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Turf fields on top of buildings?
Green space at Georgetown University is at a minimum. About 12,000 students attend the 100-acre campus. That’s why officials at the Washington D.C. school might install a grass athletic field on top of a proposed building. They’ve already reportedly talked to Dr. Bill Daniel, co-inventor of the sand-based Prescription Athletic Turf (PAT) system, about the feasibility of such an undertaking. The building is being planned for the 2 1/2-acre site presently used for Georgetown intramurals.

Horticulture field ‘wide open’
Looking for a job? How about a career switch into horticulture? According to a Temple University prof, the jobs are there, but the graduates aren’t.
Dr. George Manaker, chairman of the department of horticulture and landscape design at Temple’s Ambler Campus, says, “each year we get more and more inquiries for qualified graduates. The jobs are out there. But there aren’t enough qualified people to fill them.”
Temple literature notes that careers in horticulture are wide open, financially attractive, and personally rewarding. “If a graduate wants to work with interior plantings, it takes only minutes to land a job,” says Manaker. “Large corporate buildings and shopping malls have opened up the field of interior landscaping design,” he says.
A few years ago, a group of Temple horticulture alumnae formed a landscape design network, aimed at stimulating business opportunities for women. It was a good idea. Today the network serves both women and men as an exchange forum for information on a career in landscaping.

Reduce injuries, reduce liability
Litigation arising from personal-injury accidents is a trend we all want to avoid. Greg Petry says park directors can reduce injuries and limit their exposure to liability with some planning.
Petry, coordinator for parks in Park Ridge, Ill., suggests monthly in-service safety training programs plus inspections of park grounds. Prepare and use a checklist, he says. It can be the documentation needed to head off a lawsuit.
Some other hints from Petry:
• Schedule inspections on a “regular” basis rather than weekly or monthly. The term “regular” gives the park director some leeway.
• Once you find a safety problem, make sure your boss is aware of it as well. “Push the responsibility up the ladder,” Petry says.
• Don’t alter playground equipment without permission of the equipment manufacturer. If you do and an injury results, you become legally vulnerable.
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ASSOCIATIONS

ALCA members receive good business tips

"It’s as easy to make $1,000 as it is $100. You just have to multiply your thinking by 10."

Gunther Klaus, keynote and most popular speaker at the recent ALCA Landscape Management Division conference, has a long and diverse business background. It showed during a three-hour presentation to more than 200 ALCA members. Here are some more of his gems:

• "When everybody else stops, you’ve got to go that extra step. That way, you’ll always be ahead of the crowd."
• When you do something really well for a customer, that customer will tell three other people. But when you screw up something for a customer, that customer will tell 13 other people."
• "We’re obsessed with the bottom line. But nothing will happen on the bottom line unless it happens on the top line first. That’s where it’s at."

The conference was held at Dallas’s Fairmont Hotel.

The other featured speaker was Carol Sapin Gold, who discussed Gunther Klaus captivates ALCA audience in Dallas.

"The Hidden Side of Customer Relations." Other sessions covered pricing, estimating, seasonal color, liquid fertilizer application, proposals, extras and image-building.

The conference was not without its lighter moments, especially during the annual Brag-Blooper Night.

David Cardenas of Crystal Springs Landscape Maintenance, Morgan Hill, Calif., received a $100 prize for a blooper he once pulled: planting some exotic flowers upside down. The kicker was that when the client wouldn’t pay Cardenas for the work, he took her to court—and won!

George Morrell of Clark-Morrell, Lithonia, Ga. won the $100 "brag" prize for the third consecutive year.

New LMD officers will be installed at the annual ALCA convention later this month in Tampa.

ASSOCIATIONS

GCSAA conference in San Francisco

The International Golf Course Conference and Show will be held Jan. 27 to Feb. 4 at Moscone Convention Center in the heart of San Francisco.

Rooms at 10 area hotels have been reserved for attendees of the huge show, sponsored by the GCSAA.

For more information, contact the GCSAA at (800) GSA-SUPT.

ASSOCIATIONS

PGMS names top man, slate of officers


Charles Baiano, grounds supervisor for Sleepy Hollow Restorations of Tarrytown, N.Y., was named "Grounds Manager of the Year" at the group’s awards banquet.

A longtime PGMS member, Baiano has guided Sleepy Hollow Restorations to several awards in prestigious shows like the Westchester Spring Garden and Flower Show.

Among other highlights: tours of both the Dallas and Fort Worth park systems; Warren Purdy’s two talks; John Watson on landscape illumination; Dr. Ricks Pluenneke on the computer’s role in grounds management; Weeds Trees & Turf advisor Dr. Kent Kurtz on sports turf; and a two-day trade show.

PGMS officially recognized its officers for 1986. They are: president, Clarence Davids Sr.; second vice president, Russel Studebaker; treasurer Ted Shull; secretary Ken Zaremba; and Georgia representatives Denny Asmus, Steve Moore and Paul Miller.

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Next year, PGMS and the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) combine their shows. The joint PGMS/ALCA convention will be held in Milwaukee in November.
New sports turf association seeking allies on sports field

Turf industry leader Dr. Fred Grau pleads for unity in a national drive for safer sports fields. "It's not just a cause anymore. It should be a crusade," said Dr. Grau to a 12-member "sports turf summit" this past October in Beltsville, Md. The gathering, the second summit convened at the Agricultural Research Station this year, will seek the help of allied green industry associations for safer ballyards.

"Let's bring all the splinters together," said Dr. Grau, who along with Dr. Jack Murray of the USDA co-chaired the meeting.

"This is an opportune time for us to concentrate our efforts," Murray added. "We've got to let people know who we are and what we're doing."

Attendees of the summit agreed to form the National Sports Turf Council (NSTC) under the wing of The Musser Foundation which Dr. Grau directs. The NSTC will act as an "umbrella" organization. It will seek the support of allied associations and suppliers serving the industry.

The next step for the fledgling council will be the drafting of policy statements by a committee chaired by Dr. Eliot Roberts of the Lawn Institute.

Look for NSTC to begin a search for an executive director soon also. Murray said he would like to see a director in place (possibly headquartered in Beltsville) within a year.

Says Murray: "I just think in 10 years we're going to be overrun with things we should have done five years before, or even today."

Pro gridders say real grass better

Most National League Football players prefer grass over synthetic turf.

That's the message John Macik, of the NFL Player's Association, delivered recently to the second "Sports Turf Summit" in Beltsville, Md. A dozen top turf experts attended The Musser Foundation-sponsored summit.

Macik said the Player's Association sent surveys to 1,300 NFL players during the spring of 1985.

Survey results?

Of the 465 responding players, 380 favored natural turf, 55 indicated no preference, and 30 said they'd rather play on synthetic turf.

The NFL Player's Association advocates natural turf playing surfaces in an effort to protect the careers of professional football players. Macik added he feels the natural-versus-synthetic argument is heating.

Says Macik: "I think you're going to see the NCAA and other athletic powers putting together some forums to determine how they're going to deal with this controversy."

The five best playing surfaces voted by NFL players are all natural grass: Tampa Bay, Miami, Denver, Anaheim and Los Angeles.
Flood-damaged course pleads for assistance

Preston Country Club, a small community golf course in Kingwood, W.Va., needs assistance following a devastating flood on Nov. 4-5, 1985.

Water from nearby Cheat River caused $1,163,000 damage, according to club superintendent Art George, who detailed the club's plight in an exclusive letter to Weeds Trees & Turf.

"Our goal is to try to save nine holes for play in 1986, and commence rebuilding our other holes as resources permit," George wrote. "We have little to offer contributors that might aid our plight except our sincere thankfulness, down-home hospitality and the personal reward for helping fellow golfers."

Insurance provides only $75,000 for clubhouse reconstruction which is expected to cost $240,000 to replace. Most of that money will be used to pay off the existing mortgage.

"Flood insurance was not maintained on the remaining buildings because no one dreamed the Cheat River could flood to that extent," George wrote. "It might be noted that at no time in recorded history had the golf course or the Preston Country Club ever before flooded, and the November flood exceeded by 10 feet any recorded flood of the river."

Here is the golf course damage caused by the flood which claimed 35 lives and 1,000 homes:

- all maintenance equipment destroyed;
- golf carts and cart storage building washed away;
- one-third of clubhouse (now condemned) washed away;
- 70 percent of golf course covered with river silt, sand and rock deposits from one inch to six feet in depth;
- pump station washed away; and
- electric power lost for nine days.

"We can and must rebuild our golf course and country club, and it must be done on our existing land because it has no greater value for our community, and represents the only flat ground in the area available for a golf course," George wrote. "Our main problem is that, with the cost of golf course materials and construction, we simply cannot afford a conventional reconstruction approach. That is why I am writing you for any help, suggestions or input that you might offer in our time of need."

The country club is a non-profit corporation owned by 130 stockholders. Its 1985 budget was $200,000.

Golf course architect Michael Hurdzan of Columbus, Ohio, was one of the first to offer assistance.

"Our situation is near desperate and we do not want our community to lose one of its best assets," George concluded.

To offer assistance, write Preston Country Club, Kingwood, WV, 26537, or phone (304) 329-1780.

A shed crumbled under the raging current, damaging some golf cars.

A worker surveys damage to the clubhouse where water reached the second floor.