

president's message

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

It's January, the start of a new year. It's time to look forward to 2004 and reflect upon the year just passed. This is also the time for our New Year's resolutions. Here goes:

One of the things I want to do a better job of this year is staying in touch with my professional colleagues within STMA. All of us need the advice and support from our friends in this business.

Staying in touch is not only good for us professionally, but it's good for all of us personally as well. There is no telling how many times my spirits have been lifted by a timely phone call from one of you. It's not only good for the person you called, but doing so will lift your spirits as well. So it's a win-win situation for all of us.

One of the amazing things about the people in this profession is their willingness to take the time to help a colleague with a problem. The turfgrass industry is second to none for colleagues helping one another in times of trouble. No matter what your problem is, someone in the profession has already faced it and has a potential solution.

No one has all the answers, of course, but, within this group, there are a lot of folks who have already made all your mistakes for you. They're a great source of information and helpful suggestions. When you think about it, there are really no problems, there are just wonderful opportunities ahead of us.

I hope that each of you will take the time to call one or more of your colleagues sometime each month, just to check in and see how things are going. That's a big challenge, but one that's easily fulfilled. All it requires is a telephone, your membership directory, and a few minutes of your time. That's all.

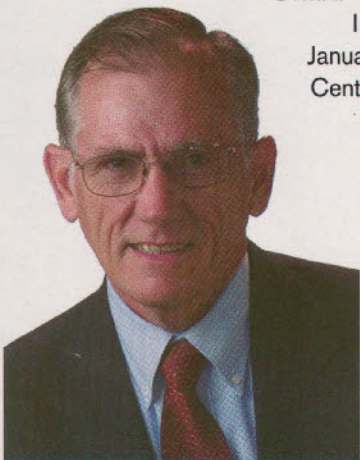
This is a wonderful organization, filled to the brim with fine people who do their jobs well and are valued members of their community. Each of us makes our own unique imprint where we work and live. We can all learn from each other and make our own job and life better as well as improving the image of our profession.

The New Year of 2004 offers us a great opportunity to make a difference in our jobs, our community and our profession. Let's take that as our challenge and, when the bell is tolled December 31, 2004, we can say things are better in all facets of our lives than they were January 1, 2004.

Let's work to support each other in the year to come and we'll see the results in the years to come.

I hope the New Year is a good one for you. The Board and I will do everything we can to make it so. I welcome your active support and participation in the workings of STMA.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our Annual Conference January 21-25 in San Diego at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center.

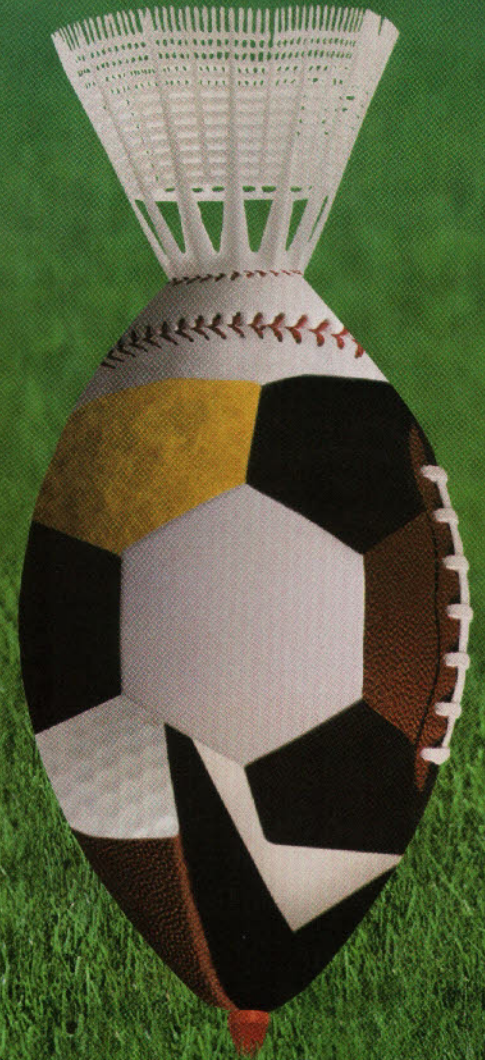


BOB CAMPBELL, CSFM

bcampbell@UTK.edu

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