

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gil Landry, Jr.

Listening to sports turf professionals and members of the media at STMA's National Conference this past December in Indianapolis, one thing kept coming to mind: The future is now.



Through Matt Trulio with *sportsTURF Magazine*, Harry Cline with *Western Turf Management Magazine*, Jerry Roche of *Landscape Management*, George Toma and Dr. Jim Watson, I couldn't help but hear a call to action. We must increase our activities, get involved, communicate, and foster respect and understand the significance turf management plays in today's sports world.

STMA's Fourth National Conference was a starting point, a catalyst for this coming year. More than 150 sports turf professionals came to Indianapolis for a number of reasons, but mainly to learn—so that they can more effectively produce better and safer sports turf areas.

The annual conference was an opportunity to network and discuss strategies and solutions. I left Indianapolis with a tremendous feeling of enthusiasm, pride, knowledge, and commitment to not only improve in all areas of sports turf management, but to educate others.

I was inspired by the tremendous sense of camaraderie. Where else can a person participate in sessions and workshops with so many people in the industry? Where else would someone be able to meet and talk with people such as NFL Consultant, George Toma, Dr. Jim Watson from Toro, and Dr. Henry Indyk from Turfcon.

I talked with such people as Bob Campbell, University of Tennessee; Bucky Trotter, University of Kentucky; Dale Getz, Notre Dame; and Dan Wright from Central College in Pella, IA. There also were professional facility field managers in attendance; STMA's first president, Dick Erickson, along with the men who handle the



College World Series, Jesse Cuevas, and the Denver Broncos', Tom Lujan. County and municipal professionals included Paul Greenwell, Atlanta; Bill Whirty, City of Fort Collins Parks, CO; Mike Trigg, Waukegan, IL; and Art Downing from Howard County Parks and Recreation, Cedar Lane Parks, MD.

The common thread through all the activities, tours, and presentations at STMA's National Conference was education. We must envision our future and aggressively pursue it. STMA is inspired for 1993.

In conjunction with the national conference, the STMA board of directors met to develop major objectives for the next year. Those objectives include:

- Developing a membership directory to provide an avenue for members to network and interact with each other as well as to seek out solutions and strategies to problems.

- Developing an educational compendium for members to use as a reference tool. The compendium is a collection of all the sports turf literature disseminated by STMA and published by industry publications in 1992.

- Disseminating six newsletters to keep you informed of association and industry activities and events.

- More and better chapter support through communication and staff resources.

- Working with Matt Trulio to continue to further improve our official publication, *sportsTURF Magazine*.

- Investigating the unification of membership. Whether an individual is chapter affiliated or an independent, our goal is to bring sports turf professionals across the United States together under one roof.

- Producing three or more regional institutes and an even better National Conference.

- Continuing our work with the American Society of Testing and Measures (ASTM) to develop standards for field construction and maintenance.

STMA is taking action in 1993. We urge you to join us—the future is now. □

STMA CHAPTER NEWS

STMA Florida Chapter #1: Special Reminder—An all-day event is scheduled for January 13 with STMA of Florida and Regal Chemical Company. C.E.U.s (Continuing Education Units) were issued.

For information on the South Florida Chapter, or for details on meetings and chapter activities, contact: John Mascaro (305) 938-7477 or Ed Birch (305) 938-0217.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Special Reminder—The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association annual meeting will be 8 a.m. on January 20 at the Des Moines Convention Center, Des Moines, IA in conjunction with the Iowa Turfgrass Conference, January 18-20.

For information on this meeting, the Iowa Chapter, its goals and activities, contact Gary Peterson at (515) 791-0765.

Chesapeake Chapter:STMA—The Chesapeake Chapter is moving into 1993 with exciting events in the planning stages. For information on the chapter, its goals and the part you can play in them, contact the Chapter's Information Line (301) 865-0667.

Midwest Chapter:STMA—The Chapter's 1993 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon is scheduled for March 4 at Avalon Banquets, Elk Grove, IL. More details will be announced shortly.

For information on this meeting, the Midwest Chapter and other chapter activities, contact Mike Schiller at (708) 439-4727 or Mike Trigg, Waukegan Park District at (708) 360-4750.

Colorado Chapter:STMA—An informative agenda is in the works for 1993. For information about the Colorado Chapter and its activities, contact Ron Marten (Falcon Colorado School District 49) at (719) 495-3601.

Carolina Chapter:STMA—For information on the Carolina Chapter and its activities, contact Marc Farha (facilities manager for the Charlotte Knights) at (704) 332-3746.

The New England Chapter: STMA—For information on the chapter and its activities, contact Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System at (508) 831-1225.