Urban forestry, pollution were arborist meeting topics

More than 400 professionals in arboriculture gathered in San Diego in August to judge the state of tree programs across North America.

The shade tree's status in the urban environment seemed to be the big topic of the meeting. Dr. Theodore Kozlowski of the University of Wisconsin Department of Forestry discussed resistance to urban pollution by tree species. Acid rains dropping pollution hundreds of miles from the source present problems national in scope. Kozlowski said, "We must develop pollution resistant trees by arborists working with breeders on a regional basis."

USDA Forest Service representative Robert Nobles and NAA Executive Director Robert Felix debated urban forestry's pending implementation. Nobles said the urban forester can't plant, prune or select shade trees. Nobles asked for assistance in compiling a list of consulting arborists for urban forestry programs in the U.S.

Felix stressed there is no control or consistent arrangement by The Forest Service across the country. "The caliber of urban foresters and forestry programs varies from state to state," he said. Felix questioned why the private sector was not consulted for input on urban forestry.

RECYCLING

Brew feeds the land in experimental project

Southern Turf Nurseries, Inc. of Tifton, Ga. has combined efforts with Anheuser-Busch, Inc. to grow turf adjacent to Anheuser-Busch's Jacksonville, Fla., brewery by utilizing liquid brewery waste streams high in nutrients.

The turf is being grown on a 300-acre site about one mile north and adjacent to the brewery on property owned by Anheuser-Busch.

John Mueller, brewery plant manager, says that since starting on May 11, the project has substantially reduced loadings sent to the Jacksonville sewage treatment plant. About one million gallons daily of almost three million gallons of liquid wastes are now being diverted to the turf farm.

Director of Environmental Engineering and Resources of Anheuser-Busch, Robert R. Imsande, says from that a conservation standpoint, the Jacksonville turf farm has twin benefits. "First, it would require substantial energy to make the amount of fertilizer for turf growth which we are providing from an already existing source. This energy is now free for other uses. Second, since brewery waste streams are over 95 percent water, we are practicing water conservation. This water is going directly back to the ground rather than requiring energy intensive treatment at municipal waste treatment facilities."

It makes good sense, Imsande says, to put the brew's natural ingredients — hops, malt, rice, yeast, and corn — back into the ground where they can replenish the soil.

LAWN CARE

Industry leaders establish ethics code

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America's executive committee has adopted a code of ethics and symbol of good practice. It will be presented to the public via the press, local advertisements, and use of logos on trucks, stationery, and business premises.

"This newly formed association is acting to let the public know what to expect from qualified service companies," says PLCAA President Jerry Faulring of Professional Turf Corp./Hydro Lawn.

Membership in the association requires a principal owner/manager's signature indicating compliance with the established code of ethics.

"There may be companies in the industry that abide by good business conduct that do not become members," states Glenn Bostrom, executive director. "The important point is that by their membership, companies do agree to support the code of ethics, standards, and objectives of this association."

Some of the guidelines each PLCAA member agrees to follow
are: to adhere to recognized agro-
nomic principles of turf manage-
ment; to maintain a reputation for
fair and honorable conduct in rela-
tions with customers, employees,
and suppliers; and to conduct
business upon the basis of service to
the public and the lawn care
industry.

NURSERY
Survey shows raise
in nursery wages
A survey of hourly wages and
fringe benefits conducted by the
Wholesale Nursery Growers of
America shows an average 30 per-
cent increase in wages for both
seasonal and year-round workers
over the past three-and-a-half years.
Hospital benefits have changed
only slightly since 1974. Eight per-
cent fewer skilled seasonal em-
ployees are covered by a plan, while
more seasonal and year-round
supervisors have full hospitaliza-
tion benefits.
A similar pattern exists in life
insurance coverage, with supervi-
sors enjoying increases in full
coverage. About 60 percent of un-
skilled seasonal employees receive
no benefits in this area, the same as
in 1974. Overall, WNCA found that
employers tend to cover workers
fully or not at all.
On the other hand, the average
full coverage in company pension
plans has dropped from 32 to 19 per-
cent for seasonal employees, and
from 30 to 23 percent for year-round
personnel. The newer pension
coverage laws appear to be making it
too expensive for the small grower to
continue at the rate of coverage of-
fered in 1974.

CONFERENCE
Grounds managers
to meet in Nashville
Hundreds of delegates repre-
senting management of parks, cam-
puses, golf courses, and other large
grounds areas will convene Oct. 28-
Nov. 1 at the Opryland Hotel, Nash-
vile, Tenn., for the ninth National
Institute on Park and Grounds
Management.
A concurrent National Turfgrass
Conference will offer sessions on all

Landscape Contractor News

Housing starts down, but not badly
As expected, high interest rates on mortgages are moderating new
home construction, but not to the degree expected by government and
private analysts.
Furthermore, the number of building permits issued in August
shows the housing market holding strong into the fall. Both starts and
permits were higher than predicted by a Commerce Department
report, but lower than 1978.
August starts and permits indicate there will be about 1,790,000 new
homes built in 1979, up from the 1,600,000 predicted by the Commerce
Department.

Foliage specs goal of Florida group, ALCA
The Florida Foliage Association (FFA), representing growers of in-
terior foliage plant material, and the Associated Landscape Con-
tractors of America (ALCA), representing commercial landscape con-
tractors involved in interior landscape installation work, will
cooperate on a unified set of industry specifications for foliage, ac-

cording to a joint announcement. Committees representing both or-
ganizations will work together on the publication of the Plant Materials
Specifications sections of the next edition of the "Guide to Specifica-
tions for Interior Landscaping."
The joint activity was initiated following Board approval of FFA ex-
penditures to produce accurate, full-color photographs in the next edi-
tion of the book, which has been an ALCA publication until now. The
two committees will cooperate fully in the production of the next text,
which will be accepted by both groups as the industry standard.
Design-related material in other sections of the new edition will be
developed with the active participation of the professional organiza-
tions active in interior design — the American Institute of Architects,
the American Society of Landscape Architects, the American Society of
Interior Design, and the Institute of Business Design — working

together with the ALCA and FFA committees.
The next edition of the "Guide to Specifications for Interior
Landscaping" will begin development this fall, and is expected to be

Minimum highway landscape standards urged
Landscape groups have submitted written support of proposed
changes to the Highway Beautification Act to the Federal Highway Ad-
mistration which would put highway landscaping on a matched fund
basis with states. In the same statement, AAN, NLA, and ALCA urged
the Administration to set minimum highway landscaping standards and
to redirect efforts to more landscaping and scenic enhancement pro-
grams.
Specifically, the statement proposed:
—highway landscaping should be done under separate prime contractors
—all contractors should be prequalified
—performance bond should be required
—pre-bid conferences should be held
—inspection procedures should be more uniform
—outdoor advertising standards should be set.

NLA residential landscape program announced
The National Landscape Association has announced its 10th Annual
National Residential Landscape Awards Program.
Entries and information requests should be directed to the National
Landscape Association, 230 Southern Building, Washington, D.C. 20005,
202-737-4060

OCTOBER 1979/WEEDS TREES & TURF 11
Surface mining regulations in jeopardy

Legislation pending in Congress could deal a blow to reclamation contractors and manufacturers of revegetation equipment and supplies. The legislation would return primary enforcement of reclamation regulations to the states and give them more time to meet Federal reclamation guidelines.

The Senate passed a bill (69-26) giving states 12 months to file state plans and delaying Federal lands programs until states have their own completed. A House bill is months from passage and a conference committee will probably be needed.

Congressmen are attempting to lighten the load of tough air quality standards and reclamation requirements on soft coal producers.

Although many states had existing requirements for revegetation, the Federal regulations were expected to cause a boom in reclamation work for outside contractors.

Senate nixes plant services for government

The Senate attached an amendment to the H.U.D. appropriations bill to prohibit any expenditures by the Federal government for plant care or watering services.

The amendment was not included in the original House bill and no solution has yet been reached in conference committee. Known as the Sasser amendment, the cuts could be misconstrued to costs for other horticultural services performed for the government agencies.

Firms may soon get capital back quicker

A bill shortening the length of time for businesses to recover investment capital for modernization and expansion may soon pass both Houses. The Capital Cost Recovery Act of 1979 will establish three classes for capital recovery periods:

Class I: non-residential structures and buildings (ten years)
Class II: all depreciable personal property (five years)
Class III: automobiles and light-duty trucks less than $100,000 (three years)

Farm labor contractors beware of enforcement

National and regional nursery associations are warning members who use migrant or other forms of agricultural labor, to meet standards set by the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act. Enforcement has reportedly been stepped up and many nurseries could face fines of $5,000 or more according to AAN.

In other action, EPA may study exposure to pesticides by migrant workers. The Department of Labor is expected to ask EPA to handle monitoring and exposure studies relative to migrant workers while the Labor Department provides compliance and enforcement.

Also, a bill has been introduced in the Senate to provide temporary worker visas for 180 days for peak harvest periods. Quotas would be established to limit the number of visas.

AAN objects to USDA plant patents

AAN and the National Association of Plant Patent Owners filed a joint letter to the Secretary of Commerce Juanita Kreps opposing the transfer of plant patent administration from the Department of Commerce to USDA. The letter said under similar reasoning weapons should be patented by the Department of Defense, automobiles through the Department of Transportation, etc.