

Aquatic Weed Group To Meet July 9-12

Technical papers on aquatic weed control are being called for by Robert J. Gates, president of the Hyacinth Control Society, a national organization dedicated to control of all noxious aquatic weeds.

The annual meeting is scheduled July 9-12, 1972, at Miami, Fla. Gates has announced that headquarters will be at the Miami Springs Villas—Kings Inn, Miami. Reservations can be made directly with the hotel and convention rates are \$14.50, either double or single.

Program plans are tentative and will shortly be announced. Normally, 100 or more technical papers are presented by industry leaders and researchers in aquatic weed control. In addition, the Society normally sponsors a field day demonstration program. A special program for wives and children is likewise scheduled, and Gates reports plans are being formulated for a number of special activities for both.

Traditionally, the Society has extended an invitation to anyone interested in aquatic weed control. Besides members, attendance includes non-members from many states and usually several foreign representatives.

Details are available from Gates at Box 508, Floral City, Fla. 32636.

Scientists Seek Biological Control of Forest Pests

A new project aimed at biological control of forest insects is getting under way at the University of California, Riverside.

The project represents the first major effort to investigate "natural" methods of insect control, as opposed to conventional chemical methods, in southern California watersheds, according to entomologist E. F. Legner, who heads a five-man research team.

Biological controls are needed for two reasons, he said:

"There are increasing objections to the use of chemicals in forest, wildland, and watershed areas; and the control of pests with chemicals is extremely costly, as well as temporary in effect.

"Despite the importance of forest lands in California, there has been little effort to date toward biological control of insect pests by the importation of their natural enemies."

Specific objectives of the new project will be: to find and test natural enemies of needle miners,

the California oakworm, the California flatheaded borer, the pinyon pine sawfly pine scale, and a recently invading pine tip moth.

Parasites, predators, and pathogens (disease-causing agents) that attack pest insects will be found and studied carefully to make sure they are effective and safe—that is, unable to become pests themselves.

Dr. Legner said the first step will be to survey Southland forests to learn what natural enemies of pest insects already exist and how effective they are.

Second step will be to explore areas such as the forests of North America to find natural enemies in areas where some of California's pest insects are believed to have originated.

Third step will be to make periodic mass releases of beneficial organisms. This will be done cooperatively with U.S. and California forestry agencies.

Each release will be evaluated with the aid of computers, Dr. Legner said.

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