

president's message

'Tis the season

As 2002 winds to a close, it's time to be thankful and generous. We have much to be thankful for and now, while everyone is preparing for the holidays, is a great time to stop and think about it. It was a great year for our association, especially considering the lagging economy. Personally, I am thankful for the law enforcement agencies in Maryland that captured the sniper in our state. Fields were shut down and all sporting activities were discontinued. It was very close to home and sometimes we forget how fortunate we are until the problems in the world affect us personally.

Now the generous part! By now everyone that receives this magazine should have registered for the STMA 14th Annual Conference in San Antonio January 15-19, 2003. If you haven't yet, it's not too late. But space is filling up very quickly, so get in gear and call Headquarters for information. Or visit the website www.sportsturfmanager.com for an overview of the Conference. You can even register online if you prefer.

We have some great educational sessions lined up and some exciting optional events (see page 41) including two different tours of several wonderful facilities, a tour of area attractions, and the Textron sponsored SAFE Golf Tournament at The Quarry.

A highlight of this year's optional events is the Major League Baseball sports turf managers field seminar. MLB sports turf managers will be stationed around the field providing information and demonstrations on topics ranging from turf management to infield maintenance. The best part is this super seminar is only \$50 bucks and—here comes the generous part—every dollar goes back to the association. (So if you would like to pay more for this session, we can make special arrangements!)

The Minor League Baseball's sports turf managers of the year awards (see page 30) will be presented to these deserving folks at the Baseball Winter Meetings in Nashville on December 15. The presentation takes place in front of all the owners and executives from Major League and Minor League teams, a great place for our profession and our professionals to be recognized.

STMA had a record number of outstanding entries for our Field of the Year Awards. I wish we could give an award to all!

At this writing, the SAFE Scholarship judging team was working their way through another record number of applications. To have so many excellent applicants makes a great statement for the future of our industry. Here's another chance to be generous.

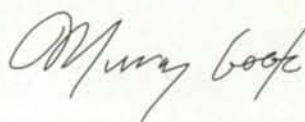
Your donations to the SAFE Foundation will not only keep these scholarship programs going, but will also provide the funding for sports turf specific research.

There are many people to thank in this column for a great job in moving our association forward during 2002. I personally thank our Headquarters Team and the past and current Board of Directors for their support in my inaugural year as the Prez. And I say thank you to each of you who

have been involved nationally and in your local chapters sharing information and contributing to our professionalism and our growth.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I'll see yawl in Texas!

(You can contact Murray via email at murray@brickmangroup.com)



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