

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
Robin Cooper
rcooper@specialtyim.com

Group Publisher
David Voll
dvoll@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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Tricks and treats

October in New England is always a great time of year. The temperatures are comfortable, the grass performs well, the colors are beautiful, the fall sports are in full swing and Halloween is celebrated. The tricks and treats I want to talk about involve you as a professional and as a person. You should have all received your conference brochure. In it you will find educational sessions, networking opportunities and trade show hours that will give you more tricks of the trade you can apply to your facilities.

Some may be little tricks like mowing different ways to get a striping affect or getting info to develop a field use policy. Some may be larger tricks like using drill and fill to help your compaction and drainage issues or using growth regulators in your line striping program. Your Board works diligently to provide these opportunities to you so you can succeed in delivering safe, playable and aesthetically pleasing fields.

This is a great time of year to let others know about STMA and the many ways the organization can help them in their jobs.

When I was younger I always wanted to dress like Batman or Spiderman for Halloween. You have the opportunity to be the superhero for your facility and deliver a field that will make young and old, amateur

and professional alike have memorable experiences. The trick is learning what will and won't work for your particular field. You also have the ability to pass tricks of the trade on to others. Take part in discussions, answer questions and show how you do things. Even if someone picks up one little trick you have done a great service to the profession. This is a great time of year to let others know about STMA and the many ways the organization can help them in their jobs. Being an STMA member is a pretty cool thing.

Now for the treat part. Any sports season means long hours and all of our focus on work. Did the field get mowed and at what height? Did the paint arrive in time to do a great logo? Do I have time to squeeze in overseeding? When can I irrigate? Where is that weather forecast? All of these things and many more are important to getting the job done right.

In the middle of this do not forget to treat yourself so you don't burnout or develop the wrong attitude. It may be tough but once in a while just go for a walk and enjoy the surroundings. Go grab an ice cream and sit down to enjoy it. Share a pizza with your crew. Break away to watch your child's soccer game. These are the treats we need to give ourselves so we can come back and give our all to having the best fields we can. Another reason to go to conference is to learn some of the tricks to balance your professional and personal sides. Take advantage of your opportunities, learn new tricks and treat yourself right. ■