

STMA MESSAGE

Lots To Be Thankful For

By Mike Schiller



As Thanksgiving approaches, please take a few minutes from your everyday routine to take stock of all the blessings you have received and truly be thankful for them.

Be thankful that we live in a nation where individuals have the freedom of choice in pursuing their areas of study, work, worship and recreation; where ability and perseverance determine how far you advance in the work place; and where dreams can become realities.

This year, add one more level to your expressions of thanksgiving and say thank you to those human helpers who make your life — and your job — so much easier.

Thank your boss, your assistant, your co-workers. Thank your crews, your secretary and your mechanic. Thank the stadium clean-up staff and the folks who work the concession stands and ticket booths. Thank the groups who use your fields and the groups who support those groups. Thank the moms and dads and the fans in the stands. Thank the media who cover your sports events for the radio, newspaper or television. Thank your suppliers and your university and extension resource people. Thank those other sports turf managers who gave you helpful hints, talked you through a tough problem, loaned you equipment or personnel, or pitched in themselves to help you out.

Thank your family for putting up with your crazy schedule — and the sometimes crazy you.

Then take a few more minutes to reflect on where you are on your career path, where you want to be and how to get there. Responsibility is the flip side of freedom. You have the freedom of choice and the responsibility of action.

In the sports turf industry, we see the results of that responsibility carried out each week as our high school, college and professional sports fields are put on display in local and national newspapers and on local and national television screens. Let's remember that every field is the field of dreams for those who play on it, and our responsibility is to devote all our available resources to making that field the best it can be.

Let's also accept the challenge to be the best we can be, continuing to expand our abilities and hone our skills. If you're not yet an STMA member, check out our new member promotion and join us.

If you haven't already done so, take action now to continue your professional growth by "Meeting the Challenges" and attending STMA's 9th Annual Conference & Exhibition in Orlando, Florida, on January 14-18, 1998. The meeting focuses on professional development for the sports turf manager and offers an information-packed program, excellent meeting facilities at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Disney's Wide World of Sports complex, a great trade show, products on parade and how-we-do-it demonstrations, optional seminar on wheels tours, and multiple opportunities to meet and network with your peers.

And *thank you*, for your role in supporting, strengthening and improving the sports turf industry.

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