



# MAILBOX

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deductible donations and long-term pledges from individuals, corporations, organizations, and estates. Since its inception in 1998, the PLANET AEF, formerly the ALCA Educational Foundation, has given almost \$600,000 in scholarships and awards to 585 students. The Foundation's assets total more than \$2 million.

Last March, the PLANET AEF board set an aggressive goal of raising the fund balance from \$2 million to \$5 million over the course of the next five years. This ambitious goal is being called the 5-by-5 (\$5 million in 5 years) Plan.

Roger Phelps, Landscape Industry Certified Manager, of Stihl Inc., states, "As a founding sponsor of the PLANET AEF fund, Stihl believes that to ensure the future growth and success of the Green Industry, it is necessary to invest in our students."

## A shade on solar energy?

After reading the latest addition of *Landscape Management* I feel compelled to offer another insight with regard to Renewable Energy. I think all of the green initiatives highlighted are praiseworthy. I applaud the foresight of those who made them a reality. I cannot see one thing wrong with an organization improving its image in the community in which it does business by taking a proactive step in resource conservation.



Where the train comes off the tracks for me is that by "bellying up to the government trough" for financial assistance to justify the ROI of private green initiatives, those responsible are unwittingly enabling the government bureaucracy at all levels to continue the status quo. The industry cannot honestly complain about invasive and counterproductive H-2B and EPA mandates, while simultaneously asking these same agencies for handouts. I contend

that if the industry wants to garner more control over our collective destiny, we need to wean ourselves of government largess. The government only has the power we give it.

— **Don Crawford**, Operations Manager, Hoy Landscaping Inc., Melrose Park, IL



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