



Perry's Perspective

One of the prerogatives of being *sportsTURF's* Manager of the Year is an opportunity to editorialize in "The Front Office." Never lacking for ideas, Floyd Perry, this year's Manager of the Year, came up with the following irony about the turf adults play on and what they afford their children.

Where's the Greens Committee?

At every private golf course, there's a group of playing members who take on the task of making decisions about the conditions of the turf, especially on greens. Most of the data that leads to changes and repairs generally comes from members that play the course and have complaints about the surface, usually after missed putts.

Golf is a game where no one falls, is tackled, slides or sprints upon the surface. Golfers just strike or roll a ball.

Isn't it interesting that many of those same men and women have children playing on some of the worst athletic turf and ignore the well being of their children's knees, elbows and ankles? Are those parents thinking that no one will get hurt on a wet, slippery, unplayable field? Are they thinking that the turf will just bounce back on its own for the next game, practice or sport?

I wonder what the golf pro and greens committee would do if golf carts and foot traffic ruined the playing surface of the course for the next week, month or season!

A common reason for the disparity between golf turf and children's athletic fields is that, at private golf courses, greens committees are formed because members pay dues. But don't those same dues-paying members pay local taxes, and shouldn't they take enough of an interest in their children's athletic turf to direct some of those funds?

It would make a difference. In 1996, one local school board asked me to evaluate all of their high schools' football game and practice facilities. Of the fourteen high schools, two were excellent, seven were good, three were fair, and two were unplayable. The nine that were excellent or good had improved the turf's quality by spending booster club monies over the school board's minimum funding. The five fields with below average turf and uneven surfaces spent their extra funds in other areas and didn't place stock in the suggestions of those who cared about the turf.

Where is the greens committee for high schools and recreation fields? They are sitting in the stands paying taxes and witnessing their sons and daughters playing on uneven, non-turfed surfaces. When is that greens committee going to react to this kind of abuse? Maybe never or maybe after a crippling injury to one of the playing members, their children.

What do you know that can be baked, frozen, trampled, starved, overfed, dehydrated, saturated, compacted, cut too short, not cut at all, sliced, probed, smothered, painted and kicked, but still survive? It's athletic turf. But it can't take too much of any of those conditions without some help from a greens committee.

February

11-12 "The First Step to Behavior-Based Safety™," two-day training seminar for training in behavioral methods for accident prevention. Charlotte, NC. Contact: Behavioral Science Technology, Inc. Phone: (800) 548-5781 or (805) 646-0166. Fax: (805) 646-0328. E-mail: bstojai@bscitech.com. Web site: www.bscitech.com.

18-20 Landscape Personnel Management and Technical Education Winter Seminar, sponsored by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. Lisle, IL. Contact: Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. Phone: (630) 932-8443.

19-20 "The First Step to Behavior-Based Safety™," a seminar for training in behavioral methods for accident prevention. Dallas, TX. Contact: Behavioral Science Technology, Inc. Phone: (800) 548-5781 or (805) 646-0166. Fax: (805) 646-0328. E-mail: bstojai@bscitech.com. Web site: www.bscitech.com.

24-25 Turf and Grounds Exposition II. Holiday Inn, Suffern, NY. Contact: NYSTA. Phone: (800) 873-8873 or (518) 783-1229. Fax: (518) 783-1258.

25-26 Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School. Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Contact: Ron Cornwell. Phone: (618) 692-9434. Fax: (618) 692-9808.

25-27 Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference and Trade Show. Monroeville, PA. Contact: Pennsylvania Turf Conference. Phone: (814) 863-3475. Fax: (814) 863-3479.

25-28 Twenty-eighth Annual International Erosion Control Association Conference and Trade Exposition. Nashville, TN. Contact: International Erosion Control Association. Phone: (970) 879-3010. Fax: (970) 879-8563. E-mail, ecinfo@ieca.org. Web site: <http://www.ieca.org>.

26-28 National Truck Equipment Association's SUPERSHOW VIII. Commercial Truck and Equipment Exposition. Charlotte, NC. Contact: Joan Christophersen. Phone: (800) 441-6832 or (810) 489-7090. Fax: (810) 489-8590.

March

3 "The Microbiology of Turfgrass Soils," an educational seminar cohosted by the Alabama Golf Course Superintendents Association and the GCSAA. Birmingham, AL. Phone: (800) 472-7878.

3 "Irrigation System Operation and Principles of Design," an educational seminar cohosted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of South Dakota and the GCSAA. Sioux Falls, SD. Phone: (800) 472-7878.

4 "Personal Stress Management," an educational seminar cohosted by the North Michigan Turf Managers Association and the GCSAA. Gaylord, MI. Phone: (800) 472-7878.

4 North Carolina State University and the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina sponsor the second annual Turfgrass Conference. Asheville, NC. Contact: Turfgrass Council of North Carolina. Phone: (910) 695-1333. Mail: P.O. Box 289, Southern Pines, NC 28388.

4-5 "The First Step to Behavior-Based Safety™," two-day training seminar for training in behavioral methods for accident prevention. Houston, TX. Contact: Behavioral Science Technology, Inc. Phone: (800) 548-5781 or (805) 646-0166. Fax: (805) 646-0328. E-mail: bstojai@bscitech.com. Web site: www.bscitech.com.

5 "Calibration and Safety of Pesticide Application Equipment," an educational seminar cohosted by the Main Golf Course Superintendents Association and the GCSAA. Rockport, ME. Phone: (800) 472-7878.

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.

STMA MESSAGE



Looking Back and Moving Forward

By Mike Schiller

STMA's 8th Annual Conference & Exhibition in Colorado Springs has come — and gone — and there are some special people to be thanked — especially: Mary Owen, program chair, for putting together such excellent sessions; and Dr. Eugene Mayer, exhibits chair, for pulling together our most successful exhibit ever.

I extend many thanks to all of our speakers and round-table discussion leaders. It's through the efforts of those willing and able to share their knowledge, expertise and ideas that we raise our level of professionalism. I also extend thanks to all the exhibitors who devoted their time and efforts to helping us see and find out more about the products and services that help us do our jobs better.

I also thank the people of the Colorado Chapter. Over this past year, we have had the opportunity to work with Chapter President and Conference Chair Dave Rulli, with Ross Kurcab and Abby McNeal on the Educational program, with Mitch Hovet on Exhibits, with Ken Norkosky on Hospitality, and with Chapter Executive Secretary Troy Smith. These key people deserve a round of applause for all their efforts.

Then, at the conference, we had the opportunity to meet and mingle with many more Colorado Chapter members. We especially appreciate those who arranged and hosted the excellent tours in Colorado Springs and in Denver. What a beautiful

area to live and work in! We also appreciate those who helped with the on-site details that make a conference function. On behalf of the board and all the attendees and exhibitors, I want publicly to extend a big thank-you to the Colorado Chapter for all its hard work and for being such an excellent host.

An excellent time was had by all. If you were there or if you missed this one, now is the time to start making plans to attend STMA's 9th Annual Conference in Orlando, FL, January 14 to 18, 1998. We're going to Disney World!

I want to thank everyone for his or her support this past year. It's been a successful year for STMA. I want to thank all of our board members for their time and dedication, and I thank all the members for their vote of confidence in allowing us the opportunity to continue to serve you in 1997.

STMA continues to grow, but we still need your help. We're always open to your suggestions on what we can do to continue to improve. Just contact me, any of your board members or anyone at headquarters. If there is a committee that you have an interest in, please contact that committee chairperson, Steve Trusty or me — we'll get you involved. We can only continue to grow and prosper if we have hard working individuals dedicating some time to the association. Become an active participant — you'll meet great people and get more out of being a member.