

A natural debate

There was much written about synthetic turf in April's issue of *SPORTSTURF*. I want to address any concerns or misperceptions that STMA is endorsing synthetic products or services over natural turfgrass.

One element of our mission is to enhance our members' competence. STMA does this through providing information and education to our members—education that encompasses the entire industry—including natural turf and synthetic turf. I believe that staying current with technology is imperative. Even if I never manage a synthetic surface, I want to know about that technology, as I believe all STMA members would want to learn about it.

We as sports turf managers take our jobs very seriously. We strive to manage natural turf and synthetic surfaces to produce safe and aesthetically pleasing playing surfaces for our athletes. Only by a thorough understanding of our options will we be able to advise our employers, athletic directors, administrators, and coaches of the most appropriate surfaces for our athletes and their levels of play.

I encourage you to read the article in this issue by STMA Board Secretary Abby McNeal, CSFM, who is the chairperson for our new Synthetic/Natural Turfgrass Task Force (see page 36). She and her task group and subtask groups are doing some excellent work to provide the answers to the questions "Why select synthetic turf?" and "Why select natural turf?"

As to the emphasis in April's issue on synthetic turf, look for similar coverage on natural turf products and services in this issue and every issue of *SPORTSTURF*.

As summer officially arrives this month, I have noticed how active our chapters are with events. Many chapters hold their major educational field days now to take advantage of the warmer weather. These activities provide great hands-on learning. Other chapters have planned fun events such as baseball games, golf tournaments, barbecues, etc., involving their entire families. For information on these events, see the Chapter News section in this issue (pages 36-38).

I encourage all of you to be as active in your chapters as possible. Local networking is so critical to each of us, and our chapters provide ready-made opportunities to learn from each other. A strong chapter network goes hand-in-hand with a strong national association. STMA's chapter relations committee is working to create a stronger bond between local chapters and the STMA. One way is to streamline the paperwork previously required by headquarters from each chapter.

Later this summer the committee is planning to distribute a quick guide that has the necessary forms and a checklist so that the chapters know what is due and by when. Also this summer, the Chapter Connection Newsletter will be electronically distributed to the chapter leadership with relevant and timely articles. Look for straightforward information about chapter insurance coverage through STMA, how to request and use the \$500 development fund money available to each chapter, and tips to simplify dues renewal and collection.

Have a great summer!



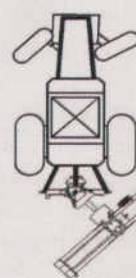
MIKE TRIGG, CSFM

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