

# HOT TOPICS

## Letter-writers question LM's editorial approach

### ■ To the editor:

I strongly disagree with your article in the May issue entitled, "Can't We All Just Get Along? Hell, No!," which singled out several pro-environment senators and representatives as foes of the green industry.

Regulation of the green industry is designed to protect the health and safety of *everyone*, from golfers and athletes to homeowners and turf industry employees. The regulations are also designed to help protect those in our society who are not part of the economic/capitalist system. Since wildlife, open spaces, clean water and wetlands have no economic value, they must be protected by environmental regulations.

We are very poor stewards of the land if we misuse it in the pursuit of the almighty dollar. I do not consider the regulations on the green industry to be excessive; nor do I consider environmentalists to be foes of the green industry. "Green industry" is a misnomer if its economic success is bought at the price of environmental destruction.

*Janet Betlejeski  
French's Hollow Fairways  
Guilderland Center, N.Y.*

### ■ To the editor:

I just read the (May) cover story "A Capitol Idea" and would like to share some thoughts with you.

I have been in the parks landscape business for over 20 years on both the East and West Coasts. My job requires dealing with many government regulatory agencies, even though I work for a county government, I too have the same issues with regulations that any business does. Yes, I really believe there needs to be change in

many of our laws related to the landscape industry, and I'm pleased to see action on that front.

However, I am dismayed that you seem to be politicizing your publication, seem to be using emotionally loaded terms, and giving negative connotations to terms like "liberal" and "activist control." Couldn't some folks featured in the article also be considered activists for more sensible laws? Couldn't they be considered liberal in their view of industry's desires?

The clincher, however, was the section entitled "Can't We All Just Get Along? Hell, No!" Such promotion of people being hostile to each other gets us nowhere. I am saddened to think that you would choose to use this form in journalism.

There is enough anger and hostility in the U.S. today without encouraging it. The only way we will progress in getting safe, sane, and reasonable legislation is through open, honest discussion and consensus building. That is the process where a majority rules (a democracy), not head-bashing and name-calling.

Please try to be more objective and positive in your articles.

*David J. Pierce  
Regional Park Planner  
Santa Clara County, Calif.*

*Industry magazines like LM must accurately portray the mood and view of the majority of its readers. Surveys show that most of you—especially small businessmen—have slightly antagonistic attitudes toward government regulation because of excesses in the past. The people interviewed in the articles were the top people in the industry who accurately, we believe, reflect the concerns of most LM readers.—Ed.*

## Greg Norman will market seed

**TEQUESTA, Fla.**—Professional golfer Greg Norman's new company will produce golf-quality warm-season turfgrasses.

Norman's new Greg Norman Turf Co. will develop grasses on a 140-acre production facility in Avon Park, Fla.

The first variety under production is GN-1 hybrid bermudagrass, which has a deep green color, better tolerance to low temperatures and parasitic nematodes, and thatches less than other hybrid bermudas, according to a press release.

"The new grass has proven to be superior in playing surface to the Tifway 419 used on the remaining holes" at the Medalist Club in Hobe Sound, Fla., where it was planted on the 17th and 18th fairways, the release contends.

Other speciality grasses planned for production at the company are FloraTex, a low-maintenance bermudagrass, and the newly-released FloraDwarf.



The Greg Norman Turf Co. will market warm-season grasses for golf courses.

### ELSEWHERE

**Support devised  
for aging tree, p. 19**

**PLCAA holds new  
workshops, p. 19**

**D.C. faces tough  
ozone laws, p. 19**

**Info-center, many  
new events, p. 20**

## NY community pays to put ancient cottonwood on life support system

**NEWBURGH, N.Y.**—How far will you go to save an historic tree?

If you're The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) apparently a long way. The tree in question is a massive eastern cottonwood in Newburgh, NY, just north of NYC. It's believed to be about 300 years old. When it was much younger (and smaller), residents mistakenly thought it was a balm tree and referred to their community as Balmville.

In 1992 the DEC hired four independent consulting arborists to inspect the tree. They said it was unsound and recommended that it be removed. But the DEC didn't want to lose the tree. In mid 1994 it hired ACRT, Inc., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, to inspect the tree. A team of three ACRT professionals—consulting arborist Richard E. Abbott and plant pathologists Dr. Christopher J. Luley, and Dr. Kenneth C. Miller—plus engineer Donald E. Ruff from Canon Engineering in Jackson, MI, concluded that it was structurally unsound although it continues to grow.

They felt that the tree could be saved.

The ACRT team designed a mechanical support (see illustration) with a central column and four double reinforcing guys. Tree limbs are attached to the column by means of guy cables.

Also, the team suggested soil aeration via vertical mulching, fertilization, insecticide applications when needed, vine

removal and covering a hole to keep out animals.

Private funds are paying for the work as ACRT is seeking material donations from manufacturers, distributors and area businesses.

With the mechanical support in place, the ACRT team believes the tree has a 50 percent chance of remaining structurally intact for 10 years and a 25 percent chance of surviving another 20 years.

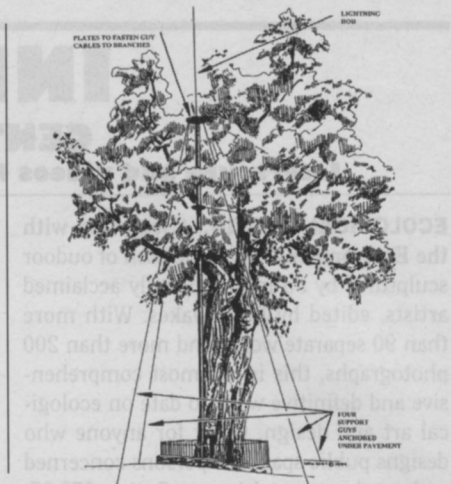
## PLCAA workshops in Iowa, SC, Ore.

■ Questions from customers and the media on topics such as the "Home Pesticide Use and Childhood Cancer" study released earlier this year can be intimidating and confusing to lawn care operators.

But help is on the way. The Professional Lawn Care Association of America's continuing 1995 Regional Workshop series in August and September will include a presentation on Risk Communication by a representative of DowElanco.

The day-long programs also include information on enhancing customer service, by Bob Andrews, owner of two Indiana lawn care companies, and a past president of PLCAA.

The objective of the workshops is to "take PLCAA to the members," says board



member Larry Messina of Lawn Cure of Southern Indiana, who adds that PLCAA also plans to stage from eight to 10 winter workshops on a variety of topics.

Dates and locations for the summer workshops are:

- August 30, Ames, Iowa (Starlight Village Motel) hosted by Darryl Johnson of American Beauty Lawn Care;
- Sept. 20, Portland, Ore. (Shiloh Inn Portland Airport), hosted by Pat Nibler of ProGrass, Inc.;
- Sept. 27, Columbia, SC (Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center), hosted by Gene Broom of Service Master.

Cost for the workshops is \$35 for members, \$50 for non-members. Lunch is included in the registration fee.

To register for a PLCAA summer workshop, call the association at (800) 458-3466.

## Ozone standards hang over D.C. green industry

**WASHINGTON**—Call this the tale of the ozone mowing ban.

The District of Columbia and 18 surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia are among the first in the nation required to meet EPA-imposed ozone standards.

"What we have been battling on the local level are attempts to outright limit or impose restrictions on the use of lawn and garden equipment during days that are forecast to be in violation of the ozone standards," says Ben Bolusky of the AAN.

Ozone is a by-product of gasoline engine use. Under the EPA rules, commercial landscape firms would be prohibited from using internal combustion engines on high ozone days. Bolusky says the forecasts (of high

ozone) come out the afternoon or night before, making it impossible for landscape firms to schedule mowing. Skipping to the bottom line, "We beat that one back considerably. What we've done is gotten the supertanker to change direction," he adds.

Rather than having the EPA going after behavioral changes of a punitive nature, a coalition of AAN and other national organizations such as the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) got the EPA to focus on technological changes. They proved that the vast percentage of ozone emissions came not from running engines, but from spills during fueling. They showed the EPA how inexpensive nozzles could capture 90 percent of the

errant ozone.

A second EPA misperception was that landscape firms running old equipment that spewed out exhaust fumes were part of the problem. But the LCA polled operators and produced figures to show that 41 percent of the landscape companies in the area buy new equipment every year, and 44 percent more buy new equipment every two to three years.

The story points up the value of having allies. "We probably belong to about 30 national coalitions dealing with national and regulatory officials. We're not bashful about lending our name to a business coalition we know serves the interests of our members," says Bolusky.



# INFO CENTER

## Literature and videos for the green industry

**ECOLOGICAL DESIGN...** "Sculpting with the Environment" is a collection of outdoor sculptures by 35 internationally acclaimed artists, edited by Baile Oakes. With more than 90 separate works and more than 200 photographs, this is the most comprehensive and definitive work to date on ecological art and design. Great for anyone who designs public spaces or persons concerned with environmental issues. Cost is \$59.95, available from Van Nostrand Reinhold publishers, (212) 254-3232.

**IRRIGATION TEXTBOOK...** The Society for Engineering in Agricultural, food and Biological Systems has published "Landscape Irrigation Design" by Eugene Rochester, an engineer and 25-year member of the Auburn University faculty. This is the 8th of a series of textbooks published by the ASAE. Rochester says the 220-page book is also ideal for independent learning. ASAE can buy the book for \$32 but non-members must pay \$38. Contact: ASAE, 2950 Niles Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085-9659. (616) 429-0300.

**MORE WILDFLOWERS...** Applewood Seed Company's 1995 "Wildflower Seeds" catalog includes 7 new species of wildflowers, including 3 U.S. natives and 1 new native grass. The catalog features 130 wildflower species and 18 regional and special-use mixtures. To receive the catalog: Applewood Seed, 5380 Vivian St., Arvada, CO 80002. (303) 431-7333.

**MICHIGAN DIRECTORY...** The 1995 "Membership Directory and Advertisers Buyers Guide" for the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association includes contacts and phone numbers for over 750 member companies, MSU's hort department, county cooperative extension offices, and state regulators. Non-members pay \$40; members' first copy is free. Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association, 819 N. Washington Ave., Ste. 2, Lansing, MI 48906.

**ROOTS BACK ON TV...** The International Society of Arboriculture says its new ISA book "The Landscape Below Ground" is also available as a set of two videos. Both

the books and the videos originated from the international workshop on tree root development in urban soils. Each of the videos is about 30 minutes long. Cost to members for the pair of videos is \$50, to non-members \$60. ISA, P.O. Box GG, Savoy, IL 61874. (217) 355-9516.

## GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS

### JULY

20-23: ALCA Summer Leadership Meeting, Glenn Arbor, Mich. Phone: ALCA, (703) 620-6363.

20: Iowa Turfgrass Field Day, Horticulture Research Station, Ames, Iowa. Phone: 1-800-605-0420.

25-27: Freshwater Wetland Construction Techniques Short Course, Cook College Campus, New Brunswick, NJ. Phone: (908) 932-9271.

31: ITI/IGCSA Benefit Golf Tournament, Fort Dodge Country Club, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Phone: 1-800-605-0420.

26: U. of Georgia Turfgrass Field Day, Griffin, Ga. Phone: Extension conference office (912) 681-5189.

26-29: AAN/MNLA Nursery & Landscape Convention & Trade Show, Minneapolis. Phone: AAN at (202) 789-2900 or MNLA at (612) 633-4987.

27-31: APLD "Minnesota Northern Lites" Summer Conference, Minneapolis. Phone: APLD (312) 201-0101.

30-Aug. 5: Perennial Plant Symposium, Minneapolis. Phone: Perennial Plant Association (614) 771-8431.

### AUGUST

1-4: "Design of Stormwater, Sediment and Erosion Control Systems," Okla. State U. Phone: OSU Engineering Extension (405) 744-9223.

2: Planning & Managing for Reduced Environmental Load, N. Va. Land Managers Conference, Woodbridge, Va. Phone: (703) 792-6285.

2: Illinois Landscape Contractors Association Field Day, Ball Seed Company, West Chicago. Phone: ILCA

(708) 932-8443.

3: U. of Mass. Open House/Turf Scouting & Pest Management Workshop, South Deerfield, Mass. Phone: U. of Mass. Extension (508) 892-0382.

3: NTEP Turfgrass Research Field Day, Beltsville, Md. Phone: (301) 504-5125.

3-5: Turf Diagnostic Course, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Phone: (608) 255-1792.

8-Sept. 14: Trees for Landscape Use course, meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, UCLA, Los Angeles. Phone: (310) 825-7093.

8: Golf Course Construction & Design Seminar, SUNY Delhi, Delhi, NY. Phone: NYSTA (800) 873-TURF.

8: Associated Green Industries Field Day, Mackenzie Nursery Supply, Perry, Ohio. Phone: (216) 428-4108.

9: Athletic Turf Management Field Day, Springfield, Mass. Phone: U. of Mass. Extension (508) 892-0382.

10: Wisconsin Nursery Association Summer Field Day & Trade Show, West Madison. Phone: (414) 529-4705.

13-16: International Society of Arboriculture Conference, Hilton Head Island, SC. Phone: (217) 355-9411.

16-18: Field Diagnosis of Insects & Diseases on Trees & Shrubs, Cornell U., Ithaca, NY. Phone: (518) 783-1322.

17: Michigan Turfgrass Field Day, MSU, East Lansing. Phone: (517) 321-1660.

16: Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Field Day, Phone: (614) 261-6750.

18-21: Nursery Management Institute, Michigan State U., East Lansing, Mich. (space limited to 50 individuals). Phone: AAN (202) 789-2000.

25-27: San Francisco County Fair Flower Show, Golden Gate Park. Phone: (415) 507-0142.

28-Sept. 1: "The Body Language of Trees," One-day hazardous tree seminars by Claus Mattheck. Aug. 28 in Mahway, NJ, Aug. 30 in Cleveland, and Sept. 1 in Chicago. Phone: (503) 254-0482.

30-Sept. 1: Pacific Hort Expo and CAN Convention, San Diego Convention Center. Phone: (916) 567-02003.

31: Turf Scouting & Pest Management Workshop, Waltham, Mass. Phone: U. of Mass. Extension (508) 892-0382.

### SEPTEMBER

10: "Festival of Color," Anderson Research Facility, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln. Phone: (402) 472-2584.



# SUPPLIERS

## CORNER

■ **Dan Murray**, CGCS, showed his boss a little appreciation in June. Murray, construction manager at Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc., Marengo, won a 3-day trip to Shinnecock Hills, Long Island, site of the 1995 U.S. Open. The prize, offered by **Lofts Seed**, allowed for two persons to get all expenses paid, so Dan took his boss, Bob Lohmann. Murray earned the trip by correctly identifying Lofts' turfgrass varieties in an advertisement. His name was selected through a random drawing since his was not the only entry with the correct answers.

■ **Nibco Inc.** purchased the assets of **Pepco Water Conservation Products, Inc.**, Fresno, Calif., on June 9. Nibco, Elkhart, Ind., adds low-flow water conservation products to its traditional irrigation product line.

■ **Wade Rain**, Fresno, Calif., relocated

the manufacturing and distribution facilities of its micro-irrigation division to 2851 E. Florence Ave., Fresno, CA 93721. Wade Rain bought a 206,545 sq. ft. building there, more than doubling the size of its previous facility.

■ **Garry Hargrove, PhD**, joins **Pursell Industries**, Sylacauga, AL. Hargrove was formerly director of product development at Grace-Sierra, Milpitas, CA. Pursell is a leader in controlled-release fertilizer.

■ **DowElanco** stepped up production of oryzalin, the active ingredient in **Surflan** pre-emergence herbicide. Oryzalin worldwide sales have increased 15 percent over the last year, says Indianapolis-based DowElanco.

■ **Kubota Tractor Corporation** launches a new safety campaign promoting the use of roll-over protective structures

(ROPS) and seat belt with agricultural tractors. Kubota dealers have been provided with ROPS safety promotion materials including in-store videos, posters and brochures.

■ **Jim Mitchell** was appointed marketing technologies coordinator for **James Hardie Irrigation**, Laguna Niguel, CA. He joined Hardie in 1993.

■ **If you get a hankering for a bratwurst** at the 1995 International Lawn, Garden and **Outdoor Power Equipment Expo** in Louisville, check out the outdoor demonstration area manned by **Kohler Engines**. The Wisconsin-based firm will again be providing free brats and soda each day of the show.

■ **Congratulate Bill Bedford**, superintendent at La Cantera Golf Club, San Antonio. He won the "War Bird Special" Calloway driver featured in the **CoRon Corporation** booth during last winter's GCSAA Conference. CoRon, of Souderton, PA, manufactures liquid controlled-release nitrogen fertilizers.

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