

## LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

### INNOVATIONS

# New construction benefits superintendents, students

## GCSAA starts on its new facility

LAWRENCE, Kan. — A state-of-the-art educational facility will be included in the new headquarters of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), scheduled for a 1991 opening.

"We're excited to see the new building become a reality," says GCSAA president Dennis Lyon. "This new facility will allow us to keep meeting the needs of our growing membership for many years to come."

A periodical library and advanced audio-visual equipment will help the GCSAA's educational staff expand and develop their programs and seminars.

"It will allow us to bring GCSAA members here to Lawrence to attend educational activities in a facility that is custom-designed to meet our instructional needs," says director of education Colleen Smalter Pederson. □

## New classroom honors Smalley

COBLESKILL, N.Y. — A new turfgrass building in honor of Dr. Ralph Smalley was dedicated recently at the State University of New York (SUNY) here.

The 24-by-80-foot wood and concrete structure contains insulated and heated classroom space for courses



The planned new headquarters of GCSAA in Lawrence, Kansas, is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 1991.

in turfgrass management and recreation and sports area management. There is also an equipment storage area.

Dr. Smalley, plant science professor emeritus, began SUNY Cobleskill's turfgrass curriculum in 1962. He received the State University Chancellor's Award for excellence in teaching in 1981.

The New York State Turfgrass Association contributed \$26,000 of the \$35,000 total cost, and also donated an IBM Model 30 computer, printer and monitor to the turf program. A matching funds grant of \$5,500 was awarded by SUNY Research Foundation. ChemLawn Corp. donated \$2,500 and Stanford Seed Co. \$700. □



Dr. Ralph Smalley (left) at the dedication ceremony of SUNY Cobleskill's turfgrass building. Dr. Bob Emmons holds a plaque awarded to NYSTA for monetary support.

## GOLF

# Mastodon skeleton unearthed in Ohio

NEWARK, Ohio — A mastodon skeleton dating to the Pleistocene epoch was unearthed in December from a peat bog at Burning Tree Golf Course here.

The bones are in excellent condition, and are estimated to be between 10,000 to 12,000 years old.

Sherm Byers, owner of the course, says drag line operator Phil Flowers, of Phil Flowers Construction Co., discovered the prehistoric pachyderm skeleton while clearing the bog to make way for a nine-hole addition.

"There is no doubt in my mind we have a complete mastodon," proclaims Byers. Paul Hooge, director of the Licking County Archeological and Landmarks Society, agrees that the remains seemed to be complete. Hooge supplied direction and expertise

during the excavation.

Mastodons were elephant-like creatures that grew to over nine feet tall. They became extinct about 8,000 years ago. Experts say mastodon remains are not uncommon throughout the Midwest.

The bones discovered were of a young female mastodon, and were well-preserved thanks to the acidic peat. Workers used a power shovel to scrape away the cover of the bog and picked through the peat with hands and shovels. Tusks, ribs, skull, upper and lower jaws, shoulder blades and pelvic bones were among the items unearthed.

No golf clubs were found near the remains.

At press time, plans were being discussed to build a museum on the site to house the remains. □



This mastodon skull dwarfs a small boy (upper right) who was watching while workers unearthed its remains. (Photo by Tim Revell, courtesy of the *Columbus Dispatch*.)

## SOD

# ASPA urges 'Earth Day 1990' activities

ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. — The American Sod Producers Association is urging its members to participate in local "Earth Day 1990" activities on April 22, calling the campaign "a great way to show off turf."

Earth Day is a nationwide celebration designed

to raise awareness of the environment.

The ASPA suggests its members consider hosting an open house at their "fresh air factories," also known as turfgrass sod farms. By using scientific information presented by the ASPA, farms could set

up signs showing how a 50-by-50-foot area releases oxygen for a family of four; how turf helps clean water; or how safe turf is by demonstrating the egg drop test.

Schools, garden clubs, landscape architects and contractors are just a few of

the potential groups that could be invited to the demonstrations, in addition to media representatives, says ASPA.

To learn more about the event and local contacts, please write Earth Day 1990, P.O. Box AA, Stanford University, CA 94305. □

## TURF

# Annual bluegrass is here to stay, notes Michigan turf panel



DowElanco's Dr. Tom Perkins: accept *Poa annua*.

LANSING, Mich. — *Poa annua* (annual bluegrass) will remain an obstacle to superintendents well into the future, according to turfgrass experts at the Michigan Turfgrass Conference.

"We are never going to eradicate *Poa annua*," says Tom Perkins of DowElanco. "The best that we can do is to educate everybody to its strong points and weak points, what you can and

cannot expect of it, and tell you of the different tools available to you, to either manage it for survival or to reduce its impact on your total turf population."

Dr. Joe Vargas Jr. of Michigan State believes *Poa annua*'s staying power should make superintendents realize the need to accept it as a matter of course, especially on all-bentgrass tracks.

"We've seen a lot of golf  
*continued on page 12*

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courses in northern and southern Michigan built recently with bentgrass greens, tees and fairways," notes Vargas. "Once those (areas) get into shade, pretty soon you see a tremendous thinning of the bentgrass, and soon the annual bluegrass is in there."

"Whether you use PGRs, Progress or whatever, you're going to have annual bluegrass in shaded areas. You're also going to have it in high traffic areas with tremendous amounts of wear and compaction. It's the only grass that can tolerate that compacted soil."

Perkins believes that "full-season survival (of annual bluegrass) almost becomes a genetic problem." He suggests that bio-

technology could eventually be a solution.

DowElanco is embarking on biotechnology as it relates to green and growing plants. We haven't reached the point of manipulating the genotype that is *Poa annua*. That could be in the future."

Says Dr. Bruce Branham of MSU: "(Improving winter hardiness) is a question that gets into plant physiology and it is one that you can't do much about."

Branham believes poa's vulnerability to winter kill is one of the best reasons to try a different species.

"We're not going to manage our way out of winter hardiness without a much more genetic approach," Branham says. □

## RESEARCH

### Mowing effects on nutrition begun by Bolens

KUTZTOWN, Pa. — A study to measure nutrient levels in soil after repeated grass cuttings has begun. It is sponsored by Bolens Corp., Port Washington, Wisc., and the Rodale Research Center here.

The three-year test also will determine the nutrient benefits of returning grass clippings to the soil with a mulching mower versus the collection and bagging of clippings with a conventional walk-behind mower.

The study was announced jointly by Bolens product manager Tom Wellnitz and Dr. Robert D. Hart, director of the Rodale Research Center.

"Bolens and Rodale have agreed to run this experiment because the disposal of grass clippings has become a major environmental concern for communities all across the country. We both believe a mulching mower can offer a very viable and effective solution," says Wellnitz.

"We wanted to objectively and quantitatively verify previous assertions that mulching returns increased nitrogen and nutri-

ents to the soil."

Many of the reported benefits of mulching are based on a Michigan State University study done from 1972 to 1974. The study revealed that mulching produces a generally greener and healthier lawn because mulch particles decompose and are absorbed by the grass root system within 14 days.

Mulch, the study showed, returns nutrients to the soil and allows evaporation at the soil level without adding to thatch buildup.

The new tests, as announced by Bolens and Rodale, will be held at the research center's 305-acre facility in Kutztown, Pa.

Two identical grass-covered plots have been set aside. They will be mowed (the grass cut at specific heights) on a weekly basis—one with a Bolens walk-behind mulching mower and the other with a Bolens walk-behind rear bagging model with its collection bag attached.

Intermediate and deep soil cores will be taken before and after each growing season. They will be analyzed for leaching, nitrogen and other mineral and nutrient activity levels by the center staff and by Pennsylvania State University. □

## IPM can protect industry into the '90s

LANSING, Mich.— Dr. Mark Raupp of the University of Maryland believes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) will help lawns and company coffers stay green in the 1990s.

"Improper management practices can feed on the economics of what we do," warns Raupp. He adds that negative public perception will also play an increasing role in the success or failure of lawn care businesses.

Raupp defines IPM as "the selection, integration and implementation of pest control in predicting economic, ecological and sociological consequences."

Among the fundamental biological reasons for using IPM, Raupp says, is that the practice eliminates exposure of non-target organisms, both non-infected plants and beneficial predator insects.

One of the common re-



**Dr. Mike Raupp: "Eradicating pests is not a realistic objective. Practice IPM."**

sults of cover sprays, Raupp notes, is that the primary pests resurge quicker than the helpful predator. In tests conducted by the university, cover sprays for general pests controlled the beneficial organisms, but were very poor in controlling the pests. In those situations, secondary pest

outbreak occurred.

"Eradication is not a realistic objective," insists Raupp. "There are always going to be pests in the system. What you want to do is manage your pest populations below a damaging level. The beneficial predator insects need certain low levels of target pests for sustenance.

"Understand the key pests in the system, know

how to identify them and know their life cycles. "You also need a proper monitoring approach, decision making guidelines and alternative control tactics. Then put it together into an overall management plan with some means of evaluation."

Raupp says proper monitoring yields the information  
*continued on page 23*

## ...and in Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Integrated Pest Management could easily grab a dominant foothold in this state, if the results of a recent survey are indicative.

"From the results of this survey, the future of urban landscape IPM appears to be promising," notes Wendel Martinkovic, reporting for the Florida Co-

operative Extension Service. "The unusually high response shows an openness and an acceptance of these new practices."

He cites improved water and fertilizer use, proper mower height and sharp mower blades and leaves, and the use of resistant plant varieties as most popular  
*continued on page 23*

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tion needed to pinpoint pests in time and location.

"Contrary to popular belief," says Raupp, "pests are not everywhere all the time."

And don't discount the presence of pests during the winter, says Raupp, who encourages companies to visit home sites once or twice during winter months to monitor insect presence. □



Heiny extolls virtues of aerification equipment.

## Fertilization, mowing and water are keys to quality

LAGUNA HILLS, Calif. — "You can do more with turf in terms of appearance easier and quicker than any other part of the project," says Dan Heiny, owner of Allseasons Landscape. "Irrigation, fertilization and mowing are the keys."

Heiny offered tips to fellow landscapers at a recent show. Here are excerpts:

- Always mow dry ground. Be sure the lawn is not watered the day prior to mowing. Also, never mow twice in the same direction.
- Fertilize every month with a uniform supply of fertilizer.
- Don't use string trimmers around trees. If customers insist on grass abutting trees, tell them it's risky. Instead, use a hoe, shovel or handpick to make a six-inch dirt barrier around the tree. And be sure not to mow too close to

the tree.

● Aerify regularly. "It'll make you look like a real whiz," Heiny says. "An aerifier is one of the best machines you can use." Afterwards, water to break up the plugs, then mow.

● Test soil moisture regularly.

● Check drainage regularly, especially on rainy days.

● Clear weeds in the walkways. "It's something that gives the extra little detail to a project," he says.

● Check for tree roots in the asphalt. If unchecked, they will eventually break the asphalt and you could be held liable.

● Specify snail and gopher control. These are time-consuming jobs, so the contractor should not be responsible unless they are specifically stated in the contract. □

### FLORIDA from page 21

ular IPM techniques.

Other perceptions of Florida's lawn and landscape professionals were judged by the survey. Some of the perceptions:

- regulations concerning pesticides used in the urban landscape;
- safety practices;
- the cost of pesticides;
- the number of insects believed to becoming resistant to commonly-used

pesticides; and

● public awareness about alternative types of pest control, including IPM.

The survey has caused the Florida Cooperative Extension to take action.

"A media campaign has been initiated," Martinkovic reveals. "It is aimed at increasing awareness of urban landscape IPM, since PCOs perceive the public as not aware of these practices." □

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## PRODUCTS

# Pennant herbicide expands uses

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The EPA has approved several label amendments for Ciba-Geigy's Pennant liquid and granular herbicide for problem weeds in ornamentals.

Now, the product may be used on all landscape and nursery plantings, including in residential landscapes. Previously, it was only allowed on plants in commercial landscapes and ornamental nurseries.

"This revision greatly expands the number of sites where Pennant can be used," says Dr. Doug Houseworth, Ciba-Geigy's manager of technical support. "New users will be able to take advantage of the product's excellent weed control properties, particularly against diffi-

cult-to-control yellow nutsedge."

The number of container-grown ornamental plants on which Pennant can be used increases from 5 to 50, and more weeds are included on its label. Other application recommendations include:

- application with liquid and dry fertilizer;
- application through overhead or microjet irrigation;
- using Roundup as a tank mix if desired;
- over-the-top applications;
- no waiting between transplanting and treatment;
- use on high organic peat and muck soils if desired; and
- more flexible carrier volume. □

"Apparently," says Lee, "insurers now want to make sure such claims go through the workers' compensation system. That's a real concern for self-employed people without workers' compensation."

According to Lee, self-employed people may erroneously think their family health insurance or coverage offered by their spouses will cover all medical bills.

Dale Chuba, director of member services for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, says it is possible not only for farmers but also other self-employed people to obtain insurance that automatically covers work-related injuries.

If a worker's current insurance plan does not cover work injury, it is possible to buy into the workers' compensation system. Premiums are determined by a formula that includes payroll and risk factors. Another formula is used to calculate biannual premium payments. □

## INSURANCE

# Insurance difficult for self-employed landscapers

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Tighter enforcement of some health insurance policies could leave self-employed landscapers with no

recourse in the event of injury. At least, that's what's happening in Ohio, according to a noted agricultural economist.

Warren Lee of the Agricultural Research and Development Center at Ohio State University has been receiving reports of self-employed people being unable to get their health insurance to cover medical costs from work-related injuries.

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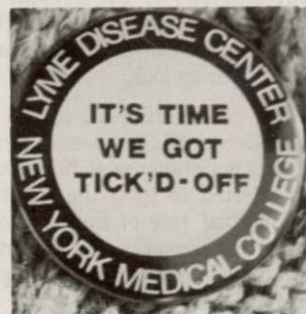
## INDUSTRY

### DowElanco pays to get 'Tick'd Off'

RYE BROOK, N.Y. — DowElanco donated \$2,000 to the New York Medical College's recent Lyme Disease Benefit here, the theme of which was "It's Time We Got Tick'd Off."

More than \$180,000 was raised at the event to fund Lyme disease research at the medical college, a leading research facility committed to studying deer ticks and Lyme disease.

"We were proud to have been part of the benefit, as were our guests from the pest control and lawn care industries," says Dr. Brian Bret, technical service and



development specialist for DowElanco. "It is these industries that are providing one of the front lines of defense against the deer tick."

According to sources, proceeds were critical to support research. □

## LETTERS

### Taking issue with an LM ad

To the editor:

While paging through the January issue of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*, I was stopped in my tracks by a full-color ½-page ad. It featured a lovely young lady in a bikini selling...? Gosh, what was she selling? Seed? Chemicals?

I certainly don't consider myself a militant feminist, but in this day and age what is the point of this kind of advertising? (I would feel the same way about Joe Montana endorsing a Ditch Witch in his briefs—honest!)

We are facing a real labor shortage in which all qualified professionals, male or female, are valuable assets. Why alienate anybody with such archaic schlock? Although women are still a minority at the conferences, meetings and trade shows I attend, our numbers are increasing. Professionalism in our industry is something that is constantly reinforced, and professional women fill the issues of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*. Why the inconsistency in attitudes?

Let's keep up with the

times, please! If your readers need this kind of advertising "fix," they should ask one of their tool reps for a calendar.

Cheryl Vander Weit  
Lied's Inc.  
Sussex, Wisc.

### The side of an environmentalist

To the editor:

Congratulations on doing a superb job bringing so much information to readers each month in your magazine. Each issue is full of great ideas in articles and advertisements.

My letter comes to you in regard to Green Industry News in the December, 1989, issue. I am not a member of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America. Since 1981, I have been in the green industry. I am a landscaper and an environmentalist. It seems that Jim Brooks, executive director of the PLCAA, would find me an enigma. He declares, "Our new competitors are the environmentalists and legislators." Will Jim and his membership be the last people on Earth to realize that there can be no competition in the struggle to pre-

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