

NIMA

North Idaho Manufacturers' Association

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Covering:

Idaho
Clearwater,
Idaho,
Latah,
Lewis,
Nez Perce Counties.

Washington
Asotin,
Columbia,
Garfield,
Whitman Counties.

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Apex Curb & Turf, LLC

John Larson, owner and operator of Apex Curb and Turf at 1280 Fair Street in Clarkston can tell you all about the hydro seeder that he built himself. In 1994 John built his first

500 gallon hydro seeder, by 1996 he had built a 3,000 gallon hydro seeder, he specializes in commercial work and did a 46 mile stretch of

highway between Lenore and Kamiah. His hydro seeders have only gotten bigger and better. In 2000 he built and began producing 4,000-gallon stainless tanks. He is currently shipping these tanks from Hawaii to Florida. The hydro seeders are sold to high-end clientele and Apex is looking to explore the export market.

What makes the Apex hydro seeder better? John's design doubled the size of the engine to 185-horse power; this compared to his biggest competitor whose engine is only 115-horse power. This engine will out produce two of the competitors as it has twin turrets or cannons. Unlike the lawn machines that use a fire hose to spray the seed, the larger tanks have the cannons mounted right on the truck. He can spray 4,150

gallons in less than four minutes or one state certified acre in four minutes. This means he can spray 50,000 gallons per hour.



One of John's largest jobs was the Topanga Fire Restoration Project in California. He also did restoration spraying on the Pomeroy School Fire. The seeds used in this process vary greatly and are dictated by the job. Apex has special blends for erosion control, dry land seed and their lawn seed is 100% certified weed free.

John has expansion plans. In the last 6 months he began using precision parts produced by a CNC high definition plasma machine. This insures that all the parts for his production are exactly the same. John works with other local manufacturers to produce as many parts locally as possible. Currently John is producing six hydro seeders per year. They are mounted on trucks locally and cost from \$105,000 to \$110,000 each.

John would tell you that he has difficulty finding good workers. He trains employees in-house, if he can find people with a mechanical aptitude and a good work ethic. Apex has 12 employees with four

on the manufacturing side. John graduated from Montana State University as a Mechanical Engineer and has been involved in the manufacturing business for many years. He has designed and manufactured many

other products. If you would like to know more about Apex and their outstanding machines check out their web site at: www.apexcurbandturf.com.

From The Executive Director

NIMA has made great progress over the last nine months. We have increased our membership, assisted many manufacturers with grant applications, we have worked with post secondary schools to setup training programs for individual manufacturers or small groups of manufacturers, set up a fundraising campaign and volunteer membership fee structure. We are working to help manufacturers purchase raw materials at a significant savings. We have also worked hard at meeting with all types of groups from economic development groups to legislative and educational groups about the value of a strong

manufacturing base in our local communities. We believe in strength in numbers and as we stand united we will continue to get stronger, better and smarter.

We have received an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to interview local manufacturers to determine and prioritize our needs and then establish a plan that will allow us to address those needs. I will be interviewing at least 100 manufacturers. I hope to have the opportunity to set down and talk with you one on one so we can do an even better job of serving your needs.

Please mark your calendar - October 16th will be our general membership meeting. During this meeting we will be giving you a more detailed update on our progress and it will be an opportunity for you to meet other manufacturers. We will be confirming existing and adding additional Board of Directors members during this meeting; it is important to have a committed Board of Directors if we plan to continue to grow and assist manufacturers. Your vote is important we hope to see you there. We will be providing you with additional information as to time and place as we get closer to the meeting.

~Dave Bonfield

Special Thank You!

We would like to send a special thank you to the following businesses that have become Stakeholders in the NIMA organization. They are dedicated to the success of the regions manufacturers:

Zions Bank, Lewiston
 Haskins Steel Co. of Spokane
 Potlatch No 1 Federal Credit Union, Southway Branch in Lewiston
 Coeur d' Alene Metals of Spokane
 Valley Vision, Lewiston
 Port of Clarkston, Clarkston
 Clearwater Power Company, Lewiston
 Avista Utilities, Lewiston & Moscow
 Presnell Gage, Lewiston