

HOT TOPICS

Miami's zoo benefits from 'SWAT' attack

MIAMI—In one of the most intense busts of the season, a "SWAT" (Spontaneous Weed Attack Team) launched an attack on weeds in the Miami Metrozoo. More than 100 volunteers joined the team to help eliminate weeds over 500,000 sq.ft. of the zoo and its parking areas.

The effort was sponsored by Roundup grass and weed killer.

"With the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, the Roundup SWAT team couldn't have come at a better time," says Ron Magill, assistant curator of the zoo. Since the hurricane, zoo staff has focused on restoring animal habitats and creating support systems for the thousands of trees that were uprooted.

The SWAT visit to Miami's Metrozoo was the final stop on a 10-city, four-month tour that included San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, Chicago, New Orleans, Denver and Minneapolis. The team partnered with local community beautification groups in each of the cities to maximize local involvement.

"The purpose of the SWAT team tour was to promote community efforts for safer, cleaner and more livable neighborhoods," says Danna McKay, Roundup brand manager for Monsanto. Volunteers attacked weeds, participated in graffiti paint-outs, planted trees and flowers, painted homes and began landscaping projects.

Although the Roundup SWAT team has completed its attacks for 1993, the team will again tour parts of the country in 1994, beginning in March. For more information on future site visits, send a postcard to Deborah Schulte, SWAT Team, One City Centre, Suite 1600, St. Louis, MO 63101, or call (314) 436-5477.



A SWAT volunteer at Miami Metrozoo squirts weed-infested pathways.

Indyk responds to critic's points about LM article

To the editor:

It is encouraging that the article entitled "Athletic Field Renovation or Reconstruction" which I had authored and was published in the April issue has attracted the interest of at least one reader (Stephen McWilliams). Furthermore, it has motivated him to write a Letter to the Editor which appeared in the June issue. However, his seeming lack of understanding of the article as written prompts my response.

First of all, I am compelled to strongly challenge his statement that the decision-making process for determining whether to renovate or reconstruct is a "guessing game." I firmly disagree with him that we are "bankrupt for data" to properly address this question. The technical knowledge

and know-how is available; it's a matter of putting it into practice.

In my own situation, as turfgrass consultant for Turfcon of the Greenway Group, decisions on athletic field construction, reconstruction, renovation and/or maintenance are based on 30+ years of experience. (My) academic training coupled with long-term experience form the basis of site-specific decisions based on sound scientific and agronomic principles. This is not a "guessing game."

Mr. McWilliams concurs that drainage is the single most important factor in the failure of athletic fields. Yet he quickly questions the value of investing in a drainage system. He doesn't seem to understand that the physical characteristics of a "native soil" vary from pure sand to pure clay. Very few, if any, "native soils" possess natural physical characteristics for proper and effective drainage unless they are modified.

His statement, "We continue to put ban-

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bandages on a problem which is rapidly heading toward resolution in the courtroom" adds to the confusion. It is contradictory to his questioning of the value of soil drainage. Furthermore, it is precisely what I had emphasized in my article: renovation is a short-lived procedure unless drainage problems are corrected through reconstruction.

I wish to offer the following sugges-

tions to Mr. McWilliams: (1) thoroughly read the article again with an open mind; (2) become active in the STMA rather than expending energy and talents performing as a sideline quarterback; and (3) seek clarification from the author of an article before criticizing it.

*Dr. Henry W. Indyk
Turfgrass Consultant
Horsham, Pa.*

Landscape certification: it pays, says this California contractor

Open letter to landscapers:

You contractors are probably like me: started out as a laborer, got promoted to foreman, then to supervisor, and finally went on to get your landscape license. It probably took five to 10 years going up the ranks, doing, learning, practicing the craft.

Then what do we do? Get a license and start a business. A business—not a trade. We are still in the landscape trade, but we go from craftsman to businessperson and we have to learn our job all over again.

In the beginning, we still do most of the work ourselves, but...pretty soon, we are spending time in the office instead of the field. And by this time, we start to realize there is a lot to know about business

that doesn't have anything to do with planting trees or gluing pipe. So we sign up for business seminars, go to night school, and buy books on accounting and marketing.

(Now) we are getting an education, but do any of us learn how to teach? And we start hiring skilled and unskilled people to do the work and represent us, and build our reputation. Maybe we check the crews daily and try to show the employees fine grading and proper pruning, but are we getting our point across? We are trying to do something we know very little about: teaching.

I know this to be true because I see the percentages of people who pass the

Certification Test, and they are consistently low—not just in Oregon or Colorado or Washington, but in California, north and south.

If you are doing a good job of teaching, why are so few people passing this test? We ask all basic stuff, nothing tricky—yet just 25 percent pass.

So I want to offer a solution, and it is basic. I challenge you contractors to take the Certification Test yourselves. Set the example, like a real leader would. If you can pass this test, you can expect anyone who represents you to be able to pass it.

Certification has been around for 10 years now, and it is not going away. Companies with certified employees have an edge on the companies that don't. Sooner or later, you have to certify your employees.

This is an education process, so get on board. Education is not always in the format of yelling from the truck to do it this way or that way. Get involved in a process that has gained recognition all across the country. You'll be glad you did, and your employees will have something they can be proud of, certification.

Get certified; it pays.

*Henry Buder
Buder Landscape Restoration
San Rafael, Calif.*

HOT STUFF

A show you don't want to miss

MARIETTA, Ga.—Management for the Green Industry Expo (GIE) has revised the trade show's floor plan this year to accommodate exhibitors requesting more booth space.

"Because of the success of last year's show, many of our exhibitors are asking for more space," says Ann E. McClure, GIE show manager. "So we've re-drawn our floor plan to include wider island exhibits. Attendees should expect to see more exciting products and imaginative displays."

The show, scheduled for Nov. 15-18 at the Baltimore Convention Center, is again being held in conjunction with three educational conferences put on by the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) and the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS).

The show will open with a special keynote presentation by one of America's most dynamic speakers, Ty Boyd. His keynote address is "Change...Meeting the Challenge!" that focuses on not compromising your personal sense of ethics and values.

For information on attending, call the PLCAA at (404) 977-5222, ALCA at (703) 620-6363 or PGMS at (410) 584-9754. For information on exhibiting, phone (404) 973-2019.

MSU begins new turf program

EAST LANSING, Mich.—Michigan State University announces a two-year program in Lawn Care and Athletic Turf Management.

Coordinator David Gilstrap said the program takes 18 months to complete and includes a 22-week off-campus internship. For information, contact Gilstrap at (517) 355-0207 or Ron Collins at (517) 355-2281.

Watch out for pine shoot beetles

WASHINGTON—The Horticultural Research Institute (HRI) is coordinating an effort to fund research into the pine shoot beetle.

The insect was first discovered last July on a Scots pine in Lorain County, Ohio. It has now been found in 51 counties in six states bordering the Great Lakes. All nursery pines and their lateral terminals must be inspected before they are certified as beetle-free and shipped outside infested counties.

Dr. David Nielsen of Ohio State University is volunteering his time to research the pest. However, financial support of \$20,500 is needed to hire a technician for the first phase of Nielsen's project.

You may send donations to HRI, c/o Pine Shoot Beetle Research, 1250 I St., NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005.

GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS

AUGUST

13: Turf-Seed/Pure Seed Testing Field Day/Two, Rolesville, N.C. Contact: Dr. Melodee Fraser, (919) 556-0146.

17: Ohio Turfgrass and Landscape Horticulture Research Field Day, Ohio State University, Columbus. Contact: Phyllis Selby, (612) 292-2601 or Dr. Karl Danneberger, (614)

292-8491.

17: Golf Course Design/Construction and Golf Day, SUNY, Delhi, N.Y. Contact: New York State Turfgrass Association, (800) 873-8873 or (518) 783-1229.

17: Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day, O.J. Noer Research Center, Madison, Wis. Contact: Dr. Frank Rossi, (608) 262-1490.

17: South Florida Chapter/STMA meeting, University of Miami. Contact: John Mascaro, (305) 938-7477 or Ed Birch, (305) 938-0217.

17: Professional Bedding Plant Workshop/Annuals, Norfolk (Va.) Botanical Garden. Contact: Sybil Kane, (804) 441-5830.

18: University of Rhode Island Turfgrass Field Day, Kingston, R.I. Contact: Bridget Ruemmele, (401) 792-2481.

18-19: Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Trade Show & Conference, ExpoMart, Monroeville, Pa. Contact: (717) 238-1673.

19: Michigan Turfgrass Field Day, Hancock Research Center, East Lansing, Mich. Contact: Kay Patrick, (517) 321-1660.

19: Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals annual golf tournament, Easton (Mass.) Country Club. Contact: Dick Ficco, (508) 238-8550 or Karen Connelly, (508) 287-0127.

19-20: Practical Rigging for Arborists, Pittsburgh. Contact: Michael Masiuk, (412) 392-8540.

21-29: British Columbia Nursery Tour (sponsored by Florida Nurserymen & Growers Assn.) Contact: Tops 'N Travel, (800) 872-8077.

24-26: Pacific Northwest Vegetation Management Conference, Tacoma (Wash.) Sheraton Hotel. Contact: Ken Maurer, (509) 547-5538.

24-Sept. 9: Hort Tour of England. Contact: Professional Plant Growers Association, (517) 694-7700.

25-26: Pac Hort Expo, San Diego Convention Center. Contact: California Association of Nurserymen, (800) 748-6214.

31: "Fine Tuning Your Turf and Grounds Skill", SUNY, Alfred, N.Y. Contact: New York State Turfgrass Association, (800) 873-8873 or (518) 783-1229.

31: Ohio Lawn Care Association Swap Meet, O.M. Scotts facility, Marysville, Ohio. Contact: Julie Guenther, (614) 261-1242.

SEPTEMBER

1-3: Pan Pacific Green Industry Conference & Trade Show, Waikiki (Hawaii) Sheraton. Contact: Karen Bento, (808) 545-1533.

8-11: International Plant Propagators' Society/Western Region annual meeting, Red Lion Inn, Bellevue, Wash. Contact: Steven McCulloch, (206) 352-5442 or Wilbur Bluhm, (503) 393-2934.

9-10: Southwest Horticultural Trade Show, Phoenix Civic Plaza. Contact: Arizona Nursery Association, (602) 966-1610.

17: Composting Symposium, Holiday Inn/Center of New Hampshire. Contact: Nancy Adams, (603) 679-5616.

17-19: Florida Nurserymen and Allied Trades Show, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Fla. Contact: FNGA, (407) 351-2610.

18: Turf & Ornamental Open House, University of Nebraska's Anderson Research Facility, Mead, Neb. Contact: Amy Greiving or Don Steinegger, (402) 472-2854.

21-23: Virginia Tech Turf and Landscape Field Days, Blacksburg, Va. Contact: Dr. J.R.



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HOME TOPICS

INFO CENTER

Useful literature and videos for LM readers

MEDICAL LEAVE...The American Association of Nurserymen, in cooperation with the Small Business Legislative Council, has developed a guide to complying with the new Family and Medical Leave Act. The publication takes the employer through the step-by-step process of dealing with a leave request, and contains the full text of the law. Cost is \$20 for AAN members, \$40 for non-members, plus \$2.50 shipping and handling. To order, write AAN, 1250 I St., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005 or phone (202) 789-2000.

ARBORICULTURAL LAW...The International Society of Arboriculture presents "Arboriculture and the Law" study guide to be used in conjunction with the textbook. The study guide uses case examples and refers readers back to the appropriate section of the text. Each study guide includes an answer sheet that can be returned to the ISA office; individuals with

44 out of 55 correct answers get 3 CEUs toward maintaining their certification. To order study guides, send \$2 for each to: ISA, P.O. Box GG, Savoy, IL 61874. MasterCard/Visa orders accepted via fax: (217) 355-9516.

DRAWING PLANS..."Basic Landscape Plan Drawing," a 60-minute VHS-format video tape, is available from Progress Products. Topics include: detailed materials list; quick-draw methods; symbol tricks to create a 3-D drawing; stylized lettering and more. Price is \$59.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Send check, Mastercard and Visa orders to Progress Products, 8652 W. Progress Dr., Littleton, CO 80123; or call (303) 973-1011.

EPA REGS CHECKLIST...RGF Environmental Systems has recently made available a *free* Environmental Self-Evaluating Compliance Questionnaire covering EPA regulations, including the new

stormwater runoff requirements. The questionnaire covers all potential golf course/turf environmental problem areas. For your copy, contact RGF Environmental Systems, 3875 Fiscal Ct., West Palm Beach, FL 33404; (800) 842-7771.

GREAT FOR CUSTOMERS..."How to Plant" is the perfect leave-behind booklet for customers of lawn care and landscape businesses. The guide, originally published in 1940, just sold its millionth copy. "How to Plant," a 3-1/2"x7" booklet, covers planting instructions for 21 kinds of trees, shrubs, bushes, fruits and vegetables. They can be customized with a logo or imprint on the cover.

For additional information and a free copy of the guide, phone (800) 473-0157.

SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY...Video Information System Training Associates (VISTA), offers the green industry video-based training programs and training sem-



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THAT SHE'S CALLED BACK
THREE TIMES, OR THAT
SHE PROBABLY WON'T RENEW.
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inars. The services are provided to trade associations, utility companies, municipalities, large contractors or combined groups of smaller contractors. Programs are tailored to meet specific customer requirements. For more information, write VISTA, 525 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington, WI 53105 or phone (414) 767-0695 or (800) 942-2886.

DIAGNOSING PROBLEMS...Green industry professionals now have a convenient new tool to help diagnose pest problems. "Lawnscape and Ornamentals: Problems and Solutions" is a quick reference guide to common insects, diseases and weeds that infest lawns. It is an illustrated, 43-page booklet that can be obtained from Chipco distributors and sales representatives.

PESTICIDE DIRECTORY...The 1993 edition of the "Pesticide Directory" is available now from Thomson Publications, P.O. Box 9335, Fresno, CA 93791. The 160-page book covers agricultural, horticultural, institutional, pest control, home & garden, and organic chemical manufacturers. Its price is \$49.95. For more information, or to order, phone (209) 435-2163.

ANOTHER CUSTOMER PERK...The Fertilizer Institute and the PLCAA have produced a brochure for lawn care customers that highlights the environmental benefits derived from popular fertilizer use. It is available from the PLCAA for shipping and handling costs only. "Healthy Turf, Healthy Earth" fits into a letter-sized envelope. For a free sample and information on ordering bulk quantities, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to PLCAA, 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068-2112.

MORE ON SAFETY...Aimed at employers and safety managers, Zee Medical now offers the Basic Safety Series video program. Included are topics such as forklift safety, electrical safety, eye care & safety and industrial ergonomics. Each program consists of a training manual, topic video, program outlines, tips on training meetings and scheduling forms, and an employee quiz. For more information and prices, write Zee Medical, P.O. Box 19527, Irvine, CA 92713; or phone (714) 252-9500.

ON SPORTS TURF...A new Sports Turf Maintenance Guide featuring tips from noted Kansas City groundskeepers George

and Chip Toma is available free from PBI/Gordon Corp. The 32-page booklet outlines specifications and suggestions for mowing, watering, fertilizing; weed, insect and disease control; seeding, sodding, thatch and clippings management. For your copy, request Sports Turf Guide from PBI/Gordon Corp., P.O. Box 4090, Kansas City, MO 64101.

TREE INJECTION...Tree Technology Systems has published a self-study manual covering its Arbor-X microinjection products. Pages are color codes for each section, bound in a loose-leaf notebook. Copies of the self-study manual can be purchased for \$25 from Tree Technology Systems, Inc., 1014 Rein Rd., Cheektowaga, NY 14225; (800) 622-3711.

PAVER INSTALLATION..."Building Inter-locking Concrete Pavements" is now on sale from the Concrete Paver Institute, 2302 Horse Pen Rd., Herndon, VA 22071-3406. The 100-page instructional manual is for contractors and vocational schools. Copies begin at \$30 each plus \$6 handling and shipping. For more information, phone the institute at (703) 713-1900 or fax inquiries to (703) 713-1910.