

August 15

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF) Turfgrass Research Field Day, OTF Research & Education Center, Ohio State University West Campus, Columbus, OH. Contact: Kevin Thompson, OTF, PO Box 3388, Zanesville, OH 43702-3388; (888) 683-3445 or (740) 452-4541, ext. 3151; fax (740) 452-2552. Web site: <http://www.ohioturfgrass.org>.

August 22

Michigan Turfgrass Field Day, Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. Contact: Kay Patrick, (517) 321-1660 or mtf-turf@man.com. Web site: <http://www.michiganturfgrass.org>.

September 18

Turfgrass and Landscape Management Field Day, University of California, Riverside, CA. Contact: Susana Aparicio, Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, (909) 787-4430 or susana@citrus.ucr.edu.

October 1

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's (OTF) Golf Tournament, The Country Clubs of Fox Meadow, Medina, OH (Cleveland area). Contact: Kevin Thompson, OTF, PO Box 3388, Zanesville, OH 43702-3388; (888) 683-3445 or (740) 452-4541, ext. 3151; fax (740) 452-2552. Web site: <http://www.ohioturfgrass.org>.

October 31-November 1

The Turfgrass Landscape & Equipment Expo, Fairplex, Pomona, CA. Contact: Southern California Turfgrass Council, 7100 Sunnyslope Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405; (800) 500-SCTC (7282) or (818) 764-5016; fax (818) 764-3363; expo@turf council.org. Web site: <http://www.turfcouncil.org>.

November 4-6

Mississippi Turfgrass Association Conference and Trade Show, Hattiesburg, MS. Contact:

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quote here]

Regular readers of this space will notice another unfamiliar face atop the column this month; I'm Eric Schroder, the third editor of sportsTURF in the past four issues. What does that mean to you?

Well, a lot and a little. A little because sportsTURF remains the official publication of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), which means Steve and Suz Trusty, their staff, and all the STMA officers and members who contribute their energy and expertise to these pages haven't gone anywhere.

Complete chapter news, peer-written technical articles, business advice, and other insight from STMA remain the foundation of the magazine no matter whose mug shot might appear in "The Front Office."

A lot because an editor should see and engender the "big picture" and provide something useful and/or entertaining when you pick up his or her magazine. A lot because if and when we meet I'm going to ask for your opinion about how sportsTURF can be better. A lot because my name is linked with the quality of this magazine as much as yours is to your showcase field.

Here's where I hum that familiar tune asking you to let me know how I'm managing your magazine. It's customary for editors to do so and with good reason; no matter how hard I try I'll make mistakes and I want to know about it. My job is to make your job easier, so help me by zipping me an email or picking up the phone when there's something, good or bad, you have to say.

One warm June morning this summer I bugged out of the office and headed for my local muni 9-hole golf course in the name of "research" for my new job. Playing around, I had new appreciation for the work that went into renovating several holes last year; then I came upon a crew dealing with a soggy ditch that I remembered as being dry ground. The timing was wrong but I wanted to ask them, "Hey, what's the problem?"

So don't be surprised, especially you Chicagoland region readers, if I call you someday and ask to come see your problems--and your accomplishments, of course.

My arrival foreshadows another change next month that you'll notice immediately--a physically larger, redesigned magazine that will focus more on the tools and services you rely on to do your best possible work. We hope that change, combined with my steadfast effort to present relevant information every issue, will ease your using sportsTURF like a reliable tool.

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