

# Happenings

## TOCA Announces Award Program

The Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) announces its Environmental Communicator of the Year Award program. Sponsored by Terra Industries of Sioux City, Iowa, the award will be given annually to an active green industry member for outstanding efforts in communicating the benefits of environmental stewardship to a particular audience within the turf and ornamental industry.

The award will be open to anyone in the green industry, and the first honor will be presented at the 10th annual TOCA meeting in Orlando in 1999. Nominations must be made by a current TOCA member. A \$500 cash stipend will be presented to the winner.

## Lesco Announces Trailer Giveaway

Lesco and Wells Cargo announced recently that they are giving professionals in the turf care industry a chance to win one of two enclosed trailers this spring. To see rules and register to win, visit a Lesco Service Center or Lesco Store-on-Wheels. To register by mail, send a 3- x 5-in card with your name, primary business name, position, address, and day and evening phone numbers to: Lesco Wells Cargo Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 22140, Cleveland, OH 44122.

In addition to the trailers, 109 prizes will be given away as part of the program. The contest ends on April 15, 1998, and winners will be drawn by May 15, 1998.

## Penn State Grass Seed Will Travel Through Space

At the suggestion of four students from Penn State's New Kensington campus, Dr. James Pawelczyk, the University's first faculty astronaut, will carry Penn State grass seed and a commemorative flag with him when he blasts off in Space Shuttle Columbia on April 2. After the flight, the seeds will be planted, and one sq.ft. of the resultant "space grass" turf will be installed at each of the 24 campuses in the Penn State system.

Dr. David R. Huff, assistant professor of turfgrass and genetics at the University Park campus, selected experimental lines of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial rye grass that were developed at Penn State for the flight. Genetically identical seeds will be kept on Earth to be compared with the space-flown seeds, and experts will look for any mutations that could have resulted from the flight. This will be the first experiment of its kind.

## STMA Elects 1998 Board and Officers

The Sports Turf Managers Association elected its 1998 officers and board of directors at its 9th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Orlando, Florida, on January 17.

Mike Schiller passed the president's gavel to Stephen Guise of Valley Crest in San Fernando, California. Mike will assume the position of Past President for 1998. President Elect Rich Moffitt will succeed President Guise at the end of his term.

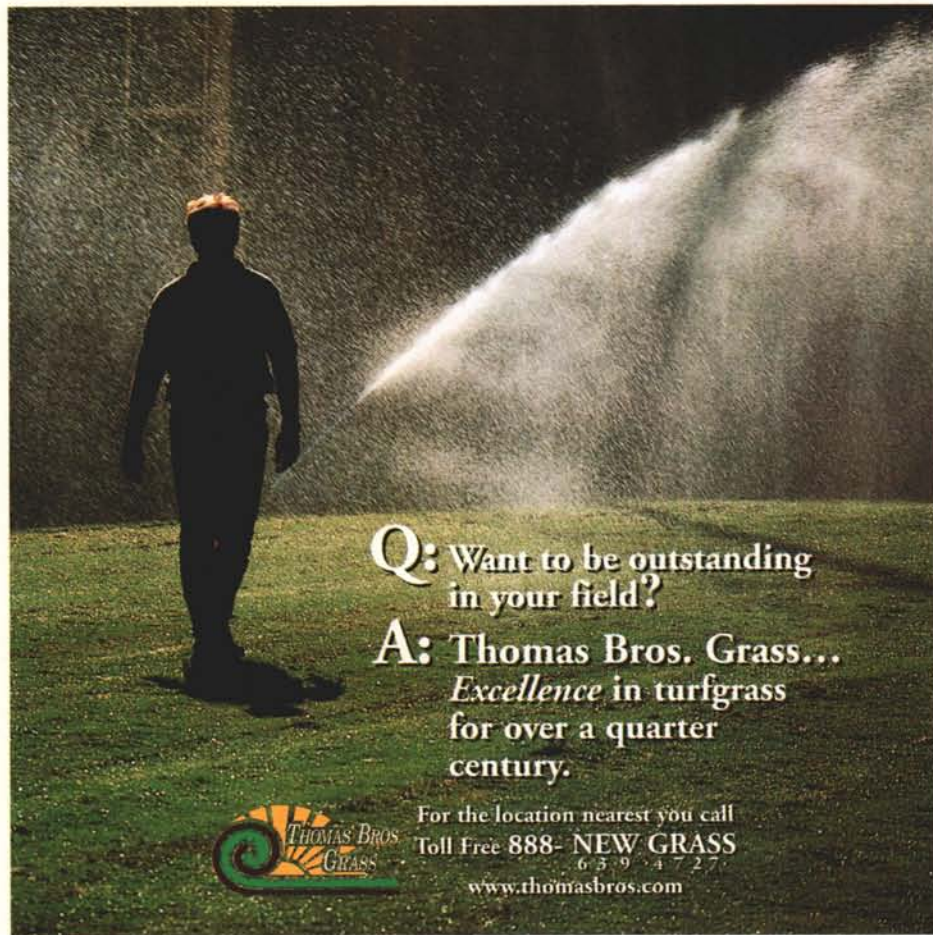
The following round out STMA's list of new officers:

Commercial V. P.: Bob Curry  
Secretary: L. Murray Cook  
Treasurer: Bob Patt

The following will serve two year terms on the board of directors:

College and University Facilities: Bob Campbell  
Parks and Rec. Facilities: Tim Moore  
Commercial: Lynda Wightman

Tom Burns will serve a one term in Professional Facility Manager, and Mary Owen will finish out the second year of her Research/Teaching position.



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