

# Advancing STMA through Committees

It is so gratifying to observe our committee process at work. In my April message, I reported that the association was refining and enhancing the committee system. In addition to the 11 standing committees, 10 sub-committees were established, and a Past President's Advisory Council and a Synthetic/Natural Turf Task Force were formed. More subcommittees will be appointed throughout the year to help facilitate and manage specific committee projects. To date, more than 100 STMA members are involved in our committees.

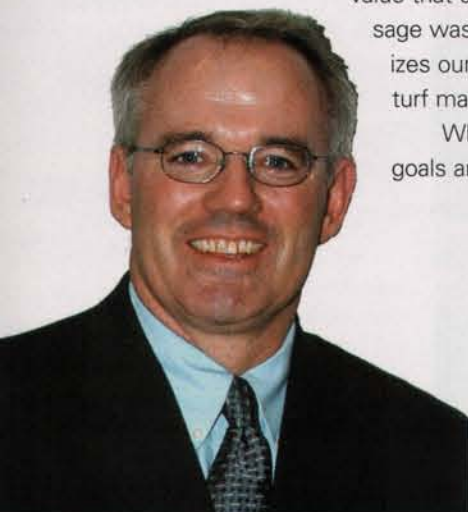
This past month I participated in two separate programs with STMA members. The first was in early April at the Illinois Chapter Spring Sports Turf Workshop, which was conducted at Northwestern University. I had the opportunity to tell chapter members and others in the industry about our committees' work and the various initiatives underway. Since the educational program was on synthetic and natural turf management, I shared important information about STMA's work in this area. STMA is committed to developing factual "white papers" to bring information to the STMA membership and to the industry. Abby McNeal, CSFM, chairs this newly appointed Task Force, which has representation from those in research, the commercial segment, and field management side for synthetic and natural turfgrass. As this core task force needs information, additional subcommittees will be created.

Another important topic I covered was about the work of the 2006 Conference Committee. Committee Chairman Mike Andresen, CSFM, and the conference committee members are underway with program planning of the 2006 Conference in Orlando, FL. Also, Membership Committee Chair Lynda Wightman and that committee's members are developing a plan to recruit new members of STMA and retain current members. One of their initiatives is to conduct a survey of the STMA membership to determine awareness and perceived value of association services.

Because of various committees' work, I foresee a need to reactivate the Bylaws Committee. There are issues dominating committee discussions that need to be more clearly defined by the bylaws. The bylaws should be a working document to be used, reviewed and revised as necessary, and viewed as a valuable resource for the association to promote sound decision-making for every circumstance.

In mid-April, I traveled to Fort Myers, FL, to participate in a seminar at the North Fort Myers Community Park and to promote STMA. I had the opportunity to discuss our Certification Program and the Certification Committee initiatives with parks directors. A highlight of the visit was discussion about the value that certification brings to members personally and professionally. My message was that certification recognizes our members' achievements and symbolizes our commitment to the profession — that it is not just a "test" for sports turf managers nor just an acronym placed after our names.

Whenever I have the opportunity, I truly enjoy speaking about committee goals and initiatives and the hard work of the STMA committee volunteers.

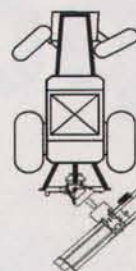


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