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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.



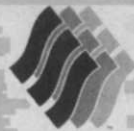
National Arborist Association, The Meeting
Place Mall, P.O. Box 1094, Amherst, NH
03031-1094; (603) 673-3311.

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,
120 Cockeysville Rd., Suite 104, Hunt Valley,
MD 21031; (410) 584-9754.



**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.

AS WE SEE IT

JERRY ROCHE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Environmentalists a part of radical new religion?

On the recommendation of Tim Hiers, a member of our Reader Advisory Panel, I recently read an interesting new book, "Environmentalism: the Dawn of Aquarius, or the Twilight of a New Dark Age?" by Dr. Michael S. Coffman.

If ever a person stood up as a radical anti-environmentalist, it is Dr. Coffman, who taught forest ecology classes for 10 years at Michigan Technological University. He's not against the environment (quite the opposite), he's just reached his wit's end when it comes to extreme environmentalists.

"What is going on?" he asks in the book's first chapter. "Environmental activism is often irrational...logic is superfluous, even despised. The environmental movement has shifted from a 'wise-use' conservation movement prior to the 1960s to a religious movement today."

Coffman points out that Americans now believe environmentalists over scientists by nearly 5 to 1. "In 1990, over two-thirds of all Americans believed what environmentalists had to say about environmental problems, compared to statements made by institutional scientists (15%)."

Here are some other statements Dr. Coffman makes, verbatim:

● *The true battleground is over what we as Americans believe. In a sense, it is a Holy War, one in which the opposition knows no compromise.*

● *Most Americans concerned about the environment are white, middle to upper class, far removed from the natural resources they depend on for their standard of living...at the highest level of Maslow's Needs Hierarchy...a mix of people who are likely to believe environmental horror stories more than scientific fact.*

● *Fear and raw terror, based in legitimate problems but rooted in the belief that nature is God, are being used to push us headlong into radical social change. Those studying the environmental movement acknowledge (its base) in Eastern*

mysticism and pantheism.

Dr. Coffman's statements, taken in context by someone who's followed the environmental movement for the last 10 or 11 years, don't sound far off the mark.

For instance: when was the last time you heard Jay Feldman of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides back down from his radical posturings? Two years ago at the GCSAA convention, in the face of thousands of golf course superintendents, he demanded an end to pesticide use, for goodness sake!

As industry tries to keep America prosperous without unduly damaging the environment, the self-proclaimed environmentalists continue their crusade against "one part per trillion."

In the book's final chapter, Dr. Coffman ties things together nicely, suggesting concessions by both industry and environmentalists.

"The sky is *not* falling," he writes. "But we do have serious environmental problems that we, as a nation, must address. Industry must seriously review its business and conservation practices to determine where changes can be made. But we must also question the motives of the environmentalists...and demand that objectivity rule in the regulatory process."

"Environmentalism...Aquarius or...Dark Age?" is available from Environmental Perspectives, 1229 Broadway, Suite 313, Bangor, ME 04401. Cost is \$9.95 plus \$2 shipping. It's an easy, important read, recommended for anyone whose livelihood affects the environment in any way.

Jerry Roche