

OPEDA elects officers

Tony Troisi, vp of KPM Distributors, Inc., Kenil, NJ, is the 1998-1999 president of the Outdoor Power Equipment Distributors Association. Other newly elected OPEDA officers include: Vice President, Stan Crader, president of Stand Crader, Crader Distributing Co.; Secretary/Treasurer, Ken Taylor, vp Consumer Products, Kenney Machinery Corp.

Newly elected directors include: Lynn Matson, president, Turf Equipment & Supply, Inc.; Mike Medart, president, Medart; Chris Saxon, president, PACE; and Mark DeShetler, president, Florida Outdoor Equipment.

Bill Parsley, president of Carswell Distributing Co., and John Smith, president of Exmark Manufacturing Co., won election for one-year terms. □

Underwood earns award

Bob Underwood, owner of AAA Landscape, earned the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association. Bob and his brother Richard Underwood started AAA Landscape 23 years ago. It is now one of the leading landscape companies in the state. Bob is a past president of the Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association and currently serves as treasurer of the Arizona Certified Landscape Professionals.

The Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association named Mitch Cluff as its 1997 Landscape Contractor of the Year. Mitch graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in Architectural Landscape Horticulture Design, and established Quintana, a landscape design and installation company, in 1987. □

IA show is 'international'

The Irrigation Association has renamed its International Exposition and Technical Conference to The International Irrigation Show.

The event happens November 1-3 in 1998 in San Diego.

"We are attracting more international exhibitors and attendees to the show each year," says Denise Stone, IA meetings and exposition director.

"We wanted to demonstrate that in the the [show] title."

Stone reports that 58 countries were represented at the 1997 IA conference.

The International Irrigation Show is produced for irrigation buyers, specifiers and contractors, and is reported to be the largest irrigation-specific trade show in the world.

For registration information, contact IA at (703) 575-3551. □

SC show a hit

The South Carolina Contractors Turfgrass Management & Grounds Maintenance Conference was a "rewarding experience for everyone who attended," reports the association. The state's leading research authorities shared information on the latest management technology and updated attendees on a variety of issues.

In a special luncheon presentation by Clemson University's Dean of Agriculture, Forestry and Live Sciences, Dr. W.H. Wehrenberg, members were brought up to date on the changes in the department. Dr. Wehrenberg thanked the department for its dedication.

Scholarships were awarded to John Eppelsheimer, Horry-Georgetown Technical College and Matt Swartzmiller, a student at Spartanburg Technical College.

Clemson University Turf Trials are held Sept. 15, 9 am - 12 noon at Walker Golf Course, Clemson University, Cherry Rd., Clemson SC. An afternoon golf tournament benefits the SC Turfgrass Foundation. □

Gallup survey good news

According to a recent Gallup survey, more than 22 million U.S. households spent \$14.6 billion on professional landscape/lawn care/tree care services in 1997. This represents an increase by one million households from 1996 and a \$600 million increase in spending. The numbers are expected to continue to rise with estimates of 24.2 million households planning to purchase these services in 1998.

Older homeowners (ages 50 and above) represent the largest client group and account for nearly half of the money spent on horticulture services. The study also shows that that homeowners spent an average of \$647 in 1997.

The tree care category showed the largest increases in spending (50%), average amount spent (38%) and household participation (21%). Meanwhile, lawn and landscape maintenance accounted for the largest dollar volume of spending (\$7.6 billion) and the greatest household participation (14.3 million). □

Fularczyk leads GMAW

The Grounds Management Association of Wisconsin (GMAW) elected officers for 1998 during the Wisconsin Landscape Federation annual convention.

The new officers are: President, Tom Fularczyk, River City Landscape, Onolaska, WI; President Elect, John Crossmock, Tru-Green-ChemLawn, Park Ridge, IL; Secretary, Bill Vogel, Spring Valley Turf Products, Jackson, WI; Treasurer, Kathy Kurth, Lawn Care of Wisconsin, Inc., Madison, WI; Immediate Past President, Lou Wierichs, Jr., Pro-X Systems, Appleton, WI. □