

THE FOUNDING FATHERS

The original Certificate of Incorporation of the Hyacinth Control Society, Inc., a corporation not for profit, was signed at Useppa Island the 19th of July 1961.

The subscribers to the Incorporation papers were:

T. W. Miller, Jr. of Ft. Myers, Florida. Wayne was and continues to serve as the Director of the Lee County Hyacinth Control District. Originally a mosquito control district, Lee County took on the responsibility of aquatic weed control in the early 1960's. Wayne is a native Floridian, his family many years ago ran a steamboat line on the Kissimmee River between Kissimmee and Okeechobee. When Wayne was 16 he served as a page for a U.S. Congressman in Washington D.C. and then graduated from Georgia Tech. Wayne served as President of the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association in 1963 and as first President of the Hyacinth Control Society in 1961-62 followed by many years as Secretary of the Society.

A. S. Chipley. Mr. Chipley initially did a bit of farming, had a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and when working in Ft. Myers, became a member of the Board of the Lee County Mosquito Control District. Most recently, he served as head of the *Aedes aegypti* eradication program for the Federal government in Alabama and is now retired and living in Montgomery. Mr. Chipley was the Chairman of the first meeting of the Hyacinth Control Society.

Herbert J. Friedman. A long-time resident of Tampa, Mr. Friedman was born in Mt. Vernon, New York, the son of a wheat broker who worked in New York City. His roots go back to Illinois where his grandfather was a farmer. Herb attended the University of Illinois where he studied accounting. He also attended New York University and the University of Grenoble in France. In 1950, Mr. Friedman founded the Southern Mill Creek Products Company in Tampa, selling agricultural supplies and equipment and also serving the mosquito and hyacinth control programs in the State. Southern Mill Creek was sold in 1977, but Herb continues a very active retirement in Tampa. Mr. Friedman served in many capacities in the Society, as President in 1963-64, and was elected Honorary Member in 1986.

William Dryden. Mr. Dryden was also a Board Member of the Lee County Mosquito Control District along with Mr. Chipley. He was formerly the Dean of the Graduate School at Auburn University. He took an early retirement from Auburn and moved to Ft. Myers where he raised everything from poultry to orchids. Mr. Dryden is now retired and lives in Ft. Myers. Will served as President of the Society in 1962-63.

Thomas O. Fultz. Oscar was truly from a mosquito control family. His father-in-law was Alex MacWilliams who served as President of the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association in 1932! Mr. Fultz was Mosquito Control Director in Polk County when the Society was first formed. He was formerly Assistant Director of Mosquito Control for Indian River County in his home town, Vero Beach. Currently, an Entomology graduate of the University of Florida, Oscar is Director of Mosquito Control in Chatham County Georgia (Savannah).

Edwin L. Seabrook. Ed was born and raised in the Martin/Palm Beach County area of Florida. His grandfather was the lighthouse keeper at Jupiter Inlet for many years. Mr. Seabrook is a graduate of the University of Florida and was a long-time Director of the Palm Beach County Mosquito Control District. He served as President of the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association in 1950.

D. E. Seaman. Don was a scientist employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He worked at the old Peter's Farm Lab located on Peter's Road in Ft. Lauderdale. This lab was the forerunner to the current USDA/UF lab now located in Davie. Dr. Seaman's research was primarily concerned with biology and control of aquatic plants and he did a lot of research on endothall. After being a signatory to the Certificate of Incorporation, he served as Director of the Hyacinth Society in 1961-62. Shortly thereafter, Don was transferred to Davis, California where he conducted research for USDA, and later the University of California at the Rice Research Station in Biggs, California. Currently, Don works for Stauffer Chemical Company.

Although these seven men were instrumental in setting up the Society and are truly the "Founding Fathers," the flame of dedication, enthusiasm and service to the Society has been passed on through the first 25 years to an additional 21 individuals who have served the Society as President and presiding officers of our annual meetings. A brief introduction to these individuals gives a true idea of the diverse group that our Society has pulled together.

John W. Woods. Bill worked for the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission (Tallahassee) for many years, working his way up to Director of the Division of Fisheries. He retired from the Commission in the late 70's and lives near Fort Walton Beach.

Zeb Grant. Zeb worked for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District (West Palm Beach) and ultimately served many years as Director of the Department of Field Services for the South Florida Water Management

District. As Director, he was responsible for aquatic weed control for the District until his untimely death in the late 1970's.

James D. Gorman. Dan was Director of the Hillsborough County Mosquito and Aquatic Weed Control Program when he served as President of the Society in 1966-67. He still directs the county program and lives in the Tampa area. Dan also was president of the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association in 1974.

Robert D. Blackburn. Bob was a scientist working for ARS/USDA at Ft. Lauderdale while he served as President in 1967-68. Currently he is a consultant and operates a business in aquascaping and aquatic management based in the Central/South Florida area.

Frank L. Wilson. Frank has been associated with Mosquito Control and Polk County for many years. He was President of the Hyacinth Control Society in 1968-69 and President of the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association in 1972. Frank currently is Director of Polk County Environmental Services located in Bartow.

Paul R. Cohee. Paul presided over the first Society meeting outside of Florida in Huntsville, Alabama in 1970. He worked out of Orlando as a District Representative of the Hercules Powder Company and worked on developing invert treatments for aquatic weed control.

Stanley C. Abramson. Stan was in charge of grounds maintenance at a military installation when he signed on with Southern Mill Creek Products Company. He was involved in sales and development for Southern Mill Creek, retired in the late 70's and currently does consulting being based out of the Tampa area.

Robert J. Gates. Bob was Director of Field Operations and in charge of the Aquatic Plant Management Program for the Southwest Florida Water Management District based in Brooksville, Florida. He was instrumental in developing invert treatments while handling weed problems in the infamous Withlachoochee River. Bob retired several years ago and lives in the Brooksville area. Bob was elected an Honorary Member of the Society in 1984.

Brandt G. Watson. Brandt served as President of the Society in 1972-73 and followed this service with several years as Treasurer of the Society. In 1975, he was also President of the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association. An entomologist, Brandt is the long-time Director of the Collier County Mosquito Control Program based in Naples, Florida.

Alva P. Burkhalter. Al was Chief of the Bureau of Aquatic Plant Research and Control with the Florida Department of Natural Resources and most of DNR's programs that are on line today owe their existence to Dr. Burkhalter's leadership. Around 1980, Al took an opportunity and went to work with Monsanto at Corporate Headquarters in St. Louis where he continues to direct research programs on non-cropland use of glyphosate.

Lou V. Guerra. Lou was the "hydrilla gorilla" of Texas in his position as Director of Aquatic Weed Control for Texas Parks and Wildlife. A stalwart at many of our meetings, his talks are not soon forgotten. Lou retired in the early 1980's and consults as time permits from his home near San Antonio.

Ray A. Spirnock. Ray worked for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District (later re-named South Florida Water Management District) for some 15 years. He was Chief of Station at the Miami Field Station for several years and moved to West Palm (headquarters) to become Deputy Department Director. In the mid-70's Ray worked for DNR and the Department of Agriculture for a short time, finally going into private business where he remains today working out of Plant City.

Robert W. Gieger. Bob worked for the Agriculture Division of 3M Company. He helped develop the Mariner Brand line of endothall formulations. He transferred to Ohio, then on to Corporate Headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Donald V. Lee. Don was President in 1977-78 and continues to serve on the site-selection committee for the Society. Don has worked for many years at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in Baton Rouge. He is currently Assistant Chief of Fisheries for the Department and as such directs the activities of the Department in aquatic weed control.

Julian J. Raynes. Julian spent his career working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His interests in aquatic plant management was a result of being based at the South Atlantic Division of the Corps where he was involved in the initial planning and subsequent operational programs of the Corps in the Southeast. Julian retired in the early 80's and lives in the Atlanta area.

William N. Rushing. Bill served as President of the Society in 1979-80 and is our current Secretary-Treasurer. Bill has worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for many years. His experience includes conducting research in Puerto Rico and he currently is Assistant Program Manager for the Corps' Waterways Experiment Station Aquatic Plant Control Program in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Nelson Virden. Nelson served as President of the Society in 1980-81. He is President of his own pest control company and continues his aquatic activities with the Mid-South Chapter. Nelson lives near Jackson, Mississippi.

Roy L. Clark. Roy was raised in South Texas and worked in the Pesticide Registration Division of the USDA prior to becoming Director of the Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances for the U.S. EPA out of Atlanta. Roy was very active in the society and took a keen interest in aquatics. In 1985 he transferred to Florida to work in mosquito control programs. Roy was living near Cypress Gardens at the time of his death in early 1987.

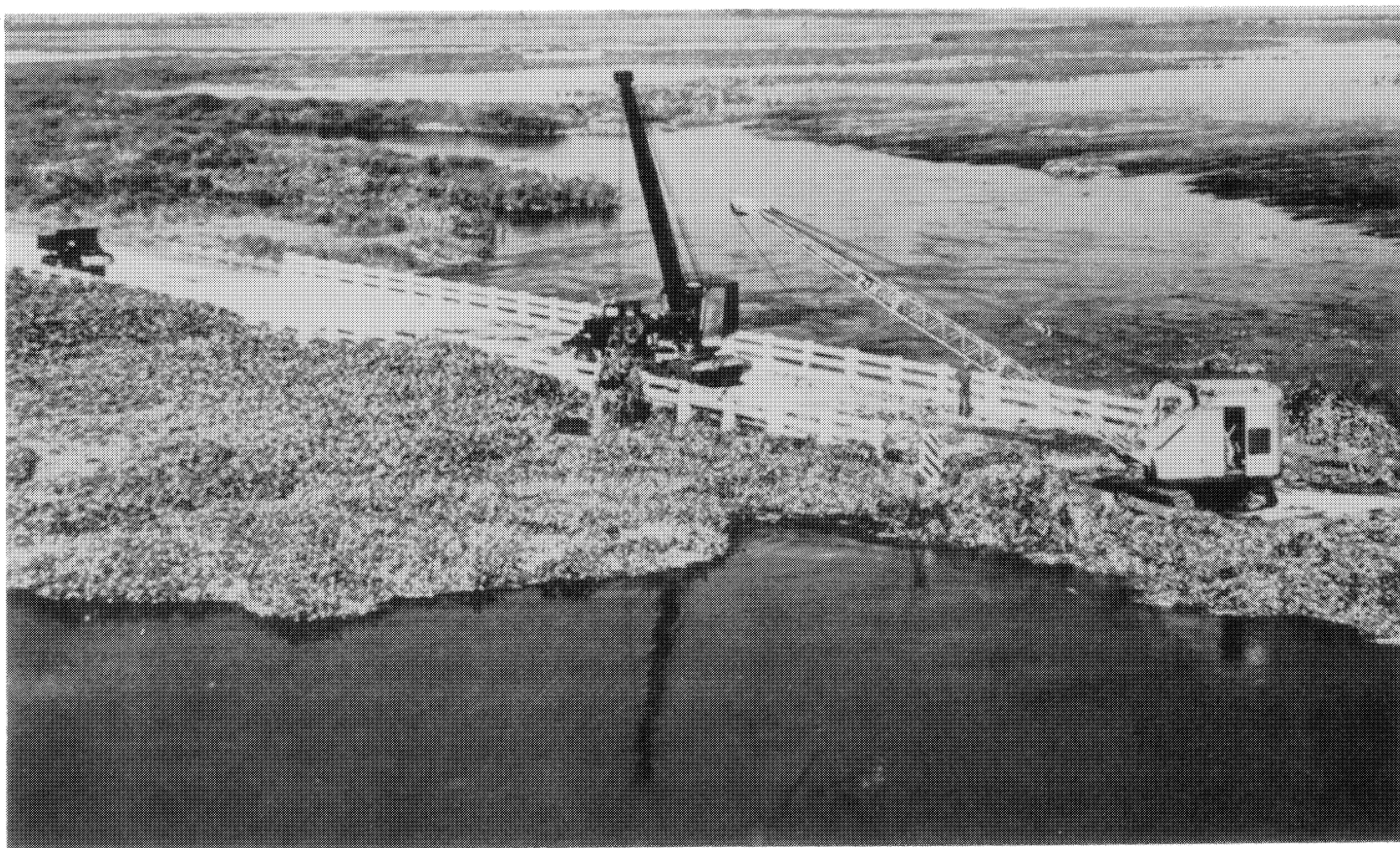
Emory E. McKeithen. Emory served as President of the Society in 1982-83 and presided over the Disney World Meetings! Emory is active in the Mid-South Chapter and has served the aquatic plant management industry first with Amchem, who was bought by Union Carbide, who is now owned by Rhone-Poulenc. Emory is District Sales Manager for Rhone-Poulenc based in Jackson, Mississippi.

A. Leon Bates. Leon has worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority devoting his time to aquatic weed control and some mosquito control projects during his tenure at Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Leon has spent time helping on aquatic weed problems overseas (Turkey) and is now involved in Grass Carp Research for TVA.

Max C. McCowen. Max presided over our first ever meeting held outside the U.S. in Vancouver, B.C. in 1985. Max spent a career with Elanco, a division of Eli Lilly in Indianapolis, Indiana. Max was involved with fluridone from discovery and development through aquatic registration of the product. Max retired from Elanco in 1986, is now living near Naples, Florida and maintains a keen interest in the Society and local chapters.

In addition to these past presidents, a rogue's gallery of individuals have served on the Board of Directors over the past 25 years. The officers of the Society during the first 25 years is listed in this issue.

Editor's Note: I want to thank many people who provided information for this section. I hope the errors, which I am sure have occurred, are minor; nonetheless they are solely my responsibility.



Hyacinth jam at a South Florida Bridge – 1950's (Z. Grant, Hyacinth Contr. J. 1:24).