

Government Relations Update

Recently, the MDA gave "no support" which killed a proposed bill prior to testimonies, which would have made neonicotinoids restricted use pesticides. This has become an issue due to the collapse of honey bee colonies all around the world. Extensive research is being conducted by chemical manufacturers to show how these products can be used safely without adverse effect to honey bees. New labeling is being developed for some of these products. Please make sure to familiarize yourself on the safe and correct usage of neonicotinoids on your golf courses. Remember, the label is the law on all pesticide applications.

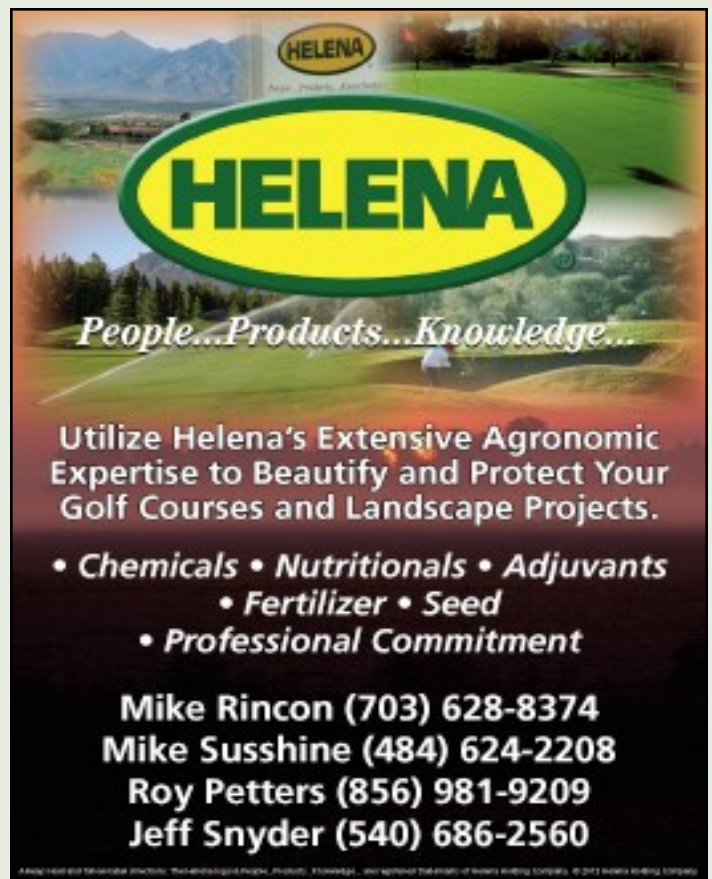
Thinking "outside" the box is extremely important to all golf course superintendents. We often come up with innovative ideas to get done what others think is impossible. This forward thinking also applies to our government relations work. As pesticide and fertilizer use comes under increased scrutiny, we need to think about how we can best use our products safely and efficiently. For instance, at Norbeck Country Club, we made a point of making our roughs "bee safe" for the use of neonicotinoids. The easiest and most safe way for us was to target clover. The most common form of honey you find in the grocery store is "clover" honey. By eliminating clover, you eliminate the plant which attracts honey bees. Thus, you have a stand of turf around greens, tees, and fairway roughs where honey bees will not fly and land. Now neonicotinoids can be applied safely on days with no wind. Every one of us have countless ways of improving our golf course while

protecting the environment, and showing the public our good works. We are the leaders in turfgrass and the environment.

Currently, there is nothing new on the potential "pesticide ban" for Montgomery County, MD. Magi's lobbyist, Ellen Bogage, feels we need to be ready before any proposed legislation is produced. She would like to have a database of key members/clients prepared for when a bill comes out. Karen Reardon from RISE and Ellen Bogage can then contact those people to send letters and call Council members. As we discussed at the Mid Atlantic Educational Seminar, we need to have the support of homeowners and clients in Montgomery County. They will be asked to send handwritten letters to the Council Members against any proposed legislation. This needs to be more than pesticide applicators against this issue. This is not a public safety issue, nor is it truly an "environmentalist" issue. Golf course superintendents know how to use pesticides safely to improve the environment. This is a public image and personal right issue. We need individuals who do not want the government telling them what they can or

cannot use in their home, or on their personal property. Their testimony will carry so much more weight than us saying how we need products to keep our golf courses in pristine conditions. Ellen Bogage has no evidence of an imminent bill.. She thinks Leventhal may still put in a bill , but he may not. It is best to prepare ourselves for the worst so we can be ready. Please feel free to email me if you are willing to do outreach to get interested clients / members to become a part of this process. I will get you added to Karen Reardon's email list. As golf course superintendents, we do not want to "spearhead" this program, however we can bring interested parties to the table to help out.

Government Relations
Jay Nalls
Norbeck Country Club



HELENA
People...Products...Knowledge...

Utilize Helena's Extensive Agronomic Expertise to Beautify and Protect Your Golf Courses and Landscape Projects.

- Chemicals • Nutritionals • Adjuvants
- Fertilizer • Seed
- Professional Commitment

Mike Rincon (703) 628-8374
Mike Sunshine (484) 624-2208
Roy Petters (856) 981-9209
Jeff Snyder (540) 686-2560

Always read and thoroughly understand the manufacturer's label. Product, Knowledge... and approved trademarks of Helena Holding Company. © 2013 Helena Holding Company