

ISTC Convention Report

Old friends, New ideas and Changing times



A special exhibit area in the Marriot Hotel, Atlanta, GA, featured the latest developments in tree care equipment, fertilizers and educational materials. There were 39 commercial exhibitors, 24 field exhibitors and 18 educational exhibits.

THE DAYS when an arborist talked of a "five dollar job and two small ones" have long since passed. But as A. E. Price reminisced through 54 years of tree work, those people of a younger generation attending the International Shade Tree Conference's 50th Golden Anniversary Convention were reminded that times have changed.

Changed indeed. William E. Wallner, professor of entomology, Michigan State University, told the audience at Tuesday's educational session of two recent developments dictating changes in shade tree pest control.

"The attitudes toward pesticides which spawned enactment of the Federal Environmental Pesticides Control Act (FEPCA) in the U.S. in October 1972, and worldwide demands for non-chemical pest control alternatives will be the driving forces for at least the next decade. The practicing arborist or plant protection specialist finds himself confused by the practicality of initiating or implementing new insect control techniques and threatened by impending regulations and legislation," he said.

Wallner also stressed the waning

interest of chemical control materials research by university, state and federal sources. "Perhaps most critical is the lack of support by the chemical industry itself to encourage efficacy programs for non-food minor crops. The current trend among shade tree and ornamental researchers is to zero in on two or three major tree pests rather than attempting to research a diverse number of pests," Wallner said.

He emphasized preservation of pesticide availability by "reducing misuse or questionable use patterns since they will likely influence the future categorization of a chemical. The intent of FEPCA is to encourage proper pesticide usage, meaning that unwarranted applications such as routine protective sprays in the absence of a problem will be suspect," he said.

Included in Tuesday's session was a presentation by William R. Nelson, Jr., University of Illinois, entitled "Trees in the Landscape — A Look Beyond the Obvious." He dispelled old theories of touting trees for the shade they produce and their beauty. First consideration, he said, should be a return for dollar economic investment and their func-

tional role in the environment.

Nelson's slide presentation demonstrated the development of space to a relative scale; larger trees relate to tall buildings and small trees and shrubs relate to man. Trees help identify a destination, indicate a change in traffic, define paths, alleviate monotony and eliminate the distressing feeling of broad open spaces with nothing to relate to, he said. Trees emit large amounts of water through transpiration thus cutting down on noise, cooling the air, producing oxygen, reducing the amount of dust particles in the air, controlling temperature, refracting light, and eliminating wind erosion and snow drifting, Nelson said.

Dr. G. N. Agrios, University of Massachusetts, pointed out the lack of available knowledge about viruses, their cause and spread. He explained that once a virus is introduced into a plant cell, the virus's nucleic acid agitates the plant and causes the plant to produce substances conducive to virus reproduction. Agrios listed the primary causes of virus spread as vegetative propagation, root grafts, insects, mice, nematodes, seed from infected

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plants and pollen. The best method of control is sanitation (removal of infected limbs and other host plants), he said.

Wednesday afternoon's educational session featured a three-member panel discussion on shade tree evaluation. Dr. L. C. Chadwick, executive director emeritus, presided. J. James Kielbaso, associate professor of forestry at Michigan State University, asked if hardiness zones and location should be made part of the ISTC shade tree evaluation formula. He defined hardiness zones as a key by nature that limits growth of certain species, usually by temperature.

Federal income tax laws are largely influenced by the fair market value of a tree, said Ray Gustin, Jr., Gustin Gardens, Gaithersburg, Md. He interpreted fair market value as the price which property will bring under no pressure to sell. One reason the Internal Revenue Service rejects the shade tree evaluation formula for determining the monetary value of a tree is its non-relation to the fair market value, he said. Gustin was also a member of Wednesday's shade tree evaluation panel discussion.

A slide presentation produced by Doyle Kincaid entitled "One Touch

of Nature" highlighted Wednesday evening's activities. The presentation was originally designed for nature appreciation in school-age children, but many grade school teachers are finding Kincaid's slide show helpful in stimulating creativity in children.

Two more slide presentations — one describing Georgia's utility arboriculture program and another 18-minute presentation on the proper use of pesticides — were also shown.

Following the audio-visual program was an ISTC Pesticide Committee meeting. Hyland Johns, Asplundh Tree Expert Co., Willow Grove, Pa., said pesticide problems were national in scope but local in solution. He emphasized the need for the Green Industry to work together "for effective legislation action in our state houses." A lengthy question and answer period followed. Members of the committee included Leo Creed, Utility Arborists Assn.; Robert Felix, National Arborists Assn.; Dave Shaw, Municipal Arborists Assn.; and John Weidhaas, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.

Thursday's educational sessions were divided into four sections: utility arboriculture, municipal arboriculture, commercial arboriculture,

and arboriculture research and education academy.

Robert Felix, National Arborists Assn., outlined a few basic business principles in a talk, "How to Manage an Arborist's Business." Felix discussed profit, selling the job, income for the job, personnel and wise planning.

Henry Pratt, B. G. Pratt Division, Gabriel Chemical, Paterson, N.J., said the popular environmental studies were causing most of the delays and problems in the classification and reclassification of pesticides. "Standards for pesticide classification will be met by the 1975 deadline but actual classification of specific chemicals will take longer than government officials have allowed," said Pratt.

Hyland Johns, taking a slightly different approach to new EPA regulations, suggested increasing awareness at the state level. Know your extension personnel, local pesticide applicators and be aware of changes made at state level, he said. Felix, Pratt and Johns made their presentation during the commercial arborists session on Thursday.

New president for ISTC is John Z. Duling, Duling Tree Expert, Inc., Muncie, Ind., vice president, Hyland Johns, Asplundh Tree Expert Co., Willow Grove, Pa., and president-elect is Jack R. Rogers, superintendent of Street Trees, City of Los Angeles, Pasadena, Calif. Total attendance for the meeting was 874. A special exhibit area in the Marriot Hotel featured the latest developments in tree care equipment, fertilizers and educational materials. Exhibitors were also given a chance to demonstrate their equipment at Stone Mountain State Park on Tuesday. There were 39 commercial exhibitors, 24 field exhibitors and 19 educational exhibits.

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versally accepted, a boon to the man in the witness chair and all of us. It would help present to the public a picture of an arborist profession whose members are not widely divergent in tree evaluations, but are both uniform and practical.

You may find additional help from foresters, biologists, entomologists, pathologists, landscape architects, nurserymen and others.

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The all-delegate event at Stone Mountain State Park featured equipment demonstrations as well as a southern barbecue. There were 24 manufacturers represented at the outing. Delegates viewed the equipment in operation and were given the chance to operate nearly all the units.