

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.