



Dr. Lyle W. Weldon

Aquatic Weed Researcher Dr. Lyle Weldon Drowns

Dr. Lyle Weldon, 35, one of the nation's foremost aquatic weed researchers, is dead as the result of accidental drowning.

Dr. Weldon died Feb. 1 while scuba diving in Lake Susannah on the Naval Training Base at Orlando, Fla. He was trying to find suitable sites to conduct submersed weed research, reported Robert D. Blackburn, of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Dr. Weldon was a certified and experienced diver, Blackburn said. The cause of the accident just isn't known.

He had been diving alone, but had a friend, Art Barrett, waiting on shore. He surfaced and called for help; but by the time Barrett was able to get a boat and reach him, it was too late.

Professional divers have retraced his diving pattern, Blackburn said, but have been unable to determine the cause of drowning.

Dr. Weldon had published some 90 articles, several of them authored with Blackburn. A number of his articles have been published in

WEEDS TREES and TURF. The most recent three, co-authored with Blackburn, were on new methods for combating aquatic weeds, October, 1967; Eurasian Watermilfoil, November, 1967; and a report on controlling Hydrilla Verticillata, October, 1969.

Weldon, native of Oregon, had worked for USDA since 1956. He transferred to Fort Lauderdale in 1960 to work in aquatic weeds. He earned a bachelor's degree in farm crops from Oregon State University in 1955; a master's degree in agronomy with minor in botany from the University of Wyoming in 1956, and his doctorate in agronomy with minor in plant physiology and statistics also from Wyoming in 1959. He took additional graduate work at North Carolina State College and at Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies.

Weldon was active in several regional and national associations of weed scientists. He had acted as an aquatic weed control consultant to the governor of the Panama Canal Zone and to Suriname Aluminum Co., on aquatic weed problems in South America.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; two daughters, Kara Lee, 12, and Katherine, 10; and one son, Lyle William Jr., 7.

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