

president's message

Get in the game

Get in the game — a simple phrase, but one that is particularly powerful for all us when we think about the STMA conference and show. This is truly an opportunity to get involved in our profession by accessing the dozens of educational and networking opportunities offered at the conference.

You will learn from leaders in turfgrass research and in field management, and be able to take back to your facilities useful information and ideas. Sessions, workshops, roundtables and tours have been designed so that you can choose the topics specific to your needs. Yet, the scheduling provides you with maximum learning opportunities.

Our keynote speaker, Ron Santo, formerly with the Chicago Cubs and White Sox, will entertain us with stories and insights gained throughout his 15-year major league career and from his most recent 15 years as a WGN Radio color commentator for the Cubs. Highly recognized for their wealth knowledge and experience, our three featured speakers, Dr. Andrew McNitt, Dr. John (Trey) Rogers, III, and Grant Trenbeath will provide interesting perspectives on topical issues.

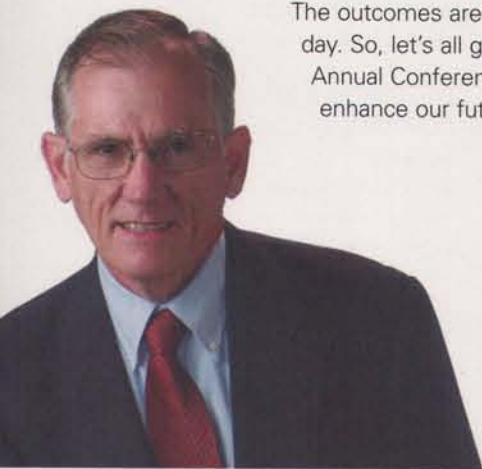
Networking with your peers is another way you can enhance your knowledge while at the conference. STMA prides itself on the willingness of its members to share information and knowledge with others. Simply by asking you will get valuable advice from your peers as they relate their experiences to help you solve your problems.

The Exhibition offers an excellent opportunity to see new products, meet face-to-face with your suppliers, and gather information to assist you with your purchasing decisions. No other event locates industry suppliers in one place for you to spend uninterrupted time evaluating and learning about their products and services. STMA has made a commitment to you to offer trade show-only time with nothing scheduled against it. This allows you time to walk the trade show floor asking questions of the product developers that focus on your needs without missing critical educational sessions.

Another commitment we can make to get involved in our profession is to pursue certification. Many of you are eligible to test for the designation. I encourage you to contact STMA headquarters to find out your specific path to become certified. On the website www.sportsturfmanager.com you'll find a contact list of those who are certified if you have any questions about the process. By making those calls now, you may be able to test at the conference and begin reaping the personal and professional rewards of being a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM).

By taking advantage of the education, networking, and information at this year's conference, you are making a commitment to further your professional development, which helps to build a stronger profession. An old saying, "A rising tide raises all boats," is especially fitting. By personally committing to continuing education each one of us contributes to the advancement of the entire profession.

The outcomes are more recognition and increased respect for the jobs we do every day. So, let's all get off the sidelines and "get in the game" at the STMA 16th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Phoenix January 19-23. It's 5 days that will enhance our future in sports field management.



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