Goals

This magazine covers sports fields, but I'm not referring to soccer goals here. Rather, I'm referring to the goals I have in mind for this publication. The goals for sportsTURF magazine are fairly simple—publish sports facility profiles, technical articles, and product and industry news sections that are of value to you, the readers; promote the value of your industry association, the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), and each of its many chapters; and foster the professionalism of the industry as a whole.

Achieving those goals, on the other hand, will be a much greater challenge. Please bear with me as I learn about the sports turf industry and determine what types of stories are of value to your day-to-day work lives and your overall operations. I'd like to hear your ideas about the magazine, so drop me a line if you get the urge (sportsTURF, P.O. Box 2429, Milford, CT 06460, tel. 203-882-9485, e-mail: moswald@mail.aip.com).

I got a jump start on the learning process when I attended STMA's spring board meeting in Denver, CO, in early April. The board members deserve a good deal of credit for allowing myself, editorial director Jo Treadwell, publisher Steve Brackett, and division manager Rick Schwer to "crash" the meeting for a couple hours. Since then, the board has e-mailed me several story ideas and general suggestions for the magazine, all of which are greatly appreciated and are being considered.

One interesting and timely article, that I cannot take credit for, begins on page 8 of this issue. It's interesting, because it provides an exclusive insider's peek at the maintenance and care of Wimbledon's grass courts. It's timely, because Wimbledon is played from June 25th through July 8th. The story was written by the head groundsman at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, F.E. ("Eddie") Seaward. Some of you may recognize Eddie from his visit to the STMA 12th Annual Conference & Exhibit last January in Tampa, FL, where he made a presentation entitled "The Wimbledon Year."

Someone once said that change is the only constant, and this magazine is no exception. In September, sportsTURF will make its debut in a larger, junior-tabloid size—10 x 13.75 inches. In addition to the size increase, the new sportsTURF will feature a redesigned appearance, reorganized layout and more clearly focused content. Readers and advertisers alike are sure to appreciate the changes planned.

Again, I welcome the challenge I have outlined for myself, and hope to eventually live up to your, and my own, expectations for sportsTURF magazine. Being far from perfect, I am sure to make a few mistakes along the way, as I'm sure all of you have made at some point in your profession. But with lots of hard work, a good deal of patience and a dash of luck, I'm hopeful I can meet your expectations.
Calendar of Events

October 31-November 1
The Turfgrass Landscape & Equipment Expo, Fairplex, Pomona, CA. Contact Southern California Turfgrass Council, at tel. (800) 500-SCTC, or tel. (818) 764-5016, or e-mail: expo@turfcouncil.org. Web site: http://www.turfcouncil.org.

November 4-6
Mississippi Turfgrass Association Conference and Trade Show, Hattiesburg, MS. Contact Nell Cobb, at tel. (888) 268-9888 or e-mail: sodfarm@c-gate.net or visit www.msstate.edu/org/mta

November 10-13
12th Annual Green Industry Expo (GIE), Tampa, FL. Contact Professional Lawn Care Association of America, at tel. (770) 973-2019, or e-mail: info@gieonline.com. Web site: http://www.gieonline.com.

November 13-15
New York State Turfgrass Association’s (NYSTA) Turf and Grounds Exposition, Oncenter, Syracuse, NY. Contact NYSTA, at tel. (800) 873-TURF, or tel. (518) 783-1229, or e-mail: nysta@nysta.org. Web site: http://www.nysta.org.

December 3-6

December 5-7
The Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association’s (RMRTA) 48th Annual Conference and Trade Show, Denver Convention Center, Denver, CO. Contact RMRTA at tel. (303) 770-2220, or e-mail: rmrta@gwami.com.

December 12
Turfgrass and Landscape Institute & Trade Show, Sequoia Conference Center, Buena Park, CA. Contact Southern California Turfgrass Council, at tel. (800) 500-SCTC, or tel. (818) 764-5016, or e-mail: expo@turfcouncil.org. Web site: http://www.turfcouncil.org.

Website and Return
Yazoo/Kees Power Equipment Company has announced vast improvements to its website (www.yazookees.com), which is now up and running. Designed as a resource for all members of the lawn care industry, the site offers a company history, product offerings, and operational, maintenance and safety tips.

Bob Morgan has returned to Yazoo/Kees, in the position of Sales Manager. Morgan is responsible for distributor coverage of the south/southeast region of the U.S., and will manage that same territory for BlueBird International (both companies are divisions of Husqvarna Turf Care Company). “We are eager to utilize [Bob’s] product, market and distribution expertise to assist us in our growth efforts of the Yazoo/Kees brand,” stated Denis Bedard, director of sales and marketing.

Consolidation
United Horticultural Supply (UHS) has merged its UHS Midwest Division and Great Lakes Division to form the new UHS Central Division, which will place its administrative office in the Chicago area. Concurrent with the restructuring, Bob Flynn has been appointed division manager, and Russ Mitchell will assume a new position in Denver as the company’s National Technical Director. “While markets in the new geography can be unique,” Flynn said, “there are enough similarities to offer greater representation and support to our customers in the new division. Our goal is to provide stability...to our existing customers and to take advantage of new opportunities in a way we never could before.”

Name Change
Deere & Company has announced that McGinnis Farms, a recently acquired wholly owned subsidiary located in Alpharetta, GA, is changing its name to John Deere Landscapes—a change which will include use of Deere & Company’s leaping deer in its logo. John Deere Landscapes broadens John Deere’s traditional role of lawn and turf care equipment sales, to one that is more comprehensive. Although McGinnis Farms had operated branches under four different trade names—McGinnis Farms, Jenco Wholesale Nursery, Pipe ‘n Heads and Plantland—this latest announcement unifies all operations under a single trade name.

“This name change allows us to create a larger vision of what John Deere Landscapes will become,” stated John Jenkins, Deere & Company president of the Worldwide Commercial and Consumer Equipment Division. “Instead of serving just regional markets, John Deere Landscapes aspires to become a national supplier of products and services.”

For further details contact:
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1-800-832-6224
770-459-4401; 770-459-6877 Fax

Circle 121 on Inquiry Card.