

ASSOCIATIONS

## ALCA picks Dennis from its own staff

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Debra Dennis has been promoted to executive director of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA). She was chosen by a thorough and highly competitive process, according to ALCA president Ron Kujawa.

"We narrowed the final list to four outstanding candidates," notes Kujawa. "Debra Dennis went into the race as a darkhorse at best, but she just stood out. She emerged as very strong, energetic and competitive, and was a strong unanimous choice."

Interviews with the four finalists were conducted by a seven-person search committee at the Green Team Conference in St. Louis. Each interview lasted no

less than two hours.

"Most organizations would take an easy way out. We didn't," says Kujawa. "The membership expended a great deal of time and personal effort on behalf of the organization."

During her 10 years with ALCA, Dennis has served in a variety of positions, most recently as staff liaison to six association committees.

The new executive director is a 1979 graduate of the University of Georgia. One of her first goals will be to build on ALCA programs and services for the membership, ultimately leading to an improved image for landscape contractors.

"If we strive to improve the image, it can only help bring more people into the



Dennis: Improve image

profession," the new director believes.

Dennis's selection as successor to Terry Peters will signal new directions for the organization. "We're doing some re-organization and we've got some exciting plans," Kujawa says. "Our key people have agreed to stay. They and our state association councils are very excited." □

LANDSCAPING

## 'No wildflowers,' neighbors tell Cleveland man

SHAKER HTS., Ohio — A dispute began in this affluent Cleveland suburb recently over a man's decision to turn his front yard into a wildflower lawn.

Joseph Gyurgyik, owner of Shaker Landscaping, seeded his 12,500 sq. ft. yard in the spring with cosmos, poppies, black-eyed Susans and about 75 other species, both annual and perennial. Some of his neighbors are now complaining that the yard is an eyesore, will draw rodents and spread to other yards via airborne seeds.

In response to complaints, city officials are moving to more clearly define a zoning law that calls for "appropriate" landscaping. However, as of November 18, they were unable to devise an appropriate ruling, simply because many groomed yards contain at least a few of the unwanted plantings.

Councilman David Goss and other officials say Gyurgyik's yard is not appropriate, but they're not sure why.

"You know this yard is bad when you see it, but the question is where to draw the line," says Mayor Stephen Alfred.

"I don't think they're going to be able to come to a compromise," predicts Gyurgyik. "They might outlaw the flowers I have in my front yard, but then half of Shaker Heights (homeowners) will be in violation."

Gyurgyik says he has received compliments about his yard from some neighbors who think it is something new and different. The local paper also ran a few letters from persons who see nothing wrong with Gyurgyik's plant selection.

Gyurgyik says he will appeal any zoning order not in his favor. □

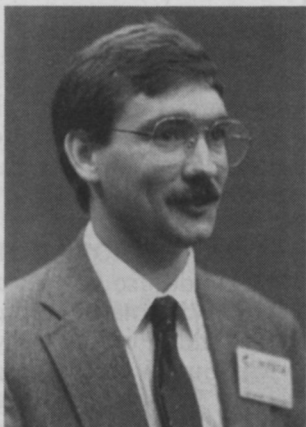
REGULATIONS

## On local compliance: going that extra yard

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Pesticide regulations will continue to be a problem for professional landscapers. They'll have a better go of it if they understand and comply with that legislation, become more politically involved, support product research and follow integrated pest management (IPM) practices.

That's the advice of James Wilmott, extension agent for New York's Monroe County, speaking at the recent New York State Turfgrass Association meeting here.

"There are more situations occurring," says Wilmott, "in which landscape managers have been told by administrators to stop using pesticides entirely. In less extreme cases, people have been



Wilmott: Diplomacy works

told they can use pesticides only when they are needed."

To best understand state and local laws, Wilmott suggests meetings with local enforcement officials as the best way to establish both a personal and profes-

sional relationship.

"This shows you have a willingness to comply," says Wilmott. "And, the officer is probably going to take it much more lightly if you have some small violation of regulations. It's good to establish that relationship."

Wilmott believes political involvement has kept the legislators at bay to a great degree. "Imagine," he says, "where we'd be now if it weren't for groups like the Green Council, NYSTA, or the GCSAA." Lack of industry defense strategies would have left companies open to the hurricane-like force of unbridled legislation.

Wilmott says Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices "are being en-

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**IPM** from page 11  
 encouraged more often in school districts and other properties around New York State. Keep your superiors informed, maximize pest-tolerant landscape design and encourage plant

health through use of IPM procedures.

"There is no question," he says, "that regulation of pesticides will be the dominant feature in your neighborhoods. IPM is the answer to the problem." □



The Scandinavians began their tour at Jacobsen headquarters in Racine, Wisc. and at the University of Minnesota.

## GOLF

### Scandinavian supers visit U.S. courses

RACINE, Wisc. — More than 90 golf course superintendents from Europe's Scandinavian countries recently toured the United States, thanks to the European distributor for U.S. equipment manufacturer Jacobsen Division of Textron.

After a stop at Jacobsen and the University of Minnesota, the group then flew to Miami and Orlando, Fla. During that portion of the trip, the supers played golf at Doral Country Club's Gold Course and the new

course at Grand Cypress.

During their trip, the superintendents also got a close-up look at maintenance techniques used by their North American counterparts.

"The purpose of this trip was to educate the Scandinavians on what's being done in the United States," says Neils-Erik Brems, who distributes Jacobsen products in Denmark. "They can then go back and educate their boards of directors or greens committees on what can be done to improve their courses."

Sweden alone has an estimated 200,000 golfers, Brems says. And the number of courses in Denmark is expected to jump from 60 to 100 by the year 2000. □

# SHORT CUTS

**ALL-PRO SOD...**Evergreen Sod Farm in Peotone, Ill. has two All-Pros on its side, according to one of its print advertisements: Boss 111 bluegrass sod blend and Chicago Bears all-pro strong safety **Dave Duerson**. Evergreen vice president **Dean Hupe** met Duerson's agent on a plane trip, says Evergreen office and sales manager **Linda LeSage**. Hupe offered Duerson free sod for his new home north of Chicago in return for his cooperation with the ad. "Dave is a super person, very down to earth," relates LeSage, who with her son has visited Duerson's home a few times. Evergreen grows sod for Wrigley Field, Comiskey Park and Milwaukee County Stadium. The company is also growing sod for the Chicago White Sox' new stadium.

**MULTI-LINGUAL...**Dr. **Alex Shigo** is enjoying international success with his tree books, he tells **LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT**. His "New Tree Health," a 12-page booklet with 13 full-color drawings, is now available in English, Dutch, French, Italian and Spanish. Those (\$3 each), plus his new 192-page book "Tree Pruning, a Worldwide Photo Guide" (\$39), are available from Shigo & Trees Associates, 4 Denbow Rd., Durham, NH 03824. Shigo says his next project is a 12-page folding booklet called "Caring for Young Trees From Nurseries to Landscapes."

**LYME DISEASE LINGERS...**The reality of continued Lyme disease problems remains, notes **Walter Shroeder** of the New York State Pesticide Applicators Association. "I would advise that everyone develop a strategy of dealing with it," writes Shroeder. "There has been a multitude of incidents where the Lyme disease tick was transported into the city by child, adult or pet, after a jaunt in the woods." Shroeder believes virtually all rodents can serve as the host for the bacteria, not just the deer mouse. "In California, it was found that lizards can serve as a host for the spirochete for a disease similar to Lyme disease."

**HITTING ROCK BOTTOM...**Public regard for pesticide use has hit an all-time low, said Dr. **Jim Wilkinson**, executive director of the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation at a recent Missouri Valley Turfgrass Association meeting. "Those of us using pesticides for non-agricultural purposes are going to face even greater challenges down the road. Environmental groups know they can use the pesticide issue to their financial advantage." Wilkinson sees stormy weather ahead as the EPA finishes its national survey of pesticide residues in well water, expands endangered species and wildlife protection regulation, and as landfills near capacity.

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