

In case you've missed out on some of the green industry's best shows and conferences, here's a rundown on what the industry's talking about. (Not that you should ever use this column as a substitute for being there, of course.)

The Sports Turf Managers Association met in January in Colorado Springs. Dr. Eric Nelson of Medalist America was one of the many presenters. He spoke on over-seeding as an important—but often neglected—part of athletic field turf management.

"Over-seeding is not just something you do for a week in the fall, explained Nelson. "Procedures can be done during the summer so you can prepare a seed bed that's receptive to perennial ryegrass/annual ryegrass over-seeding in the fall."

The benefits of over-seeding, said Nelson, go beyond aesthetics, to include shear tolerance; it forces you to manage bermudagrass to reduce thatch layers and decrease compaction; it keeps you

in a mind-set of wanting your fields to look their best year-round.

"There's also some people who feel there are insulation benefits to ryegrass over-seeding on bermudagrass," added Nelson, "to protect it from cold shock or winter hardiness problems."

At the same show, Dr. Whitney Cranshaw, entomologist at Colorado State University, reminded field managers to, "know your insecticides," in terms of:

- ▶ toxicity/hazard to humans;
- ▶ environmental persistence;
- ▶ hazards to non-target organisms;
- ▶ water solubility;
- ▶ affinity for organic matter.

STMA reported it will soon have a certification program, one that will help them develop an

alliance with stadium managers, athletic trainers, "any group that is allied to sports fields."

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America held its annual "Day on the Hill" in Washington, D.C. in early February, as part of its ongoing quest for responsible legislation. (See our report on page 12.)

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America hosted its annual, educational gem of a show, this time in Las Vegas. Jim Snow of the United States Golf Association received the LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT "Person of the Year" award in the golf category, for his career-long dedication to better golf turf.

USGA consulting agronomists made 1,788 visits to golf courses in 1996 to help superintendents solve turf problems, said Joe England, new chairman of the USGA Green Section Committee. The testing of new bentgrass and bermudagrass varieties on 15 practice greens will begin later this year, co-sponsored by GCSAA and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program.

It's also reported that the USGA and the National Geographic Society present an environmental symposium in Washington, D.C. on May 16, to be attended by many golf and environmental agencies.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program will expand, said England, who added that the USGA is committed "to making golf courses more accessible, easier to maintain, ecologically sensitive and environmentally safe."

The Associated Landscape Contractors of America held its "Executive Forum" Feb. 15-18. An annual retreat for business people with an affinity for improvement, the forum featured guest speakers and break-out sessions on a variety of topics, from incentive programs to communicating your company "vision" to employees.

As usual, the green industry show calendar is full of events that can help you and your people improve the way you work, at a time when standing still just doesn't cut it. **LM**

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Main events cover turf like a blanket



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