With all the various events going on in our country today, it is becoming increasingly challenging to stay focused on remaining positive and encouraging our family and business teams to continue a consistent faith and work habit.

By keeping faith that your present situation will eventually get better (as long as you do not commit to whining and complaining about your plight), and working like your life depends on it (which it does in many cases), we will overcome our present challenges and become stronger as individuals and as a country.

Many younger folks today expect to get the top pay and respect without doing anything to earn or deserve it. Sacrifices of time, energy, and resources are key ingredients to the recipe of success. Teamwork and accountability are traits we must all work into our daily lives as we deal with the day’s problems—as we know that problems are always ready to rear their ugly heads.

CLCA has brought together businessmen and women who have a common interest, passion, and desire to make our world a better place. We do this through sensible use of our natural resources, cutting edge technology to increase production and conserve energy, and much more; these are the tools at our fingertips as industry professionals.

The educational opportunities that are available provide our industry leaders with the “juice” to make things happen in a positive way. These can be found through our various webinar series, chapter zoom meetings, and many green industry trade publications.

Instead of giving up hope in our unique and one-of-a-kind system of government and way of life here in the United States, we should all realize that we are able to do what we do in our beautiful green industry because someone, somewhere paid the ultimate price for us to retain our freedom—so let’s not squander that gift.

My PMA book of the month this month is Free to Choose by Milton Friedman.

Stay safe and see you on the trails. ~Ed
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The National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) recently announced that the Exterior Technician exam will now be administered online through a secure, remote proctoring service; giving greater access to the program across all 50 states. This program is designed to cover the technical aspects of exterior landscaping: installation, maintenance and irrigation. It offers the same five (5) practice areas: Hardscape Installation, Softscape Installation, Ornamental Maintenance, Turf Maintenance, and Irrigation. It is also being offered in Spanish.

Certification Process
Step 1. Enroll
Step 2. Purchase Study Materials
Step 3. Study at Your Own Pace
Step 4. Take the Exam at Your Convenience

Study Materials
The Landscape Industry Certified Exterior Technician is a self-study program. You can study using the publications (available in both English and Spanish) that can be purchased during the online enrollment process.

About the Exam
The Technician-Exterior exam has five specialty areas to choose from: Softscape Installation, Hardscape Installation, Turf Maintenance, Ornamental Maintenance, or Irrigation.

The exam includes the following sections:

Exam 1: Common Core
- Communication
- Safety and first-aid
- Vehicle operation and safety
- Tools and equipment
- Basic math

Exam 2: Specialty - Select One
- Softscape Installation
- Hardscape Installation
- Ornamental Maintenance
- Turf Maintenance
- Irrigation

Exam Fees
NALP Member: Full Exam: $445/ Non-Member: $545
Exam fees include enrollment and proctor fees.

Learn more and enroll for the exam at https://www.landscapeprofessionals.org/LP/Learn/Certification/Exterior_Technician/LP/Certification/exterior.aspx

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Advocacy is the cornerstone of CLCA’s history. California landscape contractors first banded together to protect the scope of work and activities that could be performed by those contractors with a C-27 license from the Contractor’s State Licensing Board (CSLB). Out of that work, CLCA was born.

To help further our work, CLCA formed LandPAC in 1976 and it is still the only political action committee representing landscape contractors in California.

California’s landscape contractors have one of the widest scopes of work of all the states that license landscape contractors. Why? Because of the consistent advocacy work by CLCA’s members, volunteer leaders, staff, and legislative advocate.

CLCA’s legislative program includes professional lobbying in Sacramento, grass roots action, and involvement in political coalitions.

In each two-year legislative session, over 2,500 bills are introduced for consideration. We read them, flag them, and track them as we continue our advocacy for landscape contractors.

Here are a few bills currently passing through the legislature:

**AB 196 Workers’ compensation: COVID-19: essential occupations and industries.**
Would define “injury,” for certain employees who are employed in an occupation or industry deemed essential in the Governor’s Executive Order of March 19, 2020 (Executive Order N-33-20), except as specified, or who are subsequently deemed essential, to include coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) that develops or manifests itself during a period of employment of those persons in the essential occupation or industry. The bill would apply to injuries occurring on or after March 1, 2020, would create a conclusive presumption, as specified, that the injury arose out of and in the course of the employment, and would extend that presumption following termination of service for a period of 90 days, commencing with the last date actually worked.

**CLCA Position: Oppose**

**AB 2999 Employees: bereavement leave.**
Would enact the Bereavement Leave Act of 2020. The bill would require an employer with 25 or more employees to grant an employee up to 10 business days of unpaid bereavement leave upon the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or domestic partner, in accordance with certain procedures, and subject to certain exclusions. The bill would require an employer with fewer than 25 employees to grant 3 business days of leave, in accordance with these provisions. The bill would prohibit an employer from interfering with or restraining the exercise or attempt to exercise the employee’s right to take this leave.

**CLCA Position: Oppose**

**SB 1383 Unlawful employment practice: family leave.**
Would revise and recast specified provisions to make it an unlawful employment practice for any employer to refuse to grant a request by an employee to take up to 12 work weeks of unpaid protected leave during any 12-month period to bond with a new child of the employee or to care for themselves or a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner, as specified. The bill would require an employer who employees’ both parents of a child to grant leave to each employee.

**CLCA Position: Oppose**

To see a complete listing of bills that CLCA is working on, visit: https://www.clca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/legreport.pdf
Keepin’ Things Green

As every landscaping contractor knows, old irrigation sprinkler controllers wear out over time. When they break down, they’re removed and discarded, ending up in the garbage and ultimately finding their way to a local landfill. But it can take hundreds if not thousands of years for the parts to decompose. However, since most irrigation controllers are manufactured with recyclable materials, it’s possible to find a secondary purpose for these old units.

A One-of-a-Kind Recycling Program
Sustainability and community outreach coexist as part of our foundation at Ewing. Our Irrigation Controller Recycling Program is one of our flagship sustainability and community outreach initiatives. Along with partners Hunter Industries and Blue Star Recyclers, a Colorado based non-profit, the program merges sustainable electronics waste management with employment opportunities for those with autism or other disabilities. By working together to collect unwanted irrigation controllers, this partnership recycles metals, plastics and other parts that would normally wind up in a landfill.

After the initial pilot program in 2015, we’re up to a total of 31 Ewing branches participating in the program. In 2019 alone, we recycled 5,378 pounds of controllers! We would like to increase the amount to 11,000 pounds over the next five years.

How It Works
Bins dedicated to the program are placed at participating Ewing branch locations. Check with your local branch ahead of time to verify their participation. Then when you replace an old controller, instead of throwing it away, bring it into the branch and place it in the bin. It’s that simple! The controllers we collect are shipped to Blue Star and disassembled so the components can be recycled, with Ewing and Hunter co-sponsoring the shipping costs.

Blue Star hires people with autism and other disabilities based on their aptitude and attitude for the careful, detailed, repetitive work of recycling electronics and other materials. Many of their employees come from the Cherry Creek School District’s Transition Program where young adults with special needs can learn Blue Star’s recycling process. Over the past 10 years, Blue Star has recycled 14 million pounds of electronics.

Along with Hunter and Blue Star, we are proud to be part of this integrated approach to environmental sustainability. We look forward to continuing to drive the program for many years to come. For more information about how you can participate, visit www.ewingirrigation.com.

This article, authored by Robyn Hazen, originally ran on Ewing Irrigation and Landscape Supply’s blog at www.ewingirrigation.com/news.
UC Riverside scientists have found the first substance capable of controlling Citrus Greening Disease, which has devastated citrus farms in Florida and also threatens California.

The new treatment effectively kills the bacterium, transmitted by the Asian citrus psyllid, with a naturally occurring molecule found in wild citrus relatives. This molecule, an antimicrobial peptide, offers numerous advantages over the antibiotics currently used to treat the disease.

UCR geneticist Hailing Jin, who discovered the cure after a five-year search, explained that unlike antibiotic sprays, the peptide is stable even when used outdoors in high heat, easy to manufacture, and safe for humans.

“This peptide is found in the fruit of greening-tolerant Australian finger limes, which has been consumed for hundreds of years,” Jin said. “It is much safer to use this natural plant product on agricultural crops than other synthetic chemicals.”

Currently, some growers in Florida are spraying antibiotics and pesticides in an attempt to save trees from the CLas bacterium that causes citrus greening, also known as Huanglongbing or HLB.

“Most antibiotics are temperature sensitive, so their effects are largely reduced when applied in the hot weather,” Jin said. “By contrast, this peptide is stable even when used in 130-degree heat.”

Jin found the peptide by examining plants such as the Australian finger lime known to possess natural tolerance for the bacteria that causes Citrus Greening Disease, and she isolated the genes that contribute to this innate immunity. One of these genes produces the peptide, which she then tested over the course of two years. Improvement was soon visible.

“You can see the bacteria drastically reduced, and the leaves appear healthy again only a few months after treatment,” Jin said.

Continued on Next Page...
UC Riverside Discovers First Effective Treatment for Citrus-Destroying Disease

... Continued from Previous Page

Because the peptide only needs to be reapplied a few times per year, it is highly cost effective for growers. This peptide can also be developed into a vaccine-like solution to protect young healthy plants from infection, as it is able to induce the plant’s innate immunity to the bacteria.

Jin’s peptide can be applied by injection or foliage spray, and it moves systemically through plants and remains stable, which makes the effect of the treatment stronger.

The treatment will be further enhanced with proprietary injection technology made by Invaio Sciences. UC Riverside has entered into an exclusive, worldwide license agreement with Invaio, ensuring this new treatment goes exactly where it’s needed in plants.

The need for an HLB cure is a global problem, but hits especially close to home as California produces 80 percent of all the fresh citrus in the United States, said Brian Suh, director of technology commercialization in UCR’s Office of Technology Partnerships, which helps bring university technology to market for the benefit of society through licenses, partnerships, and start-up companies.

“This license to Invaio opens up the opportunity for a product to get to market faster,” Suh said. “Cutting edge research from UCR, like the peptide identified by Dr. Jin, has a tremendous amount of commercial potential and can transform the trajectory of real-world problems with these innovative solutions.”

This article, authored by Jules Bernstein, was originally published on the UC Riverside news page located at https://news.ucr.edu/

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Preventing Heat-Related Illness

Helpful tips for beating the summer heat provided by CLCA Insurance Solutions License 0I72721

Summer heat can be more than uncomfortable; it can be a threat to your health. Unfortunately, you do not have much of a choice when it comes to the job site. Follow these tips to stay safe in the searing heat.

Heat Exhaustion
Heat exhaustion occurs when a person cannot sweat enough to cool the body—usually the result of not drinking enough fluids during hot weather.

Symptoms include:
• Dizziness, weakness, nausea, headache, and vomiting
• Blurry vision
• Body temperature rising to 101°F
• Sweaty skin
• Feeling hot and thirsty
• Difficulty speaking

A person suffering from heat exhaustion must move to a cool place and drink plenty of water to avoid a more severe heat-related condition—heat stroke.

Heat Stroke
Heat stroke is the result of untreated heat exhaustion.

Symptoms include:
• Sweating stops
• Unawareness of thirst and heat
• Body temperature rising rapidly to above 101°F
• Confusion or delirium
• Possible loss of consciousness or seizure

Heat stroke is a serious medical emergency that must be treated quickly by a trained professional. Until help arrives, cool the person down by placing ice on the neck, armpits, and groin. If the person is awake and able to swallow, have them drink a small glass of water every 15 minutes or until help arrives.

Tips for Staying Cool
The combination of heat and humidity in the summer months can be downright uncomfortable and even dangerous.

Stay cool by following these safety tips:
• Drink plenty of water—enough water to quench your thirst. The average adult needs eight 8-ounce glasses of water a day, and even more during hot weather.
• Skip the caffeine and soda; drink water instead.
• Dress for the weather. When outside, wear lightweight clothing of natural fabric and a well-ventilated hat.
• Eat light. Replace heavy or hot meals with lighter, refreshing foods. Always eat smaller meals before work/intense activity.

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