

GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

IRRIGATION

Buckner is purchased by Royal Coach

Following months of speculation about the fate of Buckner Irrigation System Division of Johns-Manville, Denver, Colorado, Royal Coach Sprinklers of Fresno, California, completed purchase arrangements for the Buckner line.

James Coson, founder of Royal Coach, owned the Buckner firm from 1961 to 1972 when he sold it to Johns-Manville. Coson said the two product lines will be consolidated into one brand, Royal Coach-Buckner. The Buckner distributors will be added to the Royal Coach distributor network.

The Buckner inventory and manufacturing equipment will be moved to Fresno as soon as possible.

Speculation about the fate of the large irrigation firm began when Buckner did not occupy its booth at the Golf Course Superintendent Show in St. Louis. Superintendents with Buckner systems expressed concern over repair and parts. The purchase procedure took months to complete and many thought it was the end of the line for this large company. The announcement of purchase comes as a relief to many turf managers with Buckner systems.



Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council 1980 officers: (left to right) President James MacLauren, Lebanon, PA; Executive Secretary-Treasurer Christine King, Bellefonte, PA; Second Vice-President J. Craig Reinhardt, Clementon, NJ; and Vice-President George Morgan, Allison Park, PA.

LAWSUIT

Dow accuses EPA of surveillance tactics

Dow Chemical Co. has charged in a federal suit that the Environmental Protection Agency has been using "spy-like military surveillance tactics" on it to discover company secrets.

The company says the EPA with the assistance of the Air Force and Navy is using several types of highly sophisticated and covert surveillance techniques to gather information about U.S. companies.

"Any photographs they took on their fly-over were public information under the Freedom of Information Act," says Tim Scott, Dow's communication specialist for environmental quality. The company started its original suit in 1978 because of fear that the photos would be released to its competitors and the public.

An amended suit expanded the charges against the EPA to more deeply pursue the government's action. Scott says Dow discovered that the EPA has employed the Air Force on 50 to 60 occasions over the last nine years for fly-over missions. "We

don't feel the use of reconnaissance planes is within their charter," says Scott. "That's not what the EPA is all about."

Larry O'Neill, information specialist for the EPA, says the government acted entirely within the bounds of law. "We use the material to meet air and water standards," O'Neill says. "We consider it a perfectly legitimate enforcement tool."

LAWN CARE

PLCAA inaugural show is centrally located

The first Annual Meeting and Trade Show of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America has been scheduled for November 12-14 at the Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville, KY. The location is roughly in the center of major lawn care market areas, easily accessible for both lawn care businessmen and suppliers.

But the hope is to get lawn care businessmen throughout the country to participate and to exchange ideas. Convention Chairman John Latting of Lawn Groomer, Normal, IL, says,

"In this unpredictable economy, lawn care operators need to plan carefully to make effective decisions and maximize employe efficiency and productivity."

The convention program includes topics such as leasing versus buying equipment, employe motivation and training, advertising and public relations, budgeting and accounting procedures, computers, and many agronomic turf management topics.

Registration fees are not prohibitively expensive at only \$35 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. A \$5 early bird discount is given prior to August 1. The registration fee difference may be applied to those who apply for membership within 30 days after the meeting.

The General Session begins at 1 p.m. on November 12 and ends at noon on November 14. Exhibits will be open from 8 a.m. on the 12th to noon on the 14th.

Persons interested in the first lawn care show and membership in PLCAA may contact Sharon Duling, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1717, Chicago, IL 60611 (312/644-0828).

CONTRACTOR NEWS

Plantscape Assn. names executive director

Carol Felix has become executive director of the Interior Plantscape Association for the 1980-81 year.

Ms. Felix has served as IPA's executive director since its foundation in March 1979. Daily managing of association business and deep involvement in the annual meeting and regional seminars has provided her a strong background.

In IPA's second year of existence, which it has designated a year of technology, Ms. Felix plans to make certain that all important scientific and business information is readily available to the membership. She says that she is looking forward to a year of growth for IPA as other interior plantscape professionals join the ranks of the association.

Landscape business outlook good for 1980

Members of the National Landscape Association are predicting a year in which 85 percent expect increased sales.

Nationally, NLA firms are projecting a 10 percent increase in business. They indicate their best prospects are in residential renovation work, with new commercial landscape next, followed by commercial renovation landscaping.

New residential landscaping was the only category in which less than half the respondents indicated increases. This portion is to remain about the same with only small gains.

Two regional groups affiliate with ALCA; Oregon, metro Detroit bring total to 13

The Associated Landscape Contractors of Oregon and the Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association became the 12th and 13th state/regional landscape contracting associations to formally affiliate with ALCA.

The two groups are titled "Sponsoring Members," which is the mechanism through which state and regional groups affiliate with ALCA. Under this arrangement, member firms of the Oregon and Detroit associations gain direct access to all ALCA publications and meetings.

ASLA to consider insurance programs

An investigation of various group insurance programs by ASLA national headquarters has yielded two potential programs for the ASLA membership.

The first program involves group health insurance with the added possibility of a health insurance trust owned by ASLA. This arrangement could produce "excellent group insurance benefits and moderate premiums for ASLA members and their staffs in private practice," said Ed Able, executive director, and Lane Marshall, chairman of Professional Practice Institute.

While a trust would not insure immediate lower premiums, "it would result in the return of any excess 'profits' from the program to the benefit of those members insured by the trust," said Able, "and not into the pockets of insurance companies as profits."

The second possibility for ASLA insurance involves professional liability (errors and omission) insurance, which is traditionally a difficult and costly item for private practice firms.

INSECTS

IPM, latest research topics of turf symposium

Turf managers can avail themselves of the latest information on turf insect control, October 14-15, in Columbus, OH, at the "Symposium on Turfgrass Insects-1980" sponsored by ChemLawn Corp.

This is the second in-depth symposium sponsored by ChemLawn on major turf topics. The first was last fall on turf diseases.

Major topics to be covered include: host plant resistance, IPM programs for turf, pesticide research, new insect pests, and entomology and the turfgrass industry. The meeting is cochaired by Dr. B.G. Joyner, Plant Diagnostic Labs, and Dr. Harry Niemczyk of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster.

The subject matter is technically based. Registration is \$25. Contact Dr. B.G. Joyner, Plant Diagnostic Labs, ChemLawn Corp., 6969 Worthington-Galena Rd., Worthington, OH 43085 (614/885-9588.)

UNIVERSITY

Nebraska's campus opens new plant center

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln dedicated a new plant science hall to house the agronomy, horticulture, and plant pathology departments. The 170,000 square ft. structure contains classrooms, greenhouses, and research laboratories. It is connected to the older plant science building.

The structure costs \$10 million and has easily interchanged utilities for energy alternatives.

LAKE QUALITY

Symposium planned on lake water policy

An international exchange of scientific information and policy considerations on lake water quality problems will be presented September 8-12 in Portland, Maine.

The symposium is sponsored jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The OECD established its Eutrophication Program in 1972 to monitor inland waters and to access the relationship between nutrient load and trophic response.

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

EPA asks producers for more data on 2,4-D

The Environmental Protection Agency wants manufacturers of 2,4-D to submit additional evidence that the herbicide is not a health hazard.

The agency has not claimed 2,4-D is unsafe, but feels that studies done on its potential to cause cancer are inconclusive and other studies are out-of-date, a spokesman said.

Since about 70 million pounds of the herbicide are used on lawns, forests, right-of-ways, ditch banks, aquatic and other turf areas, the agency said it wanted to be positive of its safety. It has recently received reports from communities around the country who fear the herbicide has possibly caused miscarriages in pregnant women.

Barbara Blum, deputy administrator of the EPA, said that if the manufacturers fail to notify EPA within 90 days that they will provide the necessary information, EPA will use a stringent new provision of the pesticide law, which allows the agency to stop all uses of the pesticide.

If the manufacturers comply, Blum said, EPA will allow 2,4-D to continue to be used while studies are underway. However, should any of the new studies demonstrate a major health or environmental problem, she said EPA would then take appropriate regulatory action without waiting for completion of all the studies.

President urges limit on chemical prices

President Carter has personally prodded officials of chemical manufacturing firms to restrain price rises.

After the White House meeting, Secretary of the Treasury G. William Miller outlined the administration's inflation control program concerning monetary reform, wage-price guidelines, and environmental policy. Industry officials agreed with Miller that the steady increase of prices is an accumulative effect over the last 15 years, and responded that a solution may take the same amount of time.

The chemical companies blamed the rise in prices on the climbing cost of petroleum, which is used for feed stock, and excessive federal regulations. A spokesman for Dow said that the company's costs for feed stocks and energy rose 39 percent last year and are expected to increase at about the same rate in 1980.

Forest Service centralizes pest management

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has consolidated its pest management activities to improve its use of integrated pest management against pest insects, animals, diseases, and plants.

M. Rupert Cutler, assistant secretary of agriculture for natural resources and environment, said the centralization places technical assistance responsibilities for pest management and animal damage control in a single group, which will be known as the Forest Pest Management Staff. The group will also have responsibility for providing technical advice and assistance in the use of forest herbicides. In the past, several staff groups handled these responsibilities.

The new staff group, to be directed by James L. Stewart, will maintain all of the Forest Service's current insect and disease control functions.

Topics will include the effects of acid rain, watershed management, developing lake protection programs, approaches to lake restoration, and benefits of lake restoration and protection programs.

Interested persons should contact Dr. Ann Clarke, AWARE Inc., P.O. Box 40284, Nashville, TN 37204 (615/794-0110).

PARKS

U.S. Park Service gets a new boss

Russell E. Dickenson, a 33-year veteran of the National Park Service, has been picked to head the agency.

Dickenson replaces William J. Whalen, who was fired by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus after a stormy three years in which Whalen came under attack from House Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall, (D-AZ), conservation groups, and park service employees complaining of low morale.

Dickenson, 57, joined the park service in 1947 as a park ranger in the Grand Canyon. He was deputy director from 1973 to 1975 and since that time has been director of the service's Pacific Northwest Region.

NURSERY

U.S. garden display is part of Montreal show

The American Association of Nurserymen and several branches of the U.S. government have joined together for the creation of a two-and-a-half acre garden to be part of the Les Florales internationales de Montreal which begins in May. The display will contain more than 200 trees of 36 types, 2,600 shrubs of 30 types, and 21,500 perennials, wildflowers, ferns and grasses of 24 types.

The U.S. is among 30 nations participating in the event. Displays will be maintained as a permanent park after the show ends in September.

The Florales internationales begins May 17 at the site of the 1967 Exposition and Olympics in Montreal, and ends September 1.

The display has been named the

Continues on page 65

Green Survival Garden. It is a cooperative effort of AAN, the American Seed Trade Association, the US Department of the Interior, the US Department of Agriculture, and the US Department of State. For more information contact AAN, 230 Southern Building, Washington, DC 20005.

PESTS

Management program fights gypsy moth

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has formulated a plan it hopes can contain the gypsy moth, which last year stripped 643,000 acres of forests in 12 states at a cost of millions of dollars.

To coordinate the plan, the USDA formed an interagency steering committee. It consists of representatives of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Forest Service, and Science and Education Administration and affected states. Subcommittees on research, operations, and information provide backup for planning control, regulatory, detection, and other aspects of the effort.

When outlying infestations are discovered, they are wiped out in carefully planned operations by APHIS in cooperation with the affected state. State, federal, and local officials carefully consider alternatives and present their plans to residents at public meetings.

Trying to eradicate the moth from the entire United States would involve unacceptable dollar, manpower, and environmental costs and might well be impossible in any case. But the present program is buying time for the uninfested area while better pest management systems are developed to deal with the gypsy moth.

EXTENSION

Shoulders of VPI retires from turf

John Shoulders, well-known professor of agronomy and extension turf specialist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, has retired after 28 years of service in turf and forage work.

Shoulders helped create and occupied the new position of extension turf specialist in 1966. His many

accomplishments include fall and winter nitrogen fertilization, doubling the state's alfalfa production between 1952 and 1961, and tripling corn silage production between 1952 and 1966. In 1977 he was honored as a fellow in the American Society of Agronomy, the highest honor the organization bestows upon its members.

Shoulders plans to remain in

Blacksburg and maintain an interest in turf programs.

TRENDS

Scotts research shows home fix-up to rise

A nationwide survey conducted for O.M. Scott & Sons by Home Testing

Continues on page 68

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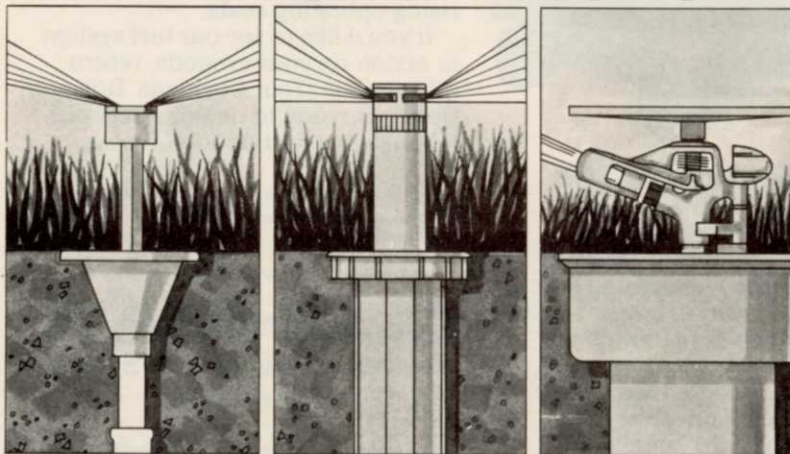
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News from page 65

Institute indicates that homeowners will spend more time at home and spend more money on lawn and garden material.

Lawn care and gardening were the activities cited by homeowners for extra attention this year. Nearly two-thirds of the family heads said they would be spending more time on these activities and more than half said they would be spending more money on their lawns and gardens. Beside the enjoyment of an attractive lawn and garden, homeowners indicated they believed outdoor improvements to their home would increase the value of their property.

More women indicated a role in the care of lawns, nearly 40 percent, compared to 68 percent of the men. Sixty percent of women indicated a role in gardening.

Other surveys have predicted a significant increase in gardening this year, especially vegetable gardening.

TURF

Awards given at Midwest Conference

Two students, a leader in the turf industry, and the director received recognition at the Midwest Regional Turf Conference at Purdue University.

Stephen Biggers IV and David Shifley received Purdue turf scholarships and checks for \$250 from the TUCO Div. of Upjohn Co., Kalamazoo, MI. Ben and Dorothy Warren of Warren's Turf Nursery, Palos Park, IL, were recognized for their educational efforts in the sod industry and Dr. W. H. Daniel, director of the conference, was given a surprise roast and recognition for his 30 years in turf.

Stihl participates in lumberjack contests

For one week in July, the Annual Lumberjack World Championships bring the sound of axes striking wood and thousands of people to little Hayward, Wisconsin.

Stihl Inc. has decided to participate with a full sponsorship in the contest after a limited sponsorship last year. The company will be involved this way for the next three years.