Aquatic Weed Harvester Invented by Floridian

Lake and waterway reclamation from aquatic plants is a never ending source of concern. Lack of adequate equipment constitutes one of the main reasons why progress has been slow.

Now someone is doing something about it. He is Merle P. Chaplin of Winter Park, Fla. who has spent the last few years engineering and inventing mechanical lakeweed removal equipment.

Chaplin has built a number of experimental harvesters and developed a plan of restoration.

While some view Chaplin's drawings and prototypes as a Jules Verne classic, others extol the benefits of their innovator's knowledge. Researchers have long recognized that finding useful products made from aquatic plants would greatly stimulate efforts to bring like weed problems under control.

Essentially, Chaplin has combined a rotary cutter, suction pump, compressing chamber, baler and other equipment into an efficient harvesting machine. He and Dorman Myers of Apopka, who joined Chaplin in



Aquatic weed harvester designed and built by Merle P. Chaplin. The self-contained unit is capable of deep water weed removal. Vegetation is placed in baskets, sterilized and baled.

1969 and invented one of the harvesters, are convinced that they now have the equipment needed to control hydrilla and other aquatic weeds in Florida.

The various harvesters are de-

signed for deep water use. They can be raised to pass obstructions and for travel or lowered for operations on the bottom of a lake.

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