website on the “Demonstration Project on Hydrilla and Hygrophila in the Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes” (Demonstration Project) at <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>.

The goal of this website is to keep stakeholders informed of the current demonstrations that are being conducted on hydrilla and hygrophila and to provide information about these weeds and the problems they cause. The website (Figure 1) is updated on

a continual basis so tracking the progress of the project is easy!

Hydrilla and Hygrophila Demonstration Project

This website is just one component of the Demonstration Project that is being conducted by means of a \$2.881 million grant awarded to Osceola County, Florida by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of the Demonstration Project is to discover new herbicides, develop new technology processes or practices, or a new combination of these for the purpose of providing more successful and cost effective ways to control hydrilla and hygrophila. Demonstrating the results of the project to

applicators, non-scientific public, government partners and other stakeholders is another important role of the project and the website is one of the many tools that we have developed in order to accomplish this task.

The Problem:

“The Problem” page (Figure 2) provides basic information about hydrilla and hygrophila, such as how they got to Florida, what their impacts are, their management, and ways to stop their spread. View more at <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola/about.html>.

About the Projects:

Discover in-depth information about the

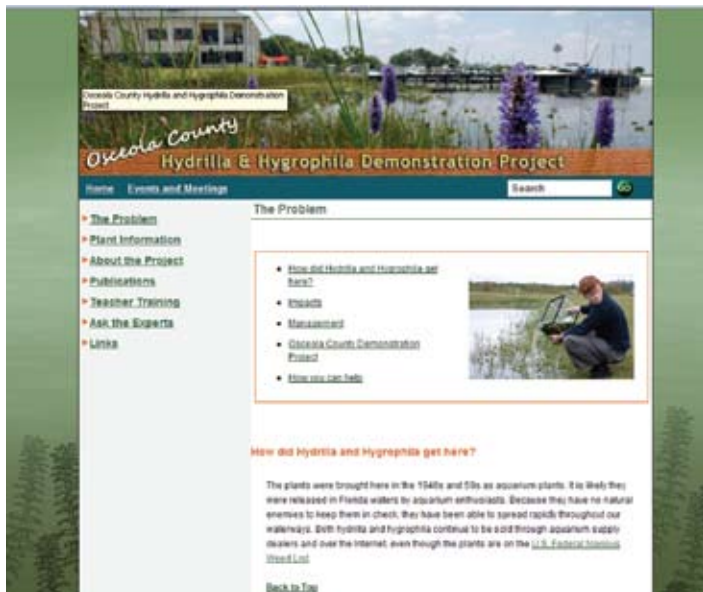


Figure 2: “The Problem” webpage that provides basic information about the plants.



Figure 3: Project Reports webpage.

Demonstration Project, including a description of the specific project components, on the “About the Project” page at http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola/project_information.html.

Project Reports:

Find up-to-date information about the research being conducted in the “Project Reports” page (Figure 3) which posts quarterly reports on the website. In the first report for 2009, Dr. William A. Overholt of the University of Florida, Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory, reported that “We are now convinced by our molecular genetic work that hydrilla is not native to Africa, as we had previously thought. The genetic studies clearly point to China as the center of origin.” To read more about this discovery and other significant findings, check out the “Project Reports” page at http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola/qr/quarterly_reports.html.

Ask the Experts:

We have also included an “Ask the Experts” page which provides an introduction to the primary researchers involved in the Demonstration Project as well as their contact information. To view this page, go to <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola/bios.html>.

And There’s More... :

The website also provides access to numerous publications that have resulted from the Demonstration Project at <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola/publications.html>. Upcoming events and meetings are

also posted, including the annual Demonstration Project Field Days that offer a chance to learn about the results of the project, take boat tours to the demonstration areas and talk to the researchers in person. To find out more about upcoming Field Days and other events and meetings related to this project, go to <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola/events.html>.

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