

THE EXTRA POINT

STMA NEWS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Board of Directors, officers, management and members of the Sports Turf Manager's Association to announce that sportsTURF magazine has been selected as the official publication of the Association.

sportsTURF is the first and only publication here in the United States designed and written exclusively for the manager of sports turf. Call it hindsight, foresight or just persistence, but the idea and the realization of the publication was conceived by the publisher and president of Gold Trade Publications, Inc., Denne Goldstein.

Bruce Shank, associate publisher and executive vice president of Gold Trade Publications, Inc., has long been a supporter and promoter of STMA. In STMA's early years Bruce was very instrumental in securing advertising and commercial affiliate memberships to assist in sponsoring STMA's first educational programs. He further designed and distributed the first STMA membership application forms and wherever he travelled spoke positively about the young, struggling organization.

Through the efforts of Denne and Bruce the sports turf industry has prospered, moved forward, and become a force to be recognized in the green industry throughout the United States.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Harry Gill, director of buildings and grounds for Milwaukee County Stadium, the granddaddy and founder of the STMA. He had great vision and a dream that individuals who maintained and cared for athletic turf would one day join together to share knowledge, ideas, and compare methods of operation and the 'tricks of the trade.' He wanted to provide sports turf managers with the opportunity to learn new information, gain stature as professionals and be recognized for the efforts that they were performing. This man of vision is kind, gentle and humble, but yet a driving force behind the STMA concept.

In 1980, Harry shared his visions and dreams with other sports turf managers through notes, Christmas cards and telephone conversations. In a concerted effort in early 1981 Harry Gill, Dick Ericson, Tony Burnett, Dr. Bill Daniel, George Toma and others gathered at the Midwest Regional Turfgrass Conference held at Purdue University where STMA was established. They developed a constitution, bylaws, and held elections and the dream, vision and concept came together and STMA was born.

STMA became an independent organization in 1984 with a total of 60 members and established an office in Ontario, CA. One year later STMA was granted non-profit corporation status and membership increased 300 percent. Today the main office is in Upland, CA. We have almost 800 members and a full-time employee, Melissa Merritt.

We publish a quarterly newsletter, sponsor four conferences and trade shows, provide scholarships and research grants, provide knowledge, education, good will and professional status to members. Now we have entered into an

agreement with Gold Trade Publications to provide our membership with an official publication. We have come a long way in a very short time—but we're just beginning, the future is yet to come, the potential is unlimited. The teamwork between STMA and sportsTURF appears exciting.

Kent Kurtz, Executive Director

ROKOSH APPOINTED TREASURER

George W. Rokosh, manager of buildings and grounds, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL, has been appointed treasurer by STMA President Mark Hodnick to fill the unexpired term vacated when Sam Monson resigned recently. Rokosh has been instrumental in making the Midwest Sports Turf Institute successful and has contributed much time and effort toward making the association successful. The College of DuPage is one of the largest community colleges in the United States with over 30,000 students.

SPORTS TURF SCHOLARSHIPS

The STMA presents a number of scholarships each year to exceptional college students preparing for careers in sports turf management. The next scholarships will be presented during the annual meeting in Dodgertown in January 1989. Students should contact STMA for information on qualifying for one of the scholarships this summer. STMA urges professors and teachers of turfgrass management to notify their star students about the scholarships. Faculty opinions are an important part of the selection process.

CATCH THE ACTION

Mark your calendar

June 22 - 3rd Annual Midwest Sports Turf Institute

College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL.

8:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. - Seminars, On-Site Demonstrations, Trade Show Exhibits - Keynote Speaker - Billy Williams, Chicago Cubs Hall of Fame Player. Contact: Susan Glasgow/Nancy Thomas, (312) 858-2800, Ext. 2770.

July 12 - 1st Eastern Sports Turf Institute.

Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA.

Held in conjunction with the Professional Grounds Management Society.

8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. - Seminars on Landscape Maintenance, Sports Turf Management - the Basics and Advanced, On-Site Demonstrations, Trade Show Exhibits. Contact: Melissa Merritt, STMA, (714) 981-9199 or Jim Long, Holy Cross College, (617) 793-3477

January 13-15, 1989 - STMA Annual Meeting.

Dodgertown, Vero Beach, FL

STMA's Annual Meeting, Conference, Awards Banquet, Trade Show and On-Site Demonstrations. An exciting experience at one of the premier spring training sites - 27 holes of golf, conference center, guest rooms. A once in a lifetime experience. Plan now! Contact: Melissa Merritt, STMA, (714) 981-9199.

