

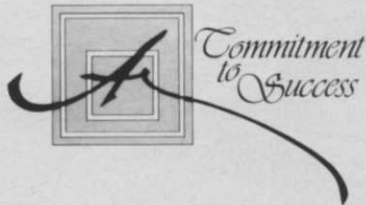
GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

CONFERENCES

November: top month for conference-goers

ALCA/PGMS

The GREEN TEAM In Washington



The Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) and the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) will hold their second annual joint conference Nov. 8-11.

This year, the "Green Team" conference is at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Va. Labeled "A Commitment to Success," it features a full array of speakers, seminars, workshops, trade show, awards program and optional tours.

Jeffrey O'Connell, co-author of the principal work which proposed no-fault auto insurance and a professor of law at the University of Virginia, will be the keynote speaker.

There will be a welcoming reception on Nov. 7, and a supervisor's session on leadership skills will be held on Nov. 8.

The official opening session will begin at 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 9. Annual awards will be presented at a luncheon that day. Later Monday, the PGMS will hold a business meeting while ALCA attendees will be able to participate in the highly popular "buzz sessions."

Topics of other presentations include snow removal, safety, trees and shrubs, pesticides and liability.

For more information, call either the ALCA or the PGMS at (respectively) (703) 241-4004 or (301) 667-1833.

PLCAA

All signs indicate that this year's Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) Conference and Trade Show will break all records.

"Certainly, we still have a bit of selling to do," said PLCAA executive vice-president Jim Brooks earlier this year, "but I'm excited about the quality of the exhibitors, the size of the booths they wish to use and the newcomers to the show."

"Baltimore is certainly going to be tough to beat, but I know we'll do it."

The show will be held Nov. 12-15 in San Antonio, Tex.

The popular "Early Bird" reception will be held Nov. 12 at 8 p.m., following the trade show's 1:30 p.m.



opening. Keynote speaker Roger Staubach, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, speaks at 8:30 a.m. Nov. 13.

Educational sessions, for the first time ever, are organized with three different tracks: business, agronomics and landscape. This advanced educational format allows attendees to target specific interests and make the most of their time.

Small engine clinics will be held each day, and the third annual Outdoor Equipment Demonstration is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Nov. 15.

For more information, call the PLCAA at (800) 458-3466.

OPEI

The first Professional Landscape Contracting, Turf and Grounds Maintenance Expo (Pro Show 87) is being held Nov. 18-20 at the Dallas (Tex.) Convention Center.

The seminar program opens Tuesday, Nov. 17, with a full-day session on "Computer Applications in Landscaping." Here are highlights of the other 35 seminars:

- workshops on preventive maintenance of small engines

- "Sports Turf and Athletic Field Problems"

- "Proper Irrigation Design" and "Irrigation Equipment Selection"

- "Power Equipment Selection and Use," sponsored by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, which sponsors Pro Show 87.

Admission fees for the seminars range from \$25 to \$100, depending on length. Twelve are free.

Entrance to the trade show floor is also free. Exhibit hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 18 and 19; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 20.

Entertainer Mac Davis will perform Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Dallas Convention Center solely for Pro Show participants and their guests. Tickets are \$25 each.

For more information, call (800) 654-0349. From Kentucky or outside the continental U.S., phone (502) 582-1672.



Horicon plant workers assemble a lawn tractor.

INDUSTRY

Deere moving from the farm; finding home in the suburbs

John Deere & Co. is investing more and more in the consumer and commercial product market as the agricultural equipment market remains weak.

The investment includes the completion of a \$24 million paint facility at Deere's Horicon

works in Horicon, Wis. The system applies the company's traditional green and yellow colors to equipment more efficiently and effectively.

The company showed off the new system, as well as 30 new

continued on page 12

ASSOCIATIONS

Wilkinson is named director of PPPF

Jim Wilkinson, president of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, is the new executive director of the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation.

"He possesses the unique capabilities that make him eminently qualified," says Eric Haupt, PPPF board chairman. Wilkinson owns a Ph.D. in agronomy; he headed a lawn care company; he worked with regulatory agencies for the PLCAA.



Wilkinson

"The opportunity to work for PPPF interested me," Wilkinson says. "I like the regulatory, environmental issues arena."

Wilkinson will work for 3PF as a consultant on a contract basis in Providence, R.I. He says he will probably seek other clients.

First order of business will be to solicit funds for PPPF, the new executive director says. The PLCAA and the National Arborists Association have been the primary supporters. Wilkinson says he will seek to better involve the golf course, nursery and structural pest control industries.

Wilkinson was general manager of Old Fox Lawn Care, Providence, for the last seven years. Replacing him is John Kenenski, who was formerly operations manager.

Wilkinson succeeds Dave Dietz of Salem, Ore., who had been personally involved with the PPPF since its inception. Dietz is recovering from a serious automobile accident that put him into a coma earlier this year. He is currently at a rehabilitation center undergoing physical therapy.

A mail poll of PPPF members was unanimously in favor of discontinuing the association's contract with Dietz. In a letter to Dietz dated Aug. 13th, PPPF board chairman Erik Haupt of Bartlett Tree, Osterville, Mass., wrote:

"It goes without saying that we were grievously saddened when we learned of the accident. On behalf of the Board, I extend my hand in thanks and appreciation for all you have done for the pesticide user groups. With kindest regards and wishes for a speedy recovery..."

WATER WOES?...Algae in your standing water? Weeds infesting your ponds? The answer to your troubles might be a combination of things, according to Charlie Barebo of Barebo, Inc., Emmaus, Pa. "Water is one of the least understood commodities we deal with," Barebo says. "One tool alone (for control of aquatic weeds and algae) is not enough. A balanced approach is the best solution." Proven means of weed and algae control are by fertilization, by drawdown, with biological controls, with chemical controls and with mechanical devices. Harvesters fall into the last category, as do aquatic aerifiers like the ones manufactured by Barebo.

AND YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS?...Oak Pointe Golf Club near Brighton, Mich. lost 60 prime golf days to vandalism last summer, and it's a tribute to the course's crew and the assistance from Vidosh Brothers Landscaping that it wasn't longer. Eight greens and one tee on the three courses were killed out overnight when vandals spread a toxic chemical (not related to golf) on those parts of the courses. Flushing was first tried unsuccessfully. Eventually, three inches of soil had to be replaced and 6,000 yards of prime bentgrass sod was installed. More about this mammoth task will appear in a future issue of LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT.

IF YOU NEED MILORGANITE...In 61 years, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District has sold more than 3.7 million tons of Milorganite fertilizer. Demand continues at a fast pace, so the MMSD is expanding its plant to boost production by 25 percent to 75,000 tons a year. The company is also planning over-the-counter sales to the consumer market.

POTASH PRICE HIKES...A duty on potash imports could make some fertilizer blends slightly more expensive, suppliers say. The U.S. Commerce Department recently announced steps to prevent Canadian dumping of potash in response to suits filed by U.S. potash producers. As a result, potash prices have jumped 35 to 40 percent for wholesale buyers. Paul Mengle of Lebanon Chemical says the impact on the turf industry will be long-range. His company has planned no price increase for fertilizer blends containing potash this coming fall. Mengle estimates the eventual increase for blends at two or three percent. Peter Machin of The Andersons says his company plans no price increases either. Eventually, he sees a possible increase of one to three percent. The impact is expected to be much greater in the agriculture industry.

THE PRINCE VISITS...Kansas State University, home of the first graduate and undergraduate horticultural therapy programs, greeted the crown prince and crown princess of Japan last month. The horticultural therapy program, under Richard Mattson of the horticulture department, prepares students to work with the mentally and physically disabled, the aged and with persons in correctional facilities. It was begun in 1971.

BREEDING SUCCESS...Kevin McVeigh, Ph.D., and his wife Rose formed Willamette Valley Plant Breeders of Brownsville, Ore. earlier this year. Purpose of the new company is to test, evaluate and develop varieties of turfgrass that have been released to Cascade International Seed by the Rutgers University Agricultural Experiment Station. McVeigh received his doctorate in plant breeding from Rutgers. Cascade is a subsidiary of Jonathan Green, which markets turfseed.

products, at an open house at the Horicon works Sept. 17-18. The company has introduced more than 100 new products in the consumer division in the last five years.

Deere was once known strictly as a tractor manufacturer. Mark C. Rostvold, vice president of consumer products recalls, "I was at a golf course in Los Angeles recently. A young man at the course heard I was from Deere and came up to me and said, 'John Deere—you're the lawn mower people.' Such has been the growth in that division."

Rostvold notes that outdoor power equipment industry sales double about every five years. Which is why Deere has been heading in that direction. According to Raymond E. Gregg, general manager of the Horicon Works, last year consumer products accounted for \$700 million of the company's \$3.5 billion in sales. Horicon operations accounted for two-thirds of that \$700 million.

The Horicon operation has put into practice a number of measures to keep manufacturing costs down. They include computer-aided design and manufacturing of equipment; timely delivery of parts to reduce inventory; and a computer-controlled,

timed automatic guided vehicle system which basically carries each vehicle to the next assembly station for further construction, instead of a traditional assembly line operation.

To keep up with the company's expansion in consumer markets, in 1987 Deere has or is adding about 1,000 more dealers to its network of 3,000 dealers in North America.

PEOPLE

A.A.N.'s Lederer passes away at 59

Robert F. Lederer, executive vice-president of the American Association of Nurserymen, died Sept. 26 in Fairfax, Va. following heart surgery. He was 59.

Lederer joined the A.A.N. staff in February, 1959, serving as an administrative assistant. In 1965, he was named executive vice-president. He had planned to retire in August, 1988.



Lederer

A close ally of Lady Bird Johnson

during the First Lady's National Beautification Program in the 1960s, Lederer more recently served as vice-president of the board of the National Wildflower Research Center, which Mrs. Johnson founded.

Lederer's most recent professional activities were chairman of the Washington Youth Gardens Council and chair of the National Council for Therapy and Rehabilitation Through Horticulture steering committee.

REGISTRATIONS

Elanco names EL-107 Gallery and Snapshot

"Gallery" will be the trade name for the 75 percent dry flowable formulation of a new product from Elanco. The pre-emergence broadleaf herbicide was known during testing as EL-107. The compound's active ingredient, isoxaben, represents a new chemistry, says the company. "We feel quite confident with this formulation," notes Benny Eaton, Ph.D., project manager for Gallery.

Elanco expects EPA approval for Gallery 75DF and technical isoxaben by next fall. Approval for the second main product, "Snapshot," with

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formulations of 80DF (20 percent isoxaben and 60 percent oryzalin) and granular (isoxaben plus trifluralin in a ratio of 1:5) is expected in the first part of 1989.

All formulations have shown excellent results in over-the-top treatments of woody ornamentals in warm climates. In particular, application rates of 1 lb. active ingredient isoxaden plus 3 lbs. of Surflan (oryzalin) have shown excellent results.

EL-107 has broad spectrum control over 45 broadleaf weeds. It exhibits suppression of some grassy weeds, though it's not recommended for this task. The product works on germinating weed seed which normally occur in the top two centimeters of the soil.

Elanco had previously named EL-107 "Encore," but ran into trademark problems.

RESEARCH

New bermudagrass at New Mexico State

NuMex S-1, a bermudagrass developed by turf breeder Arden Baltensperger, has been released from the New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station.

The variety has shown good spring and summer color. Performance tests indicate better growth and appearance than common varieties used in the Southwest.

Baltensperger notes that the variety can be applied for general turf use throughout the bermudagrass "belt." It has medium texture, density and plant height.

The variety is seed propagated. Some breeder seed is available. Seed increase will be on a three-generation basis and grown under the supervision of the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association.

INSECTS

Termites, roaches enter 'green' picture

Formosan termites and Asian cockroaches, two relatively new but troublesome household pests, are riding the green industry to new homes.

Mike Chambers, a researcher at Clemson University, says that Formosan termites traveled the 12 miles from Charleston, S.C. to the posh Isle of Pines on used railroad ties incorporated into a landscape there. Used railroad ties brought up from the

Gulf Coast are being blamed for an infestation in Auburn, Ala., as well.

The Formosan, which has the ability to make nests in walls and ceilings of structures as well in the soil, can chew untreated wood structures into confetti in just a few short years. It is believed to have been introduced to the United States about 40 years ago, but until recently had been confined to Hawaii, southeast Florida and Charleston.

Researchers in Gainesville, Fla., however, are predicting a more rapid spread of the Asian cockroach from the Tampa area where it was first identified in June, 1986.

This species of cockroach is almost identical to the common household German roach except it can fly and lives outdoors as well as indoors. And that's where the green industry comes in.

Dr. Richard Brenner, a researcher at the Insects Affecting Man and Animals Laboratory in Gainesville, says Asian cockroaches have been found in sod grown in the Tampa area and transported elsewhere in the Southeast.

Florida exterminators are already offering outdoor lawn treatments in response to complaints of home



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owners who are being driven from their backyard barbecues by these Asian cockroaches, which have the annoying habit of taking flight just about sundown.

RESEARCH

Thick lawns appear to limit runoff speed

Thick lawns may well limit pesticide runoff, according to research being conducted by Dr. Tom Watschke at Penn State University.

"Thick lawns slow the velocity of runoff and allow the water to infiltrate," he notes. Infiltration into the ground is more desirable than runoff because microbes in the soil help break down the chemicals into harmless materials, he also says.

In one of Watschke's experiments, a sodded plot without soil patches showing through registered a rate of 1/2-gallon per minute runoff. On the other hand, another plot that was thinly seeded with a lot of bare spots registered a rate of 7 1/2-gallons per minute runoff.

"The next step will be to add commercially available registered pesticides and nutrients to study their effects," Watschke claims.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Pathologist 'in dutch' over a possible cure for Dutch elm

A researcher at Montana State University ignored federal regulations by injecting 14 elm trees with a genetically-altered bacteria.

Calling the regulations "ludicrous," plant pathologist Gary Strobel, Ph.D., injected the bacteria as part of an experiment to find a preventive treatment for Dutch elm disease.

He filed for EPA approval to conduct the experiment, but did not wait for an answer because it would have meant delaying his experiment a year.

Reaction to Strobel's action has been mixed within the industry. Harvard professor emeritus Bernard D. Davis, a bacterial physiologist, told the *New York Times* that many researchers will "secretly cheer" the action though the ramifications on the industry could be severe. While Davis was confident that Strobel's experiment was safe, he said "the law is the law."

EPA has yet to take any action against Strobel, but is evaluating the situation. Punishments could range from a warning letter to civil fines or even a prison sentence.

Biotechnology critic Jeremy Rifkin announced that he would file petitions with three federal agencies seeking action against "this wanton, deliberate, intentional violation" of guidelines regarding genetic experimentation.

Strobel, commenting to a Montana State University committee investigating the situation, considered the use of genetically altered bacteria "minor." Following the meeting he said, "We can sit and talk about Dutch elm disease or we can do something about it. I chose to do something about it."

The bacterium, of the species *Pseudomonas syringae*, produces an antibiotic that kills the fungus that causes Dutch elm disease. The bacterium is naturally occurring.

GOLF COURSES

Grass carp banned in 28 U.S. states

Grass carp, popular in the landscape market because they eat aquatic weeds, are illegal in 28 states, as of

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ficials at Madison (Wisc.) Maple Bluff Country Club found out recently.

According to a United Press International report, the course was fined \$88 for releasing 150 to 200 of the carp, also known as white amur, in its two ponds. Officials were also planning to kill the fish.

According to the report, the grass carp strip ponds of all vegetation and—more importantly—destroy plant species needed by other fish. Wisconsin law prohibits private introduction of any kind of fish in state waters without a permit.

Grass carp are also banned in Michigan, Indiana, North Dakota and 23 other states.

LAWN CARE

Why lawn care for expansion?

The nation's two biggest lawn care companies, ChemLawn and Tru-Green, were recently sold to Ecolab and Waste Management, respectively (see story, page 40). Why did these new companies venture into the volatile and controversial lawn care industry?

"We thought we could take advantage of our strength in the routing of

trucks," says Bill Plunkett, spokesperson for Waste Management. "We wanted to use our expertise, and the lawn care industry was one of the industries that appealed to us.

"Some of the (controversial) issues did not dissuade us. Waste hauling is one of the most intensely-regulated industries in the country, so we've had experience handling problems relating to public concerns."

The case was much the same for Ecolab.

"We are the leading supplier of premium services to the lodging and food service industries," notes Mike Monahan of Ecolab. "We wanted to enter the residential services market. We felt that ChemLawn had an excellent service force, and a name that we could use in expanding to residential services.

"We took a careful look at the pesticide issues. We were well aware of the concerns of the environmentalists. We view ChemLawn as taking a leadership position in safe application and products, and as trying to communicate that to the public."

Monahan points out that Ecolab has experience dealing with toxic chemicals. Detergents used to "wear-wash" dishes in restaurants and hotels contain phosphates. **LM**

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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