

EVENTS

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

19 Annual Grounds Maintenance Short Course, Sheraton Columbia Northwest, Columbia, SC. Contact Steve Long, Forest Lake Country Club, P.O. Box 6806, Columbia, SC 29260. (803) 782-7248.

25-27 Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference, Pittsburgh Expo Mart and Marriott Hotel, Monroeville, PA. Co-sponsored by Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council. Contact Christine King, PTC, P.O. Box 417, Bellefonte, PA 16823-0417.

MARCH

4-5 Second Annual West Coast Multi-Use Turf & Immigration Maintenance Seminar, San Francisco Holiday Inn, San Francisco. Featuring park, stadium, golf course and school maintenance. Contact Rick Ruiz, Buildings & Grounds Maintenance Consultants, P.O. Box 1985, Novato, CA 94948. (415) 898-1281.

4 Sports Turf Managers Association Seminar, in conjunction with the Landscape Exposition, Valley Forge Convention Center, Valley Forge, PA. Fifteen speakers on sports turf construction and care. Contact Dawn Pratt, (800) 243-2815 or Kent Kurtz (714) 598-4167.

6 Advances in Turfgrass Culture, University of Florida Extension Service Auditorium, Orlando, FL Contact Uday Yadav, (305) 420-3265.

19 Overseeding Short Course, Deer Run Country Club, Casselberry FL. Contact Uday Yadav, (305) 420-3265.

20 Sports Turf Clinic and Equipment Rodeo, Ranger Stadium, Arlington, TX. There will be three hours of instruction and demonstration of equipment. Contact Bill Knoop, Texas A&M, 17360 Coit Rd., Dallas, TX 75252. (214) 231-5362.

26-27 Landscape design Short Course, Fisher Auditorium, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, OH. Contact Fred K. Buscher, OARDC, Wooster, OH 44691. (216) 263-3831.

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS BOOST RECOGNITION



Extension agents and a few sports turf managers have, up to this year, been the only voices crying out for better sports fields. They have been fighting for the good cause virtually alone. They wanted and needed help. Today, that help is on the way.

One of the most important new voices is that of the golf course superintendent. Don't confuse his worksite with his real focus, turf management. He loves a challenge too — that challenge goes beyond the boundaries of his plush golf course or country club.

Once you get to know a few of today's stadium and field managers, you'll discover that many used to be superintendents. Or, like Bob Hudzik at Pennsylvania State University, whom we featured in our last issue, the sports turf manager is responsible for both golf courses and sports fields.

Take Don Marshall, director of golf operations for the City of Anaheim, California. He is responsible for two quality public golf courses as well as Anaheim Stadium's field and grounds. After a decade of building and maintaining golf courses in New England, this graduate of the Stockbridge School at the University of Massachusetts accepted the huge challenge at Anaheim. Not only do the Rams and the Angels play at Anaheim Stadium, but the facility hosts mud bogs, concerts, and even religious conventions. His field takes a beating to say the least.

There is absolutely no doubt that his education and his experience as a golf course superintendent make Marshall the exceptional sports turf manager he is. He was one of the first field managers to order sod grown on sand to avoid compatibility problems with his sand-based field. He draws constantly on his experience to solve challenges at the stadium.

Now we are hearing about superintendents, such as George Renault at Chevy Chase Country Club, Chevy Chase, MD, and Frank Dobie at Sharon Country Club, Sharon, OH, who are reaching out to their regional golf course superintendent associations to provide help to public schools and parks with turf problems. As Renault says, he doesn't want to criticize a school's field or the work of that school's maintenance crew. He wants the school administration to request assistance knowing that it's free and that the current staff will not be left out.

The reasons for a school superintendent to ask for help are contained in Eliot Roberts' story in this issue. It's more than preventing injuries; it's providing the same amount of attention to stadium and practice fields as is currently given to hard surfaces at schools. It's team pride in their home field... it's proper field construction... it's a justified investment in an important school fixture.

Then read Henry Indyk's story on the common mistakes in sports field management. Chances are you'll find 99 percent of the reasons for field failure are targeted in this article. Use the stories in this issue as your ammunition to gain recognition for the need for better public field care.

When we started *sportsTURF*, people asked why we combined golf course superintendents with athletic field managers. Our logic was simple. Golf is a sport and *sportsTURF* encompasses all sports. We are convinced this logic is sound. There is definite crossover. As Mike Hurdzan says in the main feature, athletic field managers and golf course superintendents have much to share. They face common challenges daily.

We salute those superintendents who contribute their time and expertise to help the athletic field management industry. They are making a large difference in the way people perceive sports field care.

As Hurdzan also states, the athletic field manager has experience that can be valuable to the golf course superintendent. Hopefully, we are building a fraternity of all sports turf professionals, something that can help tremendously in the future.

Bruce F. Shank