

On the Grow

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The Year of the Voter

by Mona Bond, Executive Director, Iowa Alliance of Environmental Concerns

The 2010 elections will go down in history as the year of the voter. With a record 1.1 million of Iowa's registered voters going to the polls in an off presidential election year, the state now has a Republican governor and the Iowa House turned over its leadership to the Republicans (60-40). What was commonly acknowledged as a turn-over proof Democratic Senate, remains in Democratic control by a very narrow margin (26-24).

Republicans have met and elected their leadership for the 84th General Assembly with Kraig Paulsen named as Speaker of the House and Linda Upmeyer named Majority Leader. On the Senate side Paul McKinley retained his Minority Leader title. Senate Democrats named Mike Gronstal again as their leader with Jack Kibbie as the president. House Democrats named Kevin McCarthy as the minority leader.

Iowa does not need term limits. With 100 seats up for election in the Iowa House last week and 25 in the Senate, Iowa voters made their changes.

In the anticipated competitive races upsets included Warren County's Senator Stacey Appel who was bested by Republican Representative Kent Sorenson. Former Representative Bill Dix defeated Democrat Senator Bill Heckroth in the Waverly-Shell Rock area. Former Representative and Senator Sandy Greiner ousted Democrat Becky Schmitz, Fairfield, a first time incumbent.

But more of a surprise included the following upsets. Senator Rich Olive, a moderate Democrat was defeated by newcomer Rob Bacon in Story County. Republican Mark Chelgren from Ottumwa, who was a long shot coming into the race bested Senator Keith Kreiman and a long held open Democratic seat in Sioux City went to Republican Rick Bertrand.

Retaining the Democratic seat in the Clinton area is Tod Bowman which was held by Senator Roger Stewart. The one open Republican held seat was retained by Roby Smith in the Eastern Davenport area. Democrats retained Senator Amada Ragan in Mason City, Senator

Herman Quirmback in Ames and Senator Daryl Beall in Fort Dodge.

There will be 29 new freshman legislators on January 10th take the oath of office. Of those 22 will be Republican and 7 Democrats.

Newly elected Democrats include Ruth Ann Gaines of Des Moines (formerly held by Ford), Chris Hall of Sioux City (formerly held by Wendt), John Wittneben of Estherville (formerly held by Frevert), Mary Wolfe of Clinton (formerly held by Butka), Dan Kelley of Newton (formerly held by Bell), Dan Muhlbauer of Manilla (formerly held by Republican Rod Roberts), and Anesa Kajtazovic of Waterloo (formerly held by Democrat Burt).

House Republicans taking the oath of office for the first time include Jeremy Taylor of Sioux City (formerly held by Democrat Whitehead), Jeff Smith of Okoboji (formerly held by Republican May), Tom Shaw of Laurens (formerly held by Democrat Mertz), Stewart Iverson of Clarion (formerly held by Democrat Bailey), Josh Byrnes of Osage (formerly held by Democrat Kuhn), Bob Hager of Dorchester (formerly held by Democrat Beard), Walt Rogers of Cedar Falls (formerly held by Democrat Kelley), Dan Rasmussen of Independence (formerly held by Democrat Ficken), Brian Moore of Zwingle (formerly held by Democrat Schueller), Lee Hein of Monticello (formerly held by Democrat Zirkelbach), Kim Pearson of Pleasant Hill (formerly held by Democrat Huser), Chip Baltimore of Boone (formerly held by Democrat Olson), Ron Jorgensen of Sioux City (formerly held by Republican Rants), Julian Garrett of Indianola (formerly held by Republican Tymeson), Glen Massi of Des Moines (formerly held by Republican Sorenson), Guy Vander Linden of Oskaloosa (formerly held by Democrat Palmer), Mark Lofgren of Muscatine (formerly held by Democrat Reichert), Ross Paustian of Walcott (formerly held by Democrat Gayman), Jarad Klein of Keota (formerly held by Democrat Marek), Joel Fry of Osceola (formerly held by Democrat Reasoner), Mary Ann Hanusa of Treynor (formerly held by Republican Struyk) and Mark Brandenburg of Council Bluffs (formerly held by Democrat Shomshor).

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Thank You!

by Mona Bond, Iowa Alliance of Environmental Concerns

It was truly an honor to receive the Meritorious Service Award from the Turfgrass Industry at the 2011 annual meeting.

I looked across the audience and saw many familiar faces. Faces that I've worked with for 20+ years and although we have a few more wrinkles and maybe a little more gray hair, the continued passion for the turf industry was there along with many new young faces waiting to take our place.

And with a great deal of pride I can say the turf industry is still here! The industry is thriving, growing and continues to have a significant economic impact to the state. For that, we can be proud!

Again, thank you for the honor and I look forward to working together for many more years.

Sincerely,
Mona Bond

IPLCA Gun Raffle a Success

Lee Anderson of Waukon, Iowa, won the Weatherby 12 gauge pump shotgun raffled off at the Iowa Turf Conference in January 2011. Lee was excited to get the gun since he only bought his tickets 5 minutes before the drawing and the tickets were sold for 2 days prior.

The Weatherby is a make of gun that is famous for its big game safari guns used in Africa. The raffle was a success netting \$ 1,028.00 for the IPLCA.

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Becker Underwood Launches Sustainability Website

<http://www.sustainbu.com>

International developer of bio-agronomic and specialty products new sustainability website showcases the company's commitment to sustainable products and business practices

AMES, Ia. – Becker Underwood, international leader in the production and creation of bio-agronomic and colorant products, today announced the launch of its new sustainability website. (www.sustainbu.com/) With a myriad of definitions of what sustainability really means, Becker Underwood is working to generate a better understanding of the concept in relation to business with its new sustainability website.

Becker Underwood began its journey of sustainable business practices in 2008. The company realized that these techniques would soon be a staple in all better business practices and wanted to be a leader in the industry.

“Sustainability is an ever-expanding field. You don't just focus on the environment or the economic growth. In order to really sustain a business you need to cultivate each of the three pillars of sustainability: economic

growth, environmental stewardship, and societal contributions,” says Daniel Krohn, Sustainability lead at Becker Underwood.

The website serves as not only a forum of sustainable news and projects that the company is working on, but as a general resource to the public. The website offers news on various related fields globally as well as tips on how to help their sustainability initiative.

With the help of Flying Hippo Web Technologies, Des Moines, Ia., Becker Underwood developed a website with both functionality and aesthetic appeal.

“The primary goal with Becker Underwood's sustainability website was to showcase their views on sustainability and their commitment to sustainable products and business practices. For this project, we wanted to go beyond the routine approach that others might take and create something truly exceptional,” said Dale Bentlage, VP of Business Development, Flying Hippo Web Technologies.

For more information visit www.sustainbu.com/.

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February 2, 2011

All Bills Introduced:

House Files: 160
 House Study Bills: 53
 Senate Files: 125
 Senate Study Bills: 81

We are nearing the 4th week of the legislative session and have yet to see significant bills that will impact the turf industry. I hope I haven't spoken too soon!

We have had many social issue bills, some business and taxes but the main focus has been on social issues. These issues, while important to some, do not rate high in the polling with the "regular" voter who is out there either hoping to keep the job they have or looking for a job now. Many voters are starting to say to legislators – get down to business and work on issues that will make Iowa's economy grow and stabilize the taxes.

Number	Description	Status	Comments
HF 31	Water Use Permits	Jan. 12 11 Introduced, referred to Environmental Protection. H.J. 74. Jan. 19 11 Subcommittee, S. Olson, Kelley, and Paustian. H.J. 140.	Bill is in the hands of the Chair.
HF 112	EPC Rules – Requires rules to be subject to Director approval	Jan. 26 11 Introduced, referred to Environmental Protection. H.J. 161.	Debate continues on the authority of the EPC and makeup of the commission

Study Bills:

Number	Description	Status	Comments
HSB 48	EPC & NRC Rulemaking Transfers the rulemaking authority of NRC and EPC to IDNR Director		Debate continues on the authority of the EPC and makeup of the commission

Iowa Turfgrass Office Update

by Jeff Wendel, CGCS, Executive/Communications Director, Iowa Turfgrass Office



Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

Thanks. Thanks to all of you who make the 'Iowa Show' one of the best. Exhibitors, attendees, speakers and moderators all contribute to making this show work. I hope you all know how much your support is appreciated. Attendance was up 15% in 2011 compared to 2010.

Brian Abels and Sarah Hodgson made things so much better for the 2011 show; I cannot possibly thank them enough. Brian's help and presence on the Trade Show floor made a big difference and Sarah's work with registration and 'details' carried a huge part of the burden. Tremendous!

It is amazing how often during conference that when I need help with something, all I have to do is grab the person closest to me. Thanks to all of you who helped.

Changes are coming for 2012, and many of you have heard that we may have the entire event at the Downtown Marriott next year. I heard a lot of positive response to that idea, and a change is necessary due to the eventual closing of the Polk County Convention Complex. The final decision is not yet made and there are lots of details to be worked out, please contact me if you have ideas, comments or concerns. The Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show is your show; your input makes it stronger.

Avecetra Software

We had planned to launch our new Avecetra database and online directory before conference, but I sent the link to the affiliate Board members and received so many phone calls and emails from that 'limited launch' to 40 people that I was afraid to send out to everyone. Just would not have time to take care of problems for all 1000 members if we launched pre conference. Sorry about that.

We will launch soon, maybe before this article is printed. Here are a few bullets to help you take advantage of the new online directories and other functionality.

- You will get a 'Welcome' email, follow the directions (login and change your password, then verify your personal info is correct)
- We will use Avecetra for membership renewal, meeting registration and for hosting an online store: much of that functionality may not work at first, your patience is appreciated
- Avecetra will REPLACE the printed membership directory. Make sure you keep your personal info up to date and inform the Iowa Turfgrass Office if you change employers
- This software will be a 'collective brain' of all Iowa Turfgrass Affiliates, but each member type will eventually have their own 'secure area.'
- Make certain you add jeff@iowaturfgrass.org to the 'safe senders' list in your email account, or you will not receive messages from the Avecetra Software

PLANET's Director of Affairs Appointed

Reprinted from PLANET online - <http://www.LandcareNetwork.org>

The Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) is pleased to announce that Tom Delaney, PLANET's Director of Government Affairs, was recently appointed to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Federal Advisory Committee, called the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC), for a two-year term.

The PPDC is a policy-oriented committee that provides feedback to the pesticide program on various pesticide regulatory, policy, and program implementation issues. Members of this committee include environmental and public interest groups, pesticide manufacturers and trade associations, user and commodity groups, public health

and academic institutions, federal and state agencies, and the general public.

"This is a great opportunity for PLANET to be recognized by the EPA and others as the Voice of the Green Industry on pesticide issues, which will also help bridge water issues," says Delaney.

The committee meets two to three times a year, and all meetings are open to the public.

For more information about PLANET, visit LandcareNetwork.org or call (800) 395-2522.

Poor Winter Air Quality Helped by Indoor Plants

Reprinted from PLANET online - <http://www.LandcareNetwork.org>

Winter is the worst time of year for indoor air pollution problems since most homes don't get fresh air and people spend more time inside. The Environmental Protection Agency recently noted that "in the last several years, a growing body of scientific evidence has indicated that the air within homes and other buildings can be more seriously polluted than the outdoor air in even the largest and most industrialized cities."

The nation's largest lawn, landscape, and interiorscape association, the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET), offers homeowners tips for improving indoor air quality through the use of indoor plants.

"All plants add oxygen and create a healthier indoor environment," says Chris Raimondi, chairman of PLANET's Interior Specialty Group. "In addition, some plants provide the added benefit of removing toxins from the air."

PLANET suggests trying the following plants in your home to provide oxygen and remove toxins:

- Ivy — It likes indirect light, to be evenly watered, and doesn't mind drying-out occasionally.

- Spider plants — They are great pollution fighters that are easy to grow in moderate light, and they attract few insects.
- Peace Lilies — They are easy to care for, should be kept moist, and will wilt when they need to be watered.
- Ferns — They need medium or bright indirect light. The Boston fern is a good pollution-fighting variety, but requires little maintenance aside from dealing with dropped fronds.
- Ficus trees — They need medium to high light. They shouldn't be watered until their leaves begin to turn yellow. They are sensitive to changes in light and cold drafts, but once established, they are easy to care for.

For those who want some color around the house, chrysanthemums and Gerber daisies are flowering plants that clean the air while they are flowering, but they eventually need to be discarded, whereas most green indoor plants can last for years.

Aside from our homes, many of us spend the majority of time at the office. Raimondi, a green industry Landscape Industry Certified Manager, suggests that companies place plants in the work place to improve the air quality along with employee health and morale. Some of the most popular indoor plants for the office are Peace Lilies and philodendrons. Many offices opt for a large quantity of plants in a public area, but you can also keep smaller plants on your desk to aid in cleaning the air in your direct area. One to two plants per room are recommended.

For more information, or to find a green industry professional, log on to LandcareNetwork.org/findaprofessional.

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BASF Launches Free Mobile Web App

<http://www.agro.basf.com>

BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals today introduced a free Web application that gives U.S. golf course superintendents quick, expert advice on turfgrass disease control programs via their mobile phone browsers. To use the tool simply visit the BASFTurfTalk.com blog or directly link to BASFTurfDiseaseControl.com on a mobile device, such as the iPhone®, Android® and Blackberry®, or desktop browser.

The tool gives superintendents immediate access to disease control program recommendations specific to Northeast, Midwest, Transition and Southern regions and turf types. In addition to helping superintendents control known diseases, it also helps them predict diseases based on the time of year or, in the case of the Southern region, based on soil temperature. The tool then recommends fungicide applications, timing and rates from Kyle Miller and Kathie Kalmowitz, Ph.D., the BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals Technical Specialists who developed the disease programs.

“With a workspace averaging more than 140 acres, golf course superintendents spend more time away from their desks than other professionals; yet their need for immediate, reliable information is just as pressing,” said Brian Lish, Business Manager, BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals. “This new tool gets our expertise to customers when and where they need it to help them succeed.” To view the tool’s functionality, watch the video demonstration and visit www.basfturftalk.com for detailed information and helpful instructions on using and bookmarking the Web app from your mobile device or desktop.

For more information about BASF Turf & Ornamentals, visit www.betterturf.basf.us or tweet us at twitter.com/basfturf_us.

About the Crop Protection division

With sales of €3.6 billion in 2009, BASF’s Crop Protection division is a leader in crop protection and a strong

partner to the farming industry providing well-established and innovative fungicides, insecticides and herbicides.

Farmers use these products and services to improve crop yields and crop quality. Other uses include public health, structural/urban pest control, turf and ornamental plants, vegetation management, and forestry. BASF aims to turn knowledge rapidly into market success. The vision of BASF’s Crop Protection division is to be the world’s leading innovator, optimizing agricultural production, improving nutrition, and thus enhancing the quality of life for a growing world population. Further information can be found on the web at www.agro.basf.com.

Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/basfagro](https://twitter.com/basfagro) and subscribe via RSS: www.basf.com/rss to our news feed.

BASF - The Chemical Company.

BASF Corporation, headquartered in Florham Park, New Jersey, is the North American affiliate of BASF SE, Ludwigshafen, Germany. BASF has approximately 16,000 employees in North America, and had sales of \$13 billion in 2009. For more information about BASF’s North American operations, or to sign up to receive news releases by e-mail, visit www.basf.us.

BASF is the world’s leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics and performance products to agricultural products, fine chemicals and oil and gas. As a reliable partner, BASF creates chemistry to help its customers in virtually all industries to be more successful. With its high-value products and intelligent solutions, BASF plays an important role in finding answers to global challenges, such as climate protection, energy efficiency, nutrition and mobility. BASF posted sales of more than €50 billion in 2009 and had approximately 105,000 employees as of the end of the year. Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at www.basf.com.

Always Read and Follow Label Directions.

Visit IPLCA’s Website

<http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/iplcahome.htm>

Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association

Becomes First PLANET AEF State Association Ambassador

The Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) is pleased to announce that the Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association (ONLA) has pledged \$25,000 to the PLANET Academic Excellence Foundation (PLANET AEF) scholarship fund, thereby making it the very first state association to be designated a PLANET State Association Ambassador. As a result of this donation, the ONLA will be given a \$1,000 annual scholarship in perpetuity.

PLANET AEF received a check from the ONLA in the amount of \$25,000 in December 2010. PLANET AEF presented ONLA with the inaugural State Association Ambassador crystal at ONLA's annual CENTS show held earlier this week in Columbus, Ohio.

The PLANET State Association Ambassador is able to establish the criteria for their scholarships by deciding the amount, the number of scholarships they will give to students, and which schools within their states that will receive these scholarships.

"The ONLA scholarship program has provided

nearly \$500,000 over the last 15 years alone. In our research in developing an ONLA scholarship endowment, we discovered that PLANET's Academic Excellence Foundation dovetailed nicely with our strategic goals of supporting students and advancing the association's mission to provide leadership and guidance to Ohio's green industry," says ONLA's Executive Director Kevin Thompson. "As Ohio's only all-encompassing green industry association, we are proud to become a PLANET AEF Ambassador, ensuring that a scholarship in the ONLA's name would be available for future generations."

"All of us active in PLANET AEF recognize that this scholarship program, which has funded over 500 scholarships in recent years, has significantly impacted professionals coming into the green industry," says PLANET AEF President, David J. Frank, Landscape Industry Certified Manager.

For more information about PLANET AEF, visit LandcareNetwork.org or call (800) 395-2522.

Entries Now Being Accepted

PLANET'S 2010 SAFETY RECOGNITION AWARDS PROGRAM

All green industry companies and branches are invited to participate in the Professional Landcare Network's (PLANET's) annual Safety Recognition Awards Program. Applications are available online and must be returned to PLANET by April 29, 2011.

Safety Recognition Awards are presented to companies in the following categories: No Vehicle Accidents, No Injuries or Illnesses, and No Days Away From Work. In addition, companies that participated in previous programs are eligible for the Most Improved category.

Program participants also may qualify for the Overall Safety Achievement Award. This award honors those companies with thorough, high-performing, safety programs that create and maintain safe work environments in the green industry. Companies are eligible for this award if they demonstrate outstanding safety performance in the workplace based on their combined fleet and employee incident rates. A checklist also is used to rate the

company's complete safety program.

The safety awards program covers the period of January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010. Companies participating in the program must submit a copy of their application, OSHA Form 300A Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses, and a copy of their year-end vehicle insurance claims summary report from their insurance agents. Participants are required to complete a Safety Program Checklist, which is included with their application, and are encouraged to return the benchmarking form, also part of the application.

Program sponsor, CNA, is committed to creating and maintaining safe work environments in the green industry by recognizing companies that consistently demonstrate their commitment to safety.

For more information, visit LandcareNetwork.org, e-mail Cheryl Claborn, or call (800) 395-2522.