

THE EXTRA POINT

STMA NEWS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This, my inaugural message as STMA's new executive director, gives me the great pleasure to report that our first international conference and trade show was a great success. All of the educational sessions were well attended and I heard nothing but praise from those attending for the quality of the presentations, the demonstrations, and the trade show exhibits.

On behalf of STMA, I would especially like to thank Carol Thomas and her staff at Dodgertown for all of their fine efforts in helping make our conference a great success. I would also like to thank the exhibitors for their support and the sports turf managers from across the country who attended the meeting.

Florida is a shining example of the potential of the sports turf industry. One speaker estimated that more than three billion dollars will be invested in Florida sports turf over the next ten years. The Florida sports turf managers attending the conference were also professionals in every sense of the word. I know the exhibitors were impressed with their professionalism, as well as that of the sports turf managers from other parts of the country.

STMA has come a long way, but as I look ahead there is still a lot of work to be done. This year STMA is planning to conduct four regional conferences, in addition to our second annual international meeting. Watch for upcoming announcements in *sportsTURF* magazine regarding dates, places and times.

I am anticipating the same kind of support and growth for these activities that we have had in the past. 1989 promises to be another great year for STMA and the sports turf industry!

Mark Hodnick

COCKERHAM ELECTED PRESIDENT



Steve Cockerham, superintendent of agricultural operations at the University of California at Riverside, is the new president of STMA. Cockerham has been a golf course superintendent, sod farm manager, county agent, turf researcher and sports turf consultant during his career. He is also a past president of the American Sod Producers Association and the California Chapter of the American Society of Agronomy.

Currently, Cockerham is the academic administrator of agricultural research at UC Riverside and turf consultant to the Los Angeles Coliseum. His research specialties are managing high-traffic turf and the adaptability of turf-grasses to Southern California. He holds a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Purdue University and a master's degree in weed science from New Mexico State University.

"I'm grateful to have been elected president of an association with such importance," said Cockerham. "So much

rides on what STMA can do for all types of sports facilities across the country. The only way it can be effective, however, is for all sports turf managers to join and contribute to the cause. We need you as much as you need us."

David Frey, director of property for Cleveland Stadium Corp. in Cleveland, OH, was elected first vice president. Dr. James Watson, chief agronomist and vice president of The Toro Company, was voted in as second vice president.

The final two officers are secretary Twyla Hansen, grounds manager at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, NE, and treasurer George Rokosh, director of buildings and grounds for the College of DuPage, in Glen Ellyn, IL.

FLORIDA LAUNCHES FIRST LOCAL CHAPTER

"Florida Chapter Number One" is the name of the first officially recognized chapter of the STMA, launched in December by seven Miami-area sports turf specialists. "We talked about forming a chapter for months," said pro tem chairman Tom Mascaro. "We needed a reason to get together regularly to discuss sports turf problems on a regional basis, but we also wanted to be part of STMA."

The problem was STMA never had chapters before, so Mascaro, Dale Sandin (Orange Bowl) and Ed Birch (Broward County Schools) approached the board during the conference at Dodgertown. Not only did the board approve the chapter concept, it recognized Florida Number One as the first chapter and agreed to recognize a chapter to be formed in the Chicago area by Mike Schiller of the Glenview, IL, park district.

Mascaro said the new chapter will meet monthly at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center. John Cisar, extension turf specialist at the center, handles meeting arrangements.

"Every part of the country has its own unique problems," explained Mascaro. "The only way to solve them is to get together frequently and discuss them. We might also be able to help convince local universities and the extension service to conduct research into local sports turf problems."

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CATCH THE ACTION

Mark your calendar.

March 21 — Western Sports Turf Institute
California Polytechnic Institute and University, Pomona, CA.

June 21 — Midwest Sports Turf Institute
Harper College, Palatine, IL.



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