

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE



Kent Kurtz Recovering

Dr. Kent W. Kurtz, first executive director and longtime supporter of STMA, is recovering at home after an accident in which he broke three vertebrae. Among other honors, Dr. Kurtz has won, in 1986, the Harry C. Gill Memorial Award (STMA Groundskeeper of the Year) and has been named an honorary life member of the STMA. Dr. Kurtz is expected to resume teaching this winter at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, where he serves as professor of turfgrass and ornamental horticulture.

This writer, among a legion of other admirers, wishes Dr. Kurtz a speedy, full recovery — partly out of self interest. Last year I had the good fortune to attend several of Dr. Kurtz's seminars and, after the first one, began looking forward to subsequent conferences that featured one of his sessions. He never disappointed. His stand-up comic humor along with the clarity, depth and usefulness of his information made even an early morning seminar worth attending. I look forward to more of his wit and wisdom this year.

Everything You Need to Know

Are you looking for the single best source of information about sports turf and athletic facilities maintenance? It's now available: the fourth annual *Sports Turf Topics: A Compendium of STMA Articles*. STMA members receive the book free, and nonmembers may purchase it for \$30 from STMA Headquarters (1375 Rolling Hills Loop, Council Bluffs, IA 51503; 712/ 366-2669).

Like previous compendiums, the fourth comes in an eight-by-ten-inch, soft-cover format and consists of articles written and published by STMA members during the preceding 12 months. Over a hundred pages long with almost 40 articles, the fourth compendium has grown by leaps over earlier editions and is bound to enlighten virtually anyone who works with sports turf or other high-traffic areas. Topics concern seeding, sodding, mowing, aeration, topdressing, plant growth regulators as well as other maintenance practices — and that's just Section I, titled "Cultural Management of Sports Turf." Four other sections follow: "Special Sports Turf Management" (striping, infield preparation, safety, field covers, pest control, to name a few topics); "General Sports Turf Management" (calibration, equipment maintenance, irrigation, personnel and others); "Award Winners" (focusing on facilities that have succeeded, often despite hellish weather and high water); and "Profiles" (about people who exemplify STMA's mission of promoting better, safer sports turf areas). As a set, the four compendiums comprise an encyclopedia that can answer almost any question about athletic facilities and their high-tech turf.

STMA on the Web

For high-tech turf managers, STMA has recently opened a site on the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.aip.com/STMA>. The site currently offers a description of STMA, a membership application, chapter information and a message from President Mike Schiller. Under construction, and therefore imminently available at the site, are sections devoted to related Internet sites, excerpts from *Sports Turf Manager* (STMA's bimonthly newsletter), a calendar of events and a sports turf industry profile.

Like the organization itself, STMA's site is on the grow, so tune in periodically to catch late-breaking additions. Among them will be details about STMA's 1997 Conference & Exhibition scheduled for January 15-19 in Colorado Springs.

Stimulant Sources

Last issue's "Chemical Log," concerning biostimulants, raised questions about whom readers can contact to learn more about the biologically based products. The article mentioned two sources of information: Terry Lee of AgPro Systems, Big Sandy, TX, at (800) 946-5545; and Darrell Kinsey of Greenbelt Turf Consultants, Lindale, TX, at (800) 822-9886. Talking to Kinsey, we learned of two other sources: EcoSoils, San Diego, CA, at (619) 675-1660; and Floratine, Collierville, TN, at (901) 853-2898.

EVENTS

CALENDAR

September/October

29-3 Groundskeepers Management Academy. Peoria, AZ. Contact: Floyd Perry, Grounds Maintenance Services, (800) 227-9381.

30-3 Northwest Turfgrass Conference. Victoria, BC, Canada. Contact: (206) 754-0825.

October

1-3 Pacific International Exposition. Reno-Sparks Convention Center, NV. Contact: Russ Dubbels, (800) 624-2569 or (503) 682-2162.

2-3 Southern California Turfgrass Conference. Costa Mesa, CA. Contact: (714) 951-8547.

7 22nd Annual Western Pennsylvania Turfgrass Tournament. Diamond Run Golf Course, Sewickley. Contact: Michael Zedreck, (412) 963-2398, or P.T.C., (814) 863-3475.

27-29 California Fertilizer Association Annual Meeting. Loews Coronado Bay Resort, Coronado, CA. Contact: CFA, (916) 441-1584.

November

3-6 International Conference on Evapotranspiration and Irrigation Scheduling, in conjunction with the Irrigation Association EXPO, sponsored by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. Convention Center, San Antonio, TX. Contact: ASAE, (616) 429-0300.

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

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.