

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

is a proud member of these green industry professional organizations:



Associated Landscape Contractors of America, 12200 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 150, Reston, VA; (703) 620-6363.

American Association of Nurserymen (National Landscape Association), 1250 I St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 789-2900.

American Sod Producers Association, 1855-A Hicks Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008; (708) 705-9898.

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1421 Research Park Dr., Lawrence, KS 66049-3859; (913) 841-2240.

International Society of Arboriculture, P.O. Box 908, Urbana, IL 61801; (217) 328-2032.

International Turfgrass Society, Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences, VPI-SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0403; (703) 231-9796.



National Arborist Association, The Meeting Place Mall, P.O. Box 1094, Amherst, NH 03031-1094; (603) 673-3311.

National Golf Foundation, 1150 South U.S. Highway One, Jupiter, FL 33477; (407) 744-6006.

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, 2021 Coffey Rd., Columbus, OH 43210; (614) 292-2601.



Professional Grounds Management Society, 120 Cockeysville Rd., Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD 21031; (410) 584-9754.



Professional Lawn Care Association of America, 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068-2112; (404) 977-5222.

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, 1155 15th St. NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 872-3860.



Sports Turf Managers Association, 401 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-4267; (312) 644-6610.

Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association, 8400 Normandale Lake Blvd., Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55437; (612) 832-5000.

AS WE SEE IT

TERRY McIVER, MANAGING EDITOR



Natural turf, hort therapy and other musings for the month

The University of Missouri will soon replace its "concrete" football field with natural turf—good news for players and athletic department budget-balancers. Medical costs are high enough without avoidable sports injuries. The switch is happening at schools across the U.S.

How ironic: artificial turf was celebrated as being so much cheaper to maintain than natural turf (which, by the way, is not true) and look at what happened. Costs from injuries go through the dome.

Get ready for a rough few years if you're an athletic field manager. Enrollment is down at many colleges, and that means budgets ain't goin' nowhere but maybe down.

You've got to invent new ways to raise money from casino nights to field rentals. There should be a way to increase athletic field maintenance dollars, especially if field use is on the rise.

Dr. Tim Bowyer of Southern Turf Nurseries, for instance, knows of athletic departments that sell off pieces of the old field. According to Bowyer, alumni are happy to pay "big money" for a clod off the old field (not to be confused with a chip off the old block), especially if the school has a strong football tradition.

Hort therapy

When we first heard about "horticultural therapy," the term made me cringe from the "New Age" connotations it conjured up. But this is different. Douglas Airhart, associate professor at Tennessee Technological University, says horticultural therapy helps rehabilitate disabled or otherwise ill persons through contact with plants.

"Most gardeners know the soul-reviving powers of gardening, the excitement of the first bloom, and the therapeutic exercise involved in hoeing, weeding and pruning," says Airhart.

"Today, trained horticultural therapists use the healing powers of gardening and horticultural activities to help people

learn to help themselves, in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, prisons, botanical gardens and flower shops."

Airhart says hort therapy helps to improve self-esteem, social interaction, intellectual stimulation and emotional development.

Not to get all fuzzy wuzzy here, but working with plants—even if it's as simple as transplanting a fern to a larger pot (the extent of my own involvement and expertise in horticulture)—seems a pleasant-enough thing to do.

Apparently, the therapeutic value of horticultural pursuit is "rooted" (sorry, couldn't resist the pun) in ancient Egypt. In the U.S., says Airhart, it was common for 18th century mental institutions to employ patients in the growing and harvesting of crops on the farmland.

For more information, contact Dr. Airhart at (615) 372-3288.

An industry's loss

Finally, the green industry lost an ally and practitioner of rational, educated debate on environmental issues with the death in December of Dixy Lee Ray.

Ray, a former governor of Washington state, wrote two books over the past few years dealing with common sense and environmental protection. "Trashing the Planet" is a well-written and fact-filled reference in the debate over what man is supposedly doing to the environment in the name of progress.

Ms. Ray and her common sense will be missed.