

Presidential Address

ZEB C. GRANT

Given at Sixth Annual Hyacinth Control Meeting in Lakeland, Florida, on June 19, 1966

Director of Operation & Maintenance Division C. & S. Florida Flood Control District, West Palm Beach, Florida

Distinguished guests, officers, members of the Society, ladies and gentlemen . . . I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the members of the Society, for the honor of serving as your President for the past year. I would also like to thank all of those who have helped in making the arrangements for this meeting.

The Hyacinth Control Society was founded to help the man who is actively involved in an aquatic weed control program obtain better, safer, and more economical results from his work. Our programs, last year and again this year, were developed with this theme in mind. I believe this Society has been a great help to many people in weed control work and should continue its service to all who are desirous of help.

Last year the Society directed its Board of Directors to develop a Herbarium to aid in the identification of common aquatic species for use by field personnel. Mr. Bob Blackburn and Dr. Lyle Weldon have given their time and hard work to have the Herbariums, which you have seen at the desks, ready for this meeting. I hope everyone will avail themselves of this opportunity to purchase one for their use.

Our Society should continue to work for the improvement of the aquatic weed control carried out by its members. Our members are always striving to be safer, more effective and more efficient in their operations. We should do all we can to be of service to them.

I would like to recommend to the new Board of Directors the following ways to achieve this end:

1. Continue our present policy on our programs. That is, to have constructive papers which will be an aid or guide to people involved in operating an aquatic weed control program.

2. I feel there is a great need for an adequate training program for all people engaged in the use of herbicides. A great service would be done if our organization would develop an outline or guideline for a training program which would be used by anyone wishing to train their personnel in the proper handling, mixing, and application of herbicides. This, as stated before, would aid all users to have a safer, more efficient operation.

There is also another reason for this. If the users of herbicides do not begin to properly regulate their operations to prevent damage to others in the use of chemicals, we will find that someone else is going to do it for us by restrictive legislation on the state or on the Washington level. These restrictions could seriously hamper our ability to carry on an effective aquatic weed control program. If any changes are needed in current practices by applicators, we should make them now and not wait to be told to do so.

3. The new President should appoint an active legislative committee to keep an eye on the proposals presented to the next Florida State Legislature in April. They should be prepared to make recommendations to any legislative committees studying these proposals. Federal legislation will also bear watching. At the present time, all states are considering pollution control legislation as required under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. This could again have a serious effect on aquatic weed control programs, if not properly and wisely applied to our work.

I hope our new President and Board of Directors will give these proposals their consideration.