

EETC schedules conference speakers

MENOMONEE FALLS, Wis. — The second annual meeting of the Equipment and Engine Training Council will be held Monday, May 4, at 1 p.m. at the Briggs & Stratton Distribution Center here. The annual OPE Technician Certification Test Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, at the same location.

Speakers include John Rainone, vice president of service for MTD, and Curt Larson, vice president of distribution, sales and service for Briggs & Stratton. They will share their views on the state of technician competency and service in the industry, as well as vocational school programs. Other prominent industry and vocational education leaders are expected to be announced.

The task force committee created at last year's EETC meeting in Dallas, has completed its work on a plan for OPE program certification for vocational schools. Composed of vocational school administrators and instructors, as well as dealers, distributors, and manufacturers from the industry, the committee will present its final vocational school certification document to the EETC members at this meeting for approval.

For those arriving early, tours are planned to include highlights of Milwaukee and Kohler on Sunday, May 3. Monday morning, May 4, tours of the Miller Brewing and Harley Davidson plants are scheduled.

All interested OPE dealers and distributors, as well as OEM equipment and engine manufacturers, and vocational school administrators and instructors are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

More information is available from the EETC at 1946 South IH-35, Suite 100-A, Austin, Texas 78704-3693.

•••

EETC's "Become a Professional Outdoor/Industrial Powered-Equipment Technician" brochure was completed last November and is available in reasonable quantities.

Career days at most high schools are sponsored in February, March and April.

"We need industry assistance to get these to students who might consider a career as a technician in the outdoor power equipment industry," said Executive Director Virgil Russell.

The major project has been the preparation of documents to accredit Vocational Schools to train technicians for the industry.

Small Engine School a 'Texas Model'

HOUSTON—Briggs & Stratton has sponsored a Small Engine School for WSD Small Engine Repair teachers. Eleven WSD Small Engine Repair teachers attended the three-day school at Engine Warehouse here.

Bruce Radcliff, national training director for Briggs & Stratton, was assisted in the

training by Andy Caldwell of Engine Warehouse and Albert Herron, service manager for Texas Outdoor Power Equipment in Georgetown.

Bruce Radcliff of Briggs & Stratton and Virgil Russell, executive director of the Equipment & Engine Training Council (EETC), are looking at WSD

as the "Texas model" for meeting the demand for trained and certified technicians in the outdoor power equipment industry. It has three components:

- Teachers are trained to industry standards
- Students are trained to industry standards
- Students receive industry-en-

dorsed credentials/certificates. Radcliff estimates that nationwide, there is an immediate need for more than 30,000 trained technicians. As technology advances, and with the new EPA regulations, the need will be even greater for people who are adequately trained.

Briggs & Stratton and other manufacturers are looking to

Continued on next page

We'll keep the pesticide industry from

