

# Presidential Address

Given at 4th Annual Hyacinth Control Meeting  
in Tallahassee, Florida, on June 29, 1964

by

HERBERT J. FRIEDMAN

Distinguished Guests, Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to come before you as the President of the Hyacinth Control Society at its 4th Annual meeting.

To most Americans, Florida is the land of oranges, beaches, bathing beauties, and sunshine; a kind of heaven to which fortunate Northerners go when the snow and ice become oppressive. To others, facing retirement, it means balmy days of relaxation and ease. To some youth, scientifically inclined, it is a strip of launch pads for rockets to the moon. To those who love the Everglades and Okefenokee, it is swamps, Seminoles and Alligators; and to those with fishing gear in hand, it is Bonefish, Marlin and Bass. Of course, Florida is all of these things. But it is a great many other things less dramatic and less poetic to those who earn their bread and who make their homes here. Our area is blessed with a marvelous climate; sunshine and warmth and an abundance of rain.

The attention you pay towards preserving and improving some of these advantages that nature gave us is the reason for this Society and this meeting today.

Speaking for our Society now in its Fourth Year, I feel that we have made some very progressive strides towards one of our most important goals — that of coordinating technical information in the field of Aquatic Weed and Hyacinth Control as well as in assisting in the transmission of this data from the research people — be they from government, university, or industry — to the practical applicators of weed control, the men who constitute the majority of our membership.

It is these research people, from our universities and various government agencies, with the support and encouragement of industry, who devote their creative energies to the exploration and investigation of fundamental weed control problems. Our Hyacinth Control Society is primarily composed of the working people in the field of weed control and Hyacinths — those folks who have to get the work done and who must also satisfy the public.

The Hyacinth Control Society performs a very important function in this field that is sometimes overlooked.

Basically, the larger regional and national organizations such as the Weed Society of America and the Southern Weed Conference are forums for research people. While the data provided by these groups is invaluable towards progress in the field of weed control, it is seldom that this information is directed towards the control applicator.

Normally, the technical papers given at national or regional meetings do not concern themselves with practicalities, and frankly are sometimes directed over the heads of the applicators. Since we find few if any of these Florida people in attendance at the national meetings, it becomes doubly important that our membership expand its purpose or action to provide practical information such as rates of application, methods, equipment to be utilized and costs — to be disseminated to all who are in need of it. It is here at our annual meeting that we have the opportunity to rehash our field

problems, solve new ones, discuss our techniques and procedures — to provide practical information unavailable in almost any other manner.

We in the Southeast are extremely fortunate in having in our midst some of the most eminent authorities in the field of aquatic weed control that our country can boast. It is these men who can translate the wealth of weed control data that is provided into the information that is needed to assist the applicator and control man in overcoming his everyday problems.

In accomplishing this, we are not only making our area a better place to live for all concerned, but we are visibly aiding the economic growth of our state and the entire Southeast. We must also bear in mind that future problems in our field will become more complex, and the need for qualified and competent men will expand. Our society must continue to bridge the gap between research and application in order to justify the support and cooperation of all of its members.

I hope that at some future meeting, when the activities of previous years are being outlined, that it will take a great number of words to tell of the accomplishments of this Society and its membership, and that from greater knowledge will come a satisfaction and confidence in a job well done.

## Florida and Hyacinth Control

By

A. D. ALDRICH

First, let me welcome the Hyacinth Control Society to Tallahassee and our Capital City. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is charged with the responsibility for the management, restoration, conservation and regulations of the birds, game fur-bearing animals and fresh water fish in the State of Florida.

The role of aquatic weed control in these programs is an important one. We are active in this control program through several projects and vigilant to prevent wildlife damages through unwise practices.

Undesirable aquatic vegetation can reduce and destroy fish and game habitat through competition with desirable species, shading micro-organisms, causing flooding and destruction of spawning areas.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission began its weed control program in 1952 under a Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid Project to develop methods and chemicals to control the water hyacinth. This program has continued and expanded through biennial appropriations from the state legislature, matching funds from the U. S. Corps of Engineers and from the State Game Fund.

To date, we believe water hyacinths are under control in all areas of the state except the Kissimmee River watershed. Extensive operations are underway in this area now. In some areas we have even had complaints we are doing too good a job. Our biologists are presently studying the fish populations in these areas of complaint to determine any changes in fish populations.

Other aquatic weeds are causing considerable problems to our hunters and fishermen among these are alligator weed, eloeda, najas, water lettuce, maiden cane and coon-tail.

We must seek solutions to these problem weeds through research both with chemicals and biological controls.

We must continue to examine the effect of each new herbicide on wildlife fish and food organisms.