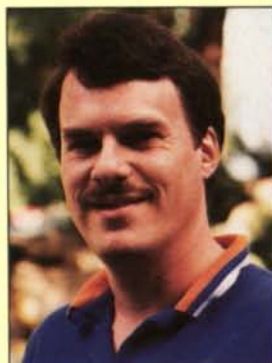


# THE FRONT OFFICE

## OPINION PAGE



### Good Apples

One of the perks of being the editor of *sportsTURF* is the experience of getting to know the many different people who are involved in this business. Most of the people I have talked to have been incredibly generous and helpful, both to myself and to nearly everyone else involved in the industry. Never before have I been associated with such a diverse group of individuals who are always ready, willing and, in fact, eager to help each other with any problem, no matter how small.

No matter who I call — whether it's Steve Wightman in San Diego, Mark Razum in Denver, George and Chip Toma in Kansas City, Ed Birch and Murray Cook in Florida, Jim Puhalla in Ohio, Steve Cockerham at UC Riverside, Chris Bunnell in Escondido, Vince Paterozzi in Cleveland, Ed Mangan in Atlanta, Alan Sigwardt in Miami or Mike Williams in Binghamton, NY — sports turf managers all respond in the same way: "How can I help?" Nearly every sports turf manager I've met or talked to has been more than willing to share his or her knowledge with others. While the major players in many other industries zealously guard their secrets in true, cut-throat business fashion, sports turf managers are unique in their spirit of cooperation.

Sadly, this spirit of cooperation does not exist throughout the industry. Some components of the industry have a bitter edge to them. Usually money is a key factor. Surprisingly, in my personal experience at least, the individuals and companies who make the most money also have the worst attitude toward others in the industry. I don't mean to suggest that all the corporate entities in the sports turf industry are Ebenezer Scrooge types who are in dire need of a visit from the Ghost of Christmas-Yet-to-Come. However, my experience has been that when money is not a factor, almost everyone coexists peacefully and even cooperates with each other. Sports turf managers do not make most of the money in this industry — others do.

Fortunately, the positive elements of the STMA and those affiliated with the sports turf industry exceed the negative aspects substantially. People like Wightman, Razum, Mangan and the Tomas are a joy to work with. They give so much to this industry and ask for little, if anything, in return. They are special people, and the abundance of them — and I've mentioned only a few of the best — makes one of my future duties very difficult. Selecting the *sportsTURF* Manager of the Year will be quite a challenge, considering all the well-qualified candidates in the industry. Your nominations and suggestions are welcome as always.

Maybe the sports-turf industry has a few bad apples; but for every bad apple, one can find a whole orchard full of good ones. I look forward to meeting more of the good apples.

*Mike Augsdorfer*

Mike Augsdorfer

#### Editor's Notebook

In the June 1995 issue of *sportsTURF* Dan Almond of Randall & Blake, Inc., of Littleton, CO, was inadvertently credited for the turf installation at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. Almond and RBI were not involved in the Arrowhead project. We apologize for the error.

# EVENTS

## CALENDAR

### August

**29** Central New York GCSA *Poa annua* Golf Tournament. Auburn Country Club, Auburn, NY. Contact: Dick Perry, (315) 638-2341.

**30** Tournament of Champions golf tournament, sponsored by the California Association of Nurserymen. Torrey Pines Golf Course, La Jolla, CA. Contact: CAN, (916) 567-0200.

**31** Turf IPM Scouting Workshop, sponsored by the University of Massachusetts. Eastern Massachusetts Extension Center, Waltham. CEUs available. Fee: \$35. *Registration deadline is August 24.* Contact: Mary Owen, (508) 892-0382.

### September

**7-8** Southwest Horticultural Trade Show, sponsored by the Arizona Nursery Association. Phoenix Civic Plaza, Phoenix, AZ. Includes "Turf Stress Management," presented by the GCSAA and Sixth Annual Xeriscape Conference. Contact: (602) 966-1610.

**9-12** American Society of Irrigation Consultants Annual Conference, "Broadening Our Horizons." Georgia Tech University, Atlanta, including tours of major 1996 Olympic venues. Contact: Wanda Sarsfield, ASIC, (510) 516-1124. Fax: (510) 516-1301.

**12-13** University of California Riverside Turfgrass Research Conference and Field Days, UC Riverside campus. Contact Susana Denney, Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, (909) 787-4430.

**23-27** Florida Turfgrass Association 43rd Annual Conference and Show. Hyatt Regency Downtown/Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL. Contact: Charalyn Cole, (800) 882-6721 or (407) 898-6721.