

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE



IT'S TIME TO JOIN FORCES

After we launched *sportsTURF* magazine three years ago, sports turf managers started calling us up to ask how they could become members of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). They thought that the magazine and the association were one and the same. They weren't, but we were glad to help.

After all, STMA's mission and ours are the same — to help the sports turf manager be recognized for his vital role in both turf management and the business of sports. Why duplicate efforts or compete with each other when both of us could do more for the industry by working together.

I'm gratified to say that with this issue, *sportsTURF* magazine is "The Official Publication of the Sports Turf Managers Association." The STMA board and Denne Goldstein, the publisher, have agreed to combine our resources where practical to move this industry forward—faster.

Each month, STMA will have its own column in the magazine to report its news, promote its events and generate interest in membership. All material in the column, called *The Extra Point*, is produced by the association. Views presented therein are those of the officers and staff of STMA.

We believe it's very important for the magazine and the association to work together, but we also believe the two organizations must be able to express different views on important issues. That is why the column will be treated as an independent part of the magazine to provide an open forum for the association.

A desire for independence is shared by both STMA and *sportsTURF*. The STMA board wants you to know that its opinions will be voiced in *The Extra Point*. Opinions expressed in the remainder of the magazine are strictly Denne's and mine. The opinions and views of any other organization or individual are also invited. We want to present all sides of industry issues.

We are pleased by STMA's faith and trust in *sportsTURF* magazine. After fighting side-by-side in the trenches for years to accomplish very tough goals, the board, Denne and I feel close to each other. We have all accomplished things that many people felt were impossible. We have become partners in a mission to help inform the professional and we have learned to respect each other for those things we have been able to contribute to the industry. Today we share the same concept for the future.

The most important thing for everyone to remember as the sports turf industry grows is that we are no stronger than our weakest link. We have to help each other build the muscle and knowledge to claim our rightful place in the turf and landscape industries. The golf course superintendent and the stadium grounds manager need to help their peers at schools, parks and universities. By working together some of the roadblocks to safe, quality sports turf have already been removed.

The relationship between the magazine and the association could not have been more timely. There are major issues to resolve as quickly as possible. We have only begun to see the tip of the iceberg when it comes to water conservation, pesticide safety, and liability for injuries that occur on sports turf. We are highly vulnerable if we act separately. Together we have the resources and ability to establish and defend the importance of recreational turf management.

Remember: United we stand. Divided our detractors can pick away at us until there's nothing left. The choice is obvious.

Bruce F. Shank

EVENTS

CALENDAR

JULY

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Eastern Sports Turf Institute, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. Contact: PGMS, 12 Galloway Ave., Cockeysville, MD 21030, (301) 667-1833, or STMA, 400 N. Mountain, Suite 301, Upland, CA 91786, (714) 981-9199.

19-20

Athletic Facilities - Maintenance Seminar, Mulberry Street Recreation Center, City of Lenoir, NC. Contact: Professional Grounds Management Society, 12 Galloway Ave., Suite 1E, Cockeysville, MD 21030, (301) 667-1833.

25-27

International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Exposition, Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. Contact: Katie Stanford, Expo 88, (800) 558-8767.

28-29

Athletic Field Maintenance Seminar, Wyoming Grounds Keepers and Growers Assoc., Green River, WY. Contact Roger Moellendorf, City of Green River, 50 East 2nd North, Green River, WY 82935, (307) 875-5000, Ext. 51.

AUGUST

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Turfgrass Field Day, Purdue University Agronomy Farm, West Lafayette, IN. Contact: Jo Horn, Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN 47907, (317) 494-4803.

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University of Georgia Turf Field Day, Georgia Experiment Station, Griffin, GA. Contact: Dr. Gil Landry, 2400 College Station Rd., Athens, GA 30605, (404) 542-5350.