



Short Cutts

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A Note of Passing *Dr. C. Richard Skogley*

The turfgrass industry has lost one of its great pioneers and gentleman with the passing of Dr. C. Richard Skogley in early September. "Doc" as he was referred to fondly by his many students and colleagues embodied the essence of a man committed to serving his family, his country, and his scientific discipline. Dr. Skogley, born in Deer Lodge, MT, was a navy veteran of World War II returning to college as many of his era on the GI Bill to pursue an education in agriculture. He received degrees from the University of Rhode Island and Rutgers in the 1950's and joined the URI faculty in 1960.

Dr. Skogley's legacy lives on in the many turf students he advised in his career and the many graduate students he guided to become leaders in the turfgrass industry, e.g. Dr. Rich Hurley of Lofts Seed, Dr. Rich Cooper of North Carolina State University, Dr. J. Scott Ebdon of UMass, Scott Niven of The Stanwich Club, John Carlone, Meadowbrook Golf Club, and Dennis Petruzelli of LakeOver National among others. The Rhode Island Golf Superintendents who benefited regularly from his "What's up, Doc?" column awarded him their "man of the year" honor in 1977. He received the United States Golf Association Distinguished Service Award in 1992 as a measure of his widespread influence on the selection and development of bentgrasses and fescues. Dr. Skogley was involved in the development and release of industry standards such as Jamestown chewings fescue, Exeter colonial bentgrass, Kingstown velvet bentgrass, and most recently, Providence creeping bentgrass.

I recall the days during my graduate studies at URI, when every Friday afternoon, Doc would walk the plots with me to rate the hundreds of varieties in his collection. He always viewed himself as a collector, not a breeder. He would place his cap on his head with a slight tilt to the right, pack his pipe, and off we went. I recall those afternoons with great fondness as he told stories of the students and friends that passed through his office. Later during my studies Doc and Jane opened their home to me and I had the privilege of sharing a room with C. David Skogley. That time with the Skogleys provided a unique opportunity to experience Doc as a husband and father, as well as my mentor. I carry a piece of that experience with me each day as do many turfgrass managers who had the privilege of sharing his polite and sincere company. Our thoughts are with Jane, David, Tom, and Elizabeth as well as the entire Skogley family.

FRANK ROSSI

Emmons Recognized for Excellence in Teaching

Professor Robert (Bob) Emmons, the turfgrass program leader at SUNY Cobleskill, received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching at the 1997 graduation ceremonies. The effort to bring this award to Bob was headed by Professor James Bates who was charged with collecting letters of support from current and former students as well as turfgrass industry leaders. As expected, the letters not only poured in, but were filled with genuine admiration and respect for a man that had a positive influence on their professional and personal lives.

Bob, a native Bostonian trained at the University of New Hampshire, has spent much of the last twenty two years mentoring students to become leaders in the golf turf industry. In addition, he has elevated the Cobleskill program to be one of the finest in the country, due in no small part to the attention he brought with the publication of his text, *Turfgrass Science and Management*. The program at Cobleskill continues to grow under his leadership and with the support of the turfgrass industry in New York State, especially the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA). Bob remains actively engaged in a variety of activities outside of his heavy load at Cobleskill, including teaching at Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYSTA Programs such as the Turfgrass Short Course and Sports Turf Field Days.

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The 22nd annual NYS Turf & Grounds EXPO, featuring comprehensive business and technical seminars, boasts over 67 NYS DEC pesticide recertification credits. One person could feasibly earn 13 to 15 credits towards recertification for attending the entire conference.

The new GCSAA College Guide is a perfect place for parents and students to start navigating the maze of careers, institutions, programs, faculty, and logistics of establishing a formal educational plan in golf course management.

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The 1997 New York State Turf and Grounds Exposition Blazing New Trails

The New York State Turfgrass Association is "Blazing New Trails" with its 22nd Annual Turf and Grounds Exposition November 4-7, 1997 at the OnCenter in Syracuse, NY. The expansive and comprehensive program features business and technical seminars, a 350 booth trade show and this year a keynote address from former Washington Redskin quarterback and ESPN NFL analyst, Joe Theismann.

The conference begins Tuesday, November 4 with six in-depth, one day seminars on topics of interest to all aspects of the green industry. Wednesday begins bright and early with the new Early Bird Session at 6:30 am with updates on performance and use of new pesticides from Joe Vargas, Bob Emmons, and Frank Rossi. Following the Early Bird Session, Joe Theismann will give an inspiring keynote address, followed by the opening of the trade show.

The remainder of Wednesday through Friday will feature breakout sessions that specifically address current and emerging issues facing the various sectors of the turfgrass industry. Session themes include: biological control programs for golf turf; selecting and establishing the new bentgrasses; understanding and developing alternative lawn and landscape services; establishing low maintenance meadows and prairies; athletic field surfaces for safety; organizing to influence pesticide policy; and developing reduced pesticide turf management programs. In addition, NYSTA continues to take the leadership role, in partnership with SUNY Cobleskill and SUNY Delhi, in offering the Turfgrass Equipment Technician Sessions on Thursday.

This exposition boasts over 67 NYS DEC pesticide recertification credits. One person could feasibly earn approximately 13 to 15 credits towards recertification for attending the entire conference. In addition, credits will be awarded from Massachusetts, Vermont, and Pennsylvania as well as continuing education units from GCSAA, PGMS, ISA, and NYS Recreation and Parks Society.

For more information regarding programs, registration, and exhibitor trade show material, please call the Conference Hotline at (800) 873-TURF (8873).

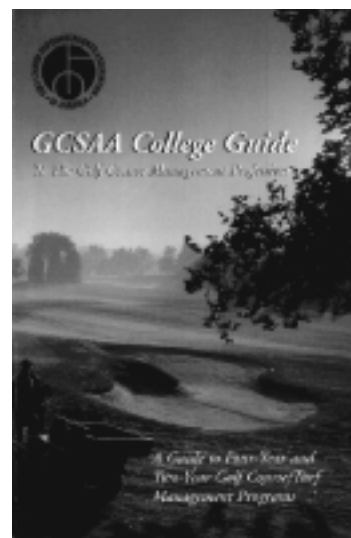
Navigating the Maze

GCSAA College Guide to the Golf Course Management Profession

The education of a golf course superintendent has evolved over the last few decades in parallel with the growth of golf. As a measure of this evolution, recent surveys indicate that eighty eight percent (88%) of all superintendents have some type of formal education, with sixty six percent (66%) having two or four year degrees. As a service to the industry to help interested persons achieve professional success, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has released a new publication that describes programs that offer an educational curriculum in golf turf management. The guide is organized into four sections: section one describes the profession, characteristics of educational programs, and information on financing an education; section two provides a sample curriculum for two and four year programs; section three profiles specific two and four year programs, as well as international programs; and section four lists the programs geographically.

Our New York programs at Cobleskill, Delhi and Cornell are listed and described among the 100 other programs offered throughout the world. This is a perfect place for parents and students to start navigating the maze of careers, institutions, programs, faculty, and logistics of establishing a formal educational plan that will lead to a successful professional career. For a copy of the College Guide, contact the GCSAA Service Center at (800) 472-7878, or visit the website at www.gcsaa.org.

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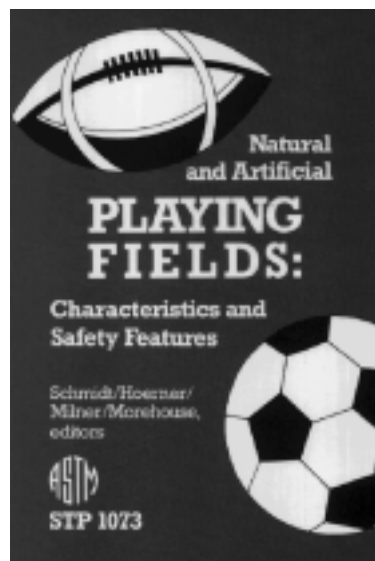
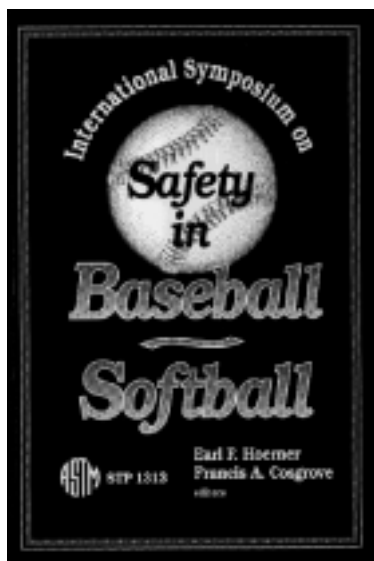
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More on Safety in Athletics

The Summer 1997 issue of *CUTT* described a text from the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) on Safety in American Football. In addition, ASTM published a companion text entitled, *Safety in Baseball/Softball* that is a compilation of papers presented at a symposium held in 1995. This text, as with the football text, is filled with very technical information for administrators, coaches, players, and community leaders interested in maximizing player safety. Chapters review the number and types of injuries associated with baseball/softball; the technical aspects of equipment such as bats, balls and protective equipment; ensuring spectator safety; and, of course, constructing and maintaining safe playing surfaces. This text is a must for any sports turf, grounds or facility manager's library.

Several years ago, in 1990, the ASTM published a text that may not have received the attention it deserved. The text entitled, *Natural and Artificial Playing Fields: Characteristics and Safety Features*, provides yet another in-depth treatise on the aspects of designing and maintaining safe athletic fields. This text covers the gamut of issues related to field construction and maintenance from matching the player to the field, and the impact absorption of natural and artificial surfaces, to the role of core cultivation in reducing surface hardness and enhancing shear resistance.

Both of these texts are available from the ASTM office at 100 Barr Harbor Dr., West Conshohocken, PA 19428.



Scanning the Journals

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Crown Hydration of Annual Bluegrass

Crown hydration is widely thought to be the cause of annual bluegrass turf loss during the late winter-early spring fluctuating freeze-thaw conditions. Researchers at the Prairie Turfgrass Research Center (PTRC) in Alberta, Canada have been investigating this issue and are beginning to develop a database of environmental parameters that influence annual bluegrass survival.

Turfgrasses have varying levels of winter hardiness throughout the season. For example, 50% of the plants removed from the field in June will be killed at temperatures of 23° F. However, plants at peak hardiness in January can survive temperatures as low as -6° F; of course bentgrass can tolerate temperatures as low as -40° F. It is well known that this hardening process is intimately related to crown moisture content.

Still, the incipient freeze-thaw conditions in the spring can result in immediate crown hydration and subsequent death. In fact the researchers observed a significant reduction in plant hardiness when soil temperatures warmed to 46° F for 48 hours. They noted that plants dehardened in the spring well before there is visible growth and that crown tissue does not take up water until after the dehardening process has begun.

In a separate study, they investigated the role of snow cover on hardening and dehardening. It was clear that longer, more persistent snow cover aided in maintaining hardiness levels through the reduction in temperature fluctuations. Therefore, it was clear that temperature was more important than amount of moisture as

it related to loss of hardiness and that it is advisable to maintain hardiness as long as possible in the spring.

(From: Tompkins, D.K., C.J. Bubar, and J.B. Ross. 1997. *Physiology of Low Temperature Injury with an Emphasis on Crown Hydration in Poa annua L. and Agrostis palustris*. 1996 PTRC Annual Report, 40-50.)

Crown hydration is widely thought to be the cause of annual bluegrass turf loss during the late winter-early spring fluctuating freeze-thaw conditions. Researchers in Canada concluded that temperature was more important than amount of moisture as it related to loss of hardiness.

Safety in Baseball/Softball, a new text from ASTM, provides administrators, coaches, players, and community leaders with technical information to maximize player safety.

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