

Aquatic Plant Management Is A National Concern

L. V. Guerra, president of the Hyacinth Control Society, hosted the national group at San Antonio, Texas, July 6-9. Following the meeting some 40 delegates toured Mexico for a 5-day excursion.

The Texas meeting is only the third held outside Florida during the 15-year history of this aquatic weed control group. The 161 who registered numbered fewer than normal for this organization which annually hosts delegates from 20 or more states and several foreign countries and did again this year. However, of the 161, many were attending their initial meeting, and the interest generated among representatives of areas outside the southeast and southern U.S. is a good indicator of growing aquatic weed problems in the nation.

The broader based attendance also bodes well for the future growth of the Society which effects a name change effective January 1, 1976. The new name is "The Aquatic Plant Management Society" which members believe better reflects the thrust of the organization. At the time of the Society's inception, aquatic hyacinths were the major weed problem in southeastern U.S. waters. Since, hydrilla and other aquatic weeds have become as great or almost as much a problem as the hyacinth.

Also, in the beginning, the problem was one of either chemical or mechanical control. Today, there is more attention being given biological control techniques, a major one being use of the white amur. The fish is now being produced on a monosex basis to prevent reproduction primarily in game fish waters. Research is underway in both Florida and at the Fish Farming Experiment Station of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at Stuttgart, Ark.



New president of the Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc., is Ray A. Spimock, (left), Central & Southern Florida Flood Control District, Lake Worth, Fla. He assumes the presidency as the Society changes its name from Hyacinth Control Society, effective January 1. On the right is outgoing president, L. V. Guerra, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., San Antonio, Texas.

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