

LESCO expands distribution

LESCO is expanding the distribution of its professional turf manager product line into geographic markets not served by its 228 service centers and Stores-on-Wheels®. The company is forming an Independent Marketer program designed to allow their proprietary products to be sold in selected markets in locations not owned by the company. These markets were selected based on their potential to reach professional customers through existing distributors.

Independent Marketers will have access to all of the company's proprietary products, including golf course fertilizer line Novex™, Poly Plus® sulfur coated urea fertilizers, CommercialPlus™ line of application and mowing equipment, and LESCO-branded combination and control products and seed.

For more information on independent marketer programs, call at 1-866-616-6592.

Only one "Game Day"

In our October issue's feature on field paint and marking materials, two companies used the name "Game Day" on their paint products. Game Day™ is a registered trademark of Suntec Paint, Inc.; no other company manufactures or distributes any products under that name. We regret the confusion.

Help for your tennis courts

Tennis Courts: A Construction and Maintenance Manual has been published by the United States Tennis Court & Track Builders Association (USTC & TBA). This second edition, co-published with the United States Tennis Association, gives guidance to design, construction, accessorizing, and maintaining tennis courts (duh).

The book covers all aspects of tennis facilities, from determining the number and type of courts to be built, to the design and specs of facilities for special populations, to actual construction, and selection of amenities and accessories.

Call 410-418-4875 for information.

Managing safer fields book

A manual for managing safer natural turf facilities for outdoor sports is available from the Sports Turf Association.

Understanding Turf Management by Dr. R. W. Sheard presents concepts applicable to any turf manager, from golf course superintendents to parks supervisors, says the publisher.

"This manual provides a depth of coverage that will make it the standard reference for cool season turf professionals and students," says Rob Witherspoon, director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. The book was published with the support of Bannerman, G. C. Duke Equipment Ltd., Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products, Nu-Gro, and Rain Bird.

For more information call 519.763.9431.

Cindy Unger, FSL Groundskeeper of the Year

Cindy Unger, head groundskeeper for Global Stadium Services at both Roger Dean Stadium and the adjoining 12-practice field Jupiter spring training site of the St. Louis Cardinals and Montreal Expos, has been named the Florida State League's Groundskeeper of the Year.

Unger was recognized for the second time in 3 years

by the league her outstanding work in keeping the 7,000-seat stadium grass and dirt field in the best condition of any park in the league. She received her award last season before a Jupiter Hammerheads game from team general manager Ross Vecchio.

The Global Stadium Services grounds crew at the Jupiter complex also was voted the best in the league.

"It is important to note that this award is voted on by the managers and coaches of all of the teams that play in Roger Dean Stadium," said Robert Rabenecker, Jr., general manager of the Roger Dean Stadium Complex.

"While Cindy was honored for her work on the Stadium, she and her crew keep every one of our 13 fields in the same manicured condition throughout the year.

"Thanks to their efforts, our fields are consistently excellent whether it's for Jeff Torborg's Expos and Tony LaRussa's Cardinals during spring training or for the Hammerheads during the FSL season.

"Cindy has eliminated many of my concerns when it comes to taking care of the fields. She's the consummate professional in her field. We are very proud of her and her crew."

"It's a great honor to win this award. I accept it on behalf of our entire grounds crew," said Unger, who also serves as the facility's operation manager. "After all, we strive everyday to consistently make our playing surface the finest in the country. The Bermuda grass is mowed to 7/8ths of an inch and the clay dirt areas are of the right density and moisture to provide a true bounce and a good running surface for the players."

A former pharmaceutical student, Unger's first job in field maintenance was at the old West Palm Beach Municipal Stadium where she was a spray technician in charge of insecticides and fertilization. She moved to Disney's Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando in 1996 where she was athletic turf supervisor for their fields.

Global Stadium Services is part of Global Spectrum, the Philadelphia-based public assembly facility management company that operates 28 arenas, stadiums, convention centers, expo centers and ice rink facilities in the U.S. and Canada. Global Spectrum is part of the Comcast-Spectacor family of companies. They include Comcast-Spectacor Ventures, Philadelphia Flyers, Philadelphia 76ers, Philadelphia Phantoms, First Union Center, First Union Spectrum, Comcast SportsNet, Flyers Skate Zone, Bowie Baysox, Delmarva Shorebirds and Frederick Keys.

No "I" in team

The entire Turf Management Team for the Denver Broncos has won the 2001 "Turfgrass Professional of the Year" award from the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association (RMRTA).

The RMRTA is a conglomerate of various aspects of the Rocky Mountain turfgrass industry, including the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents, Colorado Sports Turf Managers, Colorado Sod Producers, and the Colorado Association of Lawn Care Professionals. This award is their highest honor and never before has been awarded to an entire turfgrass team.

Members of the turfgrass team at INVESCO Field at Mile High and the Denver Broncos' practice facility are: Ross Kurcab, CSFM; Troy Smith, CSFM; Abby McNeal, CSFM; Wes Conway; Brooks Dodson; Bret Baird; Andrew Hoiberg; Mitch Oullette; and Scott Lane.

Congratulations to Russ and his team for their exemplary professionalism and performance!

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