

# THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE



## Covering The Bases

It's an irony of the magazine business that, as an issue goes to press, a newsworthy event occurs. A case in point is this issue, which will be printed as STMA's 7th Annual Conference & Exhibition is being held. If we could stop the presses, we would, but since we can't, we'll cover the event next issue. Hopefully,

most readers will attend and won't need our report.

If you attend, we hope you catch one of Floyd Perry's seminars. Chris Turner's article this issue accurately describes his classes as fun and instructive. Perry's two books are much the same way — fun because they keep to a minimum the pangs of learning, through simple step-by-step wording and color photos. Book I, *Pictorial Guide to Quality Groundskeeping: Covering All The Bases*, teaches mound and home plate repair, edging, dragging, lip reduction, water removal, making equipment and other techniques for maintaining a field. Book II, *Pictorial Guide to Quality Groundskeeping: There Ain't No Rules*, includes additional techniques for football, softball and soccer facilities; Little League, minor league, college and high school facilities; and maintaining curbsides. The color photos make the books expensive, over \$36 each, but as an idiot's guide to foolproof maintenance, they're what some of us need.

One of Floyd's seminars, titled "Playability vs. Liability," focuses on what some people in the industry describe as a "hot topic" these days: the million-dollar lawsuits sports-related accidents generate. Floyd takes a case-by-case approach showing the current status of the law and some of the minimum standards an athletic complex must meet to protect itself. Often, posting clearly visible warnings like: "For your safety: •Please be alert at all times; •Keep your eyes on the playing field; •Flying balls, bats & other objects leave the playing field" — is all it takes to guard against the preying hands of lawyers.

In upcoming issues, we'll reveal more legal shields for sports turf managers through special articles on field safety and legal issues. In the meantime, as the signs of the times say, "For your safety, please be alert at all times." Keep your eyes on the playing field and either rectify or plaster with warnings anything other people can bump, fall or step into to their detriment.

# EVENTS

CALENDAR

## February 1996

**15** Winter Grounds Maintenance Seminar, sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension. Kutztown Grange Hall, Kutztown, PA. Contact: Judith Schwank, (610) 378-1327.

**16-17** Tampa Bay Horticultural Trade Show, sponsored by the Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers Association. Tampa Convention Center, Tampa Bay, FL. Contact: (813) 960-1457.

**24-28** Thirty-third annual conference and show, sponsored by the Western Canada Turfgrass Association. Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, BC. Contact: Bob Wick, executive director, (604) 467-2564.

**25** "Going for Greener! Frontiers in Environmental Turf Management," sponsored by the University of British Columbia and the Western Canada Turfgrass Association. Victoria Conference Centre, Colwood Room, Victoria, BC. Fee: \$85. Contact: University of British Columbia, (604) 822-1450.

**26** Annual Lawn Care Seminar and Show, sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Extension and the Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals. Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA. CEUs available. Contact: Karen Connelly, (508) 287-0127 or Mary Owen, (508) 892-0382.

**27-29** Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference and Trade Show, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council. Pittsburgh Expo Mart/Radisson Hotel, Monroeville, PA. Contact: Thomas Bettle, (412) 796-5692, or PTC, (814) 863-3475.

**28-29** Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School, sponsored by the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Contact: Ron Cornwell, (618) 692-9434.

Send announcements of your events two months in advance to: Editor,

**sportsTURF**

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