

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

is a proud member of these
green industry professional
organizations:



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

American Association of Nurserymen (National
Landscape Association), 1250 I St. NW, Suite
500, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 789-2900.

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 Associa-
tion, 421 West Travelers Trail, Burnsville, MN
55437; (612) 894-2414.

AS WE SEE IT

JERRY ROCHE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



A little bit of Santa Claus, a little bit of Robin Hood... not much of Ben Franklin

"When you assemble a number of men, to have the advantage of their joint wisdom, you inevitably assemble with those men all their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests and their selfish views. From such an assembly can a perfect production be expected?"—Benjamin Franklin

WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union... demand an end to oppressive government influence over our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Forgive me for plagiarizing the first few words of the U.S. Constitution. But that message came through, loud and clear, to our legislators during the general election last month. By throwing a number of incumbents out of Washington on their ears, the people spoke.

I hope that the small-business community—the green industry in particular—was part of this collective voice. Some of what Congress legislated during the '80s and '90s has had a dramatic impact on our industry, if not through the EPA, then through FIFRA, OSHA or any number of other alphabet-soup agencies and laws that continue to sprout like weeds in Washington.

When I contemplate these problems, the memorable words of ABC-TV consumer reporter John Stossel often echo in my mind: "The market works in mysterious ways. Leave it alone, and it will regulate itself."

Certainly, if you tried to run your small businesses the same way the government tries to run itself, you'd be sleeping in cardboard boxes and dining on someone else's table scraps by now.

How is it, I wonder, that the government of the world's richest nation went

belly-up more than 20 years ago? How can our per capita earnings be among the highest in the world, our income tax rate hover around 20 percent, and our government still not have a penny to its name?

One of the reasons—appropriate to the coming holiday season—is that our federal government is the biggest Santa Claus in the world. We send millions of dollars to Somalia, Bosnia and other less fortunate countries. We break the bank sending U.S. troops to Haiti or the Middle East. We even play Robin Hood (rob from the rich, give to the poor, infirm and aged) here within our own borders.

We put up with porkbarrel spending, fraudulent welfare claims, and a massive bureaucracy that is buckling under its own weight.

No, these are not the words of a latter-day Ebenezer Scrooge. They're your own words—words I've heard while visiting you and chatting with you on the phone. Words that echoed in the halls of Congress as you were casting your votes.

Certainly, we all realize that occasions arise when the United States must help less fortunate people, both here and abroad. But you and I (as patriots first and small business men and women second) realize the folly of trying to be all things to all people.

With the 1994 elections, we have drawn the proverbial line in the sand. But our job isn't done yet. We must continue to closely monitor our newly-elected officials to make sure they don't often step over that line.

And you know they're dying to.