

LandCare USA, Inc. focuses on SE, Calif.

Houston, TX— LandCare USA recently closed more transactions, and shows no signs of slowing down in its march to be a national landscape/tree service provider.

In early September, the Houston-based company, took another step toward that goal by acquiring:

Greentree Incorporated of Georgia, Atlanta, founded by Steve Champ in 1970. It provides primarily landscape maintenance services to multi-family, multi-location customers. Greentree has 12 locations across the Southeast, from Jacksonville to Memphis and Nashville.

Arteka Southeast Corporation, Atlanta, founded by David Luse and Karen Corcoran in 1997. Its operations will be combined with Greentree.

Pacific Environmental Landscape Maintenance, Inc., Lake Forest, CA, established in 1972, a provider of landscape maintenance services primarily to homeowners' associations.

Redwood Landscaping Company,

Santa Rosa, CA, founded in 1972. Under the leadership of Lebo Newman it performs services primarily for commercial customers.

Since going public on June 4, 1998, LandCare USA has closed transactions or entered into letters of intent to acquire landscape services companies with combined revenues of about \$150 million. Combined with earlier mergers they push the company's projected 1998 revenues to \$275 million..

"With these additions, LandCare USA now services approximately 53 percent of the top 40, and 65 percent of the top 20 commercial real estate areas in the United States with particular concentrations in California, Texas and the Southeast," said Bill Murdy, chairman and CEO.

LandCare USA now provides comprehensive landscape and tree services from over 60 locations: 19 in the western region, including northern and southern CA and AZ; 16 locations in the central region, including TX, IL and, MN; 26 locations in the eastern region, in AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, and TN.



David and Julie Luse make a statement on the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Luse, Arteka Corporation, Eden Prairie, MN, is one of the seven founding members of LandCare USA.

Swingle promotes Dickson, Tolkacz

DENVER, CO— Swingle Tree Company announced that Tom Tolkacz has been appointed company president and Dave Dickson to chairman. Previously Tolkacz was vice president and Dickson was president of the company.

Dickson has been with Swingle since 1967 and became its president in 1988. Tolkacz joined Swingle 11 years ago and has run the company operations for the past five years.

Swingle Tree was started over 50 years ago and provides landscape and arbor services throughout the Denver metro area.

Michigan environmental program starts strong

Lansing, MI— Michigan's Environmental Stewardship Program is off to a strong start. Introduced this past spring, it already had about 30 participating golf courses by early fall. Sometime in the future, grounds facilities will be included in the program.

"The program is designed to augment the Audubon (Cooperative Sanctuary) Program and is focused in two areas—pollution prevention and environmental enhancements," Michigan State University turfgrass expert Greg Lyman told LM. "The pollution prevention section is the area we are leading with; it's unique, partnering the industry with MSU and state agencies to collaborate on managing potential point sources of pollution on golf courses.

"The environmental enhancement section is one that we will develop this fall," he added. "Anyone involved in the Audubon program will be way ahead of the curve here."

State agencies are also enthusiastic about the partnership with MSU and industry. "At one time, golf courses and turfgrass managers were seen as part of the problem. Now they're seen as part of the solution," said Keith Creagh, with the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

To learn more about the Michigan Environmental Stewardship Program, contact: Debra Spakoff Swartz at (517) 353-3208 (e-mail: swartzdJ@pilot.msu.edu) or Greg Lyman at 517/353-0860 (e-mail: lyman@msue.msu.edu).