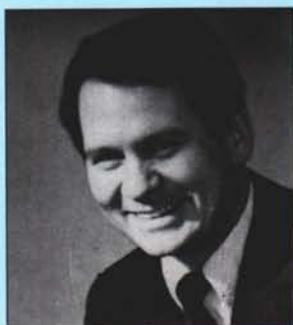


THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

COOPERATION BEATS INACTION



One of the major differences between golf course superintendents and sports turf managers can be seen inside their equipment buildings. Golf courses typically have full range of specialized equipment. Sports turf managers are fortunate to have mowers, shallow-tine aerators and spreader/seeder.

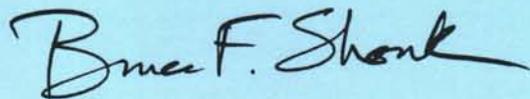
In many cases, sports turf managers lack certain pieces of equipment that are vital to turf management under heavy-use conditions. Examples are topdressers, deep-tine aerators, drill seeders, large sprayers, and trenchers. Few schools or parks have the budget to purchase this equipment, especially if it is used only periodically. Furthermore, most rental yard operators aren't convinced that such equipment would be profitable in their inventory.

One solution to this equipment problem can be found at park districts that have golf courses. Such districts often borrow specialized equipment from their golf courses to work on their sports fields. Not only do they have the equipment within the district, they have experienced operators on staff.

Rather than say your hands are tied because your employer can't or won't buy essential equipment, create your own group of cooperators in your area. With a little research and planning, you can build a complete inventory of equipment among various athletic facilities. Golf course superintendents, landscape contractors, park superintendents, and school groundskeepers can work together to overcome individual shortages. The needed work gets done and everyone benefits.

This is one reason why local sports turf chapters are so important. They foster cooperation among people with similar interests and needs. Not only can you solve equipment problems among members, you can gain important tips on use of specialized equipment. Cooperation will always beat inaction.

Once you demonstrate the value of specialized equipment, you will be able to justify future investment in that machinery for your facility or in the services of contractors who already have the equipment. Either way, you win.



Bruce F. Shank

EVENTS

CALENDAR

MAY

3-5 Public-Private: Joint Ventures in Golf Course Development Forum Dallas Marriot Mandalay Irving, TX Contact: National Golf Foundation Special Projects Director Roger Yaffe (407) 744-6006

JUNE

17-18 Midwest Grounds Management Conference, Midwest Association of Physical Plant Administrators and the Professional Grounds Management Society, Miami University, Oxford, OH. Contact: PGMS, 10402 Ridgland Rd., Ste. 4, Cockeysville, MD 21030, (301) 667-1833.

JULY

1 1992 Cornell Turfgrass Field Day, Pine Island, NY. Contact: New York State Turfgrass Association, (800) 873-TURF.

21-23 Pan Pacific Industry Conference & Trade Show Neal S. Blaisdell Center Honolulu, HI Contact: Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii (808) 545-1533

SEPTEMBER

20-23 Florida Turfgrass Association Annual Conference and Show Prime Osborn III Conventional Center Jacksonville, FL Contact: Florida Turfgrass Association (407) 898-6721

See **STMA IN ACTION** for information on Sports Turf Managers Association Events.

Send announcements on your events two months in advance to editor, *sportsTURF* magazine, P.O. Box 8420, Van Nuys, CA 91409 or FAX to (818) 781-8517.