

# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

## TURF

### Purdue hosts MRTA conference



Bill Lyons and Harry Wilcox met at MRTA Lyons' traditional conference cheese bar

Turf managers from Indiana and adjacent states took three days out of their spring schedules to gather at the Midwest Regional Turf Conference at Purdue University in Lafayette, IN. Nearly 450 association members and guests listened to a full program of speeches, traded information and caught up on industry news.

Dr. Marion Baumgardner opened the seminars with an update on the latest methods in monitoring land use with multispectral scanners located on satellites. He started the conference with a look into the future of land conservation and management.

Bringing the session back down to earth, Dr. A.J. Powell of the University of Kentucky gave the first in a number of anecdotal lectures on turf management. His talk began a theme that prevailed among a number of the speeches given: turf managers must have confidence in their training and expertise. He described the inherent tension between the uneducated golfer's high expectations for the course and the physical limitations of the experienced turf manager. Powell observed that the pressure exerted by clients often sways the superintendent to turn to expensive convenience products with a preventative purpose that is not always needed. Powell encouraged the ex-

perts to use their training and experience in recognizing the need for certain treatments rather than spending time and money on unnecessary products and activities.

Setting quality goals for greens according to the type player that uses it will prevent the superintendent or owner from creating a course that requires more nitrogen application and maintenance than is possible within the financial constraints of the players. Pointing this out, Dr. John Hall of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, said this limitation should be taken into account when balancing the level of nitrogen that can be afforded for golf greens, along with the species of grass, the age of the green, the mowing frequency and the length of the growing season and the source of the nitrogen.

Participants in the golf audience also heard Dr. Reed Funk, from Rutgers University, on the improved performance of fine and tall fescues and other new cultivars. Purdue's Dean Mosdell, described the trail of nitrogen from fertilizer to forms usable by plants, and the losses involved from leaching, erosion and crop removal. James Vaccaro of the Dow Chemical Co., gave a thorough outline of techniques for optimum protection when working with pesticides. Howard Kaerwer of Northrup-

King Co., discussed the logistics of seed production and promotion.

A concurrent session on lawn care covered the selection of sources of nitrogen for liquid lawn care with Richard Rathjens of the Davey Tree Co., and observations on nitrogen sources from Jim Mello of Nice 'N Green. Dr. Ray Freeborg of Purdue, discussed his research on preemergence herbicides and growth regulators. The lawn care seminars ended with a panel discussion with Jeff Lefton of Chemlawn, A.J. Powell, Dr. Daniel Potter of University of Kentucky and John Hall.

Separate sessions on athletic turf and public golf course management were offered on Tuesday. John Souter of Stirling, Scotland brought word of his success with a technique of soil warming using subterranean warm water pipes. Dr. Bill Daniel of Purdue, shared his research accomplishments in drainage and the Enka-Mat synthetic turf base.

The association paid tribute to Bill Lyons of Canal Fulton, OH, for the many years and ideas he has contributed to the turf industry, at its banquet. MRTA also took the opportunity to honor president Gene Johanningsmeier and welcome next year's president, Kim Mullendore.

## TREES

### U.S. scientists search Japan for hardy plants

An Ohio scientist is preparing to lead a group through the forest and coastal areas of Japan in an exhaustive search for hardier species of trees. Dr. Makoto Kawase and his team will be looking for varieties of woody trees and shrubs with potential for introduction in the U.S.

The exploration will take place on the island of Hokkaido, the site of similar more limited earlier expeditions.

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Having grown up there, Dr. Kawase is familiar with the woody flora of the area.

In preparation for the project, Kawase has published a review of all the flora growing in the exploration areas. The list was reviewed by scientists and nurserymen all throughout the north central U.S. who selected the species they felt would be beneficial in this country. The team hopes to find species which have improved flower quality, better foliage and greater resistance to winter weather than the ones now being grown.

Joining Kawase on the trip, will be S.G. March, a supervisory horticulturist for the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington D.C. and Frederick G. Meyer of the National Arboretum's Herbarium.

#### INSECTS

### Greenbug overwintering confirmed by Niemczyk

Greenbug eggs located last November in Dayton and Cincinnati, OH, have

proven to be viable when placed at room temperature in March, according to turf entomologist Harry Niemczyk of the Ohio Agricultural Research and



Harry Niemczyk

Development Center, Wooster, OH.

Previously known to overwinter in Kentucky, Niemczyk and others speculated (WTT, June 80) that the eggs

overwintered or the adult migrated northward. Both eggs and turf plugs containing eggs were brought indoors by Niemczyk in March to test for viability. In both cases, the eggs hatched quickly. This confirms the speculation that the egg overwinters and does not migrate.

Large numbers of greenbug eggs (*Schizaphis graminum*) have been found on lawns in the Dayton and Cincinnati area. Further details on this finding will appear in June *Weeds Trees & Turf*.

#### NURSERY

### Computer supply info available

A computerized catalog system will soon be available to nursery suppliers and buyers alike to keep them informed of their own inventories as well as the availability and prices of current inventories in a region or a state. The L.I.S.T. System (Landscape Information Teleprompt Service) is offering a variety of reports providing industry members with comprehensive infor-

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mation on nursery stocks to improve their operating efficiency.

The L.I.S.T. System offers inventory statements to suppliers; purchase reports for buyers that list the suppliers, quantity and prices of a given material; estimation reports provide the total number of suppliers, quantity and prices of a material in that area; condensed reports have the basic data of both the supplier and estimation reports; buyer and supplier resume reports give the business backgrounds of each nursery and primary buyer listed and a monthly compilation of the previous reports.

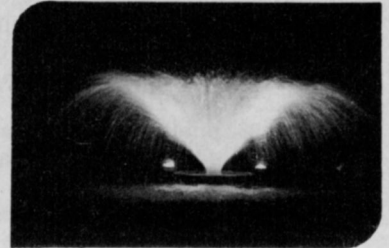
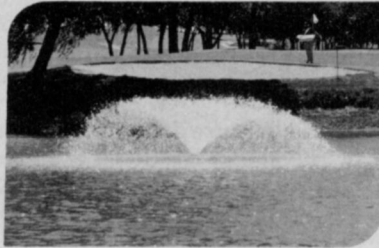
The L.I.S.T. is the creation of Robert McDonald, an alumnus of the landscape contracting program at Mississippi State University and formerly with Gustin Gardens. McDonald is joined by John Cote as vice president of sales.

The charge to the suppliers for the use of the system will be on a per line-item basis. Buyers will pay a membership fee and then be charged on the basis of the amount of use they require.

Based in Columbia, MD, the system is operated on the computer of the American Management Systems. According to McDonald, this database

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## GCBA directory and yearbook available

The 1982 directory and yearbook of the Golf Course Builders of America is currently available. The 42-page, pocket-size publication includes information on general and subcontractors who build the nation's golf courses, identifies the courses they have constructed and tells of their general experience in building, reconstructing and renovating golf courses.

The 1982 publication features articles on golf course drainage problems by F.J. Palecek, market manager of Advanced Drainage Systems, Columbus, OH; weed control by Dr. Paul Sprinkle, agronomist for Monsanto Agricultural Products Co., St. Louis, MO; and the story of the National Golf Foundation by Executive Director Don Rossi.

For a free copy write: Golf Course Builders of America, Suite 638, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC 20036.

## Career center teaches course maintenance

The Wilco Area Career Center, Romeoville, IL, believes in giving their students hands-on experience in their courses. When they decided to start a horticulture program with emphasis on turf care and golf course maintenance, it was only natural to build their own horticulture training facility on a few acres of open field behind the center. In two years the resulting facility included a 12-ft. deep pond, two nurseries (valued at \$10,000), 16 turf test plots, a tractor driving range and a three-hole golf course.

Students in the Wilco Horticulture Program receive practical training in the operation of over 30 pieces of maintenance equipment. "What we have here is a program heavy in skill development and light in textbook work," said David Manning, horticulture instructor. Seventy-six students are presently enrolled in the horticulture program. They are taught the basic entry-level skills needed in the horticulture industry with an emphasis on turf care and golf course maintenance. After being certified by the center (in a one- or two-year program), graduates move on to full-time employment or advanced educational training.

According to Assistant Director Lyle Honnold, the Wilco Center is supported by local, state and federal funds. The program costs the students nothing. The golf course itself was constructed by the Wadsworth Co., Plainfield, IL, with much of the labor and equipment provided at no charge. A \$7000 manual irrigation system was installed and \$2000 worth of grass seed planted on the three-hole layout. Students took part by helping to clear and refine the area. The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents loaned some maintenance equipment. One valuable piece of equipment, a used five-gang mower and tractor, was donated by a local superintendent.

The golf course has turned out to be a public relations asset to the career center. Players are given an honorary membership card for golf and fishing privileges at the Wilco Area Career Center Land Laboratory and are asked to give "continued support of vocational education." Wilco's bag tags and scorecards also inform the players that they are playing on a "student developed, maintained and operated golf course."

"We've spent the last four years further developing each aspect of the horticulture program so that every pupil is given a practical, hands-on training experience," said Manning. "The program goes year-round now with several of our students now employed on golf maintenance crews, in nurseries and in greenhouses."

In the future, Manning and his assistant James Phelps want to vary the maintenance practices on different holes (and add some more) and expand the nursery operation. In these endeavors the students will be guided by Manning and Phelps and a 20-plus member Horticulture-Agriculture Advisory Council.

gives the clients a secure backup system and programming expertise.

Suppliers who wish to be on the L.I.S.T. should contact McDonald with current information on their available materials and prices. Buyers must supply a list of materials being searched for and should begin receiving service as soon as there is a bank of suppliers on the computer.

## PESTICIDES

### Pesticide breakdown may lessen effectiveness

Studies are now showing that insect resistance may not always be the reason that some pesticides lose their effectiveness over time. According to Alan Felsot of the University of Illinois, erratic performance may occur because the pesticide is broken down by enzyme or microbial activity.

"We think that certain microbial organisms in the soil are able to use the pesticide as an energy source," explained Felsot. With the chemical as an additional source of energy, the microbes thrive and multiply rapidly. Consequently, the more pesticide that is added to the soil, the faster it is degraded.

Reports have been made of the herbicide Eradicane and the insecticide diazinon breaking down quickly once applied to the soil. These problems seem to occur primarily in soils with a pH above 7. Yet, scientists cannot accurately predict what types of soils foster this reaction.

Controlled release chemical formulations and rotation of chemical classes may remedy the situation. Chemical extenders are also effective in keeping pesticides in the soil longer in the laboratory. Scientists must discover the specific causal organisms or enzymes before the problem can be fully solved.

## TURF

### NY landscape conference a hit

A one-day conference held by the Professional Turf and Landscape Association in Nyack, NY was a tremendous success according to Dan Antonecchia, the liaison officer. The meeting featured 76 trade exhibitors as well as a program

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## UPDATE

### Landscape architects join forces

The American Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) and the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) have unified their organizations. The two organizations together will be known as ASLA.

As a result of the unification ASLA now represents more than 6000 landscape architects. "The unification of these two societies represents a major step forward for landscape architecture," said ASLA President Calvin Bishop. "We can now offer one solid professional representative for all landscape architects."

Former AILA President Robert Cardoza added that the unification is "the best thing that has ever happened to landscape architecture—an action that has been long overdue. With more people, numbers and resources, many more goals will be reached. Rather than having two organizations complementing each other's weaknesses, we'll be complementing our strengths."

Under the agreement, all AILA members were offered the option to transfer their membership to ASLA in the equivalent membership category. All AILA Fellows transferred their fellowship designation to ASLA.

### ALCA presents 10 Grand Awards

The Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) presented its 1981 Environmental Improvement Awards at its annual meeting in Palm Springs, CA. Ten Grand Awards in six categories were presented.

*Interior Installation:* (1) Interior Landscape Design, San Jose, CA, for San Francisco Executive Park; and (2) Tropical Plant Rentals, Prairie View, IL, for Town Square Mall. *Commercial Landscape Contracting:* (1) Century Landscape Contractors, Agoura, CA, for UCLA Westwood Plaza South Mall and Parking Terrace; and (2) Chapel Valley Landscape Co., Woodbine, MD, for Mobil Marketing and Refining Headquarters. *Design/Build:* (1) Allen Keesen Landscape, Denver, CO, for The Kooi Residence; and (2) Alley Pond Nurseries, Melville, NY, for The Boroff Residence. *Interiorscape Maintenance:* The Plant Place, Philadelphia, PA, for Philadelphia Stock Exchange Building Atrium. *Landscape Maintenance:* Brickman Industries, Trevose, PA, for E.R. Squibb and Sons Headquarters. *Residential Landscape Contracting:* (1) Schlick Landscaping, Greenlawn, NY, for The Fasano Residence; and (2) Green Brothers Landscape Co., Smyrna, GA, for The McGee Residence.

In addition the Grand Awards, ALCA presented 13 Merit Awards and 12 Awards of Distinction.

### Four grab NLA Superior Awards

The National Landscape Association handed out four Superior Awards and eight Certificates of Merit at its 12th Annual Residential Landscape Awards Program held at the Landscape/Garden Center Management Clinic in Louisville, KY.

There was one Superior Award winner in each of four categories. *Single Family Residence:* Theodore Brickman Co., Long Grove, IL. *Entrance:* Dundee Nursery and Landscaping Co., Plymouth, MN. *Active Use:* Alley Pond Nurseries, Melville, NY. *Passive Use:* Green Brothers Landscape Co., Smyrna, GA.

Certificates of Merit were presented to: Oakland Nursery, Columbus, OH, GWSM, Pittsburgh, PA; Steven Dubner Landscaping, Dix Hills, NY; and Green Brothers Landscaping Co., Smyrna, GA (5).

that dealt with subjects from lawn management to pruning.

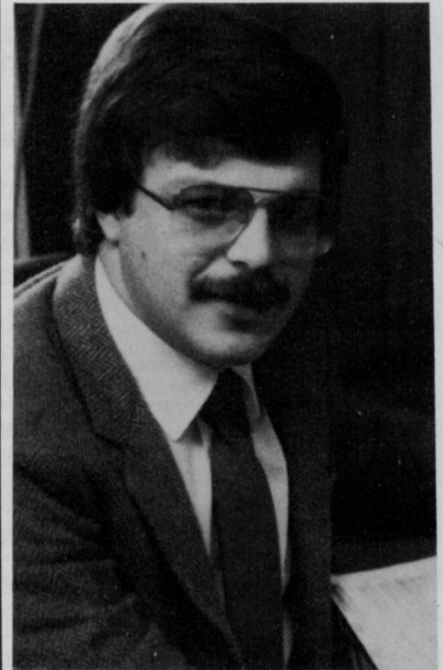
Designed to update interested persons in the maintenance and construction of lawn and landscape settings in residential, commercial and park situations, the event was mobbed with 1150 attendants. Unfortunately, the facilities could not accommodate that many participants and some people were unable to get into the sessions. The management is now looking into the possibility of moving next year's conference to a larger location.

Some of the most popular educational sessions were those on bedding plants by Ann Reilly, small engines by Bud Muser and Tom Nally's basic landscaping talk.

### TURFGRASS

### Lind moves over to Garfield Williamson

Seed broker Bill Lind has become the business manager for Garfield Williamson Co., a supplier of turfgrass and lawn care products for professional and retail accounts in the Northeast. In this position, Lind is responsible for finan-



Bill Lind

cial planning, operations and general business.

Formerly with John Zuelzer & Sons, Lind is a graduate of State University of New York Agricultural and Technical School and a veteran of the Marine Corps.

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## UPDATE

BY WILLIAM HOFFMAN

### Extension service future under review

The mission of the Extension Service, the educational arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is being reevaluated by several federal groups. The Secretary of Agriculture has appointed an advisory committee to make specific recommendations on how best Extension can serve in times of increasing competition for the tax dollar. At the same time, the Agriculture Committee of the House of Representatives started oversight hearings for the same reason—the first look at the entire cooperative extension system (federal, state, county) since its beginning in 1914. While initial testimony at the committee meetings and at the oversight hearings echoed strong support for the present Extension Service there was an undercurrent that, in these times of short funds and trouble among the nation's farmers and ranchers, the top priority was to return the system to the rural community and away from the urban and suburban programs began in the last decade or so. Final reports from both groups should be on hand late this year.

### Aftermath of medfly spraying in California

More than \$10 million in damage claims have been filed against the state of California in the use of malathion to control the Medfly last year. Most of the claims have been for automobile paint damage but many are also claiming health effects. The state did a survey of hospital emergency rooms inside and outside the spray area and found no indications that health complaints increased during the spraying. They are interested in studies of long-term effects in the San Francisco Bay area where there were as many as 15 sprayings, but the California legislature has refused to authorize the funds.

### Pesticides uses for nursery industry delayed

In the January issue, I reported that the Environmental Protection Agency, working with the American Association of Nurserymen, National Forest Products Association and the Society of American Florists, had developed a system that would give the nursery industry quicker access to many of the new pesticides. EPA proposed that certain uses of pesticides registered for use on food crops and used on non-food nursery sites would not be inconsistent with the labeling even though the sites were not on the labeling.

The Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), representing the state regulatory agencies, opposed this plan. AAPCO was concerned that it would result in the breakdown of the legal soundness of the label and would be very difficult to enforce. They also felt that the nursery industry had not made use of state local need (24-c) registrations to obtain the needed pesticides. In light of this vigorous opposition, EPA withdrew its backing but agreed to publish the plan in the Federal Register for all to comment on. It will be late summer this year before any decisions are made so the industry will have to use appropriately labeled pesticides this growing season.

### New pesticides laboratory in New Jersey

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection announced the opening of a 25,000-sq. ft. laboratory and office facility to deal with environmental problems in the field of pesticides and toxic substances. The laboratory, located in suburban Trenton, was made possible through a three year grant from EPA. It is equipped with the latest in chemical instrumentation and will offer its analytical capabilities to federal, state and local agencies.

## EQUIPMENT

### Turnbull named to Toro board

Dale W. Turnbull has been made the tenth member of the Toro Company's board of directors. President of Towmotor Corporation and vice president of Caterpillar Tractor Company, he will serve in this position until Decem-



Dale W. Turnbull

ber of 1982, when he will stand for election at the annual meeting.

Turnbull joined Caterpillar as a trainee after graduating from Kansas State University in 1950. He then held a series of sales and marketing positions before becoming a president of Towmotor in 1977. Two years later, he was elected vice president of Caterpillar. Towmotor is a subsidiary of Caterpillar which manufacture Caterpillar lift trucks.

## CHEMICAL

### Velsicol Chemical appoints Ragsdale

Silas Ragsdale has been appointed district sales manager of the northwest region of Velsicol Chemical Corp.'s Agricultural Business Sales Group. He will cover North Dakota, South Dakota and north Minnesota from his base in Fargo, ND.

A 1975 graduate of Baylor University, Ragsdale joined Velsicol four years ago as a field representative and then worked as an industrial vegetation management specialist before this promotion.