

# Grab Bag

## Pond Guy scores big frequent flier miles

Greg Wittstock, who describes himself as "The Pond Guy," might be the ultimate road warrior.

Wittstock, founder and president of Aquascape Designs, West Chicago, IL, started a 3-month, 57-city tour earlier this month to help contractors and retailers install and sell water gardens and related water features. Wittstock will be offering a day-long seminar entitled "Growing Your Water Feature Business Seminars" at each of the stops.

Greg says he will personally conduct each seminar. His travels began Jan. 4 in Pittsburgh and conclude March 31 in

Chatham, Ontario, Canada. To find out when the water feature road show will be in your neighborhood, call Aquascape at 800/306-6227 or 630/231-3113. To learn more about the company, visit its website at [www.aquasapedesigns.com](http://www.aquasapedesigns.com)

## Commercial mowers to take slight dip

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) forecasts a slight drop in shipments of commercial riding mowers and intermediate walk-behind mowers in 1999. For the 1999 season (units shipped from Sept. 1, 1998 through August 31, 1999), the OPEI says riders will decrease .3% to 64,933 units and intermediate walk-behinds will drop 3.2% to 48,116 units.

The forecast isn't considered gloomy for several reasons. First, shipments for model year 1998 were robust—97,400 commercial walk behind units and 65,100 commercial riding units. Also, the OPEI expects a small upturn in shipments of commercial mowers again in the year 2000 with riders expected to rise by about 5% and walk-behind mowers by about 1%.

The OPEI Commercial Turf Forecast is prepared quarterly by Association Research, Inc.

## Ruppert honored

Ruppert Company, now a part of TruGreen/ChemLawn, received a 1998 President's Service Award in October, for its annual field days, working with the District of Columbia to renovate neighborhood parks and recreation areas. The award was established in 1982 to honor outstanding individuals, groups, businesses and/or organizations for their volunteer initiatives in addressing unmet human service, educational, environmental and public safety needs.



## Wonderful winter wildflowers?

Plant breeders are doing marvelous things, but they haven't yet perfected growing wildflowers like this in the dead of winter, at least not in Ohio where we write and edit *Landscape Management*. This photograph of wildflower trials in Rolesville, NC, was taken in June at a Turf-Seed, Inc. Field Day. This coming June 15 the company is again planning its Field Day in Rolesville.

## Hollywood Impressions

"A Walking Tour Through History" is a one day course, Saturday, February 8, featuring visits to historical landmarks, old groves and hidden gardens. Landscape architect, Rhett Beavers, will lead the tour which examines the remnants of mythic Hollywood. For information contact UCLS Extension Landscape Architecture Program at 310/825-9414.

Grab Bag features brief observations and prognostications throughout the green industry. If you have an unusual photo or comment you'd like to share with us, please send it in...