After 30 years of service, Jack Wick has retired as executive director of the California Association of Nurseriesmen (CAN). Wick was honored recently during CAN's 78th annual convention on Coronado Island near San Diego.

Jack Wick Day was proclaimed, and a banquet was held in his honor, attended by more than 300 people. Wick began his CAN career in 1958 as assistant executive secretary. He became the 78-year-old association's fourth executive director in 1969.

Among Wick's most notable accomplishments were his efforts to help form the nation's first retail nursery employees accreditation program. In the 19 years since the program's inception, 35 states have used it as a model for their own programs.

The award has been initiated to recognize industry members who perpetuate the goals of quality customer service, work to upgrade the status of the nursery industry, and establish the nurseryman as an expert in the field of gardening.

Wick will continue to serve CAN as a part-time regulatory consultant. His successor is Elaine Thompson, a CAN employee for 14 years.

In other CAN news, the association elected new state officers and associate member directors during its recent convention.

Jan Groot is CAN's new president. Groot has been an active association member for more than 25 years, serving as chairman of several committees.

Jack Christensen was named president-elect; Bob Ludekens was named treasurer; and Hugh Atkinson was named new associate member director.

Purcell Industries has acquired Malamine Chemicals, Inc.'s controlled release technologies development program.

John H. Detrick has been named manager of product and market development. In this new position, Detrick will continue to experiment with polymer coated urea.

Detrick joined MCI in 1983 and formed MCI AgSystems, where he managed the marketing and technical development of a number of fertilizer and herbicides.

Richard Underwood has been elected president of the Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association (ALCA).

Other new ALCA officers include Douglas Jones, president-elect; Robert Underwood, vice president/treasurer; and Cal Crozier, secretary.

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Bruce K. Wilson, president of Environmental Care, Inc., presented Kim Baenisch with his company's 1987-1988 $1,000 Scholarship Award. Baenisch is an architecture graduate student at Cornell University.

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