



Helping Hands

Readers should never hesitate to point out mistakes they see in this magazine. Our staff welcomes corrections as a way of keeping the magazine as accurate as possible.

For this reason, I thank Jeff Cole, the marketing director at West Coast Turf, for catching an error that appeared in the November/December 1996 article "Wimbledon Never Looked Like This!"

Cole told us, "All turfgrass areas are not PD102 as stated in the article but are Tidwarf hybrid bermuda. The tennis court was sodded with Tidwarf sod washed to remove all the soil. I checked with Wally Camp at Desert Mountain Properties, and he confirmed this."

I also thank a reader in Florida for pointing out an inconsistency in the article "Grounds Crew Safety Practices" in the September 1996 issue. In the text on page 11, the article advises that "all members of the crew need to wear appropriate clothing, which includes long pants, shirts and boots," but the photos on pages 10 and 11 show people wearing short-legged pants and short-sleeved shirts. In this case, do as we say and not as we show.

While thanking people, I must express gratitude to the members of the Colorado Chapter of STMA, who so graciously and flawlessly hosted STMA's fast-paced, fun-filled, multi-faceted annual conference last January in Colorado Springs. Any number of things could have gone wrong during the proceedings, but to my knowledge, nothing did.

To the thank-you list, add Mary Owen and her cohorts on the conference's Education Committee, who served up a well-balanced diet of seminars. Viewing the menu prior to the conference, I saw nothing but dishes I wanted to sink my teeth into — except for one, "Protecting Skin from Sun Damage," because health topics tend to bore me. Ironically, the session turned out to be one of the most memorable, and certainly the scariest with its grisly photos of skin cancer and frightening statistics.

It was that kind of conference — never a dull moment — with each event meeting or exceeding expectations. The excitement started with a snow storm that blanketed Colorado, through which educators, exhibitors and turf managers trekked to contribute wisdom in classrooms or relate in hallways experiences that did not always go unheard or unappreciated by someone standing nearby.

Appropriately, the conference culminated with an "and then some" banquet speaker, George Toma, who has served as a groundskeeper for 54 years (he started his career at age 12 at the Cleveland Indians' old field). Toma described himself as the "the nitty gritty dirt man and black sheep of groundskeepers because I tell it like it is. If I rip you, it means I love you — I only criticize those I care about. I know I perturb people, but I do it to help get the best fields possible for the kids and the other players."

Although his methods may differ in some ways, Toma in other ways seems typical of most groundskeepers — as friendly as he is tough and willing to extend a helping hand to anyone who asks.

April

16 Automatic Rain Company's 1997 Turf Day. Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, Calif. Contact: Automatic Rain Co. Phone: (415) 328-2700.

20-23 The Management Systems Council (MSC) hosts its 31st National Conference & Technology Exhibition. Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, Alberta, Canada. Contact: Lori Burke. Phone: (703) 838-1721.

22-23 University of California Extension, Davis (in cooperation with U.C. Cooperative Extension), offers "Integrated Turfgrass Pest Management for Professionals." Contact: University Extension, University of California, Davis, CA 95616. Phone: (916) 757-8899.

May

5-7 Engine & Equipment Training Council (EETC) industry meeting to address the critical shortage of technicians in the outdoor power equipment industry. Irving, Texas. Contact: Virgil Russell. Phone: (512) 442-1788. Fax: (512) 442-1789. E-mail: opcert@io.com.

June

1-4 California Resource Recovery Association's (CRRAs) annual conference, "Zero Waste: Challenge for the Next Millennium?" Monterey, Calif. Contact: Gary Liss. Phone: (916) 652-4450.

July

17-19 Turfgrass Producers International's Summer Convention and Field Days. Minneapolis, Minn. Contact: Tom Ford. Phone: (847) 705-9898. Fax: (847) 705-8347.

26-28 International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo 1997. Louisville, Ky. Contact: Sellers Expositions. Phone: (800) 558-8767 or (502) 562-1962.

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