

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

TWO-WAY STREET



In the May issue of *sportsTURF*, we ran an editorial titled "Wake-Up Call," which sharply criticized the lack of emphasis on sports turf management by a number of venues and professional teams. It's a point we stand by—one we won't let go.

However, George Toma, no stranger to the professional sports turf arena, wrote us a wonderful letter that said, while we "hit the nail on the head" in terms of the role of upper management, field quality and safety is a two-way street.

We think *he* hit the nail on the head.

Wrote Toma, "Some clubs just do not seem to care. They make it tough for a dedicated grounds crew trying to do their job—providing a safe playing field. Yet the groundskeeper somehow comes through and makes them look good. I've also seen cases where the club *does* care, and the groundskeeper is not there to carry out the job. . .

"I have seen three pro field managers in the past year with the 'So what?' attitude, and these men are supposed to be professionals—our leaders. On the other hand, I have seen the worst field go to the best. Why? Because of a dedicated groundskeeper, still working under very poor conditions without any help from upper management. . . He turned the worst to best, I would say, all by himself. . .

"As I see it from here, it is a two-way street. . . Yes, owners have to wake up! And yes, groundskeepers have to wake up! I believe it will get better each way."

As Toma points out in his letter, a poor job done on either an artificial or natural high-profile field is a setback to the entire turf management profession. And in a profession still struggling for the respect and attention it so richly deserves, such setbacks are intolerable. In fact, people in struggling professions have to be *better* than those around them.

Toma's message is clear—even in the most desperate circumstances, nothing but your best effort will do.

We couldn't agree more.

Matthew Trulio

EVENTS

CALENDAR

JULY

27 1992 University of Missouri Turfgrass & Ornamental Field Day and MVTA Golf Day Fundraiser, Columbia, MO. Contact: Missouri Valley Turfgrass Association (314) 882-4087.

29 International Erosion Control Association short course, "Practical Approaches for Effective Erosion and Sediment Control," Portland, OR. Contact: Tracy, IECA (303) 879-3010. (Offered July 30 in Seattle, WA.)

30 New York State Turfgrass Association Seminar, "Turfgrass Management for Athletic Fields, Golf Courses, and Landscapes," Saratoga Sod Farms, Stillwater, NY. Contact: New York State Turfgrass Association (800) 873-TURF or (518) 783-1229.

AUGUST

2-4 Summer Meeting of Alabama and Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Associations, Callaway Gardens Resort, Contact: Karen White, GGCSA (404) 769-4076.

4-6 Turfgrass Field Diagnostic Course for Golf Course Managers, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Contact: Joann Gruttadauro (607) 255-1792.

12 Sports Turf Managers Association and University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System Conference, "Producing and Managing Safe Sports Turf," Foxboro Stadium, MA. Contact: (For registration) Mary Owen, Regional Specialist, Turf, U. of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System (508) 831-1223, or (For exhibition) Joe Kovolyan, Interstate Landscape (603) 434-3117.

Send announcements on your events two months in advance to editor, *sportsTURF* magazine, P.O. Box 8420,

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or FAX to (818) 781-8517.