

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

is a proud member of these
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Associated Landscape Contractors of America, 12200 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 150, Reston, VA; (703) 620-6363.

American Sod Producers Association, 1855-A Hicks Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008; (708) 705-9898.

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1421 Research Park Dr., Lawrence, KS 66049-3859; (913) 841-2240.

International Society of Arboriculture, P.O. Box 908, Urbana, IL 61801; (217) 328-2032.

International Turfgrass Society, Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences, VPI-SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0403; (703) 231-9796.

National Arborist Association, The Meeting Place Mall, P.O. Box 1094, Amherst, NH 03031-1094; (603) 673-3311.

National Golf Foundation, 1150 South U.S. Highway One, Jupiter, FL 33477; (407) 744-6006.

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, 2021 Coffey Rd., Columbus, OH 43210; (614) 292-2601.



Professional Grounds Management Society, 10402 Ridgland Rd., Suite 4, Hunt Valley, MD 21030; (301) 667-1833.

Professional Lawn Care Association of America, 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068-2112; (404) 977-5222.

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, 1155 15th St. NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 872-3860.



Sports Turf Managers Association, 401 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-4267; (312) 644-6610.

Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association, 8400 Normandale Lake Blvd., Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55437; (612) 832-5000.

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AS WE SEE IT

RON HALL, SENIOR EDITOR



Industry finally making some headway in Washington, D.C.

Amtrak's Capitol Limited usually slices right through the night on its Washington D.C./Cleveland/Chicago run. This Friday afternoon the engine developed a limp just out of Rockville, Md.

Only 74 miles from Union Station and we're a half-hour behind already. The guy in the seat beside me is absorbed with his radio, which is tuned to the train's frequency. He says we're changing engines at the rail yard in Cumberland. Otherwise, it's going to be a long, slow pull up the mountain to Frostburg.

The prospect of digging my Dodge out of a mountain of snow on a frigid Cleveland pre-dawn is keeping me from feeling too chirpy anyway. (Plow jockies, I know from previous trips, bury anything they can't push out of the way.)

Anyway, I'm having these powerfully positive thoughts about the previous week in Washington D.C. The growing prospect of a hot meal served on tables with real linen in about an hour is, I'll admit, warming my recollections.

This last week in February, it seems to me, unfolded about as well as I or any of us in the lawn/landscape industry could have hoped.

Early on, about 100 of us—most of us from the Midwest and the East—jammed into Constitution Hall with the larger U.S. Chamber of Commerce group to see President Bill Clinton pitch his economic plan. He gave it to us, 35 minutes worth.

Us lawn care types then gathered with veteran Capitol Hill staffers, and one lobbyist for a how-to-win-friends-and-influence-people-on-the-Hill briefing. This was the warm-up to PLCAA's 1993 "Day on the Hill." (Co-sponsors were Lesco, Inc., Miles, Inc. and Sandoz Agro, Inc.)

By mid-week we'd fanned out in both Senate and House office buildings to meet with our respective legislators and their aides.

Gene Poole, a lawn pro from Van Wert,

Ohio, and I finished our rounds in Rep. Paul Gillmor's (R-Ohio) office.

Rep. Gillmor, a big man, greeted us genially. He gave us 15 minutes. He seemed to be genuinely interested in our industry and our message.

I'm feeling better and better about the green industry's growing presence in Washington. Law makers and their staff (never underestimate the importance of staffers) are starting to sound supportive.

They're learning more about the positive work we do. Their files contain our literature.

Some have heard from us every year now for the past four years.

What a difference these four years have made. That first year, many of us didn't even know which metro stops to use. We scrambled through office buildings, mostly lost. But, we scrambled.

Dick Ficco, a lawn care business owner from the Boston area, says it best.

On his first PLCAA visit to Capitol Hill, he says, he didn't know quite what to expect. On the second he was still feeling his way around, and on the third trip he was starting to get the industry's positive message across. On this, his fourth trip, he came to get something accomplished.

You think about people and about what they've said on a sleepy night train.

The Capitol Limited lurches to a stop beside a massive, roofless railroad roundhouse, a Civil War-era Stonehenge. It's collapsing one red brick at a time. Here's Martinsburg, W.V. with melting snow dripping from ancient buildings.

Waiting for me tomorrow morning, I'm sure, is one very cold car in a mountain of snow.