

## 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.

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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

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## We'll keep the pesticide industry from



## SUNY Delhi session attracts Northeastern mechanics

DELHI, N.Y. — A group of 30 turf mechanics from across the Northeast recently enhanced their skills through a special seminar series offered at the State University of New York College of Technology at Delhi.

The four-day seminar, "Turf Equipment Mechanics Ad-

vanced Training School," was the latest in a series of hands-on training programs offered at the college.

It was sponsored by Delhi College, in cooperation with the Golf Course Mechanics Association and the New York State Turfgrass Association.

"These courses are very much

in demand," said Steven Tait, assistant professor of turf equipment management.

"They fill an important need for specialized training in the industry."

Instructors focused on two areas: welding and troubleshooting electrical systems. Gerald Scheck, assistant pro-

fessor at Delhi, led sessions in specialized welding techniques for light-gauge metal parts commonly found on turf equipment.

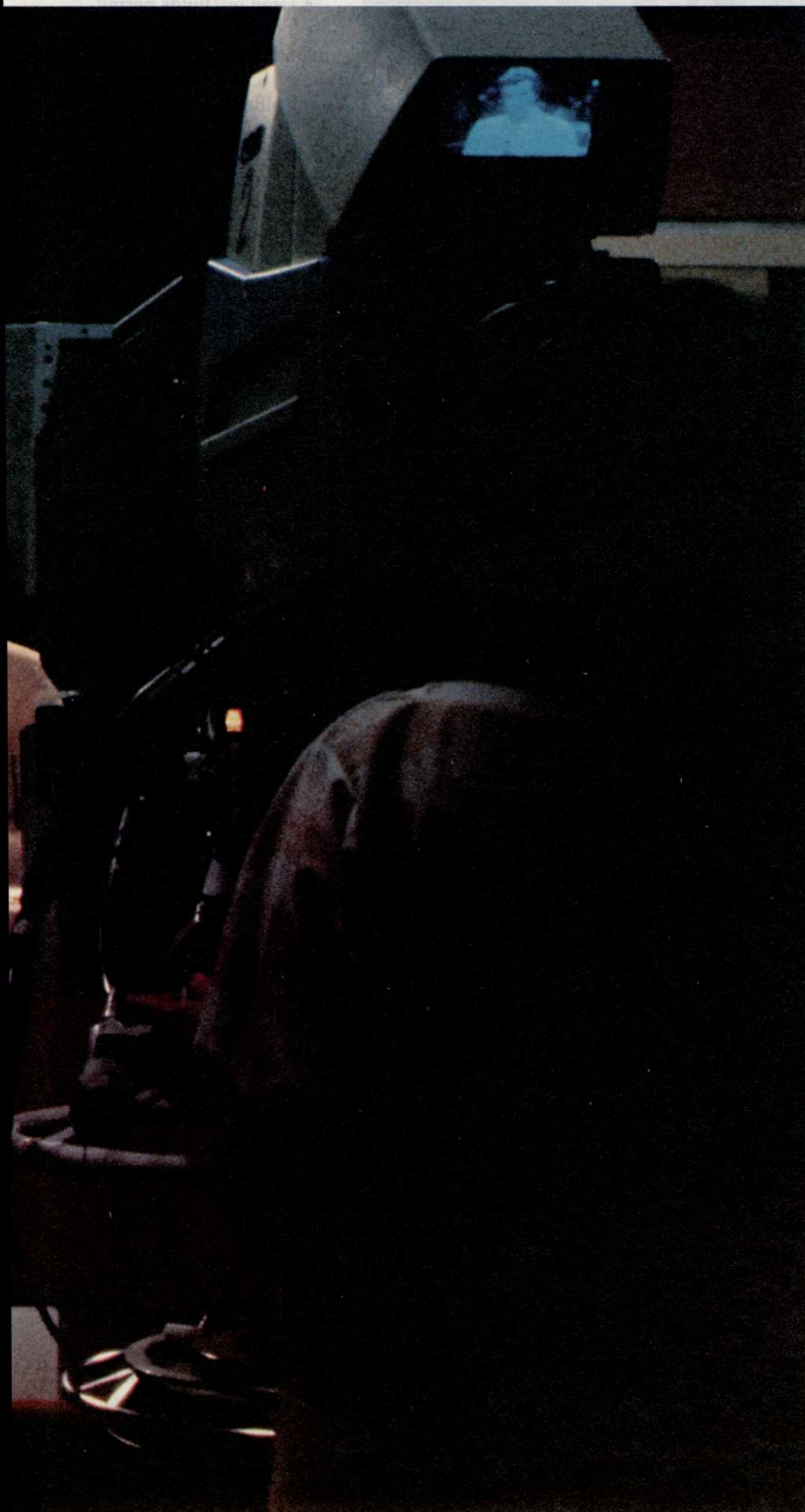
Paul Zellner, area service manager of the Jacobsen Division of Textron, taught troubleshooting turf equipment electrical systems.

Tests were conducted on equipment donated by S.V. Moffet Equipment Inc. of West Henrietta, N.Y.

"Participants were very enthusiastic about what they learned," continued Professor Tait.

"Normally when they're working in the field and something breaks, they'll just fix it the best they know how. Now we have given them the proper solutions."

## becoming a victim of air pollution.



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**RISE. Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment.**

RISE is a coalition of manufacturers, formulators and distributors from all areas of the specialty pesticide business.

In addition to promoting environmental stewardship, RISE makes sure the media doesn't report misinformation as fact.

We also hold editorial meetings with media decision-makers. And respond to negative articles or broadcasts that are incorrect. We've been very successful so far. Not surprising considering what our most powerful weapon is.

The truth.

Of course, there's still a lot more work to do. But rest assured, RISE is up to the task.

Because we know if we eliminate air pollution, the pesticide industry can breathe a lot easier.



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## Engine school

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WSD to provide the training and help meet the demand for technicians in Texas. Radcliff said that other prison systems have shown an interest in the Texas model, "but we want to make sure we know how to make it work in Texas before attempting to duplicate it in other states."

Besides providing the training to the WSD teachers at no cost, Briggs & Stratton has donated new engines and equipment to the Small Engine Repair classes. Radcliff said he hopes the program proves successful in terms of training students in industry standards to meet the needs of employers. He said he hopes the partnership between Briggs & Stratton will be long-term and beneficial to all.

## PLCAA tabs Delaney

The board of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) has hired Acting Executive Vice President and Government Affairs Director Tom Delaney to fill the position of executive vice president.

Since former Executive Vice President Ann McClure left the position a year ago, Delaney has managed the association in an acting capacity. He has testified before the U.S. Senate and House Subcommittee lawn care and FIFRA hearings.

He works closely with government and industry leaders and organizations, and the media on a range of issues affecting the industry and our businesses. For the nine years that he has been with the association, he has helped earn PLCAA the reputation as the "voice of the industry," the board said.

"I must add that Tom does not act alone," said PLCAA President Larry Messina. "We have a strong staff, dedicated volunteer leaders — it is a team effort. Karen Weber, our communications director, works closely with Tom and has been assisting him in his management role this past year and she will continue to do so."

The board also agreed to retain Bob Andrews, owner of The Greenskeeper in Carmel, Ind., as an independent consultant to assist with member services. he is a past president of PLCAA.