

# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

## Major staff changes shock turf world

Three major turf figures changed positions in November, a topic which became the talk of many regional turf shows.

The biggest change was the resignation of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Executive Director Conrad Scheetz. GCSAA has made no official announcement of the situation. Education Director Palmer Maples is acting executive director until the Executive Board makes a decision on the replacement of Scheetz.

The change means two major GCSAA positions are unfilled, the other being the Director of Communications.

The University of Illinois suffered

two blows to its turf program by the departure of Dr. Al Turgeon to Texas A & M and Dr. John Street to Ohio State University.

Dr. Turgeon will be promoted to a full professor and will direct the Texas A & M Research and Extension Center in Dallas.

Dr. Street will be promoted to associate professor of turfgrass at Ohio State University's Columbus campus.

The moves take the University of Illinois from a leading position in turf research to a questionable one. Ohio State University recently lost Dr. David Martin to Chem Lawn Corp.



**New turf field lab** at Michigan State University is now under construction after this ground breaking ceremony in October. The new Hancock Turf Field Lab will centralize all turf research plots at MSU while providing office space. Taking part in the ground breaking are (left to right): Dr. Paul Rieke, Dr. Ken Payne, Dr. Dale Harpstead, Dr. John Kaufmann, and Dr. Joe Vargas.

### TURF

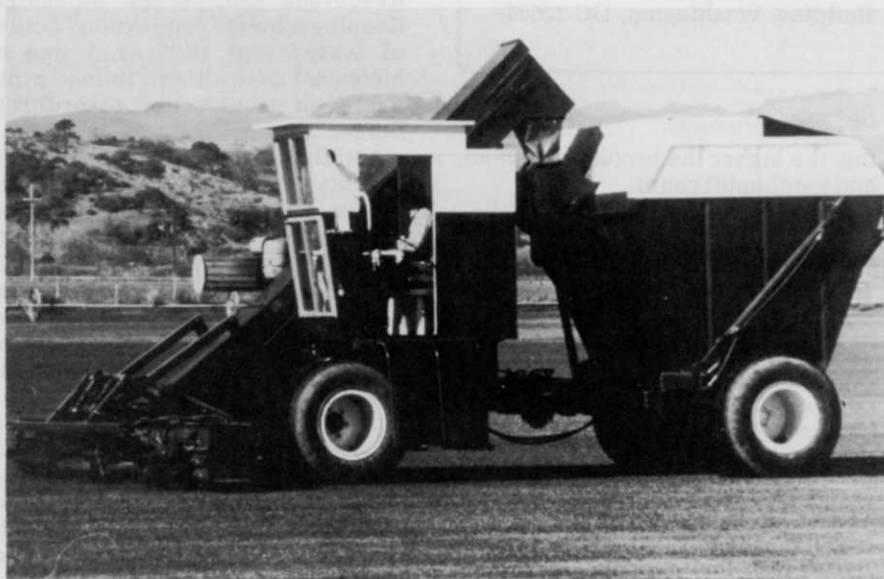
## Sod grower makes feed of dehydrated clippings

Warren's Turf Nursery, Inc. has discovered dehydrated grass clippings to be a valuable agricultural product used for poultry, cattle, and horse feed and plans to expand production.

After experiments with the USDA and the University of California a few years ago, Warren constructed a pilot plant for dehydrating grass clippings. The clippings are converted into dehydrated pellets which sell for \$150 to \$200 a ton. One acre of grass yields four to six tons of dried pelletized clippings a year.

Warren enlarged the pilot plant in California and built a second plant at its Wisconsin nursery. It now has plans to construct dehydration plants at Plymouth, OH; Anderson, IN; Middletown, NJ; and near Chicago.

The actual value of dehydrated clippings is about twice the value of dehydrated alfalfa because of the higher content of protein, caratene, and xanthophil. Xanthophil is of



**Custom-designed sod mower** is used by Warren's Suisun City, CA, turf farm to process bluegrass clippings for animal feed.

# Landscape Contractor News

## Conference to discuss energy saving

"The Energy Efficient Landscape" is the theme of the 1980 Environmental Horticulture Conference to be held in Goodman's Hall, Jack London Square, Oakland, CA, on Feb. 13.

The conference should help landscape architects, contractors, nurserymen, arborists, professional gardeners, and park and recreation managers save energy through successful planning and practices of landscape maintenance. Topics include use of waste water in landscapes, energy efficient plants from Australia, and energy wastes.

The University of California Cooperative Extension and 13 societies and associations connected with landscape horticulture will sponsor the event. The fee for the 1980 conference is \$10 for pre-registration and \$13 at the door. Make checks payable to Environmental Horticulture Conference and mail to: 2033 White Oak Way, San Carlos, CA 94070.

## Clinic will stress high yield for 80's

The 1980 Landscape/Garden Center Management Clinic, entitled "High Yield Management for the '80's," will be held Feb. 10-13 at the Galt House, Louisville, KY.

The National Landscape Association and the Garden Centers of America will sponsor the event. The program, as always, is geared to top and middle management of landscape and retail nursery firms.

One substantive change in this year's approach is having the first days of the clinic devoted to garden center topics. The middle days will deal with topics of mutual interest and the end of the clinic will deal with landscape subjects. Traditionally, landscape subjects have been first.

"The change this year is due to the Valentine holiday and the fact that many garden centers have floral operations," says NLA President Frank Tomlinson. "Having retail topics covered first allows those managers to return in time for the increased business period surrounding that holiday."

Among the subjects to be covered during the landscape portion are: "Planning and Managing Successful Landscape Maintenance Services," "Soaring Through the 80's," "The Future in Design/Plant/Build," and "Financial Management." Advance registration for the total program is \$70 and may be sent to: Landscape/Garden Center Management Clinic, 230 Southern Building, Washington, DC 20005. Deadline is February 1, 1980.

special value to the poultry industry because it is the chemical or coloring agent that gives the skin of dressed poultry a yellowish color rather than a whitish tinge.

Warren learned that the value of the finished product is greater when the clippings are not allowed to touch the ground and are caught in large containers as they are mowed. Its California nursery developed a mowing machine that could cut a swath of grass 21 feet wide and convey the clippings into a large hopper from which the clippings were taken every few minutes and rushed to the dehydrator. The sooner the clippings were dehydrated after mow-

ing, the higher the protein, caratene, and xanthophil count.

## LANDSCAPE

### ASLA annual meeting sets record attendance

The largest gathering of landscape architects in the history of the profession assembled in New Orleans in November to discuss and debate the impact money, law, and politics has on this design profession.

More than 1,800 landscape architects attended the American Society of Landscape Architects' 79th annual meeting to witness a

number of educational sessions and a large educational exhibit.

The society installed Robert L. Woerner, a Spokane, WA, landscape architect, as its president for a one-year term.

Calvin T. Bishop of Houston, TX, and Darwina L. Neal of Washington, DC, were installed as new vice presidents, and Joseph Y. Yamada of San Diego, CA, was installed as treasurer of the society. Neal and Yamada will each serve two-year terms.

## PARKS

### Low maintenance trees suggested for parks

Low maintenance trees, pond management, personnel appraisal, and integrated pest management were among the topics discussed at the Ninth National Institute on Park and Grounds Management in Nashville, Oct. 28-Nov. 2.

American Garden's William Collins said trees should be selected for natural shape, climatic zone, hardiness and resistance to insects, disease and other stresses. "What we need to do," Collins said, "is to improve the rootzone by proper drainage and planting to permit the tree to express its inherited low maintenance characteristics."

Reducing runoff of fertilizers and clippings into lakes and proper aeration should be combined into a continuous program of lake management, Stephen Belzner of Rodale Resources said to the delegates. Keeping a buffer zone around bodies of water and increased use of biological controls can reduce problems with atrophication, according to Belzner.

Meeting objectives and not personality should be the main factor in judging an employee's performance, Steve Davis, director of Clay County park department in Smithville, MO, told fellow park managers. A regular performance appraisal can boost morale and lets the worker know exactly where he stands, Davis said. Objectives should be set in measurable, definable terms at least once every quarter.

William and Helga Olkowski gave a step by step approach to integrated pest management. A look at problems, weather conditions, plus factors such as use and resources is the first step. Secondly, the manager must decide on an acceptable injury

# GOVERNMENT

## UPDATE

### Federal agencies question Surflan

Officials of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have launched an investigation into the herbicide "oryzalin", which they think may be responsible for heart-related birth defects among children fathered by workers who manufactured the substance.

Oryzalin, approved in 1975, is a liquid herbicide used to control weeds and brush in soybeans and cotton, certain fruits and nuts, and woody ornamental plants. The Elanco Products Div. of Eli Lilly & Co. of Indianapolis, IN, holds the registration for the compound under the brand name "Surflan."

EPA Assistant Administrator Steven D. Jellinek stressed that his office has no record of the herbicide causing health problems among users. The Agency has reviewed studies conducted by Eli Lilly & Co. to support registration of the compound, as required by the Federal pesticide law.

### Sharp drop in nonwhite farm workers

Between 1965-67 and 1975-77, the number of hired farm workers in the US declined 9.3 percent — from just under 3 million to slightly more than 2.7 million, according to agricultural extension specialists at North Carolina State University.

Although the number of white workers actually increased slightly, the number of blacks and others dropped from 822,000 to 440,000. Figures show the average age of farm workers declined, resulting primarily from more workers 18 to 24 years old and less workers 45 years and older.

### Survey identifies urban tree problems

Construction damage, Dutch elm disease, pine bark beetles, scale insects, and oak decline kill more city trees than anything else, according to a survey of 17 southern states. The University of Georgia's Dept. of Entomology polled more than 1,700 practicing urban foresters, university professors, arborists, and others. The survey asked them to identify the most difficult problems in their locations to determine areas where research dollars may best be spent.

level. What do users expect and what degree of damage can a plant withstand? Finally, all options to control must be considered, including cultural controls, natural controls, and breeding site elimination.

### GOLF

### Recertification seminars precede GCSAA show

Seven seminars on subjects ranging from pesticides to photography have been scheduled just before the opening of the 51st International Turfgrass Conference and Show in St. Louis, Feb. 17-22. The seminars will be taught by nationally recognized experts and will be worth points toward certification renewal.

Seminar subjects include: landscape design theory, personnel management, irrigation equipment operation, pesticide use for insect control, turf nutrition, photography, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Each seminar lasts two days and is followed by an optional examination for points.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America also announced that Toro Chairman David McLaughlin will present the keynote address to start the show off. McLaughlin will speak on the subject, "Are we savers or spenders?"

### TREES

### Christmas tree crops up in North Carolina

Tar Heel Christmas tree farmers are reporting a 40 percent increase in their harvest for this year over the last two years. Farmers have planted enough trees to triple production by 1983. Extension Forestry Specialist William Huxster of North Carolina State University said, "We are now cutting about four percent of the Christmas trees sold in the United States each year. Our goal is 15 percent of the national market."

About 60 percent of the Fraser fir, white pine, Virginia pine, and Eastern red cedar grown in the state is exported. Conservatively estimated, the 1979 crop will bring growers roughly \$10 million.

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