

Editorial

We're winding up attending this year's meetings of national associations. They've been quite enlightening. Golf course superintendents, weed control specialists, tree care firms, sod producers and others have found common interests, common problems and common solutions through industry associations.

But it is a crying shame that Green Industry meetings are not better attended. While registration at meetings appears to be increasing, a quick glance at a breakdown of the registration shows member participation falling off. Witness the attendance of members at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America international turfgrass conference and show, for example. Out of a total 4216 registrations for the meeting, only 1198 were actually members of the association.

The International Shade Tree Conference convention in Boston this year drew a record crowd of 903, but only 573 registered as members.

More than 800 men and women met in New Orleans for the Southern Weed Science Society. No one knows how many could have made the meeting, but it is safe to calculate that there are almost that many agricultural chemicals salemen in the south, to say nothing of the university and government people in the field.

A Name Tag With No Name

The International Pesticide Applicators Association, the national group for contract applicators, met in Berkley, California for their national meeting in August. Only about 100 members attended the meeting. If you considered all the commercial applicators in California, as candidates for attendance, the registration could have been well over 1,000.

Other meetings and poor attendance records could be cited as the story is the same in nearly every national Green Industry association. Not one of these associations can boast an attendance figure at an annual meeting of greater than 40 percent. Where are the majority of the members? Where is the interest they once had when they joined the association? In short, who has dropped the ball?

We submit that fault doesn't lie solely in the camp of the association officials and convention planning committee. We've been to the meetings and seen the dedicated efforts and the excellent programs which these men and women have assembled. We've also seen the look on those people's faces when registration falls well below that expected.

As members of associations we have the re-
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meeting dates

Central Plains Turfgrass Conference, Manhattan, Kans., Oct. 17-19.

Turfgrass Equipment & Materials Educational Exposition, 13th annual, sponsored by Southern California Turfgrass Council, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, Calif., Oct. 17-18.

Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium, eighth annual, Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, Oct. 24-25.

Southern Agricultural Chemicals Association, 19th annual meeting, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga., Oct. 28-30.

Turf and Landscape Irrigation Conference, Northern California Turfgrass Council, Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, Oct. 28-30.

California Council of Landscape Architects, annual meeting, Ahwahnee Hotel, Yosemite Park, Calif., Nov. 2-4.

Michigan Pesticide Association, fall conference, The Olds Plaza, Lansing, Mich., Nov. 7-8.

Washington State Weed Conference, Cosmopolitan Chino Motel and Tower, Yakima, Wash., Nov. 7-9.

Penn-Del Chapter, International Shade Tree Conference, general meeting, Marriott Motor Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa. Nov. 8.

University of Georgia Turfgrass Short Course, 4th annual GGCSA, Center for Continuing Education, Univ. of Ga., Nov. 12-13.

American Society of Agronomy, Las Vegas, Nev., Nov. 12-15.

Colorado Crop Protection Institute, 3rd annual, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo., Nov. 14-15.

New Jersey Federation of Shade Tree Commissions, annual meeting, Haddon Hall Hotel, Atlantic City, N.J., Nov. 17-19.

North Central Weed Control Conference, annual meeting, Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel, St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 4-6.

National Agricultural Aviation Association, 7th annual conference, Diplomat Hotel, Hollywood, Fla., Dec. 5-8.

Western Association of Nurserymen, trade show and 84th annual meeting, Plaza Inn, Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 6-8.

Tennessee Turfgrass Association, annual conference, Roger Millers King of the Road Motor Inn, Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 7-8.

Northeast Weed Science Society, annual meeting, Holiday Inn, 18th & Market St., Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 8-10.

Kansas State Shade Tree Conference and Kansas Arborist's Association, annual meeting, Student Union, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kans., Jan. 8-9.

Michigan State University-Michigan Pesticide Association, weed workshop, MSU campus, East Lansing, Mich., Jan. 9-10.

New York State Arborist Association, annual convention, Raleigh Hotel, So. Fallsburg, N.Y., Jan. 13-16.

Michigan Turfgrass Conference, 44th annual, Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., Jan. 15-16.

New Hampshire Turf Seminar, Sheraton Wayfarer Motor Inn, Bedford, N.H., Jan. 17-18.

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sponsibility to support, nurture and help make these groups grow and thrive. Ignorance of meeting dates, dissatisfaction with the governing group, inordinate distance to travel, hotel accommodations, and other reasons are but lame excuses which satisfy only the people who make them.

Any well-known national organization today didn't gain its prominence by member laziness and platonic attitude. It's people in attendance; people in action for a united effort; people who desire to make the organization meaningful, and people who have the fortitude to stand up and be represented. That's what Green Industry associations need. And it's about time we started recognizing the fact that without people, associations will fold. What have you done for your association this year?

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