

## In Memoriam to Dr. Lyle W. Weldon

### Aquatic Weed Scientist



**THE NEWS OF YOUR HUSBAND'S DEATH** came as a complete shock to me. I cannot begin to tell you how much I admired Lyle's intent interest in the natural resources of our state. I know of no other more dedicated public official.—**CLAUDE R. KIRK, JR.**, Governor, State of Florida.

\* \* \*

**WHEREAS, THE GOVERNING BOARD**, upon receiving word that Dr. Lyle W. Weldon, while performing routine underwater experiments, met his untimely death on Feb. 1, 1970, wishes to express its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Dr. Lyle W. Weldon and to pay tribute to and acknowledge the outstanding contributions and services performed by him for the District and for the State of Florida.—Portion of resolution passed by the **CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT**.

\* \* \*

**I KNEW AND WORKED WITH LYLE** for 10 years. During this period, he and I became very close friends. I often thought of him as a brother instead of a research partner. This, the death of Lyle was a tragic and personal loss to me. The field of aquatic weed science lost a great scientist. The contribution he made to the field will stand long after his death is forgotten by most people. The aquatic research station at Fort Lauderdale will continue to carry out many of his research ideas for years into the future. It was a pleasure to have worked with Lyle; it was an even greater pleasure to have known the enthusiasm and dedication he had for the field of aquatic weed science. This one point illustrates his dedication to the field. He and I published most of our research together. It is a privilege to have my name associated with this scientist, and I intend to see that those ideas and dedication to the field of aquatic weed science which cost him his life are continued in the future at this laboratory.—**ROBERT D. BLACKBURN**, botanist, Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**THE HYACINTH CONTROL SOCIETY** and aquatic weed research are but two areas in which a void must be recognized from the loss of Lyle Weldon. Certainly, his family, his friends, his co-workers and his community have found this tragedy difficult to accept and consolation hard to find. I could say quite a bit about what I have personally gained from knowing and working with Lyle the past seven years or so, as I'm sure can many others. This must, however, be considered minor when we give proper recognition to all of the contributions he has made and we all have benefitted from, in discovering and learning more about our aquatic environment, our weed problems and what to do about them. His mark in his field has been indelible.—**PAUL R. COHEE**, president, The Hyacinth Control Society, Inc., Montgomery, Ala.

\* \* \*

**IT IS WITH MIXED FEELINGS OF PRIDE AND SORROW** that I express my evaluation of Dr. Lyle W. Weldon. Lyle began his career in aquatic weed research at Laramie, Wyo., as an ambitious young scientist with a brand new M.S. degree. During the 3½ years we worked closely together, Lyle showed his potential as an outstanding scientist: curiosity, initiative, eagerness to learn, self-confidence, insistence on knowing why, and extreme dedication to his job and to science.

His impatience with details and questioning attitude were irritating at times to me and other scientists, but I recognized them as attributes of a perfectionist. He would always accept advice and even reprimands as part of the learning process. Because of these qualities and his abundant energy and dedication which enabled him to complete requirements for his Ph.D. by June 1959, while spending much contributed overtime to official research, I prevailed upon him to accept a difficult pioneering assignment at Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

During his 10 years of research in Florida under my distant and unneeded supervision, Dr. Weldon equalled and far exceeded my highest expectations. He and his research accomplishments became well known and ad-



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** On this page are tributes to Lyle Weldon from a few of the many persons in industry, government and education who knew him personally or were aware of his work. Hundreds of others remember him as he is pictured at left, speaking vigorously about research findings in weed science. His appearances were numerous. This scene is from a meeting of the Hyacinth Control Society, to which Weldon contributed an immense amount of time and energy, as an organizer, speaker, editor and officer.

mired among weed scientists and other specialists in Florida, the Southern Weed Conference, the Weed Science Society of America and in many foreign countries. If he had a fault, it was over dedication to his job and to science at personal sacrifice and risk to his health. In my opinion, Dr. Weldon's contribution to Weed Science at age 35 has not been exceeded or even equalled by another scientist at that age.—**F. L. TIMMONS** leader, Weed Investigations, Aquatic and Non-crop, ARS, USDA, Laramie, Wyo.

\* \* \*

**DR. LYLE WELDON** was without question one of the foremost research men as well as one of the most knowledgeable in the aquatic weed science field. His death is a severe blow to this industry. The team of Weldon and Blackburn seldom, if ever, was matched for effectiveness. These scientists planned together . . . and published together. Rarely did they publish a scientific paper which did not carry the names of both. It is doubtful that this kind of relationship—directed toward a specific scientific phase of the weed control industry—can be repeated.

As a man, Lyle leaves an enviable legacy. Those of us who worked with him in various disciplines concerned with this industry knew him both as friend and congenial companion. We know Lyle for the competent, driving, hard-working, and intelligent person that he was.—**ARTHUR V. EDWARDS**, editorial director, WEEDS TREES and TURF, Cleveland, Ohio.

\* \* \*

**IT CAN BEST BE SAID** of Lyle that in his short life span he achieved that which many of us never do in a full three score and ten years. Lyle left his mark in accomplishments, long range visions and a person-to-person relationship with all who came in contact with him. He was never too busy to explain to the water user the work that was under way. He believed that an informed lakefront cottage owner became an ally to those of us involved in weed work. Lyle, above all, had a total concept of the place and need for aquatic weed control.

We will all miss him with his curiosity, enthusiasm and willingness to work the clock around in his search for answers. He left a large pair of shoes to fill.—**JOHN E. GALLAGHER**, agricultural chemicals division, research and development, Amchem Products, Inc., Ambler, Pa.

\* \* \*

**HAVING WORKED** in most of the world's countries, I can tell you—Lyle Weldon was one of the best aquatic weed scientists in the world. He had few peers. He understood the biology of aquatic plants and he was an expert on control measures for species which were troublesome. He was technically competent, but he also recognized the social impact of weed problems. He was aware that politicians, farmers, urban people, and citizens from many walks of life would have to be brought together in support of the solution of such problems. His determination and enthusiasm inspired some of us to do things we didn't know we could do. We have lost one of the leaders for our work.—**PROF. LEROY HOLM**, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

\* \* \*

**DR. LYLE WELDON** had a zest for life and with it a vigorous, contagious aggressiveness directed toward control procedures of aquatic weeds. This made him a leader in this field. We all miss him as a co-worker and as a friend. — **JOHN H. STEENIS**, USDI, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Md.

\* \* \*

**THE LOSS OF LYLE WELDON** has been a terrible blow to the field of weed science. His techniques, abilities and methods of developing and transmitting data will be sorely missed in the years to come. Rarely, if ever, in my 20 years of experience in the weed control industry have I had the opportunity and good fortune to work with anyone as dynamic, forceful and determined as Lyle. His precise approach to difficult problems will always be remembered. I will miss him, as will so many others who have worked with him for these last number of years. — **HERBERT J. FRIEDMAN**, president, Southern Mill Creek Products Co., Inc., Tampa, Fla.