Calendar of Events

July 20-22

Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's (OPEI) 18th annual International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo (EXPO 2001), Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. Contact: Sellers Expositions, 550 S. 4th Ave., Louisville, KY 40202-2504; (800) 558-8767 or (502) 562-1962; fax (502) 562-1970. Web site: http://expo.mow.org.

October 31-November 1

Southern California Landscape, Equipment and Turfgrass Expo, Pomona, CA. Contact: Southern California Turfgrass Council (SCTC), 7100 Sunnyslope Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91450; (818) 764-5016 or (800) 500-SCTC (7282); expo@turfcouncil.org. Web site: http://www.turfcouncil.org.

November 10-13

12th annual Green Industry Expo (GIE), Tampa, FL. Contact: Professional Lawn Care Association of America, 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068-2112; (770) 973-2019; fax (770) 578-6071; info@gieonline.com. Web site: http://www.gieonline.com.

November 13-15

Turf and Grounds Exposition, Oncenter, Syracuse, NY. Contact: New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), P.O. Box 612, Latham, NY 12110; (518) 783-1229/(800) 873-TURF (8873); fax (518) 783-1258; nysta@nysta.org. Web site: http://www.nysta.org.

December 4-6

Ohio Turfgrass Show. Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH. Contact: Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Satellite Morrison Rd., Office, 746 Columbus, OH 43230-6649; (614) 501-1100 or (877) 683-3445; fax 501-1101. Web site: (614) http://www.ohioturfgrass.org.

SportsTURF The Front Office



Get a new perspective

A Denver company is using advanced digital imaging and geographic information system (GIS) technologies to take sports site mapping to a new level.

IntraSearch Inc., an aerial mapping and digital imaging company located in Denver, has formed a special "Sports Mapping" division in response to its growing client base of professional sports venues. Two firms joined the new division as affiliate companies: GroundLinkx LLC of Littleton, Colo., and Mapping Events & Associates LLC of Bordentown, N.J..

The keystone of the new division is IntraSearch's three-dimensional topographic mapping and digital orthophoto services. The GroundLinkx programs produce a digital map that uses GIS technology to link database intelligence with map features together on a computer screen. "Our smart maps can eliminate inaccuracy, improve communication and help lower the expenses involved in site maintenance and event presentation," said David Mikesh, GroundLinkx president.

So how can this be beneficial for turf managers? If your site is preparing for a large event, you could use this technology to create a digital map of your grounds, then lay out all the equipment, tents, port-a-pots, etc., digitally, instead of using an overlay. These logistical layouts, fitted specifically for the site, can help save a lot of time and headaches for any large-attendance event.

Managers can also access satellite images for nearly any plot of land, dating back to the early 20th century. This can be a useful feature for learning the history of the grounds you care for, and help track environmental and agricultural changes to your grounds. It can be a fascinating trip through time, while providing a unique perspective to the grounds you care for.

For more information on this mapping technology, visit IntraSearch's Web site at www.intrasearch.com; or for some mapping samples, check out www.mapmart.com.

Letter to the editor

I would like to comment on the cutting height table found on page 24 [March, "Sports Field Maintenance with Reels and Rotaries"]. I disagree that the cutting heights suggested for the warm season turfgrass represent their optimum heights. There are several different Bermudagrasses and the best cutting height may be different for each one. For example, common is different than 419 or 328, all of which may be used on an athletic field. I have never seen St. Augustine used on any kind of sports field, but I'm sure there always is an exception. It's not terribly wear tolerant. A cutting height of 3/4" is far too low unless it's a dwarf variety.

Thanks, Dr. Bill Knoop Professor and Turfgrass Specialist Emeritus Texas A&M University

Michael Sam Filippo

Michael SanFilippo (847) 882-1942