

NLA fights turf restrictions in Las Vegas

Las Vegas — The Nevada Landscape Association (NLA) has been busy successfully representing the green industry in an effort to affect a water conservation bill in Las Vegas. The bill sought to limit the amount of turf on commercial and residential properties. Water conservation is one of the NLA's biggest issues; in fact, the Reno chapter of the organization was successful in becoming a part of the strategic planning for water planning in Reno in the early '90s.

ter immediately swung into action. In spite of the late start, the NLA was instrumental in having the bill amended slightly in the green industry's favor. Initially, the bill stated that for new development, residential turf could not exceed 50% of the total landscapable area. This was amended to 50% of the "total front yard" which increased the amount of turf allowed, and which was more in keeping with the Coalition's original proposal. In addition, the bill banned turf completely on commercial projects. This was ultimately amended to allow 25% turf.

While the amendments were not as far-reaching as desired, Debra Drew, executive director of the NLA feels that the bill is liveable and that the involvement of the NLA is only the first step in representing the green industry in Las Vegas.

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Commercial/Industrial Districts	Limited to a maximum of 25% of total landscapable area
Public Facilities Districts	Prohibited, except for schools, parks and cemeteries
Golf Course Use	Limited to 5 acres/hole, with a maximum 10 additional acres for driving range
Residential Districts (single family)	Limited to a maximum of 50% of total front yard area
Residential Districts (multifamily)	Limited to a maximum of 30% of total landscapable area

The newly organized Las Vegas chapter of the NLA had hardly been established when it learned that increased turf restrictions were being considered for the city. The Southern Nevada Coalition 2000, a group of private-sector activists, had recommended turf restrictions for new homes only. The goal of the Coalition was to be "restrictive without being oppressive," and it had the backing of the Southern Nevada Homebuilders Association, which represents the construction industry.

The initial proposal was expanded upon to be an even more restrictive ordinance by the mayor of Las Vegas, Jan Jones. The proposed bill would have tightened the city's restrictions by banning grass in front of businesses and public facilities as well as allowing at least 20% less turf in front yards than the Coalition's initial proposal.

The progress of the ordinance was well under way by the time the new branch of the NLA learned of it. The newly minted Las Vegas chap-

Schools like technician certification program

Austin, Texas — Vocational schools across the United States are embracing a certification program for teaching outdoor power equipment technicians.

Virgil Russell, executive director of the Equipment & Engine Training Council (EETC), based here, said, "the interest in schools to become certified is far better than our original projections."

These four schools have become EETC Certified to teach technical education for the outdoor power equipment industry: Lake County Area Vocational, Grayslake, IL; Ohio Technical College, Cleveland, Ohio; Madison Area Technical College, Madison, WI; and Anoka-Hennepin Technical College, Anoka, MN. EETC certification is pending for 14 other schools, said Russell.

Frontier a finalist for St. Andrews project

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Frontier Construction Co. is one of four finalists invited to bid on Phase I of a massive irrigation reconstruction project in the birthplace of golf. The St. Andrews Links Trust, which oversees administration of the world famous Old Course — in addition to the town-owned New, Jubilee, Eden, Strathtyrum and Balgove courses — has decided to replace the antiquated patchwork systems at all six layouts.

A centralized irrigation system has been custom designed by Robin Hume and Associates of Shrewsbury, England. Toro will provide the irrigation heads, and the Trust will soon choose an irrigation contractor to handle the system's complicated installation. Based in Jones Mills, PA, Frontier Construction is the only U.S. firm among the four finalists.

"We're honored to be named among the final four," said Frontier President Nick Scigliano, "and we're excited about the prospect of working in St. Andrews. What construction company wouldn't jump at the chance to work on such hallowed ground?"

Hume has designed a system whereby all six courses will be fed from a single centralized pump station. While the head greenkeeper at each layout will have a subcontrol unit, Links Manager Ian Forbes — who oversees maintenance of all six courses — will control the master unit.

"The conservation implications are significant," Scigliano explained. "With the new system, the links manager will be able to allocate only the water each individual course needs.

"Some have questioned whether St. Andrews is going overboard on the ir-

rigation issue," Scigliano continued. "But it's important to understand The Trust has only chosen to replace what's already there. And what's there is an antiquated, patchwork system."

The four finalists have been invited to bid only on Phase I, which encompasses renovation of the Balgove, Eden and Strathtyrum courses; work on the Old, New and Jubilee courses will follow next year. The contract stipulates that Phase I be completed by spring 1999, meaning the chosen contractor must install more than 1,500 irrigation heads on three separate courses while working through Scotland's bleak winter months.

"It's a very aggressive schedule," said Scigliano. "The timing presents a major challenge."

Frontier Construction is one of the golf industry's busiest irrigation contractors and course construction firms. During the past 12 months, the Frontier team has completed 18-hole irrigation installations at Duquesne (PA) Golf Club; Sugar Creek Golf Course in Lima, Ohio; St. Clair Country Club outside Pittsburgh; Windber (PA) Country Club; and Coamo Springs Golf and Tennis Club in Coamo, Puerto Rico.

No less active on the course construction side, Frontier also built Coamo Springs, an 18-hole Ferdinand Garbin design. Other recently completed new construction includes a fourth nine at Lindenwood Golf Club, McMurray, PA; nine holes at Red Oaks Golf Club, near Bloomington, Ohio; and a second nine (subcontracted from The Bruce Co.) at Treesdale Golf & Country Club in Gibsonia, PA.

AgriBioTech seeks to increase stock values

AgriBioTech Inc., a leading forage and turf grass seed company, has hired an investment

bank to attract buying interest from major chemical and life sciences firms that want to gain a foothold in the biotech seed industry.

AgriBioTech has a 40% share of the US forage and turf grass seed market, strong germ plasm and biotechnology agreements with various companies that give AgriBioTech access to more technology.

Worldwide biotechnology research alliance formed

Dow AgroSciences LLC and Rhone-Polenc Agro signed a letter of intent to conduct research in the field of plant biotechnology to develop genetically modified plants and seed products containing multiple traits. This proposed research alliance supplements the proposed collaboration between Rhone-Polenc Agro and Mycogen Corporation, a majority-owned subsidiary of Dow AgroSciences, by adding non-Bt insect control proteins.

Heritage® fungicide approved for turfgrass use

Heritage fungicide from Zeneca has been granted approval for turfgrass disease control for lawn care and sports turf by EPA. Previously only registered for use on golf course turf and sod farms, Heritage can now be used for lawn and sports turf for more than 18 turfgrass diseases.

Corrections

In the LM 100 article (Sept. 1998, p. 18), we incorrectly stated the variety of bentgrass being used at Pinehurst Resort & CC's famed #2 course. The correct variety is in fact Penn G-2, which is also currently in use on Pinehurst's #1, #5 and #8 courses.

Also, in the LM 100 article, Environmental Industries, Inc., Calabasas, CA, reported 1997 revenues of \$351 million, 17% more than 1996. 1998 anticipated growth is about 21% with sales of about \$425 million.

We regret any confusion this may have caused.

[CLIPPINGS]