

REBOUND

LETTERS FROM READERS

QUALITY IS WORTH MORE

The letter in Rebound from Dr. Kent Kurtz, professor of horticulture at Cal Poly, Pomona, prompted me to respond.

His statements mustered great empathy. We do need more well-qualified people in the turf and landscape industry, however,

his comparison with other competing positions who can begin at \$30,000 per year spells the "dirt-deep, gut grinding" truth.

I have worked in all facets of this "diamond in the rough" for over 40 years and can assure Professor Kurtz and the industry that no amount of missionary work will overcome with any impact until the rewards

(in the main-cash) exceed the expenditures of the alternatives.

As an employer, unless your four years of college can make it so that you can produce for me more profit — per dollar of cost — than can the laborer who I can train in two weeks to do 90 percent of that needed, I can not afford to pay you the \$10 to \$15 per hour to tempt you to this industry.

What we need is to sell the public that quality is worth more, and to find ways to make professionals more productive in the areas that our customers are will to pay.

I have hired workers with bachelor's, master's, and even a doctorate degrees, and had them shoveling snow and mowing lawns, etc. Doing this they were worth no more than the high school dropout who walked faster, worked harder, and complained less. He was happy to have a job. Most of the others (with one or two exceptions) were frustrated and justifiably never satisfied.

People fight to get into law school and medical school. I would project that with over 75 percent of these students that cash and status rewards are primary motivators.

Until we can give them the same, we can not expect the interest and rush to participate to materialize.

David E. Lofgren, Director
Institute of Maintenance Research
Salt Lake City, UT

YOU COULD BE HONORED BY THE PROS!

THE BEAM CLAY® BASEBALL DIAMOND OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The judges for the 1989-1990 Beam Clay® Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards will be four head groundskeepers representing each of the major league divisions:

AL-East
Harry Gill, Milwaukee Brewers

NL-East
Pete Flynn, N.Y. Mets

AL-West
Jim Anglea, Texas Rangers

NL-West
Steve Wightman, San Diego Padres

Winners will be honored at the annual Sports Turf Manager's Association Awards Banquet and be featured in sportsTURF Magazine. No entry fee is required. So, if you're proud of your baseball facility, why not enter your baseball field in the Beam Clay® Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards contest?

The Awards are sponsored by Beam Clay®, The Sports Turf Managers Association, and sportsTURF magazine in recognition of excellence and professionalism in maintaining outstanding, safe, professional quality baseball diamonds. Entries will be judged in three categories: professional diamonds, college diamonds; and school, municipal or park diamonds.

Send the information below to enter:

1. Age of baseball diamond (year of installation).
2. Geographic location (city and state).
3. Description of maintenance program for turf and skinned areas.
4. Operating budget for baseball diamond.
5. Irrigation: None Manual Automatic
6. Total number of maintenance staff for field.
7. Does baseball field have lighting for night games?
8. Number of events on baseball diamond per year.
9. Types and number of events on diamond other than baseball?
10. How many months during the year is the field used?
11. Why you think this field is one of the best?
12. Send two sets of color slides or prints.

Deadline for entries: Entries must be postmarked no later than October 31, 1989.

Mail entries to:
Beam Clay Awards
Kelsey Park
Great Meadows, N.J.
07838



sportsTURF
magazine

SLOW PLAY, CART PATHS

Fifty years ago, it took about 2 1/2 hours to play a round of golf. A round taking over three hours was considered the work of tortoises.

Today rounds of five hours or more are commonplace. One cause is the widespread use of cart paths which weave all over the course.

Much can be done to correct this situation in ways that will increase our enjoyment of the game, make courses more attractive, and ease some course maintenance problems.

Paving materials are now available which allow the grass to grow through and protect turf from cart traffic. Some are designed so golf balls take a normal bounce and not the erratic bounce which occurs when golf balls land on asphalt or concrete.

By using these new materials, grassed cart paths can now go down the middle of the fairway and near the green on the side closest to the following tee. This will speed up play without changing the nature of the game.

Ed Roach, President
Golf 2000 Inc. San Diego, CA