

#### February 5-9

The Ohio State University Golf Course Maintenance Short Course, Holiday Inn on the Lane, Columbus, OH. Register at (614) 292-4230. E-mail: bloetscher.1@osu.edu.

#### February 6

Turfgrass Advocacy 2001, Lobby Day, Legislative Office Building et al, Albany, NY. Contact: New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), PO Box 612, Latham, NY 12110; (518) 783-1229/(800) 873-TURF (8873); fax (518) 783-1258; nysta@nysta.org. Web site: <http://www.nysta.org>.

#### February 20-21

Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School, Gateway Convention Center, One Gateway Dr., Collinsville, IL. Contact: Ron Cornwell, 200 University Park Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025; (618) 692-9434.

#### February 22-23

The Ohio State University Professional Lawn Care Short Course, Holiday Inn on the Lane, Columbus, OH. Register at (614) 292-4230. E-mail: bloetscher.1@osu.edu.

#### February 26

Southeast Regional Conference, Holiday Inn, Suffern, NY. Contact: New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), PO Box 612, Latham, NY 12110; (518) 783-1229/(800) 873-TURF (8873); fax (518) 783-1258; nysta@nysta.org. Web site: <http://www.nysta.org>.

#### February 27-March 1

Western PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Pittsburgh Expo Mart/Radisson Hotel, 101 Mall Blvd., Monroeville, PA. Contact: R. Eric Oesterling, Westmoreland County Cooperative Extension, Donohoe Center, Donohoe Road, RR 12, Box 202E, Greensburg, PA 15601, (724) 837-1402, or (502) 562-1962; fax (502) 562-1970. Web site: <http://expo.mow.org>.

## STMA Message

**Sports  
Turf  
Managers Association**  
[www.sportsturfmanager.com](http://www.sportsturfmanager.com)



## Happy Holidays and Warm Thoughts

The weather outside may be frightful, as that old song says. But I hope it's delightful wherever you happen to be during the holiday season. I wish you the happiest of holidays surrounded by family and friends who can counteract the coldest of climates with their love and warm thoughts.

My wish for all of you who give so much of your time and talents to making athletic fields safe and playable is that that your efforts are appreciated and that you be acknowledged for the great job you do. And, I pledge to you, the Sports Turf Managers Association will do an even better job in the future of helping to make that happen.

A major issue that came to the forefront during the STMA Strategic Planning sessions was the need to educate others on who sports turf managers are, what sports turf managers do and why it matters. We need to shine the spotlight on the complexities of athletic field maintenance and why it takes the right balance of art and science to provide safe, playable conditions.

Obviously we need to reach athletes, coaches, and field user groups. And we need to go well beyond that.

Part of the focus for our message will be within the green industry. We need to tell our story to those involved in other segments of turfgrass management and to those who deal primarily with other areas of horticulture.

There often are others within your same facility or department who have little knowledge of what it takes to produce and maintain quality sports fields. If those individuals are in departmental supervisory positions, personnel management positions, or are involved with budget development, procurement or other financial management areas, it may impact the resources you need to achieve your goals. So we need to do a better job of spreading our message there as well.

Many of you are filling multiple roles, managing multi-field sports complexes or athletic fields at several different sites. Some of you are managing not only the athletic fields but also the landscape sections surrounding the fields. Others of you manage the fields, the landscaping, the parking lots and walkways. Some of you also manage the stadium facility. Others of you manage the athletic fields and the entire grounds departments of a school or a school district, or of a park or a parks department.

We know how much you do to make sports an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. We want to make sure others know it, too.

**Rich Moffitt**  
STMA President  
(314) 977-2956