

# INDUSTRY HAPPENINGS

## Green Industry Makes Noise of its Own

More than 300 landscapers and lawn-care workers marched to the White Plains, NY, City Hall recently to protest that city's unfulfilled promise to meet with them regarding a proposed ban on leaf blowers.

The local landscapers marched in a peaceful protest, each wearing green-ribbon armbands and holding signs displaying their dissatisfaction with the city's lack of action in light of increasing bans and restrictions on a vital piece of equipment.

"Public officials don't understand," said Joe Tinelli, owner of Tinelli Landscape Contracting in Yonkers, NY. "[Bans and restrictions] are killing our business." Landscapers from as far away as Long Island joined the protest.

White Plains is just one of several communities throughout the country that has enacted laws banning or severely restricting leaf blowers during certain times of the year.

"We're willing to work with the communities," said Michael Bellatoni, president of the New York Turf and Landscape Association. "But in many cases, we are totally ignored."

A small group of industry professionals met briefly with the mayor of White Plains, who promised them more involvement. "Obviously, we don't want to put the industry out of business," Mayor Sy Schulman said. "But we have some people who want the death penalty for leaf blowers."

## Green School Offered

Green School is a comprehensive training program sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System. It is designed to provide training in horticultural fundamentals and the relationship of those fundamentals to environmental quality.

The 60-hour training program is designed to benefit turf managers, grounds managers, landscapers, golf

course personnel, arborists and urban forestry volunteers.

Classes begin Jan. 5, 1995, at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA, and meet approximately once a week through March. The fee is \$350 payable upon registration on or before Dec. 1, 1994. For more information, call Kathleen Carroll at (413) 545-0895 or Mary Owen at (508) 892-0382.

## Midwinter Conference in Florida

The Turfgrass Producers International Midwinter Conference and Exposition is scheduled for Feb. 8-10 at the Hilton Hotel in Walt Disney World Village in Orlando, FL.

The theme for the 27th annual event is "2020 — A Vision of the Future." More than 700 turfgrass sod industry professionals from all over the world will attend the conference, which will focus on the industry's next 25 years.

The three-day event is packed with seminars, round-table discussions and the trade show. For more information, call (708) 9898 or (800) 405-TURF.

## Electronic Weather Station Installed

Thanks to contributions by individuals, suppliers and golf clubs, a \$7,000 electronic weather station was recently installed at the Georgia Turfgrass Foundation Trust's research green.

The weather station is part of a statewide automated environmental monitoring network developed by University of Georgia assistant professor Gerrit Hoogenboom, Ph.D., with the objective of collecting reliable weather variables for agriculture, environmental research and related applications. The station will measure air temperature, relative humidity, rainfall, solar radiation, wind speed and direction, and soil temperature at several intervals. A microprocessor stores the readings and downloads the data each day via modem to a central processing station in Griffin.

For more information, or to make a donation, contact Douglas Moody, executive director, at (404) 975-4123.

## Personnel Changes at Jacobsen



Harold Pinto



Ralph Nicotera

The Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc. recently announced a realignment of the company's sales and marketing departments.

Sales and marketing were combined under the direction of Harold Pinto, vice president of sales and marketing. Pinto has an extensive sales and marketing background in addition to a law degree from the Federal University of Parana, Brazil, and an MBA from Escola Superior de Negocios, Brazil.

Ralph Nicotera, director of North American Sales, is responsible for product sales to golf and non-golf markets through Jacobsen dealers and company-owned retail outlets in North America. He is a 20-year veteran of the company.

## Inland Northwest Turf Show Set

The Inland Northwest Turf and Landscape Trade Show is set for Jan. 26, 1995, in Spokane, WA.

Sponsored by the Inland Empire Association of Golf Course Superintendents, the eighth annual show is showcasing the products of 40 companies. Groundskeepers and grounds crew personnel are invited to attend. The show will be at the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call Julie Boyce, (509) 535-8305.