

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE



Unparalleled Opportunities

If you haven't signed up for STMA's 8th Conference & Exhibition, in Colorado Springs January 15-19, you owe it to yourself to call STMA toll free (800/323-3875), ask for the conference's brochure, and check it out. You'll likely be inspired to attend, and if you act quickly, by December 2, you'll be eligible for all the early-bird discounts, not only for the conference, exhibition and educational sessions but for airplane fares, rental car rates and hotel accommodations. The STMA has gone out of its way to make attending as economical as possible.

At the conference, you will enjoy unparalleled opportunities to study athletic fields from many of the pioneers and their students whose discoveries over the past 20 years have taken the "artificial" out of turf and put players back on the surface they prefer — grass. Those turf masters will lead seminars and round table discussions in all phases of management from the root zone up, and some will accompany the conference's field trips to professional and amateur facilities.

You will have a chance to query the turf masters before, during and after those sessions. What they don't know, other turf managers attending the conference probably will. If you have a problem and it has a solution, STMA's conference is the place to learn.

Dedicated Pros

Last month, *sportsTURF* lost a friend and gained a buddy. Helen Stone, editorial director of the magazine for almost two years, resigned the position to launch her own publication. She is being replaced by Jerry Roche, a writer and editor in the green industry for 14 years and a founder of Turf & Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA).

Like last year, both will attend this year's annual STMA conference and, dedicated to their profession, enjoy hearing the views of others. If you see them in Colorado Springs or one of the other conventions this winter, don't hesitate to introduce yourself.

D.E. Et Al.

If you would like to learn more about diatomaceous earth (d.e.), mentioned in the Delaware article this issue, you will find an excellent article about it and the other two "miracle" inorganic soil amendments (clay and zeolite) at the following Internet site: <http://www.aip.com/Green/CF/archives/topdressingjuly.html>. Written by Bill Mannion for the July/August 1996 *California Fairways* magazine, it clearly and thoroughly explains how adding any of those three amendments to a soil mix can improve drought resistance and nutrient retention. (If you don't have access to the Internet, send a self-addressed envelope affixed with 32 cents postage to me at the Perez Road address shown on page 4 of this magazine, and I'll send you a photo copy of the article.)

If you're on the "Net," check out STMA's site — <http://www.aip.com/STMA> — for any late breaking news about the 8th Conference and other information. Lately the site, in its "Newsletter" section, has carried tips about quick repairs to football fields from four esteemed authorities: Bill Antons, Boone (Iowa) School District; Bucky Trotter, University of Kentucky; Vince Patterozzi, Baltimore Ravens; and Ken Mrock, Chicago Bears.

Jim Williams

EVENTS

CALENDAR

November

17-21 Green Industry Expo. Cincinnati, OH. Contact: (770) 973-2019, fax (770) 578-6071.

December

3-5 Second Annual Rhode Island Turfgrass Show and Conference. Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI. Contact: Rhode Island Turfgrass Foundation, (401) 847-7666. Fax: (401) 846-5600.

4-6 Rocky Mountain Turf Conference. Currigan Hall, Denver, CO. Contact: Julia Marie, (719) 489-3222.

10-12 EXPO 1996. Sponsored by the New Jersey Turfgrass Association. For registration and information, call (908) 821-7134 or (609) 853-5973.

10-13 1996 Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Regional Conference and Show. Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH. Contact: Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, (614) 261-6750. Fax: (614) 261-1242.

January 1997

6-17 Turfgrass Management Short Course. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Contact: Dr. Frank Rossi, (607) 255-1629.

7-9 Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference and Trade Show. Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA. Contact: Scott Guiser, Bucks Co. Cooperative Extension, (814) 863-3475. Fax: (814) 863-3479.

13-15 Massachusetts Turf Conference. Boston, MA. Contact: Denise Ruzsala, (413) 592-0120.

15 Professional Turf & Landscape Conference. Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY. Contact: Carol Mueller, (914) 636-2875.

Send announcements of your events two months in advance to: Editor, *sportsTURF*, 68-860 Perez Road, Suite J, Cathedral City, CA 92234. Fax: (619) 770-8019.