



Pressing Issues

I think you'll all enjoy Coleman Ward's article this month on reducing field compaction. As many of you know from my past experience, compaction in sports turf is my favorite subject. I promise not to bore you with all my theories and remedies—I'll leave that to Dr. Ward. But remember that compaction is a critical condition. Cultural practices must be employed to reduce or alleviate the problem. Used correctly, these techniques will benefit your fields ten-fold. Whatever the methods, whatever the budget, whatever the level of play, the goal is always that dynamic duo—safety and playability.

Speaking of goals, our Certification Committee continues to burn the midnight oil, working hard to complete its goals. We met in June, in Providence, RI, and accomplished a great deal. The committee members express their thanks to all of you who have taken the time to provide input on certification through in-person and telephone conversations, letters, faxes, and e-mail messages to Headquarters, to Certification Committee members, and to STMA Board members.

During this fine-tuning process, committee members have given thoughtful consideration to your input. We've tried to select meeting locations that pull together as many of the committee members as possible for these face-to-face working sessions. This tends to be a complex task—you need only refer to your own packed schedule to relate.

When Providence was chosen, I had to take advantage of the chance to return to my home state, and to take the group to my old stomping grounds to sample the local Quahog Chowders and Coffee Milk. Man, that was great stuff.

Executive Director Steve Trusty, Technical Committee Co-Chair Mike DePew, and I will be presenting the STMA to the National Recreation and Park Association at its national convention September 24. Our 3-1/2-hour presentation will include an overview of the STMA, a technical review session, and a systems spotlight. We would love to have STMA members come along for support and fellowship. Let STMA Headquarters know if you are planning to attend so we can arrange to get together.

SPECIAL REMINDER: It's not too early to submit your Field of the Year Award entry to Headquarters. This month's issue features STMA's 1997 Softball Field of the Year: the Joy Christian Athletic Complex of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, TN. The three softball/baseball fields within the complex are a major part of the extensive sports program the Church has developed for its 23,000 members and its surrounding community.

Each Field of the Year entrant has a sports turf program with unique attributes, but similarities among the award winners are even more striking. Whether catering to players that are four or 40, amateur or professional, the sports turf manager strives to make the best possible use of existing resources, and to achieve that ultimate goal—safety and playability.

Stay in touch; the larger we grow, the more we know.

Stephen Guise, STMA President
(714) 704-0403



August 5-7

Professional Grounds Management Society's (PGMS) seventh annual Summer Grounds Maintenance Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. Contact PGMS: (410) 584-9754.

August 12

Wisconsin Turfgrass Association's Field Day, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility, Verona, WI, 8:00 am-3:30 pm. Contact Audra: (608) 845-6536.

August 12-13

Penn State Turfgrass Field Days, Joseph Valentine Turfgrass Research Center and Landscape Management Research Center, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Contact Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council: (814) 863-3475, or George Hamilton: (814) 865-3007.

August 17-21

Floyd Perry's Groundskeepers Management Academy, Bethel, CT. (800) 227-9381.

August 19

Michigan Turfgrass Field Day, Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. Contact Kay Patrick: (517) 321-1660.

August 24-28

Floyd Perry's Groundskeepers Management Academy, Colonial Heights, VA. (800) 227-9381.

August 26

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's (OTF) Field Day, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. Contact OTF: (888) OTF-3445.

August 31-September 4

Floyd Perry's Groundskeepers Management Academy, Kissimmee, FL. (800) 227-9381.

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