Dog days, the time to relax, recharge, and refocus

Take a break and catch your breath. It’s mid-summer. Dog days. Take some time to relax, recharge and reflect on what you’ve accomplished so far this season. And what you still want to get done in 1998.

You’ll think much clearer, and make better decisions if you get away from the shop for a week, a few days at least.

Reintroduce yourself to family and friends. Go to the local ball park for a game or two. Take the family on that fishing trip you’ve always dreamed about. Spend some time at a quiet lake. How about that bicycle tour that you were always too busy to try?

If you can’t take more than a day or two away from your business (or even if you can), attend one of the many summer turf and ornamental field days. They only cost $20-$30 and you usually get lunch too. These field days are a great deal considering all the friends you’ll see and the great things you’ll hear about.

Take some of your good employees with you. They’ll greatly appreciate it.

Here’s a list of some of the remaining turfgrass field days:

- July 28, Midwest Regional, West Lafayette, IN: 765/494-8039.
- Aug. 12-13, Penn State, University Park, PA: 814/863-3475.
- Aug. 18, PLCAA Texas Chapter, Lawn & Ornamental Conference, Dallas: 800/458-3466.
- Aug. 20, Turf and Landscape Field Day, U.C. Bay Area Research and Extension Center, 90 N. Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara, CA. No advance registration required.

Valley Crest still hot in Orlando

The Orlando office of Valley Crest landed two contracts totaling $5.6 million for projects at Universal Studios Florida’s “Islands of Adventure” expansion. It secured a $3.1 million contract to work on theme park’s Lost Continent Island and a $2.5 million contract to work on Toon Lagoon. In all, Valley Crest is providing over $10 million worth of landscape, site construction, and concrete theming services to Universal Studios Florida.

The Groundskeeper adds to staff

The Groundskeeper, Tucson, AZ, named Roger Wyer as its Continuous Improvement Director. Wyer brings a unique background to the position. The ASU grad has, besides owning his own residential design-build company, served as a tribal planner for the Pascua Yaqui tribe, and as director of programs at Green Valley Recreation. The Groundskeeper is an employee-owned commercial landscape management firm with offices in Phoenix, Tucson, Las Vegas and Palm Springs.