

# OUTLOOK

By Bruce F. Shank, Executive Editor



## Lobbyists aren't all bad

Special interest groups and their lobbyists have gained a "soiled" reputation with the American public. Purists are themselves applying lobbying power to develop legislation to restrict the power and influence of special interests.

Recent conversations with Leo Donahue and Ray Brush of the National Landscape Association would indicate lobbyists, in this case Donahue and Brush, actually coordinate interagency paperwork. These two men have been trying to work out improved gypsy moth quarantines with the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They have discovered misunderstandings between OMB and USDA which may have been blocking progress of quarantine implementation.

Had Brush and Donahue not stayed in contact with the agencies, the current ineffective quarantines would have stayed the way they are. It wasn't a matter of influence, it was a matter of helping one agency know the real position of the other.

## GCSAA show is Prusa's debut

The GCSAA International Turf Show scheduled for Atlanta, GA, in late February is Education Director Jim Prusa's first major effort to expand and improve the already high standards of the conference and trade show. He has been active on the education committee before, but this time he is in charge of the educational sessions.

Prusa comes from a superintendent's family and his brother is active in a growing lawn care operation in the Midwest. He is an honest-to-God "turfy". He is no green upstart out to upset an old, respected occupation. He is also not regionally limited to his educational experience at Cal Poly, Pomona. He grew up in Ohio and has a Masters in Business as well as a degree in horticulture. His professor at Cal Poly was Kent Kurtz who originally built his career in Illinois and returns there every summer.

So I doubt if GCSAA could really find a much better individual than Prusa to run its educational programs. The Atlanta conference will likely prove this. Educational seminars have been expanded greatly. Early risers can take advantage of seminars without leaving their jobs the weekend before the show. Prusa has responded to comments and criticisms about previous shows.

The staff of *Weeds Trees & Turf* looks forward to this year's GCSAA Conference and Trade Show. We hope to see you there.

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