

# Quarterly News Letter

## Spring 2012

It's hard to believe March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 was our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Time has literally flown by, and yes I have been having fun! My partner Steve Lopez and I want to thank all our friends and family members who helped get this company off the ground. People have asked how we did it in such a poor economic time and the answer is easy - lots of help! Friends and relatives provided the advice and encouragement to start, and those same folks are out spreading the word about us and getting new clients to contact us. We also want to thank all our clients who have given us the opportunity to work with you improving your natural resources on your property, especially those clients that took a chance on us the first couple years when no one else had heard of us. Our clients are also referring us to their friends and co-workers which is why we continue growth and longevity plays an important role. We haven't grown fast, but we have grown every year. Our philosophy is simple, do the best job possible, for a fair price and treat the clients like we expect to be treated. We knew we could do the biology and management work well, but self promotion and the business tasks have been difficult, but we are getting better at it without taking away from the important stuff - the clients. We hope you're all still with us at our ten year anniversary!



### Aquatics

By Steve Lopez



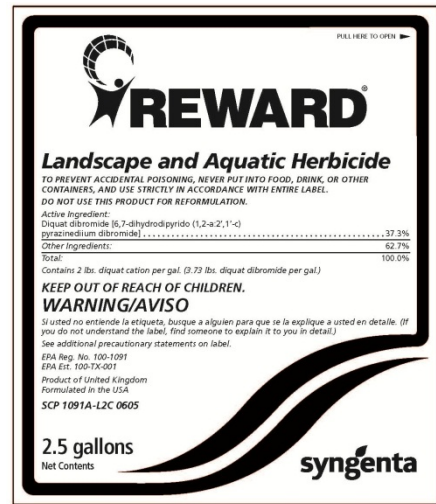
This quarter we wanted to talk about managing aquatic vegetation with herbicides. As water temperatures increase so does the growth of nuisance aquatic vegetation. Early spring is the best time to get a jump start on a plan to control potential nuisance vegetation problems.

It should first be understood that not all aquatic vegetation is a problem and in fact without some desirable native vegetation in and around your lake, development of a quality fishery may be limited. Becoming

familiar with the invasive/undesirable plant species and beneficial ones is important. Herbicides are only one useful tool for managing aquatic vegetation. As with other management tools over utilization can produce as many problems as they are intended to fix. When managing your waterbody the goal should be to maintain a balance of desirable aquatic vegetation and access for recreation. We never want to create a sterile, "swimming pool" condition. A "swimming pool" lake is inherently unstable and subject to large fluctuations from weather events and may require increased herbicide usage which can shorten the life of a man-made lake. Native vegetation is part of the balance needed to help maintain a healthy population of aquatic organisms. There are multiple resources available to help identify species and their characteristics which can make them desirable or a nuisance. Check with

your county extension office for more information about native and invasive species in your area.

Once you have identified an invasive/undesirable species and decided the best course of action is to use herbicides for control, you need to choose the best herbicide for the job. The United States Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Pesticide Programs has approved registration of approximately 300 herbicides for use in sites such as agriculture, right of way and aquatics. Each state can put further restrictions on the use of a particular herbicide. Herbicides are sold under multiple brand names but they utilize the same active ingredient. Never use herbicide not labeled for aquatic use on your waterbody. There may be disastrous effects to your lake from misuse of herbicides and legal penalties. Most labeled aquatic use herbicides can be purchased and applied without a license on your private property; however, you should research your state's regulations and always consult a professional if you have questions.



There are two different modes of action for aquatic herbicides; **systemic and contact**. **Systemic herbicides** are absorbed by the plant through the roots or leaf tissue and moves throughout the plant. They are capable of killing the entire plant. **Contact herbicides** cause localized injury to the plant in direct contact with the herbicide, leaving the roots alive and able to regrow, often during the same growing season. When applying liquid herbicides you should always use a surfactant. A surfactant is an additive used to change the surface tension of water and often also provide water conditioning and drift agents to help herbicide efficiency. The surfactant used will be determined by water source for your tank and herbicide selected.

The equipment needed to deliver the herbicide will depend on the target species, accessibility, and formulation of the herbicide itself. Aquatic herbicides are sprayed directly onto floating or emergent aquatic plants or applied to submerged vegetation by means of sub-surface liquid injection with a gas or battery powered sprayer. A hand-held spreader or a blower can apply granular herbicides.



Each herbicide label will have recommended personal protective equipment needed to handle the chemical. Whether you are mixing the solution or applying the herbicide, always follow instructions. Read the label all the way through before beginning work with a particular chemical.

Now that you have decided how you will deliver the herbicide and what the formulation will be you should calculate how much herbicide is needed for the amount of vegetation to be treated.



Determine the area and follow labeled instructions to mix the proper solution. **More is not better.** Increasing the amount of herbicide, because of the properties of water, will increase the percentage of herbicide in the whole waterbody and potential impact other species and fish. Although most aquatic herbicides break down rapidly in water, most products have waiting periods before the treated water can be used for drinking, livestock watering, irrigation and swimming. These restrictions can dictate which herbicides will be appropriate for your lake or pond. You should not treat more than

1/3 of the total waterbody in a single application because decaying vegetation is not only not producing oxygen, but utilizing oxygen in the decay process and can lead to fish kills. For large infestation, multiple smaller herbicide applications is preferred. Most herbicides are not directly toxic to fish at application rates needed to kill vegetation, but a few are, so read the label. The majority of fish kills associated with herbicide applications are due to low dissolved oxygen (DO). Water temperature and DO levels are something we monitor prior to and after herbicide application with a hand-held meter. Most herbicides work best with water temperatures above 65°. Dissolved oxygen levels below 3 ppm can stress fish. It is best to know at what levels your DO is prior to any herbicide application. Applying herbicides at the wrong time can result in less than satisfactory results in the control of nuisance vegetation, fish kills, or additional, expensive applications later on causing you money and frustration.

Although there are many steps to correctly apply aquatic herbicides it can be done by you with the proper equipment. The most important thing to remember, **don't wing it.** Not following the proper steps can be very expensive. You can kill your fish, spend a lot of money on herbicides and not get the results you desired, or worse damage a neighbor's property. Take your time, ask questions, and this tool can help you create the quality fishery you desire.

We are now offering **Trail Camera Surveys** to be done on your property to assess your whitetail deer herd. Surveys can tell you deer herd health, buck age structure, overall population density, adult sex ratio, antler quality and fawn recruitment. Once you have this information well educated and sound management decisions can be made regarding improving or maintaining your deer herd. With every survey you will receive a quality picture book showcasing the bucks and other wildlife using your property. Please contact us for a site visit and estimate to conduct a survey for you in late summer/early fall 2012.

We would like to make you aware of the publication Wildlife Trends, the most recent publication we will be writing articles in. This publication began in 2001 and is produced for the landowner and/or manager who want to learn and implement fish and wildlife techniques that have been proven to work by experts, on their own land or water. We ask that you check out their web site: <http://www.wildlifetrends.com/> and sign up for a subscription today.

Also please check out the syndicated radio show Hunt Life Outdoors Show in your area and on the web: <http://www.huntlife.com/>. Scotty Brown has been in studio and calling in giving tips on hunting, fishing, fish and wildlife management or just telling a recent story

about an outing or day at work. On the web, tips are given and questions can be asked of the Hunt Life Pro Staffers.

## Events of Interest

**2012 National Conference of Private Forest Landowners** will be held May 30 - June 1, 2012, Sawgrass Marriott Ponte Vedra Beach Resort & Spa. For additional information go to: <http://www.forestlandowners.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=184>

**Quality Deer Management Deer Steward Course I & II** Course I is May 11-14, Andalusia, Alabama at Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center — Field Trip: SDFEC Research Forest and Course II is being held June 1-4, Woodbine, Georgia at Cabin Bluff. For more information: <http://www.qdma.com/programs/certify/deer-steward-courses/>

**Ducks Unlimited National Convention and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** is May 30—June 3, 2012 in Nashville, Tennessee at the Gaylord Resort & Convention Center. For more information: <http://www.ducks.org/events/National-Convention>

**QDMA National Convention and Bass Pro Shops Land & Wildlife Expo** is August 8 -11<sup>th</sup> at the Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, Tennessee. For more information: <http://www.qdma.com/>

**Pond Boss Conference & Expo** is October 11-14<sup>th</sup>, at Big Cedar Lodge & Resort near Branson Missouri. For more information: <http://www.pondboss.com/events.asp?id=3>

**Texas Hunter Winter Feeder Sale Ends March 30th!** Southern Sportsman Aquatics & Land Management clients and friends will receive an additional 5% off items already on sale. Browse the [Sale Flier](#) or [Texas Hunter](#) website and contact us via [E-Mail](#) or telephone (214) 383 - 3223 to place your order. We can have feeders delivered to you and you assemble and put out, or we can bring them to you assembled, install and set up with a short demonstration. We have been associated for over 20 years with various fish and game feeders and we feel these are the best on the market for the quality, price, easiest to operate and longest lasting. Besides feeders they have EZ Set Timers on sale, which come with multiple wiring harnesses so they can be used on other brand feeders. These are the simplest timers we have seen and have several clients that have perfectly good working feeders from other manufacturers, but wanted an easier to operate so they installed and are very pleased. Also on sale are Texas Hunter's wide selection of deer blinds, which can last forever due to the material they are made from. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us and we will gladly answer any questions you may have.

Southern Sportsman Aquatics & Land Management wants to remind you about our **Lunker Fish & Bruiser Buck Programs**. A commemorative plaque will be presented to landowners who experience an exceptional fish being caught from their waterbodies or whitetail deer harvested that we manage lakes and/or land on a regular basis. The landowner need not be the successful angler or hunter, but we do need a quality photo, date and time caught or harvested, the length, girth and weight of the fish or antler measurements of the deer. The categories for fish are bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, channel or blue catfish and largemouth bass. The size categories are as follows: largemouth bass  $\geq 25$ " or 10 lbs, channel or blue catfish  $\geq 33$ " or 20 lbs, bluegill  $\geq 10$ " or 0.75 lbs, redear sunfish  $\geq 11$ " or 1.0

lbs, warmouth  $\geq 10$ " or 0.75 lbs and black crappie  $\geq 14$ " or 2.0 lbs. Whitetail deer qualify if it scores  $\geq 140$ . Plaques will be presented to qualifying land owners during winter site visits for achievements the previous year. To date no one has submitted anything for 2011 and we know there have been some quality fish caught, so don't forget about this program.

I encourage newsletter feedback and suggested topics, upcoming events that readers may be interested in attending and any of our clients with fish or game pictures to please submit to me via E-Mail or through our Blog and we can include them in the Quarterly News Letter and/or add them to the "Photos" page of the company web site. Also, if you are inclined to write a short paragraph to be published on the "Testimonials" page of our web site, please do so, as I am always updating it and would like to have more of those up from our satisfied customers. All previous Quarterly News Letters and links of interest can be found at: <http://www.southernsportsmanaquaticsandland.com>.

If you are pleased with the services and products you receive from Southern Sportsman Aquatics & Land Management, please tell your friends and associates about us. The best compliment you can give us is a referral. We are always looking for additional clients from Texas to Florida.

Our spring 2012 work schedule has very few openings for electrofishing, but there is a day or two open. We are signing people up for fall 2012 already. If a deer camera census survey is desired on your property, book it now to be done in late summer/early fall 2012. Having those done require booking well in advance, as we will not be able to schedule a last minute survey.

***Scott G. Brown, Owner***