are thriving. Internationally, baseball, softball and football fields are taking shape along with the already extremely popular soccer fields.

Good, playable sports fields are becoming increasingly important both to provide a safe surface for less experienced players and to support increasing demands for on-the-field playing time. How you do your job impacts a lot of lives.

So, do resolve to do your best as a sports turf manager every day of the new year; to fine-tune your skills and always leave a field a little better than you found it. Integrate new ideas so you really can work smarter, not harder. Become a mentor to your staff members, helping them gain the skills and knowledge that will make their jobs easier and more rewarding. Get involved on a professional level. Join the Sports Turf Managers Association. Recharge your professional batteries at STMA's 9th Annual Conference & Exhibition, "Meeting the Challenges," in Orlando, Florida, on January 14-18, 1998. Participate in your regional STMA chapter. Explore the STMA Certification Program. Remember, the more you put into something, the more you get out of it.

And do resolve to do a better job during this New Year of letting those special people in your life know they are special to you.

Which leads me to a message to you. On behalf of the STMA Board, STMA committee members, Headquarters staff (and especially me), I wish each of you health, wealth and happiness this holiday season and throughout the new year. May this be The Holiday you've dreamed of, filled with fellowship, love and contentment.