

Floridian Cites Park Directors' Five Problems

By Ruth Stuart Allen
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Five problems hinging on upkeep and development which frustrate park directors were listed by Charles H. Swisher, director of parks and Recreation, Ormond Beach, Fla., at the recent Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association's trade show. All of them had to do with the inevitable "second person" in government administration.

First, Swisher pointed to the purchasing of equipment. A park director, he said, best knows the type of machines he needs to perform certain jobs, light or heavy.

Enters, then, the purchasing agent, "Who knows nothing about our problems. Chances are he will buy the biggest and cheapest pieces without consulting the director, feeling that he is saving the taxpayers' money." He stressed that the people responsible for the end result should help make such decisions.

2. The privilege and importance of passing on job applicants. Sometimes these people, hired without the director's approval, work out, but as a rule it is time wasted for everybody when personnel directors who "have no knowledge of park maintenance, etc., arbitrarily employ an applicant without consulting the department head under whom the new employee will work. "We must have the final say on any employee hired, to be sure he understands the work he will be doing."

3. Each administrator should have the privilege of okaying the pay scale based on the man's ability and type of position he will be filling.

It is folly, Swisher said, "to stereotype our employees with others within the department, or with those in other departments. Each man should be paid on the basis of his work and not that which someone else is making."

4. Many small departments must depend upon a central garage for maintenance repairs. "In my case, a lot of man-hours are lost because except during the grass season, my department does not have priority, and my equipment does not receive



Refinement of horticultural standards, especially as applied to highway landscaping, was the topic of a recent meeting in Washington between John Ryan, right, chief landscape architect of the New York Department of Transportation, and Ray Brush, secretary of the American Association of Nurserymen. Ryan, a new member of the AAN Horticultural Standards Committee, was appointed when AAN underwent a reorganization of a number of its working committees to include non-nursery industry members. Of major concern to highway landscape architects is improvement of standards for small flowering trees used along the nation's highways. The AAN Horticultural Standards Committee is responsible for establishing stock standards and specifications. The committee is charged with keeping U.S.A. Standard for Nursery Stock current with industry needs and approved practices.

the attention I feel is necessary. This is a park system's biggest key to survival ... the condition of its equipment."

Swisher feels that preventative maintenance is important, then, when a piece of machinery does require an overhaul, it is not out of service too long.

5. The all-important budget: Park administrators should have a voice in how much money they need, where and how, and for what purpose it should be spent. "Our budget planning should not be left to others. But if this is not possible, be sure you 'red star' the items you need most."

Many park jobs are started and not finished he said, because of insufficient equipment, manpower and funds to follow through.

USDA Asked to Speed Up Gypsy Moth Research

Woodland and suburban environments in many parts of the Northeast may be destroyed unless gypsy moth research is vastly increased, the National Gypsy Moth Advisory Council has told legislators and officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Council Chairman William H. Gil-

lespie asked that efforts of USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Forest Service to develop new and better ways of controlling the gypsy moth be increased by about 22% in Fiscal Year 1970 and by nearly 45% during each of the following four years. The request is based on a "program for integrated control of the gypsy moth" developed jointly by USDA and the infested states. The program calls for intensified research into the combined use of nonpersistent chemicals and such biological controls as sex attractants, insect diseases, and increased emphasis on parasites and predators including the introduction of new ones from foreign countries.

In the caterpillar stage the gypsy moth eats leaves. Repeated defoliations will kill trees, thereby polluting, and even destroying, forest environments. During 1970, gypsy moths defoliated nearly 800,000 acres of woodlands in eight Northeastern states, thereby tripling the acreage defoliated in 1969 and causing six times more damage than in 1968.

Caterpillar hordes are currently spreading outward into new states. At present, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maine, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Pennsylvania are infested. The trapping of numerous