

THE EXTRA POINT

STMA NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In traveling around the country to take part in STMA's various functions, I hear one recurring theme, "I need help!" We need help with infields that are too hard and won't drain. We need help with soccer fields that are overused. We need help with irrigation schedules and just about every aspect of our jobs. Many sports turf managers are at their wits end and don't know where to turn!

One of the easiest ways to find the answers to many of the problems and challenges we all face is through our professional organizations, such as STMA. STMA is not just a set of initials or some unknown entity out in the wilds of California. It is a group of people all dedicated to helping each other for the improvement of sports fields everywhere.

The largest percentage of our members are park and school facility managers and workers. These are the people who have to struggle daily with meager budgets, limited resources and an unceasing demand for their facility. To cope, some have developed ingenious methods that could be put to use on fields across the country. Meanwhile, others are desperately seeking information about such methods. It helps just to know you are not alone and that somebody else is faced with the same problems.

By being involved in STMA, we can share our problems, AND our solutions. I urge those of you that have come up with unique solutions to large and small problems to write the STMA office and let us know. There is a saying, "Knowledge that is not shared is worthless." If you are looking for answers, become involved in the association, attend the regional the national meetings, and use the membership directory to contact fellow members. The STMA membership directory gives you access to everybody from the "Big League" stadiums to park districts, universities and public schools. You'll also find many of the top turf educators and extension agents in the country.

I can speak from my own experience as a university grounds manager that my time talking to other members of STMA has been well spent. I have learned a great number of things from other grounds managers and have put these concepts and ideas to work. But the only way you can have the same experience is to support STMA in its mission of education and to actively share your knowledge.

Mark Hodnick, California State Polytechnic University.

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR DODGERTOWN

STMA is pleased to announce that its 1989 Annual Meeting and Conference will be held January 13-15, 1989, at Dodgertown, the spring training facility of the Los Angeles Dodgers in Vero Beach, FL.

This will be the first annual meeting and conference STMA has ever held on its own and promises to be one of the best. Dodgertown is a magnificent facility with all of the comforts and amenities. There is on-site lodging and dining facilities and a golf course in addition to the professionally-maintained baseball complex.

Vero Beach is located within easy reach of many of Florida's other attractions, such as Disney World, the Kennedy Space Center and Sea World. The spring training facilities of many other Major League Baseball teams are within a few hours drive.

The conference program will include presentations by experts from all the different segments of the sports turf industry, demonstrations of new and different approaches to sports facility maintenance and plenty of opportunities to discuss problems with other sports turf managers. Manufacturers from across the country will exhibit and demonstrate their products designed specifically for sports turf managers during the trade show.

You can have direct input into association operations during the business meeting and elect the officers for 1989. The Annual Awards Banquet will feature a major keynote speaker as well as the presentation of STMA scholarships, the Baseball Diamond of the Year Award, and several other recognitions. The banquet will provide a great opportunity to relax and enjoy the fellowship of your colleagues, friends and families.

The STMA staff is working very hard right now finalizing the details for the conference. In the very near future, all members of STMA will be receiving the official program announcement and preregistration information. It will include information on discount airline fares and hotel accommodations.

If you are not a member of STMA or would like more information about the conference, please contact the STMA office, 400 N. Mountain Ave., Suite 301, Upland, CA 91768, (714) 981-9199.

We are sure that this conference will be one of the most informative, educational and entertaining. Make plans now to attend.

NORTHEASTERN INSTITUTE LAUNCHED

The first Northeastern Sports Turf Institute, held in July at Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA, attracted more than 125 sports turf managers and 30 exhibitors. The meeting was sponsored by STMA and the Professional Grounds Management Society.

The educational sessions offered a broad range of topics from field painting to turfgrass identification. Outside demonstrations gave conferees a first-hand look at the latest equipment and methods developed for the sports turf industry.

The one-day event will be held each year, as are similar institutes in Chicago, IL; Pomona, CA, and the Southeast. The STMA board hopes to develop a fifth institute for the Northwest. "We are trying to provide needed educational conferences and exhibits on a regional as well as a national basis," explains President Mark Hodnick.

