

William Meleen says the CTP course is difficult but fair.



Embracing certification in 'turfgrass'

FAULKNER, Md.—Even after 25 years in the industry, William Meleen admits there's a lot he still doesn't know about lawn care. But, he's willing to learn.

Meleen enrolled in—and completed—the University of Georgia/Professional Lawn Care Association of America national turf certification program. It's believed he was the first ever Certified Turfgrass Professional (CTP).

"I joined the program because I know that if I'm able to tell my customers why something happens in their lawn, then they trust me even more," says Meleen, owner of Action Lawn Service, Faulkner, Md.

"Tough," is how the longtime LCO describes the year-old certification program. "You have to study for it. You won't be able to pass the tests if you don't follow the program." Meleen estimates he spent about 120 hours studying for the course's two tests, the final one he passed in July. He was pleased to score 92 on the two tests. (PLCAA arranged for Meleen to take the tests near his home at Charles County Community College.)

Meleen describes the certification program as up-to-date and comprehensive. In 14 chapters it covers everything from soils to customer communications.

Also among the first graduate CTPs were:

Tony Atchison, The Yard Post, Atlanta; **Victoria R. Barnhill**, Holiday Golf Club, Panama City Beach, Fla.; **John T. Booth**, Athens, Ga.; **Samuel Easley**, Easley's Lawn Care, Inc., Woodville, Ga.; **Larry Ellmaker**, Moyer & Son, Inc., Souderton, Pa.; **Murray R. Neppi**, Sym Company, Seymour, Wis.;

GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS

What's going on in the industry

NOVEMBER

8-10: Penn State Golf Turf Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, Pa. Phone: Dr. Peter Landschoot, (814) 863-1017 or Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, (814) 863-3475.

8-11: New York Turf & Grounds Exposition, Rochester. Phone: NYSTA, (518) 783-1229.

11: Landscape Maintenance Assn. Equipment & Supply Show, West Palm Beach. Phone: (813) 680-4008.

11-12: Golf Course Expo, Orlando, Fla. Phone: (207) 846-0600.

12-13: John Deere Team Championship Golf Tournament, La Quinta, Calif. Phone: by invitation only.

13-16: Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Conference & Show, Myrtle Beach (S.C.) Hilton. Phone: (800) 476-4272.

13-17: Green Industry Expo and annual conferences for **Professional Lawn Care Association of America**, **Associated Landscape Contractors of America** and **Professional Grounds Management Society**, St. Louis, Mo. Phone: PLCAA, (404) 977-5222; ALCA, (703) 620-6363; PGMS, (410) 584-9754.

15: South Florida Chapter, STMA meeting, Mark Light Stadium, Miami. Phone: John Mascaro, (305) 938-7477.

16-18: Composting Council Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. Phone: The Composting Council, (703) 739-2401.

17: California Certified Nursery Professional Exam, Anaheim. Phone: C.A.N., (916) 567-0200.

17-19: Tree Care Industry Expo, Philadelphia, Pa. Phone: National Arborist Assn., (603) 673-3311.

17-20: International Golf Show, Madrid, Spain. Phone: (011) 34-1-350-1564.

18-20: Golf Summit '94, Scottsdale, Ariz. Phone: National Golf Foundation, (407) 744-6006.

19: Women in Horticulture Conference

"Profiting from Integrity," Doubletree Suites, Seattle. Phone: (206) 525-7844 or (206) 937-2815.

22: Alliance for Environmental Concerns Annual Meeting. Phone: AEC, (201) 595-7172.

28-30: North Central Turfgrass Exposition, St. Charles, Ill. Phone: Illinois Turfgrass Assn., (312) 616-0800.

28-30: Southern Turfgrass Assn. Conference and Show, Memphis, Tenn. Phone: (901) 749-5885.

29: "Practical Approaches for Effective Erosion and Sediment Control" Seminar, Orlando, Fla. Phone: International Erosion Control Association, (303) 879-3010.

29: Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association Turf Seminar. Phone: Tom Rudberg, (612) 962-6545.

29-Dec. 1: Rocky Mountain Turf Conference & Trade Show, Colorado Convention Center, Denver. Phone: (303) 688-3440.

29-Dec. 1: Golf Course Europe, Paris, France. Phone: (510) 526-6922; (510) 526-5387.

29-Dec. 1: New Jersey Turfgrass Expo, Taj Mahal Casino, Atlantic City. Phone: (908) 821-7134.

DECEMBER

6-9: Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference & Trade Show, Columbus, Ohio. Phone: (614) 261-6750.

6-8: Georgia Turfgrass Conference & Show, College Park. Phone: (404) 975-4123.

7: Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals Annual Meeting, Concord, Mass. Phone: (508) 287-0127.

13: PLCAA Winter Workshop, Madison, Wis. Phone: PLCAA, (800) 458-3466.

14: PLCAA Winter Workshop, Pittsburgh, Pa. Phone: PLCAA, (800) 458-3466.

15: PLCAA Winter Workshop, Scranton, Pa. Phone: PLCAA, (800) 458-3466.

Thomas M. O'Kane, Professional Grounds, Inc., Lorton, Va.; **Carl Olson**, Crest Agrow Products, Long Beach, Ca.; **Lou Wierichs, Jr.**, Pro-X Systems, Fox Cities and Green Bay, Wis.

PLCAA introduced the home-study certification program at the 1993 PLCAA Conference in Baltimore. Since then over 300 have enrolled in the correspondence course.

The course is designed for green industry professionals including, but not limited to, lawn care pros, landscapers, golf superintendents, and athletic field and park managers. It meets the pesticide recertification credits in 25 states. Five other states are reviewing the course for credits.

For more information about the CTP

Program, stop by the PLCAA Customer Service Booth #1026 at the 1994 GIE in St. Louis. Or contact PLCAA at 1000 Johnson Ferry Road, NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, Ga. 30068. (800) 458-3466.

—Ron Hall

CORRECTION

Due to a production-related error, the photographs of Tom Mascaro and Eberhard Steiniger on page 39 of our October issue were reversed. We apologize for any inconveniences caused by this error.