

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 6-10

Floyd Perry's Groundskeepers Management Academy, Millington, TN. (800) 227-9381.

July 16-18

Turfgrass Producers International's (TPI) Summer Convention & Field Days, Sheraton Premier, Tysons Corner/Vienna, VA. Contact TPI: (800) 405-8873, or Tom Ford: (847) 705-9898.

July 25-27

International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo, Kentucky Expo Center, Louisville, KY. Phone: (800) 558-8767, or (502) 562-1962.

August 17-21

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

August 20

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 31-September 4

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

September 14-18

University of California-Riverside Extension's Turfgrass Management Intensive Institute, Riverside, CA. Contact Jan Crump: (909) 787-5804 ext. 1621.

September 16-18

National Lawn and Garden Trade Show, Philadelphia, PA. Contact Liza Wylie: (203) 847-9599.

STMA MESSAGE

Sports
Turf
Managers Association



Take the Kids to a Game—It Feels Great!

As I'm writing this at the end of April, the rains have finally stopped out here in California. Field care is in full swing; the professional fields look like nothing ever happened, and the public fields are looking better every day.

I spent an evening at the Anaheim Angels' new ballpark, Edison International Field, with my two oldest daughters, Kelley and Megan. Wow! It's even more spectacular up-close than it looks on TV.

Barney Lomas and his crew are doing an excellent job, and their hard work is appreciated by all. Disney, owner of the Angels, really knows how to make the baseball experience a family affair—isn't that what it's all about?

Being out at the ball park with your kids is a super opportunity for communication—a time for telling them stories of when your dad took you out to the games (yes, you really were a kid once). It's a time for explaining what a home run is, and pointing to the ball when it's hit to the wall.

I must admit, by the end of the game seven-year-old Megan thought each fly ball was a home run, and that the greatest aspects of the game were the peanut bags being thrown to us by strangers and the candy that Dad kept supplying. In time, like kids all across America, my kids will start paying more attention to the game—and less attention to their enormous appetite for sweets.

That Angels game on that particular night, when Chuck Finley threw a shutout—his 14th, by the way, and his 1st as a blonde—reminded me again of what a privilege it is to be part of the sports turf industry. It reinforced the importance of our responsibility to provide safe and playable fields for all levels of the game.

It is my intent that we share and promote this responsibility with those organizations that have the ability to support our efforts. These organizations include the National Football League, the NFL Players Association, Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, and the hundreds of commercial vendors that serve this industry.

I recently joined sports turf managers from all sections of the United States for three exciting days at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex as a guest of the Toro Company. I've got to tell you, Toro and Disney are doing their part to support and improve the condition of playing fields. My hat is off to both of these fine institutions for their focus on higher learning and their foresight about the future of STMA.

It's a new season for the NFL, MLB, and MLS, and for you. The STMA can be the school and resource that will help you improve your field conditions and support your team of players and groundskeepers, but we need your support and involvement in our growing organization.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Call me, I'm listening.

Stephen Guise, STMA President
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