



## Difference of Opinion

Let me step aside for a moment and give the bulk of this space to some feedback I received about Dave Minner's "Q & A" from March 2000. Let me also add that I would appreciate more feedback on the magazine—positive and negative—and, while I can't promise all letters to the editor will be published in the magazine, I will include them for review on our Web site.

Dear Editor,

We have just concluded reading the article "Dealing with Hardpan," and offer the following additional comments for your consideration.

Dr. Minner's response was informative as far as it went, but the table which he used for his basis was obviously out-of-date. The chart may have been produced prior to the advent of the AerWay Shattertine technology as it discussed only the traditional turf cultivation equipment. As the question related to the AerWay, the use of the chart and subsequent conclusions may be misleading to your readership.

If the chart were updated to include the AerWay Shattertine, it would show that, for cultivation between playing seasons, it does create large and deep openings for the effective use of soil amendments. Its use does promote deep rooting (re: Robert Carrow studies) and it greatly improves not only water infiltration but also percolation to maximize the removal of standing water.

For cultivation during the playing season, depending on the organic matter and moisture content of the soil in a particular field, the use of the Shattertine will promote water movement. Also, as a result of the lateral fracturing of the soil between the tines, the soil profile is loosened to a depth of 7 inches, promoting lateral growth of sod forming grasses.

Dr. Minner related to the "...tufts of grass...in hollow core holes." Our question has always been, "What happens between the holes?" Root development has been shown to remain within the void, and clearly illustrates the need for the lateral breakdown of the soil profile to encourage root growth outside of the coring hole boundaries.

In response to Mr. Hanawalt's question, the "chunk" of soil pulled out of the ground is a clear indication that his field is severely lacking organic matter. Consistent use of the AerWay Shattertine and application of appropriate topdressing material will alleviate the problem, but it will take time. Under the existing circumstances, mid-season use may be limited to the AerWay Sportstine to reduce surface compaction and encourage a deeper root system. One frame with two-tined rollers is a relatively inexpensive investment to accomplish aeration throughout the year.

I might also point out that, considering the hardness of the soil alluded to in Mr. Hanawalt's letter, a hollow tine might be ineffective until soil conditions are improved.

Thank you for allowing us to add to the information provided by Dr. Minner.

Paul Gillen  
Manager of Marketing  
Holland Equipment Limited

Michael SanFilippo  
(847) 427-2083

## Calendar of Events 2000

### June 19-20

Floyd Perry's Spring Sports Short Course, Atlanta, GA. Future dates and locations: June 22-23, Louisville, KY; Aug. 21-22, Prince William, VA; Aug. 24-25, Cary, NC; Sept. 7-8, Pasadena, TX; Sept. 25-26, Moses Lake, WA; Sept. 28-29, Kent, WA; Oct. 2-3, Springfield, OR; Oct. 5-6, Reno, NV; Oct. 9-10, Lodi, CA; Oct. 12-13, Menio Park, CA; Oct. 23-24, Phoenix, AZ; and Oct. 26-27, Albuquerque, NM. For more information, call (800) 227-9381.

### June 26-29

Floyd Perry's Groundskeepers Management Academy, Wooster, OH. Future dates and locations: Aug. 1-4, Cooperstown, NY; Aug. 7-10, Framingham, MA; Aug. 14-17, Florham Park, NJ; Aug. 28-31, Orlando, FL; Sept. 11-14, Dallas, TX; Sept. 18-21, Denver, CO; and Oct. 16-19, Cerritos, CA. For more information, call (800) 227-9381.

### July 12

Sixth annual Ohio Lawn Care Association (OLCA) Diagnostic Seminar, Ohio Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. Contact Kareena Gibson: (800) 510-5296, ext. 3180; fax (740) 452-2552; kgibson@offinger.com.

### July 19-21

Turfgrass Producers International's (TPI) 33rd annual Summer Convention and Field Day, Spokane, WA. Contact TPI: (800) 405-8873/(847) 705-9898; fax (847) 705-8347; Turf-Grass@msn.com. Web site: [www.TurfGrassSod.org](http://www.TurfGrassSod.org).



# Calendar of Events 2000

## 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/(502) 562-1962; fax (502) 562-1970. Web site: <http://EXPO.mow.org>.

## July 27

Green Industry Professional Field Day and Trade Show, American University, Washington, DC. Will include: sports turf maintenance. For more information, call (703) 250-1368.

## August 15

Cornell Field Day, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Contact Joann Gruttadaurio: (607) 255-1792.

## August 23

Michigan Turfgrass Field Day, Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. Contact Kay Patrick: (517) 321-1660.

## August 30-September 2

WorldScape 2000, a special millennium edition of CalScape Expo, Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, CA. Contact California Interior Plantscape Association: (707) 462-2276; fax (707) 463-6699; [cipa@cipaweb.org](mailto:cipa@cipaweb.org). Web site: [www.cipaweb.org](http://www.cipaweb.org).

## STMA MESSAGE

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## Change Happens

It's been said that change is a constant in the rapid pace of today's world. And, most of the time, that's a good thing. Changing technology in maintenance equipment provides us with the tools to do our jobs more

efficiently, more effectively and often produces better results. Changing technology in turfgrass development has provided varieties and cultivars better adapted to use on athletic fields. Changing technology in the computer industry has made record keeping easier and more efficient and has given us the ability to communicate quickly and inexpensively whether it's within our own department or facility or across the city, nation or globe.

Changes occur in our career paths as well. We start out in an entry-level position and, as we grow in knowledge and expertise, we move to positions of increased responsibility. Sometimes those career moves are within a single company or facility. Sometimes those moves mean a change in employment.

I guess change is on my mind because it's time for me to announce a change of my own. In 15 great years with Saint Louis University as director of grounds and materials management, I've invested a lot of time, effort, heart and soul into the campus, its projects and its people. I've also gained much in personal growth and professional growth. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank St. Louis University for all the opportunities I've had to develop our athletic field program and special landscape projects.

I want to say thank you to all those I've had the privilege of working with over the years and to express a special thanks to my boss and mentor, Chuck Smith, vice president of facilities services. I'm especially grateful to Chuck and the university for their support of my STMA activities.

I have accepted the position of vice president of operations for Munie Outdoor Services, Inc. of Caseyville, Ill. (just across the river from St. Louis). They're an established company and STMA member specializing in athletic field, golf course and commercial property construction, renovation, irrigation and maintenance. Over the years, I've had the chance to observe and interact with the Munie company. This contact led to the decision to join forces. The opportunities in this new position intrigue me and, as I'm already learning, they will certainly challenge me. That's one of the many things that are so special about this industry. The opportunities are many and varied. There's always a new area to explore where the challenges test you and help you to grow and develop professionally.

The ultimate goal, no matter what hat we wear in this industry, is the quality of the playing fields we provide for athletes in every sport, of every age and at every level of ability.

I pledge my continued support to STMA, to the STMA members, and to the programs and services that will continue to move us forward in the pursuit of our mission and our goals in this ever-changing world.

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