

president's message

Professional obligations and leadership

It's that time of year again. The days are getting warmer and the grass is turning green. Baseball is in the air. These days have a special feel to them and it's a great time to be in our profession.

Spring is the time of year we all feel young again and a time to look carefully at the challenges of the coming year with a fresh spirit and renewed enthusiasm.

We just completed our annual conference in San Diego. It gave us all the opportunity to get together with our professional colleagues and learn something new from their experiences. It gave us a good opportunity to share ideas and see how different people approach our common problems. It was also an opportunity to get together with old friends and meet new ones.

Our profession continues to face many challenges. The proliferation of new versions of artificial turf continues to be a concern for many, if not all, of us. As sports field professionals, we are the experts not only on natural grass fields, but need to be involved in the decision-making process when new fields are installed.

I continue to be amazed that these important decisions are made about playing surfaces without decision-makers having all the relevant facts at their disposal. That is where we come in.

Cost comparisons of artificial turf and natural turf have been casually tossed about and many times are taken as gospel. This is an area in which we need to take leadership. As far as I know, there have been no independent studies conducted that compare the costs of installation and maintenance of the two surfaces.

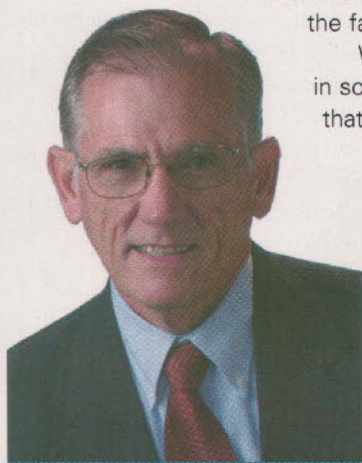
I reiterate: We are not merely grass cutters. We are sports field management professionals. The challenge for all of us in the Sports Turf Managers Association is to give the sports field manager the information each of us needs in order to be a participant in constructive dialogue about the fields on which athletes compete.

At our conference, Dr. A. J. Powell of the University of Kentucky challenged STMA to develop the true costs of the two surfaces and make these reports available to anyone who wants an unbiased opinion, one based upon fact, not speculation.

Within the next few months, you should see the results of our research.

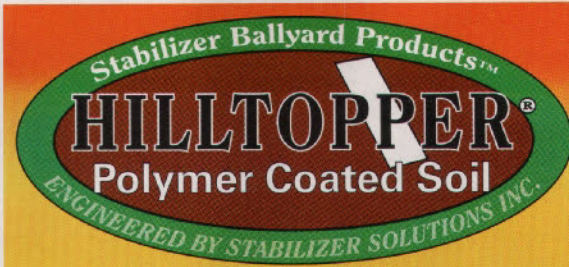
We are charged with the responsibility of making the fields on which athletes compete be the best they can be. We are the experts on the field as well as partners in the game. Our professional obligation and responsibility is to bring our expertise to the table and help decision-makers make choices in the best interest of the game, the players, and the fans.

While things are changing in sports (and seemingly not for the better in some cases), we must continue to take a leadership role in ensuring that playing fields reflect the best of our talents and abilities.



BOB CAMPBELL, CSFM

bcampbell@UTK.edu



IN PLAY

Coast to Coast

Hilltopper® Warning Track

Better Play and Easier Field Care
*Scout the Hilltopper Line of Polymer Coated Soils,
Infield Mix, Mound Clay and Warning Track Mixes.*

San Diego
PETCO Park

Anaheim
Angel Stadium

Arizona
Bank One Ballpark

Saint Louis
Busch Stadium

Philadelphia
Citizens Bank Park

www.StabilizerSolutions.com



Stabilizer Solutions, Inc. 800-336-2468
205 South 28 Street tel 602-225-5900
Phoenix, Arizona 85034 USA fax 602-225-5902
email us at info@StabilizerSolutions.com

Circle 132 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2908-132