

Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

You might think that when you are in the midst of your busiest season that things would slow down at your headquarters. In some respects that is true. We don't have conference registrations to handle. Membership renewals have slowed down, but new member applications are still coming in strong. Since I last spoke to you through this column, we have finalized the details on the Compendium and have almost finalized the new Roster. Watch for your copies shortly. Newsletters are an ongoing process.

One area that expands this time of year is phone calls with questions. We hear from members that have a problem that they would like assistance on. We hear from non-members that want to know how to do something. We hear from builders and architects with this question or that. While we answer the questions as directly as we can, we usually rely on you, the member, to provide the bulk of the assistance. Some of you have expressed a willingness to be on call, so to speak, when questions arise. Others haven't formally offered assistance, but we are aware of their strengths and situations that they have been involved in so we pass their name and number along. So far, in all my years of contact with Sports Turf Managers, I have never been told by anyone that they don't want to help others.

We would like to provide even more assistance to callers and to readers of this newsletter and industry publications. If you have had a learning experience that you would like to share, just let us know. It could be some idea that would warrant a sentence or two. It could lead to a "How Do You Do?..." topic. It could be a topic worthy of consideration for a feature story in this newsletter, sportsTurf or some other publication. You might want your name added to our "willing helpers" list. In any event, your helping someone else will make them even more willing to share their experiences when the time comes. Your problems can create someone else's solutions and your solutions can prevent someone else from having problems.

In keeping with the sharing of information, we are introducing a new feature in this issue of STM. Trusty Tips® will include short items that just might save you a little time or money. They will be tips that I have picked up from others in the industry, and from my years of experience in the horticultural field. The number of tips in each issue will depend on space available and information passed along to

me, or whatever I can come up with when it's time to finalize the newsletter.

Until next issue, and as always, stay in touch.



Trusty Tips®

- Take soil samples at least once a year to assure that you are providing the nutrients that match your turf's needs.
- Drag a hose across the turf in the early morning or use some other method to remove the dew and fungal mycelia from the leaf blades. This should reduce disease incidence.
- Consider purchasing an extra set of blades for your rotary mowers. This way you can always have sharp blades on the mower and sharpen the spare set as your schedule permits for a ready replacement.

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