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NEWS+VIEWS

continued from page 10

look and act like recent college graduates.

Full of energy, passion and life, the dynamic duo shared with PLANET members their secrets to staying fit, reducing stress, and striking and maintaining the ever-delicate family-work balance — all keys to better harvesting the fun and fruits offered daily by our increasingly intertwined work and home lives.

Wellness — being physically fit and mentally and emotionally well — is America's largely untapped productivity booster, Banks said.

"How's your physical stamina?" Banks asked attendees. "We don't just want to be able to finish each day. We need to start strong, stay strong and finish strong.

"Make no mistake: Wellness and balance are directly tied to the bottom line, but because they're among the many business intangibles, they all too often get ignored," Banks added.

Attendees were "Amen"ing their way through Banks' keynote, but shortly afterward many of us rolled over on our renewed commitment to wellness. The ice cream bar at the welcome reception called our names. Strike that. Its sirens — M&M's, Snickers and other candy mix-ins — sang to our hearts.

"Quite a few of you had wheelbarrows full of ice cream and candy toppings last night. I think you got workouts just

Scott Smith

carrying your bowls," Banks joked on the second day of the Executive Forum. "I'm right with you. I denied I would get ice cream three times, but I just couldn't pass it up, either," Banks admitted. "I believe in being good



☆ Break-out discussions on wellness/fitness, stress management and family-work balance revealed as many solutions as they did issues. ≫ PLANET President Jason Cupp eagerly plays the part of our Stone Age counterparts – cave men who thousands of years ago had many more "acceptable" ways to let off steam.

90% of the time. I exercise a little more to offset the 10% of times I stray a little in my food choices. I walked off that wonderful ice cream after the reception."

Stress less, move more

Banks urged attendees to create their own Richter Magnitude Scales to weigh seemingly stressful situations.

"When something upsets you, give it a number from 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest stress level. Then give it the energy it deserves.

"A 10 is you receive a call from the hospital concerning a loved one and they say, 'We need you to come in right now.' Everything else is a 9 or below."

Smith added that uncontrolled stress can cost you up to 46% more in healthcare costs — for you and each of your stressed-out employees.

"Who weighs 250 lbs. or more?" Smith asked attendees. One attendee with more courage than me (and a few of my portly industry brothers) stood up.

"I was your weight just a few years ago," Smith told the attendee. "I've since lost 85 lbs. and a world of stress. It's as simple as 'Stand up. Take a step. Repeat.""

Life balance

When Chris Joyce, president of Marstons Mills, MA-based Joyce Landscaping started his business, and for several years following, he pursued very few non-work related activities.

"For many years, I did nothing but work," said Joyce, noting he really appreciated the PLANET Executive Forum's focus on wellness and balance this year. "But I got older, got married and became the father of four children," Joyce added. "Work no longer is the most

important thing in my life. Family is." Joyce said most in this industry are very passionate about what they do, so working most of the time comes easy to



many — too easy, perhaps. "The need for me to spend more time with my family has made me a better business person," Joyce noted. "When I realized

I could not be there to manage the business 24/7, it made me realize I work with a great team of people empowered by great systems."

Believe it or not, the company still runs when Joyce isn't there. In fact, he admitted sometimes, in some areas, it runs better when he's away or hands-off.

"When I realized this, and learned how to balance a great career with an enriching, full family life, it made for much healthier and enjoyable living," Joyce said. "It also gave my co-workers the opportunity to take on more responsibilities and more fully develop, both professionally and personally."

WEB EXTRA

Visit www.landscapemanagement.net for consultant Bill Arman's advice to Executive Forum attendees on how to harvest their organizations' potentials.



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NEWS+VIEWS BELIEVE IT OR NOT ...

Armed robbery ... with tree debris?

Michael Reed, 50, was charged with attempted robbery of Eddie's Fried Chicken in Fort Worth, Texas, in December 2008. Armed only with a tree branch, Reed was quickly neutralized by a 56-year-old employee who grabbed a broom and the men proceeded to duel until Reed dropped his branch, fled, and was arrested nearby shortly thereafter.



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CLIPPINGS

Investigating the effects of graywater

FORT COLLINS, CO - Sybil Sharvelle and Larry Roesner, professors with the Urban Water Center in Colorado State's College of Engineering, are in the first year of a threeyear \$370,000 graywater study awarded by the Water Environment Research Foundation to investigate the effects of using household graywater for residential landscape irrigation. They are sampling soil, plants and water at homes with graywater systems in California, Arizona, Texas and Colorado.

Reinvestment nurtures Natural Way's growth

LAKE ORION, MI — Natural Way Lawn and Tree Care, a landscaping services company, has made the Inc. 5000 List for the country's fastest growing businesses. This 46-employee company was founded in 1991, and has been growing ever since, realizing nearly 85% growth within the past three years. The business sprays trees and fertilizes lawns of single-family homes in and around Detroit.

OPEI pushes for E15 delay

ALEXANDRIA, VA - The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) has serious concerns with a premature rush to 15% ethanol (E15) and other mid-level fuel blends as being suggested by pro-ethanol producers. Without a formal waiver process through the **Environmental Protection** Agency (EPA) and with a continued misinterpretation of test results from a Department of Energy (DOE) report, introducing E15 and higher fuels to the marketplace for existing equipment pose risks to consumers and businesses. OPEI will be submitting a letter to the EPA and DOE urging both agencies to use the existing formal waiver process.

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MYBIGGESTMISTAKE

LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY >> BY DANIEL G. JACOBS



NAME/COMPANY: Matt Kisseberth, owner, Kisseberth Grounds Care

EMPLOYEES: 1 full-time,

2 part-time

FOUNDED: 2002

HEADQUARTERS: Findlay, OH

The wrong tools and shortcuts put this contractor in the hospital — and could have cost him his life.

SOME MISTAKES CAN cost you a customer; others might cost a life.

Matt Kisseberth was doing a friend a favor. It was 2002, his first year in business.

"We had a drought that year and times were rough," says Kisseberth, whose company offers year-round grounds care, and snow and ice removal. "I was doing everything I could find that paid a little money."

Kisseberth agreed to pull out a pair of 4x4 posts deeply embedded in the ground at a property he managed. He tied one end of a rope to his truck and the other to the first of the posts. It came out cleanly, with little resistance.

The second post was more stubborn.

"It was in the ground closer to the concrete, and didn't want to come out when I tugged on it," Kisseberth says. "I backed up and (stepped) on the gas."

The approach worked — a little too well. The second post came flying over the truck's tailgate, through the rear window and struck Kisseberth's forearm and the headrest. "Lucky for me, the head-

rest was enough to stop it," he says. "I broke both bones in my right forearm and had to have surgery. I have a steel plate and eight screws in my arm."

Needless to say, Kisseberth makes sure he brings the right tools for the job, and no longer cuts corners. As he says, "It doesn't pay well, being in a hospital bed from your own stupidity."

To share your biggest mistake, contact Dan Jacobs at djacobs@ questex.com.

LM's Marketing Matters Consulting Club



Harvey Goldglantz, author of "Marketing Matters: The Ultimate Reference Guide to Making the Most of Your Marketing Money," has spent the past three decades helping hundreds of small businesses just like yours — lawn care, landscape and pest management companies — maximize their marketing investments and turn shoestring budgets into turbocharged generators of new, profitable, recurring business.

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ZERO IN ON HIGH GROWTH, HIGH PROFITS, & NEW CUSTOMERS



What separates highly profitable companies from their less profitable competitors? The answer is simple, it's All Pro Industries.

Many contractors have found that the addition of synthetic golf greens and synthetic lawns to their product mix is the key to market differentiation, thus generating higher revenues and profits all year round. By offering a desirable product that your competition doesn't, you set yourself apart and maximize profits.

Also, installing and selling synthetic golf greens and lawns often generates additional landscape work. More often than not, customers want a distinctive landscape design tailored around their new synthetic turf installation. Water features, retaining walls, patios, lighting and landscaping are added to enhance the client's yard.

This magazine discusses several ways to EXPLODE your synthetic turf business. By using a combination of strategies and tactics we have developed like the "90 Days No Payments", "Build A Green Day", "19th Hole Mixer", and others, we help you to eliminate cash flow problems and be successful at this business. Best of all, it's a simple, easy add-on service that can generate HIGH GROWTH, HIGH PROFITS, and NEW CUSTOMERS on a consistent year round basis.



Sincerely, Chris Heptinstall President, All Pro Industries

OUR PHILOSPHY IS SIMPLE: WE ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL UNTIL YOU'RE SUCCESSFUL FIRST

THE SYNTHETIC TURF MAGAZINE FOR LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS

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ORE

In IARS

90 BATS NO

THE COVER:

A putting green with stacked stone relaining wall and a impressive water feature was installed by Campbell Ferrarar In Alexander, Virginia. A synthetic lawn with an Innovative waterwise landscape installed by Tee Time Greens in Sparka, Nevada

CASH FLOW PROBLEMS ELIMINATED

INDUSTRIES, INC.

Reading this Magazine can Generate......

- Two NEW Profit Centers 50%+
- Two NEW Revenue Streams
- Two NEW Customer Bases
- 90 DAYS NO Payments & Interest
- Utilizing Existing Equipment & Employees
- A Simple & Easy Add-On Service
- Year Round Installations

SODAYS No Payments No Interest We FUND Your Installs

Eliminate Cash Flow Problems and own a very profitable business

> We will help fund the "Cost" of your installations

Drive your profit margin through the roof with more clients

Catch the attention of browsers and turn them into buyers

All Pro Industries has developed a new way to make owning a synthetic lawn and golf green business very simple, easy, and profitable. Contractors will enjoy our 90 days No Payments & Interest Program

Contractors are approved quickly and get the funding to get the job done. There is no need to pay up front for the synthetic turf and you get the money you need to cover the cost of the installation Give clients the freedom to design the Lawnscape or Golfscape of their dreams without the pressure of having to cover the cost of the installation upfront. All Contractors want choices when it comes to Cash Flow.

The 90 days No Payments and Interest program is a smart option where you can purchase today and take up to 90 days to pay for it. This concept is simple to understand because people are using this type of program with appliances, electronics, and furniture. The difference is you are the contractor with the financial backing to get the job done.

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NO Interest

NO Payments

NO Cash Flow Problems