

## president's message

# Schedule of benefits

For many of us, fall brings a change of seasons, a full schedule of games, and the daily challenges life in the world of sports turf brings.

For those of us in STMA, fall means scholarship and awards deadlines, finalizing our annual conference program, and, most importantly, a strong focus on our annual membership drive. This is always a time to "show the flag" for STMA and be proud of what we do to ensure the games are played on the best surfaces possible.

I have asked many members why they join STMA. The answers never vary. The number one reason is **networking**, which members use in a variety of ways. Many use the on-line membership directory to locate peers who have similar work environments and face similar challenges.

Others use their chapters to troubleshoot the local challenges of sports turf management. Our conferences and shows provide a variety of face-to-face learning opportunities. Establishing a strong network of peers can also provide employment information.

Since a high percentage of job openings are never publicized, the STMA network is the way to learn about advancement in the industry. All of our members believe in giving back to the profession they love by sharing their knowledge with those who might be less experienced.

Access to career enhancing **resources** is the second reason sports turf managers join STMA. Our website [www.sportsturfmanager.com](http://www.sportsturfmanager.com) has a wealth of information that will help you do your job better. Through the electronic newsletter, "Sports Turf Managers E-Digest," you can keep current on the ways the association is working on your behalf.

You are reading the profession's leading monthly magazine, providing practical and relevant information on new products, turf maintenance, and field management practices. Educational opportunities afforded during conferences and shows and through chapters combine hands-on learning and problem solving. STMA is the only organization offering certification as a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) to validate your skills.

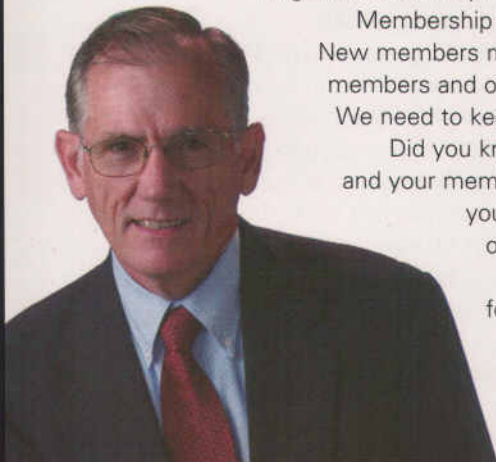
One of the most important tools members receive is access to TGIF, the Turfgrass Information File from Michigan State University Libraries' Turfgrass Information Center and the USGA. An easy-to-use database, this compendium of technical articles brings the latest research to your fingertips. Having your field management programs supported by the green industry's leading scientists brings credibility to your decision-making process. As a member, full access to TGIF is included in your dues. If you were to purchase the use of TGIF separately, its \$100 cost is more than the \$95 in annual dues STMA charges its sports turf managers.

Finally, STMA membership provides **recognition** of your commitment to continuous learning and professionalism. Use the formal and informal education you receive through STMA to document your capabilities and promote your abilities to your employer. STMA will continue to promote the knowledge, skills, and expertise of all of its members to the sports industry.

Membership in STMA is good for you and equally good for our organization. New members mean new ideas and new ideas help our organization serve our members and our employers better. As in any organization, we can't stand still. We need to keep moving forward to make our profession stronger and better.

Did you know that you may pay for your conference and show registration and your membership dues on your conference registration form? That allows you to submit one invoice to your accounting office to pay for two of the most important learning opportunities you have this year.

I am asking for your continued support of STMA. Stay at the forefront of your profession by being a member of STMA.

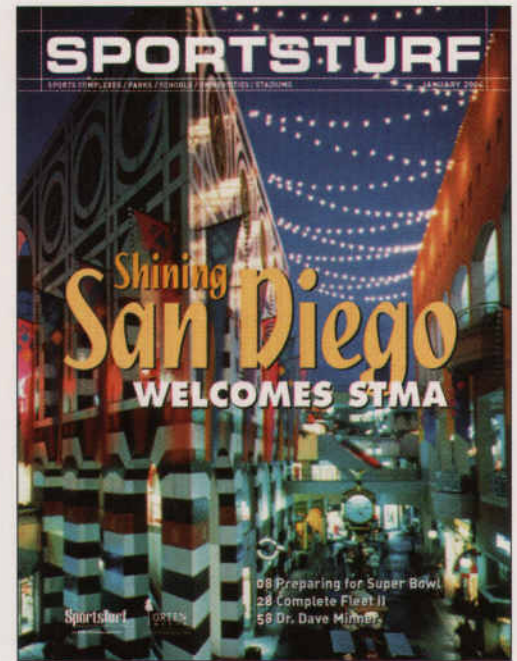


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*Bob*

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