

president's message

Join us for the Education and Celebration of our 25th Anniversary

I hope 2005 has been a productive year for you. It was a very busy year for STMA, but one that has resulted in solid progress and set the stage for our continued advancement.

The Board of Directors held its Fall Board Meeting in mid-October for discussion and approval of many items such as the 2006 Budget, Certification Committee Recommendations, Strategic Plan Review, and Future Conference Sites. STMA has now developed a 4-year, East-to-West rotation pattern to make the annual conference and exhibition easily accessible to its members.

But more importantly, we had the opportunity to see, first hand, the Disney conference and convention facilities. Let me tell you, I am excited. The 17th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Orlando is shaping up to be the best yet, especially in the area of education. Disney's Coronado Springs Resort will provide first class accommodations as well as excellent dining and guest services. Plus, the resort is conveniently connected to all of Walt Disney World Resort attractions by complimentary shuttle bus service.

The convention facilities will provide spacious meeting and ballroom facilities for outstanding educational sessions and events. The new Veracruz Exhibit Hall provides more than 86,000 square feet of exhibit space. David Rosenberg and Andrea Dillinger from M & E, the STMA Conference and Exhibition team, report that there are 141 exhibitors registered to date, representing 315 booths. The Trade Show and Reception with Exhibitors is a venue at which you will meet dozens of new business contacts. A little planning will help to make the trade show experience a productive and rewarding investment of your time.

But, the dynamic and diverse educational sessions and trade show are only the tip of the iceberg. Where else can you network with literally hundreds of your peers from across the country, sharing problems, but more importantly solutions. I believe that by sharing your knowledge and experiences you will realize even greater opportunities.

This year's STMA Annual Conference is also about celebrating our 25th Anniversary.

In a profession that is too often taken for granted, the Conference is our opportunity to celebrate the passion for what we do. The energy and enthusiasm at the conference is contagious and I leave each year with a feeling of renewal. This passion for sports turf management is recognized at the Awards Banquet. I truly enjoy the recognition of our Founders Award recipients and Field of the Year winners that represent the best in our profession.

I have no doubt that you will have a wonderful learning experience coupled with enjoyable leisure time while in Florida that will result in an event to be remembered by all.

No conference could become as successful as ours without the remarkable contributions made by many volunteers. Building a conference requires significant collaboration and time. Please know I am proud and very appreciative of the work being done by members of our association and the tireless efforts of our Board of Directors, CEO, and staff in preparation of this conference.

I look forward to seeing you next month in Orlando!

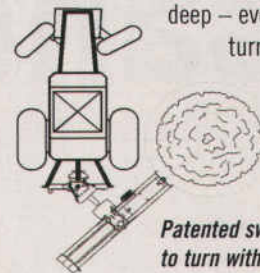


MIKE TRIGG, CSFM
mtrigg@waukeganparks.org

Mike Trigg



The **AERA-vator®** will aerate high traffic areas, loosen soil before laying sod and relieve compaction from sporting events. The **SEEDA-vator®** can primary seed or over-seed without any other type of preparation. The **MULTI TINE AERA-vator®** makes overseeding sports fields easy with no disruption of play. The **VERTI-cutter** operates at a consistent depth up to 1 1/2" deep – even while making gentle turns. The **FLAIL-mower** is a great choice for economical mowing on all types of sports turf.



Patented swing hitch allows units to turn without tearing the turf.



AERA-vator®
Model AE-60



AERA-vator®
Multi Tine Model FT-60



FLAILmower
Model FL-72



SEEDA-vator®
Model SE-60



VERTI-cutter
Model VC-60

www.1stproducts.com
FIRST PRODUCTS, INC.

164 Oakridge Road
Tifton, GA 31794

Toll Free: **1(800)363-8780**

Call for a free product video or DVD