Another year gone already?

I'm still eating the kids' Halloween candy as preparations for the holiday season get underway at the Schroder house. It's difficult to believe as I write this that Thanksgiving is only two weeks away. How old do you have to be to have time to again pass as slowly as it seemed when you were a child?

As we begin to call 2004 a wrap, I would like to acknowledge some people who have made significant contributions to SPORTSTURF over the past 3 1/2 years and continue to do so. For example, Art Director Maggie Civik has done an outstanding job in making this magazine easy and fun to read. It's a privilege to feature two of the most successful turfgrass scientists in the country, Dr. Dave Minner and Dr. Grady Miller, in this space.

Other turfgrass professionals make up our Editorial Advisory Board: Mike Andresen, CSFM, Iowa State; Chris Calcaterra, CSFM, Peoria, AZ; Jeff Fowler, Penn State; Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, Sylvania, OH; and Pam Sherratt, Ohio State. Another member, Suz Trusty, the former STMA communications director, deserves special thanks from this corner for her tireless assistance in helping me find my way in "Turfland." Good luck to Suz and Steve, their hard work for STMA will long be remembered.

I'd also like to thank the many readers who have called or emailed me with their comments. As in most businesses, the unhappy callers outnumber the happy callers but that's okay. My job is to get good information to you and if I'm messing up, let me know.

Last but certainly not least are our advertisers. As Bob Campbell writes in his column across the page, the valuable commercial entities involved in the sports turf business do a lot more for this magazine and their other sponsors, whether national, regional, or local, help turf managers do better work. Thanks.

My best holiday wishes to all. I look forward to working with you in 2005.

Anyone who has seen either of the two videos by Grass Stains Productions, either at STMA Conferences or elsewhere, can appreciate the opportunity to contribute directly to the next installment.

Grass Stains co-founders, Jeff Fowler and Steve LeGros, are looking right now for photos that will be used in this year's show. Send your best and worst moments, crew shots, beauty shots, work shots, and more to Jeff at jf2@psu.edu.

Finally, a correction from our STMA show Exhibitor Listing last month: Novozymes Biologicals products are sold in the US and Canada through Vericon and independent distributors, not Cleary Chemical. We regret the error.