

Make Plans For The Turf And Grounds Conference

Everyone, in their own time, comes across an opportunity that they just *have* to take advantage of. For the disgruntled Cuban, it's a raft ride from Havana to Key West. For aspiring trial lawyers, it's witnessing the most publicized murder trial of modern times—the O.J. Simpson trial. For turf and grounds professionals, it is without question attendance at The Greater Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference and Show, in conjunctions with the 67th M.G.C.S.A. Annual Meeting.

This premier educational event will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on December 7, 8 and 9, 1994. It will feature some of the leading turf and grounds authorities in the country. In addition, the trade show will contain over 150 booths, with vendors from all areas of related equipment and supplies.

The educational portion of the conference will cover a widely diverse array of topics ranging from basic soil science, to tree pruning and care, to advancing professionalism in our industry.

On Wednesday, the focus will be on pests, their control and the environment. This full day of sessions will qualify attendees for their pesticide recertification for 1995. Rest assured that this will *not* be a typical recertification seminar! Featured speakers include Dr. Rod Ferrantino of Cornell University, Dr. Pat Vittum, of the University of Massachusetts and Dr. Clark Throssel of Purdue Univer-

sity. The day's format will allow participants to hear the speakers and topics that are of interest to them.

Thursday's program will start out with two outstanding speakers: Dr. Frank Rossi from the University of Wisconsin and Dr. James Beard of the Sports Turf Institute. Dr. Rossi's topic is "You Can Be A Professional Without Wearing A Tie". Dr. Beard will expound on "Why You Wish You Knew More About Soils". There will be four different sessions to choose from on Thursday afternoon: Turfgrass Management, Native Plant Materials, Business/Professional and The Workplace.

Friday's schedule will start out with Jim Latham, Director of the Great Lakes Region of the U.S.G.A. Greens Section. His talk will recall "What It Took Forty Years To Learn In The Green Industry". Following Mr. Latham, three different sessions will be available: Arboriculture Symposium, presented by Dr. John Ball of South Dakota State University; The Innovative Superintendent and News Of The Nineties, a look at new practices and developments in turf management.

The trade show will be open from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday and from 10:30 to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday. The size and scope of this show are impressive—over 150 booths covering nearly 30,000 square feet! There will be so much to see

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Hazard Trees On The Golf Course

By Michael A. Beebe, ASCA
Consulting Arborist

Trees are as important to a golf course as are the players. Recognizing tree hazards on the golf course and performing remediation or removal is essential to remove the risks involved with their presence. Trees may be dangerous.

In this litigative society, this is where an ounce of prevention is worth ten pounds of cure. There are many common defects associated with tree hazards and the ability to evaluate these defects should be left in the hands of an experienced Consulting Arborist. Golf course superintendents are experts with turf by virtue of education, continuing education and experience. Many are quite knowledgeable on trees, and tree health, yet this is not their prime area of expertise and rightly so. There is only so much time in one life.

The liabilities involved with "Hazard Trees" is tremendous. The bottom line responsibilities of serious injury from tree-related incidents lies with the owner. Our courts are getting more and more cases involving tree-related accidents.

Most of our golf courses still have old willow trees, poplar trees and cottonwoods that have passed maturity years ago. Many of the courses I have played on have older trees with large dead branches, big cavities, construction damage, reduced soil level or increased soil level on the roots or

around the trunk, dead branches hanging, and many more indicators of actual hazards.

In order for a tree to become a "Hazard Tree" it must have a target. Unfortunately, like myself, not all golfers stay in the fairway. By virtue of the game, this makes most of the golf course accessible and susceptible. To protect your crews, players and owners, may I suggest having a "HAZARD TREE INVENTORY" completed during your off months (Jan., Feb., March, April). Most golf courses have tree pruning crews do their work in the winter, and armed with your "Hazard Tree Inventory" you derive multiple benefits from your tree care dollars. You may have only one hazard tree on your course or you may have many. Hazard trees are dangerous. Have them identified and remediated.

An inventory of trees is advisable. It should contain enough information, i.e. size, species, location, condition and dollar value to be of any real use to your organization. Ideally an inventory not only includes the above but it also should be done as to be acceptable on your computer. With the above information on disc the superintendent is well-armed with the necessary data to make timely, money saving and wise decisions regarding the trees on his or her course and the safety of all who play on it.

Turf and Grounds Conference —

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that a second day had to be added to insure attendees enough time to thoroughly cover the show. Refreshments will be available in the trade show as well as at the Hospi-

tality/Social night scheduled for Thursday evening. This will be an excellent opportunity to get to know others in our industry, and also to catch up with old friends.

For those who plan on staying in Minneapolis, the conference committee has chosen the Minneapolis Hilton as the headquarters hotel. The Hilton has agreed to a \$55 per

night rate, which is a great bargain for a hotel of the Hilton's calibre. Guests will have privileges to the large health spa, including a swimming pool, a sauna and a whirlpool. The restaurants and lounge will accommodate the parched and famished with fine dining and beverages.

As you can see, this year's conference and show have all the elements for a great educational experience—all it needs is you! In addition, if you take the time to locate a turf or grounds professional in your area and invite him or her to this conference, you will be doing a service to the industry by helping to educate the green industry. See you at the conference!

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