

UPDATE

PLCAA, NAA, NPCA organize to combat “environemotionalists”

Representatives of the three major urban pesticide user trade associations met in late June and took the first steps toward forming a coalition to fight what the group called “environemotionalists.”

“Toxic torts are going to be the auto whiplash of the 1980’s,” Ian Oppenheim told representatives of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), National Arborist Association (NAA) and National Pest Control Association (NPCA).

Oppenheim, a specialist in environmental law, is acting executive director of the National Environmental Law Foundation (NELF), which was incorporated in Massachusetts in early June to combat what was called “increasing attempts to overregulate urban pesticide use.”

John Kenney, president of Turf Doctor, Inc., Framingham, MS, is president of NELF. Steve Keris, director of technical operations for Certified Pest Control, Dedham, MS, is secretary. Board members are Jerry Faulring, president of Hydro Lawn, Gaithersburg, MD, and Dr. Robert Miller, vice president of ChemLawn Corp., Columbus, OH.

In his presentation to the group, Kenney said:

“We, as urban pesticide applicators, use perhaps 5 percent of all pesticides applied in the U.S., but are seen by 95 percent of the public. The public exposure has left us open to overregulation by legislative bodies all the way from city councils to state governments.

He cited costly customer pre-notification laws that have been passed in many localities, bans on aerial application and bans on all professional pesticide applications in some communities.

Ray Russell, director of government relations for Dow Chemical U.S.A. told the group that the solution to the problems facing all urban pesticide applicators lies in the “mobilization of users.”

Although actual goals of the coalition have not been finalized, it appeared from the discussion at the meeting that the main thrust would be to take both a “pro-active” and “defensive” posture at the same time.

Representatives of PLCAA, NAA and NPCA hoped to have a prospectus for the group hammered out by the beginning of this month. Working on this document are: Jim Brooks, PLCAA executive director, Bob Felix, NAA executive director and Jack Grimes, NPCA director of government affairs.

Other meeting attendees were: Robert Russell, vice president of government relations for Orkin Exterminating Co., Atlanta; Robert Earley, group publisher of **LAWN CARE INDUSTRY**, **WEEDS TREES & TURF** and **PEST CONTROL**, Cleveland; Dick Williston of the NAA, Wantagh, N.Y.; Walter Money, NAA past-president, Rockville, MD; Ron Giffen, vice president, Lakeshore Equipment & Supply Co., Elyria, OH; Dick Foster, publisher of **PEST CONTROL TECHNOLOGY** and **LAWN CARE PROFESSIONAL**, Cleveland; and J.F. “Skip” Skaptason, vice president of PBI/Gordon Corp., Kansas City, KS.

whenever he's not writing or on the road at a tournament, convention or speaking engagement.



Representatives of Kubota present the first Kubota M4950 tractor assembled at the company's Compton, CA, plant. The M4950 is the first in a new line of M Series agricultural tractors ranging in PTO horsepower from 47 to 76. The body and engine for the M Series arrive intact from Japan. Assembly workers at Kubota install the wheels, tires and Roll Over Protection Systems (in some models) and customer-ordered options. Pictured are Richard Fadness of Melroe Equipment Co., Gardena, CA (pictured in the driver's seat), Kevin Morioka, Kubota executive vice president and Gene Souza, Kubota sales representative.

TURF

13th Annual National Institute set

The 13th Annual National Institute on Park and Grounds Management will be Nov. 7-10 at the Hyatt Hotel/Conference Center in Birmingham, AL.

This year's Institute will feature sessions relating to park management with concurrent sessions relating to the management of campus and school areas and a program dealing exclusively with turf and sports turf areas. A representative from the National Park Service will present a session on parkway management. The Environmental Protection Agency will also be represented.

FERTILIZER

Estech reorganizes fertilizer division

Estech, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Esmark, has reorganized its Fertilizer Division and relocated it to

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