

president's message

Greetings from STMA Headquarters

As you read this, 2003 is already well under way. I hope it is off to a great start for you. As I write this, there is still a little time to finish up some details in 2002. It is interesting that I can't move ahead to where you are and you can't go back to where I am.

The question, "If you had it to do all over again, would you do anything different?" has always fascinated me. First of all, we can't. What is done is done. The real answer to the question has to be "It depends." I would like to have enough information when I make a decision to assure myself that it is the right decision. I also know that there have been times that I've come to the conclusion that with what I know now, I'd have made a different decision. "It depends." I'm human and I make mistakes.

I believe that a much more relevant question is "If you had the opportunity, what would you like to do that would provide for a better present, or future?" One possible answer to that question is to do something to advance your chosen profession. One way to do that is to get involved in the Association that is working hard to increase, in a very positive way, the awareness of the importance of what you do. Individually, you are very passionate about what you do. I know. I've been fortunate to meet many of you. I've talked with many more of you on the phone or read your emails. You care about your fields and the athletes that play on them. If you don't, or you didn't, you wouldn't stay in this profession very long.

All I ask is that you consider reserving a small amount of your passion for advancing your profession through your active participation in the Sports Turf Managers Association. If we all pull together we will all arrive at our destination much quicker and in much better shape.

If you have an STMA Chapter in your area, get involved. If you don't have an STMA Chapter close by, help get one started.

Get involved on the National level. Join. Get on a committee. Surf the website, www.sportsturfmanager.com and correspond with other members.

Offer to speak to local schools and service clubs about what it takes to maintain a field in top playing condition and be pleasing to the eye. Let them know that you do much more than "mow the grass." If you take this opportunity, don't hesitate to contact STMA Headquarters if you need some information or support materials to augment your talk.

Contact your local media and offer to provide information to them on field conditions and what affects them. Be proactive. Avoid being on the defensive if problems arise.

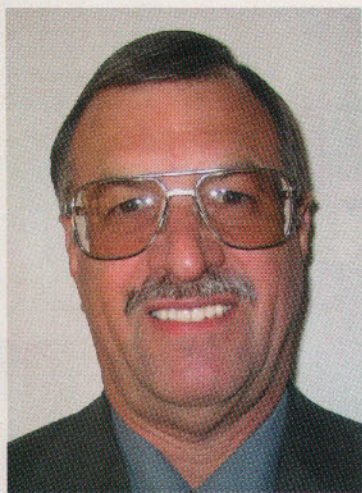
Share copies of this magazine with those above you on your organizational chart.

Offer suggestions to Headquarters on how STMA can be even more effective to you.

If you are not reading this on your way to San Antonio because you didn't make the necessary plans to be there this year, start planning now to be in San Diego next January 21-25 for the 15th Annual Conference.

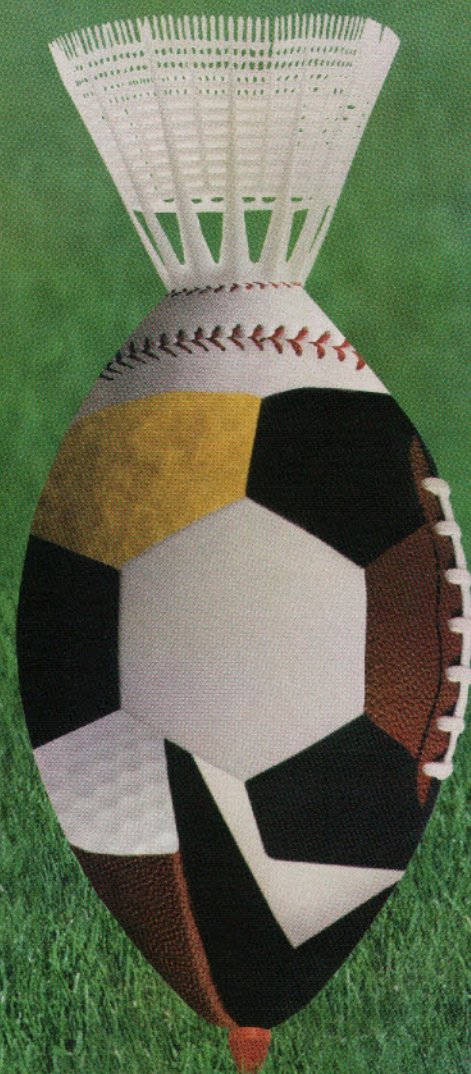
One of our founding fathers, George Toma, talks about the "and then some." Many of you have to do "and then some" on a regular basis. Just save enough of it to help you help your association to grow. You will grow with it. Then, if someone asks you, "When it comes to STMA if you had it to do over again, what would you do differently?" you can answer either, "I'd have gotten involved sooner." Or, "Nothing, I've done everything I could—and then some—to move STMA forward in a positive way."

Steve Trusty, STMA Executive Director



STEVE TRUSTY,
STMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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