

ASSOCIATIONS ENDORSE PRO SHOW

The Pro Show, to be held for the first time Nov. 18-20 in Dallas, TX, will offer one of the largest, most comprehensive displays of commercial equipment ever seen in one show, according to the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, Inc., sponsor of the trade show and conference program. OPEI and six other associations have endorsed the show, including the American Association of Nurserymen (AAN), Sports Turf Managers Association, Engine Service Association, Irrigation Association (IA), Associated Landscape Contractors of America and National Landscape Association.

Nearly 300 exhibitors will display their products under one roof, in addition to a large outdoor demonstration area. The displays will include grounds maintenance and installation equipment, horticultural chemicals and plant foods, irrigation equipment, landscape accessories and materials, maintenance supplies and services, and outdoor power equipment. A free shuttle will be provided between the Dallas Convention Center and the outdoor demonstration site.

In addition to the trade show, Pro Show 87 will include 40 seminars designed to provide information that will increase professional skills and the profitability of your business.

Twelve of the seminars are admission-free. Fees for the others range from \$25 for some one-hour programs to \$100 for full-day sessions.

Attendance at the trade show is free. Exhibit hours will be 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Nov. 18 and 19, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Nov. 20.

For more information about Pro Show 87, phone (502) 582-1672 or use the toll-free number, (800) 654-0349.

PARK FIGHTS SALTWATER INTRUSION

When you build a park three feet below sea level, a few miles from the Pacific Ocean on a drainage canal, you anticipate a few problems. But the city fathers of Carson, CA, never dreamed that salt water intrusion up the canal during infrequent floods would make it impossible for them to keep turf alive at Del Amo Park.

The three-acre park next to Carson City Hall is used year-round for baseball, soccer and football. In 1982, park director Howard Homan realized that even though all the rainfall in the city south of Los Angeles falls basically during one month each year, one spillover of saltwater from the canal made it nearly impossible to grow turf there the rest of the year. Salt would not only damage the turf, it corroded the electric and irrigation components buried in the soil. He installed pumps to get the water off the park quickly after floods, but the salt finally contaminated the fresh water lying below the field.

After six years of trying to beat the problem, Homan finally agreed to a proposal made to him in the beginning by Don Morgan of Sierra Stadium Corp. Morgan holds the Prescription Athletic Turf (PAT) franchise for the Los Angeles area. The patented PAT system features a plastic water barrier originally designed to keep water underneath the field, not away from it. The idea is that sand and drainage pipes placed above the liner could be used to control the moisture content in the root zone at all times. Pumps connected to the drain lines can actually suck excess rainfall out of the field within minutes and can inject water back into them during drier periods to provide subirrigation.

When Homan was finally ready for the PAT System, Morgan wasn't. He called in Jim Eagle, the Texas-based franchisee to do the work. Eagle, who builds golf courses back in Texas, was not concerned that this would be the largest of nearly 20 PAT systems installed. Working with PAT inventor Dr. William Daniel, Eagle decided to raise the elevation of the entire park by nearly one foot. All curbs and bleacher foundations had to be raised as well. All irrigation and electrical lines were removed and replaced above the liner once it was installed.

In a few weeks Del Amo Park will once again be filled with hundreds of soccer and football players competing on healthy natural turf from sunup to 11 p.m. But the final test of the system will come this winter when all 13 inches of annual rainfall cause the canal to overflow.

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