

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gil Landry, Jr.



As you know, *sportsTURF* magazine is the official publication of the Sports Turf Managers' Association. I've received several calls and inquiries over the year asking me to explain exactly what type of relationship we have together.

Let me highlight some things we have agreed to do together:

- *sportsTURF* magazine is the only official publication of the STMA.

- *sportsTURF* magazine includes a list of STMA activities and events in each issue.

- *sportsTURF* provides STMA with editorial space for a president's message, chapter news, technical reports, members' news, etc.

- *sportsTURF* is mailed to STMA members free of charge.

- *sportsTURF* significantly supports STMA financially.

- *sportsTURF* assists and supports STMA to develop printed materials and special projects.

One special project currently underway is the "Industry Profile Survey." *sportsTURF* magazine and Smith, Bucklin & Associates (our management firm) have teamed up to construct and implement a survey to gather information that will allow us to better understand the size and scope of our industry. If you have received a survey, please take the time to complete and return it. If you have already returned it, thanks!

This "Industry Profile Survey" is the first attempt to gather and assess accurate information that will support the notion that our profession is credible and substantial in size.

I have reviewed some of the preliminary results. I am quite amazed not only with the amount of acreage we manage, but also the purchasing power. Bret Kelsey (SBA) and Bruce Shank (*sportsTURF*) will write the report that will be published soon.

My gut feeling has always told me that we manage a lot of fields and spend a lot of money doing so. Now we will be able to reference an actual study that has some statistical backup.

Others have also had that gut feeling that our profession and industry have a

tremendous value and worth. Just look at the June issue of *sportsTURF*. There was a variety of articles and product showcases. There were 38 advertisers, which is an increase over previous issues. My sense is that everyone is coming together with the realization that our industry has learned how to walk steadily forward quite nicely. Much of this has to do with that solid group of people who have worked hard to foster the development and growth of the profession—STMA and *sportsTURF* magazine.

Another leap forward was taken because of World Cup Soccer. Recent technological advances have been made by those affiliated with preparing the playing surfaces. Advancements have been made with regard to growing grass indoors and over Astroturf™, as well as developing standards for ball-roll consistency.

As said by Matt Trulio, regardless of how the U.S. team performs, and whether or not the World Cup increases soccer popularity here, the field and those who prepared them will be among the best in the world.

**Sports
Turf
Managers Association**

STMA Chapter News

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association — The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will hold a workshop on soccer field maintenance August 4 at the Muscatine Soccer Complex, 401 South Houser Street, Muscatine, IA. Events begin at 9 a.m. Gene Sneckloph of Sneckloph and Associates, will speak on irrigation system design and troubleshooting. Wayne Klostermann, Klostermann and Associates, will cover soccer field construction. There also will be time to visit with vendors and see equipment demonstrations. Kevin Vos will host this event assisted by other ISTMA members.

For further information on the workshop contact Kevin Vos, Muscatine Soccer Complex, (319) 263-1002. For more information on the ISTMA contact Gary Peterson, (515) 791-0765.

Midwest Chapter: STMA — The Midwest Chapter will hold a Summer Field Day at Kishwaukee College in

Malta, IL, July 20. For further information or registration contact Scott Pippen, (708) 883-8600.

Chapter meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. For more details contact Jesse Felix, (708) 293-0770. For more information on the chapter call the Chapter Hotline, (708) 439-4727.

The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association — As one of the 13 "Green Industry" member organizations of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation (MTGF), the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association will participate in the Grounds and Facility Training and Equipment Expo jointly sponsored by the Minnesota Park Supervisors Association and MTGF. The event will be held August 3 and 4 at Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, MN. Educational training and demonstration opportunities will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. For more information on the event contact Jim Vaughn, (612) 924-2565. To learn more about

MTGF contact Brad Pedersen, (612) 624-7401.

For more information on the Minnesota Chapter contact Tom Rudburg, (612) 962-6545; Mike McDonald, (612) 625-6097; or Brian Deyak, (612) 255-7223.

The New England Chapter: STMA — *Special Reminder* — On Wednesday, August 10, the New England Sports Turf Managers Association, the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System, and the College of Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, will host the third annual New England Sports Turf Managers Association Athletic Turf Management Field Day. Demonstrations will feature field marking and painting, and irrigation and sprinkler head comparison.

Registration deadline is July 25. Interested exhibitors should contact Jack Schmidgall, (508) 892-0382, ext. 3014, or (508) 465-1653. Those interested in attending the event or learning more about the chapter should contact Mary Owen of University of