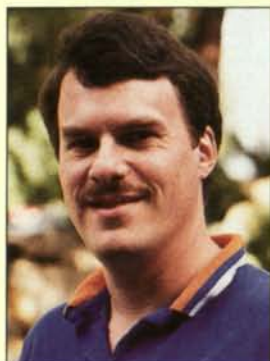


# THE FRONT OFFICE

## OPINION PAGE



### Tools of the Trade

**L**ike Tim Taylor on *Home Improvement*, many sports turf managers utilize a wide variety of tools to accomplish their work. From spreaders and sprayers to mowers and mulchers, sports turf managers have an endless array of tools at their disposal. While some tools serve a singular purpose, others can adapt to a variety of jobs.

Unfortunately, many sports turf managers, handcuffed by the demands of their jobs, fail to utilize one of the most important tools available to them: the knowledge of their colleagues. This tool is available on a limited basis through *sportsTURF* magazine. Many of the best features that appear in this magazine on a monthly basis are contributed by sports turf managers who deal with specific problems and issues on a daily basis. However, the best way to utilize this useful tool is to attend any of the educational conferences and seminars sponsored by the STMA or your local STMA chapter.

I was invited to attend a recent seminar at Sea World in San Diego, CA, that was sponsored by the Southern California chapter of the STMA and featured demonstrations on just about all aspects of landscaping, irrigation and turf management, including big-roll sod installation, deep tine aeration and subsurface turf irrigation. Presentation topics included pest management in turfgrass, disease control through irrigation management, stress management techniques for turfgrass and greenwaste recycling. Representatives from many companies were on hand to lend their expertise in product selection, equipment use and maintenance.

Perhaps the most important part of the seminar was the interaction between the many sports turf managers who attended. Often the best resource a sports turf manager can have is another sports turf manager who has experienced similar conditions at his facility. Whenever two sports turf managers get together for any period of time, they inevitably learn something from each other that can be utilized on the job. Anytime a dozen or so of them are together in one place, the opportunities for learning expand proportionally. That's why your colleagues in the sports turf industry are the best tools you can find.

The next time your local STMA chapter sponsors an event, make an effort to attend if you can. Be prepared to return to your facility with some tools you didn't have before.

*Mike Augsdorfer*

Mike Augsdorfer

### Editorial Divots

Last month's issue of *sportsTURF* contained a couple of editorial divots that we'd like to repair right away. In Mark Altman's article on Coors Field in Denver ("Wrigley in the Rockies"), Dan Almond of Randall & Blake, Inc., of Littleton, CO, was inadvertently credited with the turf installation at Kauffman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals. George Toma was in charge of the Royals' project, while Almond worked on the renovation of Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Kansas City Chiefs football team. Mark Altman apologizes for the oversight.

Also, the photo of Dave Dravecky Field in Boardman, OH, on page 18 was incorrectly credited to Project Manager Jim Puhalla of Sportscape International, Inc. Puhalla himself called us to point out that the photo was taken by David Grantonic of Grantonic Studios in Boardman.

# EVENTS

## CALENDAR

### July

**18-22** Second Annual Groundskeepers Management Academy, Millington, TN, home of Team USA Baseball. Academy includes 12 hours of classroom and 20 hours of hands-on experience. Contact: Floyd Perry, (800) 227-9381.

**19-20** Fourth Annual Midwest Grounds Management Conference, Illinois State University, Normal, IL. Contact: Mike O'Grady, (309) 438-2032, or e-mail: meogrady@ilstuedu.

**26** Turfgrass Field Day, sponsored by the University of Georgia and the Georgia Turfgrass Association. Georgia Experiment Station, Griffin. Contact: (404) 975-4123.

**26-28** Summer Convention and Field Days, sponsored by Turfgrass Producers International. Omaha, NE. Contact: (800) 405-TURF or (708) 705-9898.

### July-August

**24-4** Fourth Annual Irrigation Designer Manager School, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Contact: (805) 756-2434.

**30-1** International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo, "It Keeps Getting Better." Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. Contact: (800) 558-8767 or (502) 473-1992; fax: (502) 473-1999.

### August

**2** Summer Field Day, sponsored by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. Ball Seed Field Co., West Chicago, IL. Contact: Julie Nicoll, ILCA, (708) 932-8443.

Send announcements of your events two months in advance to:

Editor

**sportsTURF**

68-860 Perez Road, Suite J  
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Fax: (619) 770-4380