

STMA MESSAGE



www.sportsturfmanager.com



Gateway to the Future

Welcome to the new millennium. It's fitting that we started this new century in our nation's Gateway City—St. Louis—with STMA's 11th Annual Conference & Exhibition, "Gateway to the 21st Century." My wish for all of you is that this new century will be filled with exciting challenges and positive outcomes, and with peace, joy and prosperity.

I thank you members of the Sports Turf Managers Association for the pleasure and honor of allowing me to step up to the office of president of the Association. I look forward to serving you. I've been privileged to hold several different positions while serving as a member of your board of directors: membership chair, treasurer, conference chair and president-elect. In each of these positions, I've gained experience in the many aspects of STMA as an organization and I've had the opportunity to learn about the needs and wants of our members.

I initially became involved in STMA because of a need of my own. As director of grounds and materials management for Saint Louis University, I'm responsible for all the grounds, including the athletic fields. In 1990, the university had only one turf sports field, a baseball field, and I was to take charge of rebuilding it. During a bull session with a colleague of mine, Dr. Dave Minner, I mentioned the project as one more thing added to my already crowded schedule. Dave, who was at that time on the STMA board of directors, noted that STMA was filled with resources I could tap into, urged me to get involved and supplied me with the names of several members to contact.

I started calling those people and they all connected with me, and they also led me to still other people. I basically built a baseball field over the phone thanks to all these people sharing so much of their time and expertise. I was impressed.

So I became a member and attended the next STMA Conference, and it was like my phone experience all over again. There I was, a new guy, with what at that time was a small sports field base, and everyone treated me like one of the group, welcomed me to conversations and answered my multiple questions.

Through all this, I've built a nationwide network of people I can connect with to talk, to share ideas and to exchange information. Many of these contacts have developed into good fellowships and friendships over the years.

Now, as I look ahead for STMA, while we clearly want to retain the important networking factor, to continue to expand our membership and to retain the strong financial position we've achieved, another prime goal is to develop a strategic plan that will allow the association to expand our services to members in areas of communication, recognition, research, scholarships and more.

We've already made tremendous strides with the certification program. Working together, we can elevate the status of the sport turf manager in the United States and around the world.

Rich Moffitt
STMA President
(314) 977-2956

February 29

New York State Turfgrass Association's (NYSTA) Southeast Regional Conference, Holiday Inn, Suffern, N.Y. Contact NYSTA: (800) 873-8873 or (518) 783-1229.

February 29-March 1

Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, Ill. Contact Ron Cornwell: (618) 692-9434.

March 6-9

New England Regional Turf Conference & Show (NERTCS), Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, R.I. Pesticide re-certification credits available. Contact NERTCS: (401) 848-0004.

March 9

NYSTA's Western Regional Conference, Radisson Hotel & Suites, Buffalo, N.Y. Contact NYSTA: (800) 873-8873 or (518) 783-1229.

March 9-10

Ohio State University Sports Turf/Athletic Field Short Course, Camp Cheerful, Cleveland, Ohio. Cost: \$190. Contact Barb Bloetscher: (614) 292-7457.

April 5

NYSTA's Adirondack Regional Conference, Hilton Lake Placid Resort, Lake Placid, N.Y. Contact NYSTA: (800) 873-8873 or (518) 783-1229.

July 22-24

Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's (OPEI) 17th annual International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo (EXPO 2000), Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, Ky. Contact Sellers Expositions: (800) 558-8767 or (502) 562-1962.

October 4-5

Southern California Turfgrass Council's (SCTC) Turfgrass Landscape and Equipment Expo, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, Calif. Contact SCTC: (800) 500-SCTC (7282) or (818) 764-5016, or expo@turfCouncil.org.