

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE



April Showers

April has been called the cruelest month, perhaps because the weather is so unpredictable. Even if you're not Willard Scott (and aren't you glad you're not?), you can make certain predictions about the weather in April with reasonable accuracy. For example, everyone knows that Southern California will be sunny and warm, unless a wayward storm system bashes the Pacific Coast again. Anybody who has lived in or near Chicago or Minneapolis knows that Frosty the Snowman will probably get at least one more chance to play before the duffers can dust off their golf clubs. If Mother Nature were a radio DJ, her April playlist would be more likely to include James Taylor's "Shower the People" than John Denver's "Sunshine on My Shoulders" in some parts of the country.

However, the preponderance of April showers does not diminish the need for sports turf managers to be acutely aware of the need for proper irrigation of athletic fields, the primary topic of two articles in this month's issue. Our new irrigation editor, Robert Reaves, discusses some of the most important factors concerning proper irrigation of sports fields, including chemigation, fertigation and proper maintenance of irrigation systems. Meanwhile, Alan Ginsburg profiles SUNY-Cobleskill Plant Science Professor George Crosby and the students in his irrigation course who designed and built a new automated irrigation system for the school's soccer field.

While irrigation may be the primary focus of this month's issue, don't overlook the other informative features. Most sports turf managers are aware that safety is an important issue in the industry, but many have not outlined specific safety procedures for their facility. Floyd Perry and Steve Guise can help you get the ball rolling with the guidelines detailed in their article this month.

Finally, E.M. Stevens Field at Trinity University in San Antonio is a true rags-to-riches story of effective sports turf management. Director of Grounds Mike Schweitzer offers some valuable tips for all turf managers in Bob Tracinski's profile of the College Baseball Diamond of the Year. Sports turf managers should keep in mind that it's never too early to start thinking about next year, particularly if you manage a potential Diamond of the Year candidate. If you haven't begun one already, start a log of your maintenance procedures and start taking pictures of your facility for documentation now. Perhaps your facility will be profiled in *sportsTURF* as Baseball Diamond of the Year for 1995-1996!

Mike Augsdorfer

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EVENTS

CALENDAR

APRIL

25-26 "Sports Turf Management for Professionals," University of California, Davis, Extension. Contact: (800) 752-0881. Outside California, call (916) 757-8777.

25-27 "Practical Approaches for Effective Erosion and Sediment Control," "Bioengineering Techniques for Streambank and Lakeshore Erosion Control," and "Design Methods for Channel Protection and Streambank Stabilization" sponsored by the International Erosion Control Association. Nashville, TN. Contact: IECA, (800) 455-4322 or (303) 879-3010.

27 Landscape and Lawn Seminar sponsored by the Southern California Chapter STMA. Sea World, San Diego. Contact: Chris Bunnell, (619) 432-2421.

MAY

1-3 Forty-ninth Annual Southeast Turfgrass Conference. Rural Development Center, Tifton, GA. Contact: Jeanne Werner, (912) 386-3416.

2-3 Two half-day workshops, "Microscopic Identification of Turfgrass Diseases." Cook College, Rutgers University. Contact: (908) 932-9271.

2-4 Sports Turf Field Days sponsored by Illinois Lawn Equipment, Orland Park. Lunch will be served. Reservations required. Catalogs distributed to those in attendance. Contact: Tim Kelpsas, (708) 349-8484.

6 Second Annual Tees for Trees Golf Tournament sponsored by the Coachella Valley Chapter of the CLCA. Rancho Mirage Country Club, Rancho Mirage, CA. Contact: Jim Head, (619) 776-4250 or Garrett Jones, (619) 775-4343.

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Send announcements of your events two months in advance to: Editor, **sportsTURF Magazine**, 68-860 Perez Road, Suite J, Cathedral City, CA 92234. Fax (619) 770-8019.