



#### September 19-23

Floyd Perry's Groundskeepers Management Academy, Denver, CO. Other date(s) and location(s): Oct. 10-14, Davis, CA. Contact Grounds Maintenance Services: (800) 227-9381.

#### September 20

Northeastern GCSA Poa Annual Tournament, Mohawk Golf Club, Schenectady, NY. Contact New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA): (800) 873-8873.

#### September 27

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's (OTF) annual golf outing, Eaglesticks Golf Club, Zanesville, OH. Contact Kevin Thompson: (888) 683-3445.

#### October 28

Southeast Texas Grounds Maintenance Conference, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Conroe, TX. Contact Patti Jones: (409) 539-7822.

#### November 9-11

Turf and Grounds Exposition: "Committed to Excellence: Plants, people, the environment, and you," OnCenter, Syracuse, NY. Contact NYSTA: (800) 873-8873.

#### November 13-16

Green Industry Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. Contact Eleanor Ellison: (770) 973-2019.

## 2000

#### January 12-16

STMA 11th annual Conference & Exhibition, St. Louis. Contact STMA: (800) 323-3875 or (712) 366-2669.

## STMA MESSAGE

Sports  
Turf  
Managers Association



## Things Are Heating Up

I have spoken to numerous STMA members throughout the country over the past few months. One topic always comes up in our conversations — the heat and drought this past summer has been a bear to handle.

Members in the Midwest and in New England states attempted to keep their fields covered with green, healthy turf while water supplies dwindled, and cities and states issued water use restrictions. Water shortages are a 911 for any city.

The first resources to be restricted are always the obvious and highly visible ones — landscaped areas. Landscape irrigation accounts for a great deal of water volume for any city. In some areas, athletic fields automatically fall into this category, and water use is severely restricted. This effects sports turf managers on many different levels.

Even with excellent existing field cover, uniform irrigation coverage, and highly efficient irrigation systems, restricted water during high-stress periods weakens turf. Reduced irrigation on fields with poor distribution causes severe heat stress and death to large areas of turf.

These areas are rapidly reduced to soil fields through extensive summer use. Occasional thunderstorms only exasperate the problem, turning bare areas to mud and increasing that unwanted summer sport: "mud football."

Most of our budgets don't include emergency funds for projects such as rejuvenation or complete renovation of fields and landscapes following a drought. The rebuilding process can take months, and in some cases, years.

- Switching to an upbeat mode, it's refreshing to see that this month's issue includes an article that focuses on trees. Trees are a vital part of an athletic facility's overall look. They add to the aesthetics of the property, and serve multiple, functional purposes.

Trees may screen athletic field areas from unappealing views, or create walls of serenity within busy urban neighborhoods. Well-placed trees in a park provide shade for parents, family, and fans that come out to athletic fields to watch the events of the day. Trees serve as a frame; our sports fields are the picture.

Over the past few years, I've learned that trees play a vital role in sports field design, and that the size of trees installed is vital to their success rate. This is very important when young children frequent a sports complex. Kids love trees! They love to climb them, swing around them, break branches off them, and see how far they can bend them. My advice to any architect is to specify large shade trees for sports parks.

- As you're planning your 2000 budget, now is the time to include funds to attend the 11th Annual STMA Conference & Exhibition in St. Louis, MO, January 12-16. Take advantage of the event's central location to meet and greet your STMA friends, and to make new networking contacts as you fine-tune your skills to face the new millennium. It's going to be great!

**Stephen Guise, STMA President**  
**(714) 704-0403**