

Wisconsin Federation starts 'Hall of Fame'

The Wisconsin Landscape Federation's Green Industry Hall of Fame was established in July, as 22 inductees were publicly introduced at an induction dinner.

Forty-four names were submitted for consideration. In subsequent years, no more than three persons will be added each year to the Hall of Fame. A permanent site has not yet been selected, but several sites are under review, according to Joe Phillips of the Wisconsin Landscape Federation.

Inductees include:

Ken Altorfer, McKay Nursery Co. Altorfer started a landscape design program to reach middle-class home owners through a volume approach;

Patrick Buckley, tree expert credited with initiating IPM for trees;

Sam Ferguson, founder and past president of the Horticulture Inspection Society;

Tom Lied, Lied's Nursery Co., a founder and past president of ALCA, and for many years the leader of the industry's "Crystal Ball" Committee;

Arnold Sieg, head of the landscape maintenance division of Bruce Co., who has been active with ALCA and the Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association. □

Irrigation Assoc. supports Ill. contractor case

The Irrigation Association has voted to start a matching fund of \$7000 to help the Illinois Turf Irrigation Association pay legal fees in a case before the Illinois Supreme Court.

At issue is the right of irrigation contractors to assemble irrigation components downstream of backflow prevention devices. The issue centers around where a plumbing system starts and where it ends. In the past, the backflow device was considered the point where the plumbing system ends. However, a Chicago irrigation contractor was cited in 1995 for assembling an irrigation system downstream of a backflow device, which is legal according to common industry practices.

Contractors say they are being picked on because the Illinois Health Department does not require licensed plumbers to install overhead fire sprinklers, water conditioners and softeners and agricultural irrigation.

"If the Supreme Court does not correct this mistake, then our industry will be prevented from pursuing our trade and the price of irrigation system installation in the state will rise dramatically," says Michael Clark, irrigation manager for the Brickman Group, Ltd.

"Licensed plumbers charge twice as much as landscape contractors to install turf irrigation systems. Furthermore, the error might set a precedent for other states to follow. That would be devastating to our industry."

Dan Cassidy, president of the Illinois Turf Irrigation Association, says it takes five years of apprenticeship to become a licensed plumber, and there is only one question on the plumbing exam about irrigation systems. Cassidy says the backflow device manufacturers contributed to the heightened fear of backflow potential in the state health department, which led to this controversy. □

OTF has new address

The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation has a new address: P.O. Box 340546, Columbus, Ohio 43234; 614/760-5442; fax: 614/760-5431. □

New officers at Ore. Seed Trade Association

The Oregon Seed Trade Association has named Jay Burr, The Scotts Co., Gervais, Ore., as its new president for 1997-98. Vice president is Galen Tryer, Ampac Seed Co.; Nancy Aerni of Turf Merchants serves as secretary-treasurer.

Elections were held at the Association's annual convention in Sunriver, Ore.

The Hysop Professorship at Oregon State is nearly a reality, according to Dr. Leah Brillman. A fund of \$300,000 will be available for scholarships and turfgrass seed research, once all donations are realized and state matching funds kick in. □

NJ Alliance auction helps out

The Alliance for Environmental Concerns, Warren, NJ, added \$2900 to its coffers during a recent silent auction. The monies help support AEC operating expenses and programs.

Product contributors include Lebanon Turf Products; DowElanco; Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products; W.A. Cleary Co.; Barenbrug Seed Co.; Plant Food Company, Inc.; Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.; Lesco; and White Beeches Golf & Country Club.

The AEC tracks and reports on developments in legislation that directly affects product applicators. It supports reasonable pesticide regulations and sound application practices. □