

President's Message

By Greg Petry



Throughout the course of a year, we review the composition of our membership base. STMA is primarily composed of individual professional members and corporate members. The following reflects who belongs to STMA:

Parks, schools, two-year college and extension: 46 percent (21 percent parks and 25 percent school); commercial: 22 percent; university/four-year college: 16 percent; professional team: 14 percent; student: 1 percent and lifetime: 1 percent.

As you can see, we have a diverse membership in our organization. There are, for example, professional-team

members, minor-league professional-team members, college- and high school athletic directors, park superintendents, park groundskeepers, extension personnel, school district grounds personnel, extension agents and research scientists.

With such diversity, it's a challenge to maintain a balanced consensus on issues and activities. The association and its members are constantly struggling with ongoing changes in our industry.

The progress of our society and the geographical scope of our membership certainly makes for an interesting mix. Our challenges and opportunities are impacted by a membership that has diverse skills, education, business practices, regulations and politics.



In order to maintain a balanced perspective and representation on the board of directors, two initiatives are underway: First, a bylaw change is being proposed that would reduce the number of professional-team representatives from two to one. Conversely, the school and park categories will increase from one representative to two.

Our second initiative is now underway — a major membership drive. Rich Moffit, St. Louis University and the membership committee have redesigned our membership brochure. Several of our corporate members have been kind enough to provide their mailing lists and some have even offered to mail the literature.

STMA Chapter News

STMA Florida Chapter # 1: The Florida Chapter held its official membership meeting — including voting for 1995 officers and board members — at the University of Miami's Mark Light Stadium Nov. 15. The program focused on the conversion of the field from artificial to natural turf and included a tour of the facility. Host for the meeting was Kevin Hardy.

For further information about the South Florida Chapter or other upcoming activities, contact John Mascaro, (305) 938-7477 or Ed Birch at (305) 928-0217.

The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association A sportsturf seminar, sponsored by Turf Supply Co. of Eagan, MN, was held Nov. 29 at the Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, MN. Seminar topics included soil testing and interpreting test results, soil amendments and new trends in fertilizer.

The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association is one of eight green-industry member associations of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation cooperating in the conference Dec. 7-9, 1994, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Registration opens at 7 a.m. Dec. 7. The morning is filled with general ses-

sions, including: "How to Work With Environmentalists" and a Department of Agriculture presentation. The afternoon concurrent sessions begin at 12:45 and focus on pesticides and the public, turfgrass management, and insects and their control. The trade show is open from 4-7 p.m.

The morning's general sessions for Dec. 8 include: "You Can Be a Professional Without Wearing a Tie" and "Why You Wish You Knew More About Soils." The trade show is open from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Concurrent afternoon sessions

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focus on turfgrass management, native plant materials, and "Business and Professional Issues and the Workplace." The MSTMA Annual Meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at the convention center. Meeting highlights include the election of officers and committee assignments for 1995 as well as a preview of 1995 events.

The general session Dec. 9 features "What Took 40 Years to Learn in the Green Industry." Concurrent sessions run from 10:30 a.m. to noon, with sessions titled "Arboriculture Symposium," "The Innovative Superintendent" and "News of the '90s."

For more information on the conference, contact Scott Turtinen of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association at (612) 473-0557.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter, the sports-turf seminar, annual meeting or future chapter activities, contact Tom Rudberg, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, (612) 962-6545; Mike McDonald, Bierman Athletic Complex, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, (612) 625-6097; or Brian Deyak, St. Cloud Sports Center, St. Cloud, MN, (612) 255-7223.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association — The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association is one of the green-industry participants in the 61st Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, which will be held in the Des Moines Convention Center Jan. 23-25, 1995. Daylong workshops Jan. 23 are basic turfgrass management; lawn care; golf courses, with choices of two educational schedules; ornamentals; and sports turf.

A general session, beginning at 8 a.m., opens activities on the second day. Mechanics workshops are scheduled for 7:30-9 a.m., 10-11:30 and 1:30-3 p.m. Tuesday. Concurrent sessions for golf course, lawn care, sports turf, and parks and grounds begin at 1:30 p.m. The Tuesday sports-turf session features Dr. David Minner on compaction, Kevin Vos on maintenance and care of athletic fields, Bob Muggas on managing risks at athletic fields, and Wayne Klostermann on internal and external drainage. The trade show opens at 4 p.m. Jan. 24.

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association's annual meeting will be

held at 8 a.m. Wednesday. A general session also begins at 8 with the Iowa State University research updates. The trade show opens at 9 a.m. and runs through 1:30 p.m. Concurrent session begin at 10 a.m. The sports-turf session features Dale Roe on care of softball fields, Steve Trusty on communicating sports turf to the public and Gary Peterson on putting turf to bed for winter. Concurrent sessions on pesticide-recertification training will be held in the afternoon, beginning at 1:30 with "Laws and Regulations," followed by "Pest Management Update: Changes in Pesticide Labels" and "Safe Handling and Storage of Pesticides."

For information on the conference, the Iowa Chapter or other chapter activities, contact Gary Peterson at (515) 791-0765.

Midwest Chapter STMA — The Midwest Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association was one of the 10 allied turfgrass organizations that co-sponsored the North Central Turfgrass Exposition. The NCTE was held Nov. 28-30 in the Pheasant Run Resort and ExpoCenter in St. Charles, IL. The conference addressed the needs of seasoned turfgrass professionals in addition to offering introductory material, including five sessions of a "Back to Basics" program. More than 100 firms exhibited in the trade show at the Pheasant Run MegaCenter.

A designated sports-turf session was held Nov. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The program included "Planning and Constructing Athletic Fields on a Tight Budget," presented by Dr. Norm Hummel of Cornell University; "Assessing Athletic Field Quality and Safety," by Mark Altman, of Altman and Altman Consulting; "Maintaining Turf Density," by Dr. Ken Diesburg, Southern Illinois University; and "Managing Water for Sports Fields," by Dr. Clark Throssell, Purdue University.

Midwest Chapter board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month. Chapter members are invited to attend.

For information on the chapter, board meetings, the NCTE or other upcoming activities call the Chapter Hotline at (708) 439-4727 or Marc Van Landuyt at (708) 367-7828.

The New England Chapter STMA — The New England Chapter is taking

applications for the Charles Mruk Scholarship for college students studying turf management. Anyone interested in receiving an application may write to: NESTMA, 800 Pleasant St., Rochdale, MA 01542. Completed application forms for the scholarship must be received by NESTMA by Jan. 1, 1995.

The Massachusetts Turf Conference will be held March 6-8, 1995. Highlights already scheduled for March 8 include presentations by STMA President Greg Petry, Dr. Hummel and the annual NESTMA breakfast. Details will be announced soon.

For information on the Charles Mruk Scholarship, the Turf Conference, the chapter or other upcoming events, contact Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System, at (508) 892-0382.

The Heartland Chapter STMA — Notice to all sports-turf professionals in the Heartland: Matt Hoops, director of maintenance for the Gladstone, MO, City Parks and Recreation Department and the new acting president of the Heartland Chapter, wants *you*. Leaders, planners and willing workers are needed to help "make things happen" in this growing organization.

To lend a hand or to find out more about the Heartland Chapter, contact Matt Hoops at (816) 436-2200 or Jack Schwarz at (816) 792-2808 or (800) 344-8873.

Southern California Chapter STMA — For information on the Southern California Chapter and upcoming activities, contact Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

Chesapeake Chapter STMA — Chesapeake Chapter board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 4-6 p.m. Members are invited to attend.

For information on the chapter or upcoming activities, or to get together with others traveling to the national meeting in Florida in February, contact The Chapter Hotline, (301) 865-0667, or Art Downing, (410) 313-7254.

Colorado Chapter STMA — For more information on the chapter or future activities, contact Joe Adams, Greeley Parks and Recreation, at (303) 350-9340.