



**Colorado Association
Of Lawn Care Professionals**

News

July, 2011

Two CALCP reps make trip to DC

Rick Roehm and Eric Moroski will represent CALCP at the national PLANET Legislative Day-on-the-Hill July 24 to 26. Each year CALCP tries to send two representatives to participate in the Arlington Cemetery Renewal and Remembrance activity and their annual Legislative Day-on-the-Hill event. Appointments have been set to meet with State Senators and at least two members of Congress. The team is briefed on what important national issues are being lobbied and provided with talking points that represent the views of the industry. There is nothing stronger than a constituent sitting across the desk from an elected official explaining to him how pending legislation effects our small businesses and industry.

Photos and a report of the trip will be in the Sept. issue of the CALCP newsletter.

President's Message

Deb Zediker

I hope everyone is having a great season so far. It seems as if we haven't even gotten to June yet, but as I am writing this, the 4th of July is nearly upon us.

Over the course of the last week, there has been some happenings with the Denver Public Schools. As you may or may not know, a group of parents from Edison Elementary School have started an online petition to either stop pesticide applications, and/or find organic alternative products for use on the school grounds. They were targeting the use of 2,4-D on their playground specifically. Many of you saw the report or read it in the Denver Post. As of Monday June 27th, they had over 900 signatures. That could have some serious trickle down effects for our industry. If you have been in the industry for a few years, you may know that this isn't the first time 2,4-D use has been targeted for it's safety. I know over the years many improvements have been done to reduce the use of pesticides in our environment, but we also know the value of our plant material and especially the value of a thistle-free softball field, or even a path thru a park that isn't filled with goatheads waiting to flatten my bike tires.

A public comment meeting was held at the DPS School boardroom and with the hard work of Kelly Gouge, Swingle Lawn, Tree & Landscape Co., and Kristen Fefes, Exec. Director for ALCC, they put together a comment from our industry as a whole. Kristen spoke on behalf of CALCP, Greenco, and ALCC. We would like to thank them for their hard work. I attended the meeting in support of Kristen and Kelly along with representatives from Tru-Green and Swingle. It was a long, but very educational meeting, all school related. Anyone with children should know who their school board members are and be familiar with their procedures. The school board members were very attentive listening to both sides over this issue.

I think we all know the importance of your technician training, that is why we hold the annual Spring Training Conference. We are professionals in our field, we are licensed by the Department of Ag, all our products are regulated and we use the BMP's for our industry. We as an industry are here to help DPS make an informed and educated choice in products used on their grounds. Please pass that same information and education on to your customers, let them know about other choices of products and the cost differences. If you see someone spraying illegally, contact the Dept. of Ag. and be sure you are doing your posting properly. More about this issue will come later. Everyone have a safe and prosperous summer.

CSU Short Course July 15

The early bird registration fee of only \$55.00 for the CSU-GreenCO Short Course to be held on July 15 at the CSU Campus has been extended til July 6. The registration form is available on the CALCP website at <http://www.lawncarecolorado.org/EducationalPrograms.html>
Several classes offer CEU credits from Colorado Dept. of Ag and from the ISA national organization.

Fax your registration form with credit card info to 303 220-5833 or mail it with your check payment to 6456 S. Niagara Ct., Centennial, Co 80111. Hurry—these classes are advanced courses offered only to the Green Industry, Master Gardeners and Native Plant Masters.

2010-2011

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Deb Zediker President
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(303) 229-5102 Fax: (303) 750-6319

Thia Walker Educ. Rep
CSU Bio Ag Sciences
(970) 491-6027 Fax: (970) 491-3888

Donna Ralston CALCP Office
(303) 850-7587 Fax (303) 220-5833
donna@mngmntplus.com
6456 S. Niagara Ct., Centennial, 80111

Spring Training Conference planning

The planning session for our classes, speakers and topics to be presented at the 24th Annual Spring Training Conference will be following the board meeting on Thursday, July 21 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Stockyard Saloon, 4710 National Western Dr., in Denver. If you have ideas of classes for CEU credits that you have trouble getting please let us know. We would also love to hear about other speakers that do a good presentation that apply to operating your business, technical expertise, new products available or build on teamwork or morale boosters. Call the office to **share an idea** or talk with one of the board members. Our 24th STC will be held at the same location as the past 2 years on March 6 & 7, 2012 at the Ramada Plaza Inn at 120th Ave. and I-25.

Joint Field Day Canceled

The Joint CWMA & CALCP Field Day event scheduled for Sept. 8 at Chatfield has been canceled for 2011. This event has been successfully planned and promoted to both organizations for the past 4 years and may return at some point in the future.

Cranshaw's Son Killed

We offer our industry condolences to Whitney Cranshaw whose son was killed in May. The following news release was posted.

ALBION, Ark. (AP) — A Colorado man bicycling across the country with three friends has been killed in an accident in Arkansas. The Arkansas State Police say 23-year-old William Cranshaw of Ft. Collins died Monday afternoon May 16, 2011 when he was hit by a car on Arkansas 16 near Albion. The small town is about 60 miles north of Little Rock. Cranshaw's father — Whitney Cranshaw of Fort Collins — told The Daily Citizen in Searcy that his son was riding with friends from college and were about halfway through their trip. He said they were planning to stop next in Memphis, Tenn. Cranshaw said the group left Irvine, Calif., about a month ago and were heading to the Carolinas before turning north.

CALCP Hat

This hat is available from the CALCP office for you to purchase. Please send your designated donation and the shipping and handling fee \$4.95 (your donation plus \$4.95). All contributions for this hat will go toward our efforts at Riverside Cemetery to revitalize the landscape there. Thanks for your support.



Legislative Report

R J Hicks, GreenCO Lobbyist

The 2011 legislative session ended May 12 and the summary of all bills considered is attached to this newsletter. Please review it at your leisure. Here is a summary from R J Hicks, the GreenCO Lobbyist, of the most important bills that effect small businesses in the green industry.

As the GreenCO lobbying firm, I would like to provide to CALCP members a short report on the 2011 Legislative Session here in Colorado. 2011 while yet another challenging year economically for Colorado businesses, was a better year legislatively. With a split General Assembly, House is now Republican controlled while the Senate is Democratically controlled; business interests fared much better in 2011 than the past several sessions. We saw another year where the state budget was projected to be about one billion dollars short in fiscal year 2011/12. With a new Governor, John Hickenlooper, and split General Assembly, there were many projections of a long battle to balance the state's budget. With improving March revenue forecast for Colorado, the actual shortfall amounted to about 520 million and the Governor worked with both parties to draft a budget that proved to be a successful compromise.

On the business front, we saw several encouraging signs from the 2011 session to include the restoration of several tax exemptions, restoration of the vendor sales tax fee for businesses and the defeat of various bad business bills. The list below showcases the top bills of interest for GreenCO and it was indicative of the friendlier business

atmosphere in the 2011 session.

Bills of Interest:

HB-1105: This bill restored the tax exemption for materials and products used in agricultural production. This bill alone can save CALCP members thousands of tax dollars in coming years. GreenCO supported this bill and it passed and is in effect.

HB-1093: This bill provided relief for SMM equipment owners. The bill called for an administrative penalty for failure to register SMM equipment in Colorado of \$500 or twice the Specific Ownership tax whichever is less. The law before the bill was \$500 or twice the SOT or whichever was greater. Many CALCP members may see late fees reduced due late registration of this SMM equipment. GreenCO supported this bill and it passed.

HB-1115: This bill called for changes in public construction contracts dealing with retainage. The bill calls for a cap of 5% retainage in public contracts and sets criteria for the release of those retainage funds. GreenCO supported the bill and it passed.

HB-1288: This bill dealt with Colorado's Unemployment Insurance Fund. The bill calls for a better rate adjustment process to deal with severe shortfalls in the UI fund now being experienced in Colorado. The bill also calls for better oversight of overpayments and fraud in claims submitted or paid. With major rate increases we saw in the UI fund last fall, this bill will help even out the rate issues and hopefully put more employer money back into the fund thru better administration. GreenCO supported the bill and it passed.

SB-200: This bill created a competitive health care exchange for Colorado. This health insurance exchange will allow competition and avoids a DC solution for health management in Colorado. The bill will also help to reduce the difference in the small group-large group policy rates in the future. GreenCO supported the bill and it passed.

There were numerous bad bills killed this session that would have resulted in higher employer liability costs, higher fees and more regulation. Overall, the 2011 session provided business wins it needs to keep Colorado working and moving forward out of these tough economic times. You can see from just this short list, the impacts to CALCP members will be positive. We need several more sessions like 2011 to provide businesses in Colorado the relief from taxes/fees and expanding governmental oversight that will enable business to do what it does best, compete and succeed.

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Calendar of Events

July 15-CSU Short Course classes at CSU Campus. Call 970 491-7684.

July 21-CALCP Board of Directors meeting at Stockyard Saloon Restaurant. Call 303 850-7587.

July 24-26-PLANET Legislative Day on the Hill in Washington DC. Call 800 395-2522.

~~**Sept. 8**-CALCP Field Day outdoor educational event at Chatfield Arboretum has been **CANCELLED**. Call 303 850-7587.~~

Sept. 14-GreenCO Foundation Casino night at Colorado Hardscapes, 8085 E. Harvard, Denver. Call 303 850-7587.

Sept. 15-Snow & Ice Management Seminars Series in Denver . Call 303 523-5373.

Oct. 12 & 13-Landscape Expo in Long Beach, CA Call 714-979-5276 X118.

Dec. 6-8-58th RMRTA Turf Show at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Denver. Call 303 770-2220.

Data Toolbox Printed

The most useful guide to information needed daily in the Green Industries is now all available in one tabbed manual with 12 sections. The NEW book is being edited/produced by Donald H. Godi, FASLA, RCA#444 and Zachary Johnson, RLA, CLP, CLT with GreenCO Foundation as the sole distributor. The prototype was available at ProGreen Expo for viewing and is now available in print form. Cost is \$39.95 plus shipping & handling and tax. You may order it online at <http://greencofoundation.org/gidt.asp>

The 12 sections include Calculations & Conversions, Soils, Irrigation & Hydrology, Site Inventory & Analysis, Electrical Systems, Construction, Arboriculture, Planting & Nursery, Masonry & Concrete, Site Planning & Design, Lumber & Timber, and Appendices.

This 5 1/2 X 8 1/2 tabbed book should prove to be a valuable resource for years to come for students, designers, consultants & contractors. Order your copy today by calling 303 850-7587.

Green Industries Data Toolbox



A Comprehensive Guide to Useful Information

Chuckles

Worry is today's mouse eating tomorrow's cheese.

When a pessimist has nothing to worry about, he worries about why he has nothing to worry about.

Most of our worries are reruns.

Of all our troubles, great or small, the greatest are those that don't happen at all.

Trouble knocked on the door, heard a laugh and turned away.

Nothing lasts forever, not even your troubles.

You don't get an ulcer from what you eat, you get an ulcer from what is eating you.