

Message from the President

Greetings,

Triple digit temperatures are here to stay! The heat does not slow down recreational activities and usage, it breaks it up into early morning and late afternoon. This allows the turf manager a window of extremely small proportion and extreme conditions to work in. Safety is first! Be aware of your staff and surroundings as you schedule and work outdoors. Be sure to drink enough fluids and take necessary breaks to let the body cool down. The normal maintenance practices this time of year i.e., aerating/verticutting become more critical to perform and finish before the activities resume on the fields. Scheduling with organizations is critical to allow for the correct amount of watering windows and field maintenance issues to be completed prior to the next scheduled event. It's a balancing act for turf managers, one that is rewarding when it all comes together!

A big thanks goes out to Jim Conroy and Dr. Dave Kopec who had excellent presentations at Hi-Corbett and Karsten Turf Facility for our May 16th show in Tucson. Jim had consultants on hand to review the renovation of Reid Park and Hi-Corbett Field as well as a park tour, finished with a fantastic steak lunch! Dr. Dave reviewed the latest and greatest research on Bermuda grass habits and management in the Southwest. Thanks again gentlemen for your time and talents!

Your Arizona Sports Turf Managers Association is again partnering with the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association in its annual conference. Last years show was great success filled with informative, practical, educational seminars. This year's show will be more impressive. The conference is at the Pointe Hilton Resort at Tapatio Cliffs. The show dates are August 27th - 29th. The Sports Turf and Parks Maintenance day will be held on Thursday August 29th. Registration will begin at 7:00 am with the trade show floor opening at 7:30 am for seminar attendees to review the latest products available to them. Two concurrent sessions will run beginning at 9:00 am, one for Sports Turf related topics and one for Parks Maintenance topics. Lunch will be at 12:00 noon. After lunch, attendees will focus on more great speakers until 3:00 pm. The one day seminar fee including lunch is \$75. Mark the date on your calendar, register early, and prepare to come out and enjoy an educational as well as a networking day! Look for the registration page later in this newsletter to confirm attending the AZSTMA August 29th show!

Remember this association exists for you and because of you! Look for ways to network and improve yourself as well as your facility. Contact those around you that are knowledgeable and more than willing to help. Most of the individuals that call on you as a customer have the experience and contacts to put you in touch with someone that can answer most any question. Mentoring an employee is a great way to begin the process of sharing ideas and brainstorming. Look for answers from colleagues and professionals in your area, form a casual meeting time to visit other facilities and speak with other turf professionals. The green industry is endless with opportunities! Good luck!

Chris Calcaterra