



### Adios, Steve!

You might be asking yourself, "Isn't this where I usually see Steve Berens' picture and read his words of sports turf wisdom?" By now, you may have heard or read that Steve left *sportsTURF* (ST) to start a new chapter in his life: he moved to Denmark to teach English. He was (and still is) a very good editor, and improved the quality of ST during his short tenure. I want to thank him for his hard work, and I wish him much success in his new endeavor.

Instead of rushing out and finding a new editor, you'll now have two people working on ST. I'll be taking the lead in shepherding the magazine through the publishing process. Mike SanFilippo (a current Adams' employee) will be working with me. My goal is to educate Mike during the next six months or so about the STMA and ST before transferring the editorship to him.



Both Mike and I will be attending the STMA 11th Annual Conference & Exhibition in St. Louis, and we look forward to seeing all of you. Let me reassure you that the quality of ST will not only remain the same, but it will continue to improve. Please call me at (847) 427-2057 (e-mail: rbenes@mail.aip.com) or Mike at (847) 427-2083 (e-mail: msanfilippo@mail.aip.com) to let us know your likes and dislikes with the magazine.

### Certified Sports Field Manager

All STMA members should have received the Certified Sports Field Manager Certification Program Information Packet within the past few weeks. If you didn't receive a packet, call the STMA office at (800) 323-3875.



### Letter to the Editor

Dear *sportsTURF* Magazine subscribers:

I have received a number of calls requesting copies of or information about the "New Pennsylvania Design." I would like to clarify that these soil mix design numbers, termed "New Pennsylvania Design" in the book *Sports Fields: A Manual for Design, Construction, and Maintenance* (by Jim Puhulla, Jeff Krans, and Mike Goately) do not represent a researched root-zone mix for athletic fields, but are suggested merely as a starting point for discussions concerning sand-based athletic field root-zoners.

I am currently working with the STMA in an effort to support research that will lead to STMA guidelines for the construction and maintenance of sand-based athletic fields.

Sincerely,  
Andrew McNitt

### Tom Mentzer Leaves the Turf Industry

Tom Mentzer, public relations counsel for Swanson Russell Associates and a Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association board member is leaving both organizations to take a new agency job that will not involve him in the turf industry. Tom did a great job representing his clients and keeping me informed about the goings on in the green industry—on any given day I could always count on receiving a minimum of five press releases from Tom. Have fun, Tom, with your new job.

See you in St. Louis!

**Rob Benes**  
Group Content/Editorial Director

## Tip of the Month

### Safety First

#### Beating the lawsuit wave

by Floyd Perry

A famous philosopher once said: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." There isn't a more comforting blanket of protection than to have your guns loaded and in place before an accident or lawsuit occurs.

Every aspect of athletic competition must follow guidelines to guard against frivolous lawsuits. Staff meetings, risk-management conferences, facility walk-arounds, educational seminars, and bi-monthly documented checklists have become an integral part of the progressive groundskeeper's maintenance umbrella.

### Be pro-active

In the southwestern United States, a member of an adult softball league brought a suit against his park and recreational facility for a sliding accident that resulted in a broken ankle. The plaintiff sued to recover injury expenses and lost wages, and for personal embarrassment. He tacked on an extra \$50,000 because the defendant was the local government, a phenomenon that's been described as deep pocket syndrome.

Fortunately, the city recreation department had safety policies and procedures in place:

- Grounds staff had placed a completed daily worksheet in the logbook.
  - The evening staffer and umpire had signed off on the pre-game evaluation sheet, and placed it in the logbook.
  - The area supervisor had signed his bi-monthly check list, and it was in the logbook.
- The staff responded promptly and professionally to the accident:
- An evening staff member was on the scene.
  - The staff member called 911 on

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