

Hyacinth President Favors Certification

Certification will benefit pesticide applicators. It will bring an air of professionalism. It will set the applicator aside from untrained labor. That's the thinking of Alva P. Burkhalter, president of The Hyacinth Control Society, soon to become The Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc.

Besides professionalism, Burkhalter believes certification will offer the applicator a better salary, better advancement potential and more job security.

Burkhalter opened the recent annual convention of the Society at Winter Park, Fla. by saying that certification will also stimulate interest in the area of biological control, leading to "integrated management of aquatic control and encouraging expansion into other fields."

Switching to the energy crisis, he warned delegates to "avoid an 'attitude shortage' or an 'internal energy crisis' . . . and get back to a hustling attitude in this Society."

The 1974 registration figure was 306 at this 14th annual convention. This was a near 30 percent increase over last year. Registered participants included delegates from several foreign countries and some 20 states. Research, sales, development, and industrial, governmental

and educational progress highlighted the four-day sessions.

Appearing for the Environmental Protection Agency, John Ritch, director of the EPA Registration Division, stated "The registration division of EPA doesn't know all pesticide applicator problems, and thus doesn't have solutions, but," he said, "we're establishing contacts and learning."

According to Ritch, EPA's intent regarding federal registration is not to eliminate pesticides, but "that the use of pesticides be carefully managed to protect health and property with minimum adverse effects on the environment."

Robert D. Blackburn, formerly at the Aquatic Plant Management Laboratory of the USDA and now president of Florida Aquatic Weed Control, Inc., a private firm, traced the history of the battle against aquatic weeds in Florida and internal strifes which have delayed control. Blackburn said, "While we argued in courts about what to do, water hyacinths continued to grow . . .

"We didn't carry out what we originally set out to do — management of aquatic weed control. We have to have a management program. We've got to learn to work together," he said.



Alva P. Burkhalter (right) turns the gavel over to L.V. Guerra, the Hyacinth Control Society's new president.

According to Blackburn, answers to the problems of aquatic weed control lie in integrating mechanical, biological and chemical controls and not in political circles. "Let's resolve some of our controversy by face-to-face contact instead of political maneuvering," he said.

More than 50 papers were presented in concurrent educational sessions. The research sessions featured such topics as fungi and water hyacinths, future utilization of water hyacinths for proteins and energy, hydrilla in Iowa and chemical retardation of hydrilla growth.

Applicators' sessions were devoted to operations and field techniques and treated subjects such as weed control with the bifluid invert system, effects of laser radiation on water hyacinth, boating and aquatic weed problems and various means of algae control.

Highlighting the sessions was a joint panel on what chairman John Gallagher of Amchem Products, Ambler, Pa., termed the Society's "Watergate" — the pros and cons of the herbivorous white amur.

Panel speakers included Burkhalter of the Florida Department of Natural Resources, Bill Woods of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, David Sutton of the University of Florida, and John Stanley of the Division of Fishery Research, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Stuttgart, Ark.

The panel indicated that introduction of the white amur into Florida is still an unresolved issue, with many questions yet to be answered as the program moves from laboratory to Florida waters.



This year's annual banquet was a buffet-style luau held poolside at the hotel. Members were treated to a diving exhibition by a local high school swim team. Banquet speaker William E. Fulford, state representative of District 40, Florida, spoke on "Weeds and Politics."

Once the controversial fish is introduced into Florida, the situation may be irrevocable, so many view absolute safeguards and answers to plaguing problems as a necessity.

At the annual business meeting, the following slate of officers was approved by the Society for the coming year: president, L. V. Guerra, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, San Antonio, Tex.; first vice president, Ray A. Spirnock, Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District, Lake Worth, Fla.; second vice president, Robert W. Geiger, The 3M Company, Pompano Beach, Fla.; past president, Alva P. Burkhalter, Tallahassee, Fla.; treasurer, Brandt G. Watson, Naples Mosquito Control District, Naples, Fla.; editor, David L. Sutton, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; secretary, T. W. Miller, Lee County Hyacinth Control District, Fort Myers, Fla.; Nelson Virden of Jackson, Miss., and Kerry Stewart of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., as new members of the board of directors.

Next year the group will meet in San Antonio, Tex. Plans include a post-convention trip to Mexico City.



Society members listen attentively to the joint panel discussion on the pros and cons of the controversial white amur. John Gallagher of Amchem Products, Ambler, Pa., presided over the discussion.

**Robison's
Lawn and Golf
bags it!**

NITROFORM*
organic nitrogen

The odorless, dust-free, pathogen-free organic nitrogen. Applying Nitroform doesn't interfere with normal use of turf areas.

**HERCULES
INCORPORATED**

Turf and Horticultural Products, Synthetics Dept.
Wilmington, Delaware 19899

* Registered trademark of Hercules Incorporated. STH74-20

For More Details Circle (133) on Reply Card

NEW! AQUAPROBE

**Sub-Soil
Moisture Tester**

AQUAPROBE takes the guesswork out of soil moisture testing. Scientifically measures moisture at depths from 2 to 26 inches. No digging; no fixed point of measurement. Amazingly light-weight, portable and easy to use. Aquaprobe is low in cost, too. Write:

HOWARD S. CRANE, INC.
Oneida, N.Y. 13421

For More Details Circle (112) on Reply Card

HI-RANGER® . . . world leader on line-clearing & tree trim jobs . . . has GOOD NEWS FOR YOU . . .

Now HI-RANGER has added eleven great new improvements . . . more exclusive features . . . to the safest, fastest working personnel towers for many jobs . . . proven over twenty years . . . the most imitated . . . most wanted . . . and most used on overhead work.

HI-RANGER Aerial Towers meet the "American National Standard for Vehicle-Mounted Elevating and Rotating Work Platforms ANSI A92.2-1969," as required by the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970; Part 1910, Occupational Safety and Health Standards; Section 1910.67.

**NEW MODELS
FOR WORK TO
57 FT. OTHERS
UP TO 130 FT.
WORK HEIGHT.**



Send for new
4F/5F catalog



MOBILE AERIAL TOWERS, INC. • Dept. N • 2314 BOWSER AVE. • FORT WAYNE, IND. 46803

For More Details Circle (108) on Reply Card