

REBOUND

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

As an employee of the State of California, as well as an ongoing student, I share your apprehension on the condition of the education system of this state. I also believe that landscape programs (as well as many others) need more attention. To that end I offer the following.

A program was recently aired on the University System of North Carolina and its coalition with business. In this program it was presented that the state of North Carolina, in an effort to promote business and industry, has designed curriculum specific to the needs of private industry, as well as opening research and lab facilities. In the case of North Carolina, it was presented that the concept originated within the state system. However, in light of the exodus of business from California and the financial crunch on several state controlled budgets, the timing appears ripe to present such a program to California educators.

Another point of consideration for anyone in California at least (and I suspect other states), is the Junior College system. I have both taught and attended several of these institutions and have found the focus and dedication to vocational training excellent. In California it is possible to transfer up to 90 credits from a junior college to a state college or university, and in general, the price tag is much lower.

A final piece of information, one specific to my department, is the State Park Internship Program. As part of California Park System's mission "to provide for the health, inspiration and education," California parks have a very active internship program in cooperation with the junior college system, and both the State College and the California University systems. Typically, interns will express their areas of interest (California having nearly 300 diverse parks, can accommodate virtually all areas) and upon locating a park that is suitable, will enter into a contract of sorts involving their school, themselves, and appropriate park staff and begin a project(s) that will facilitate the student's education. The school's role is usually that of a monitor and/or counselor. The park employee fulfills the role of mentor/coach. Projects range from basic plumbing to historical restoration, to endangered plant protection, an almost endless list. I am certain that a landscape project could be arranged in any of several parks.

While the present intern program is allied with colleges and universities, we

also participate in several youth programs so I would not think a high school intern would be out of the question.

This approach may also be available in local and county parks. It may warrant investigation.

Sincerely,
William Mennell
Maintenance Chief II
Department of Parks and Recreation
La Costa District
Carlsbad, CA

YOU COULD BE HONORED BY THE PROS!

Why not enter your baseball field in the **Beam Clay®** Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards contest? You need not be a customer, member, or subscriber; and there is no entry fee. You could be featured in **sportsTURF magazine** and receive an official awards plaque.

The Awards are sponsored by **Beam Clay®, sportsTURF magazine, and the Sports Turf Managers Assoc.,** 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.
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. **IMPORTANT:** Send two sets of color slides or prints.

Deadline for entries: Entries must be postmarked no later than November 30, 1992. Selection of winners will be made by the Awards Committee of Four Major League Head Groundskeepers.

Mail entries to:
Beam Clay Awards
Kelsey Park
Great Meadows, NJ
07838

