

PLCAA president seeks closer ties with GCSAA

By Peter Blais

Neal DeAngelo expects the lawn care and golf industries to work more closely in the coming years, especially in the area of chemical application.

"A solid relationship has been building over the past two years with the two industries having many common interests and positions," said the new president of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America and owner of Lawn Specialties, a professional lawn care company with offices in Hazleton and Allentown, Pa.

"We're primarily interested in the regulatory and legislative issues having to do with pesticide applications, particularly posting, ground water protection and worker protection."

DeAngelo, who is also president of the Pennsylvania Lawn Care Association, said the state lawn care group and the state superintendents associations have worked closely in the past. Both have developed position statements on chemical applications and will meet soon to determine where they can work together to promote common interests.

DeAngelo said he hopes similar exchanges will occur on the national level, although communication so far between national lawn care and superintendent associations has been limited to green industry coalition efforts both have been invited to attend.

"It would behoove both groups to work together on a national basis," DeAngelo said. "One of the PLCAA's major goals is to work with other organizations."

The PLCAA has been busy in Washington, D.C., this year.

The organization has closely monitored the Town of Casey vs. The State of Wisconsin, a Supreme Court case testing whether a municipality can institute chemical application regulations more stringent than the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The PLCAA has successfully fought against municipal efforts at enforcing more stringent laws at lower court levels, DeAngelo said.

The national association has also lobbied to tone down elements of the Reid-Lieberman Senate bill dealing with posting and pre-notification of chemical applications.

And the PLCAA has offered in-

put into a General Accounting Office report focusing on lawn care industry advertising. The GAO report will be released later this year.

Stabilizing the PLCAA's membership has been another major goal for DeAngelo, who assumed the presidency in November. Total membership fell from a 1987 high of 1,324 to about 1,000 last fall. Approximately 100 new members have signed up since DeAngelo took office, and he hopes membership rolls will eventually include at least 1,500 of the nation's estimated 6,000

chemical lawn care companies.

A 1989 dues increase, ranging from 100 to 667 percent, drove many members from the association. Restructuring dues, especially for smaller companies, has helped attract new members, DeAngelo said.

The PLCAA has also introduced new products in the past few months, including a liability insurance and reinstatement of regional training.

Seminars, sponsored jointly with state associations, will be held July 10 in Wooster, Ohio; July 16 in Louisville, Ky.; July 18 in India-

napolis; July 22 in Billings, Mont.; Aug. 6 in Ames, Iowa; Aug. 7 at State College, Pa.; and Aug. 8 in Rochester, N.Y. The cost is \$40 for PLCAA or co-sponsoring association members and \$85 for non-members.

Updating the PLCAA's strategic planning process, assisting new Executive Vice President Ann McClure and helping organize this November's Green Industry Exposition in Tampa, Fla., have also taken much of DeAngelo's time.

After a successful inaugural Expo

in Nashville last November, the PLCAA has signed a three-year contract to continue the annual event in cooperation with the Associated Landscape Contractors of America and Professional Grounds Management Society. DeAngelo expects exhibitors and attendees to rise 10 to 15 percent this fall.

"I've really enjoyed my time as president," said DeAngelo, who will be succeeded by President-elect Bob Andrews of Carmel, Ind., in November. "It's been a lot of work, but it's worth it."

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tees. School officials hope most of the estimated \$21,000 tab will be picked up by companies that donated needed materials, like sprinkler heads, with the rest of the cost covered by the school budget.

For Armbruster, best of all is that his turf operations course gives a direction to people who may not have known how to prepare for a career.

Most assume the great-looking golf courses they see on TV got that way by accident, Armbruster said. "But when they find out what goes on behind the scenes, it's really fascinating."