

VIEWPOINT

On February 15, 1978 a national turfgrass federation was created after unanimous approval by individuals who have devoted their lives to the advancement of the various segments of the turf industry. Fred Grau, Tom Mascaro, Jim Watson, Bill Lyons, Gene Nutter and many other headliners of the turfgrass industry

voted for creation of the federation. Weeds Trees & Turf was there and also pledged support to this group and its intended purpose. We hope the bylaws of the new group will assure a cooperative relationship with existing associations and dissolve any personal allegiances of some of the founders.

More people will support the new group when they believe it has no intentions other than to help all associations and all interests in turf. This should be one of the federation's first goals. It is essentially a public relations factor that can spell success or failure at this early stage.

All trade magazines must be fed as much information as possible about the new group. All regional turf associations hopefully will support the cause, after making their own judgment as to the value of the group. Large associations, such as the American Association of Nurserymen and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, should assign committees immediately to study the new federation and make official decisions. They should let their members know in their publications and newsletters when a decision is reached.

The concept of the federation is extremely worthwhile and honorable. It is the way in which the federation was promoted in the last six months that represents the primary threat to its existence.

Initially, the group had almost a "property of" stamp on it by another publisher in the turfgrass field. Two meetings were held prior to the GCSAA show with no motion for creation for this and other reasons. In San Antonio, this individual took a different, less noticeable role and the creation was approved. What is sad in a way is that this person truly deserves respect for his efforts but for personal benefit nearly lost all recognition.

The "property of" stamp must be completely erased in the future. If Brantwood Publications becomes the official newsletter of the federation the total value of the group will be lost and the things it could achieve will be hindered by in-fighting and bad public relations.

Lou Greco has a tough job ahead as president. He has volunteered his own time and money and shows strong leadership skills.

Perhaps the factor assuring success the most is the bylaw committee of Dr. Grau, Jim Watson, Jim Beard and Tom Mascaro. They know what's needed and they have the wisdom to avoid any further confrontations.

BRUCE F. SHANK Editor

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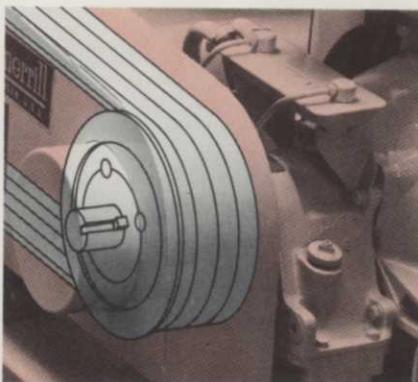


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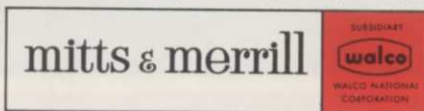


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