

President's Message

David J. Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP
dpinson@lexingtonma.gov



Direct Mail List Sales
MeritDirect, Jim Scova
Phone: (914) 368-1012
jscova@MeritDirect.com

Subscription Services
Phone: (847) 763-9565
Fax: (847) 763-9569

Reprints
Debra Welter
dwelter@specialtyim.com

Group Publisher
Jeff Patterson
Phone: (763) 383-4458
jpatterson@epgmediallc.com

Account Representatives:
Chris Pelikan
Senior Account Manager - East
Phone: (954) 964-8676
cpelikan@epgmediallc.com

Peggy Tupper
Senior Account Manager - Mid-West
Phone: (763) 383-4429
ptupper@epgmediallc.com

Leslie Palmer
Senior Account Manager - West
Phone: (248) 731-7596
lpalmer@specialtyim.com

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STMA: working for YOU!

Can you believe it is May?! The warmer temps are here to stay, and the fields are in full use (or overuse depending on who you ask). Most of you are extremely busy keeping your fields safe, playable and looking good. Topdressing, fertilization, aeration, irrigating, painting, mowing, edging, grooming and general cleanup and maintenance are all taking center stage. Students and professors are finishing the school year, while other members are winding down the trade show season.

Just a quick note to say "THANKS" to our Commercial Members who continue to add value to STMA. Their dedication to your success, mentoring, product development, and sponsorship, coupled with timely, quality service and general support make them great partners who advance the profession.

Dedicated volunteers and staff are full into committee work. Calls are being made; work plans are being set; and recommendations are forthcoming. Committees directly enhance the value of membership by providing the tools and resources to strengthen your knowledge and professionalism. Here is an update on some of their work: 1) a task group has been formed to review the Innovative Awards so that we maximize the benefits to commercial members and to you by providing cutting edge products and services; 2) the Conference Education Committee is reviewing the many proposals you submitted so that we have well-balanced and pertinent topics; 3) the Conference Committees and the Finance

and Audit Committee will be reviewing the conference budget to present to the Board in July; 4) the Conference Tours Committee is busy finalizing some great venues to visit. Conference is only 7+ months away! I hope you share my view that trying something new is a good thing. Denver, a new conference venue, should be exciting, enriching and a welcome spot to gather after a long season.

Your Board had a very productive March meeting (on which you should have received an update from your category rep), and we are gearing up for the July meeting.

You have at your disposal a talented and dedicated staff who complete all of the behind-the-scenes work that keeps STMA moving in a positive direction. Kim, Leah, Nora, Kristen and Shant are working for you and ensuring that your membership has value. They do those little things and sometimes big things so you can focus on being a professional sports turf manager. As someone who was a long time NESTMA Chapter Board member, I can tell you from experience that the volunteer spirit can only go so far. You have great ideas, great suggestions and are doing great work, but without the common thread of headquarters and people working behind-the-scenes many things would simply not get done. So, concentrate on what you do, do it well and know that the day-to-day operation of STMA is working for you.

In this month of remembrance, let us also not forget Mother's Day or Memorial Day. For without those people we would not be where we are today. ■