

Ryan Wersal, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Biological Sciences
Minnesota State University Mankato

Bio:

Dr. Ryan Wersal is an Assistant Professor of Aquatic Plant Ecology in the Department of Biological Sciences at Minnesota State University Mankato. He teaches courses in General Ecology, Lake Ecology, Wetlands, and Weed Science. Ryan's research focuses on understanding the seasonal life history characteristics and phenology of aquatic plants. These data are used to exploit weak points in order to improve management of problematic species. Basic research is conducted to understand biomass, carbohydrate, and nutrient resource allocation patterns. Management strategies are developed using controlled growth studies whereby different techniques are evaluated to control aquatic plants in order to develop better use patterns for existing methods and to develop new products for use in aquatic plant management. A third research focus utilizes spatial technologies to design and implement large-scale quantitative lake assessment programs in Minnesota.



Madeline M. Kjellesvig, BS

Research Assistant
Aquatic Weed Science Lab
Biological Sciences Department
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Bio:

Ms. Kjellesvig is a masters student at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She is a research assistant for the Aquatic Weed Science Lab, overseen by Dr. Ryan Wersal in the Department of Biological Sciences. She also spends her time working as a teaching assistant for Biology of Our Natural World at MNSU. Her thesis research concentrates on understanding the seasonal changes or phenological characteristics of one particular invasive aquatic plant, Cuban bulrush. The goal of this research is to be able to efficiently time management strategies with weak points in the plant's seasonal resource allocation patterns.



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Gray Turnage, MS

Research Associate

Geosystems Research Institute

Mississippi State University

Mr. Turnage is a Research Associate at the Mississippi State University Geosystems Research Institute. He has over a decade of research experience in aquatic and wetland ecosystems. He has been involved with several projects across the U.S. establishing control efforts and management protocols for invasive aquatic and wetland plants. This work regularly includes consulting with resource managers and landowners, writing management plans for public and private entities, monitoring plant community dynamics over time through boat and drone based vegetation surveys, and contributing peer review literature regarding his research projects.

