



Looking back, looking ahead

Another new year is upon us. Some might even tell you that this is the beginning of a new Millennium, as well, but after all the hoopla from last year's celebrations, no one is really interested in that theory. I haven't heard any talk about a Y2K+1 bug, and I'm grateful for that.

With a new year come resolutions. It's almost a sport among ideal-minded men and women, taking stock of one's life at the beginning of the year and deciding on certain lifestyle changes to improve one's health or well being. Gym membership and attendance rise; cigarette sales dip; pounds are lost. And every year, across the world, two or three of these resolutions actually stick, and come July, someone who vowed to hit the gym three times a week after work, kick smoking or fit into those jeans from college actually succeed. But for the rest of us, things are pretty much back to normal by the time the STMA National Conference rolls around.

Besides looking ahead, the new year is a good time to look back at the year that was just completed. When I look back at 2000, there are two major personal events that took place that I will always remember as I look back to that year. The first is my June wedding to my beautiful college sweetheart, Rachel. Our union, as well as the chance to spend time with family and friends who celebrated with us from all across the country, was easily the highlight of my life.

Another major event for me, on a professional level, was my hiring as editor for sportsTURF magazine. January 2000 was my first month working on sportsTURF and with the STMA. I was unsure of what to expect back then, and a little intimidated at being the new kid on the field. But I have to say that every member of the STMA that I have spoken with has made me feel right at home, from my first show in St. Louis, through all the phone calls, conversations and meetings that have led up to the present day.

I would like to thank all of you whom I have been so fortunate to meet over the past 12 months, for your assistance, support and friendliness. While there are too many folks to thank individually, I have to give a special thanks to Suz Trusty, possibly the most helpful, friendly and hardworking woman I've ever had the chance to work with. Thanks to Suz and Steve Trusty and all the active members of the STMA, the association is strong and growing stronger, as seen by the growing number of chapters, the growing roster of members and the record number of attendees and exhibitors at this year's National Conference.

It's an exciting time to be a part of the STMA. I'm honored and thrilled to be the editor for your magazine, and look forward to seeing and speaking with you all in 2001. Have a great year.

Michael SanFilippo
(847) 882-1942

Tip of the Month

10 Steps to Safe Sports Turf

by Frank S. Rossi, Cornell
University Turfgrass Team

1. Attention to detail: Poor infield lips, depressed areas and exposed rocks negate commitment to safety.

2. Trained and dedicated staff: Invest in hiring and educating sports turf managers.

3. The right tool for the right job: Invest in accessing equipment to maximize efficiency, performance and safety.

4. Build Partnerships: Field staff, coaches, players, administration and community invested in field safety.

5. Maintain reasonable care: Implement nonnegotiable management plan to maximize turf and soil health.

6. Raise awareness of supplementary facilities: Be aware of lighting, fencing, signage, bleachers, etc.

7. Just say no: Maintain and enforce appropriate field closure regulations.

8. Engage players and coaches: Small tasks (seeding divots, etc.) provide players with perspective on field safety.

9. Player equipment standards: Insure appropriate safety equipment is used during play.

10. "Dear Diary": Accurate record keeping for consistency and historical management systems.