

president's message

STMA is Reaching Out

September was an exciting month for many of you. On the international front, professional baseball finally settled the strike issue between owners and players. This was good news. But, at the same time, the International Olympic Committee put baseball and softball on the chopping block for the 2008 Olympics. Baseball industry leaders from all national federations including Major League Baseball and the Players Association met in Switzerland to discuss a strategy to present to the next council meeting in Mexico, in November. All looks positive that an effective case will be submitted at the meeting that proves baseball and softball should stay as Olympic sports. The entire development of removing these sports would have a rippling effect on everyone involved in maintaining softball and baseball fields around the world.

This issue of SPORTSTURF is packed with some great articles about people and their fields. Congratulations to Jon Strantz and his crew on the opening of Reliant Stadium! Jon and I spent a few years together at Disney before going different ways and, from the looks of things in Texas, he has accepted the challenge extremely well. Also congratulations to John Gaffney and his crew for the great work they do for the fields of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. The football earned Field of the Year (FOY) honors in the High School division.

Speaking of FOY honors, October 15 is the deadline to get your FOY entry packet headed to STMA Headquarters. That's also the postmark date for sending in all scholarship application materials for the SAFE Scholarship Program. If you have questions about either of these programs, please call or email STMA Headquarters.

The STMA Chapters have been busy. The Pacific Northwest Chapter kicked off their first major event at Safeco. Catch the details in "STMA in Action," page 42. Both the Minnesota and Midwest Chapters report their Seminar on Wheels tours went very well. The Michigan Chapter notes that more than 150 attendees of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Field Day in Lansing joined in the Chapter-sponsored tour of the Michigan State University athletic fields and facilities. Obviously, the opportunity to view the results of the modular makeover at Spartan Field (featured in last month's issue) was a big draw.

In the area of professional development, everyone should review the article by Amy Fouty that discusses professional image and improving working relationships with staff and peers. Amy is sports turf manager for the University of Michigan and serves as the Michigan Chapter's president.

The STMA mentoring program for the professional member is wrapping up its first year and is looking for partners to join in as mentors for next year. The commercial member mentoring program got started the first week of October. As of this writing, there were still a few openings

for commercial mentors. Please contact STMA Headquarters if you are interested in serving as a mentor.

We are definitely reaching out to more and more people around the world through our organization. It's an exciting industry to be a part of. Next issue we will cover more details on the STMA Conference that EVERYONE will attend, January 15-19, 2003, in San Antonio.

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