



## STMA Matters

**A**s the autumn days get shorter and cooler, and the leaves change hue and fall from the trees, we are reminded of two impending events: winter, and the STMA National Convention.

It seems like only a few months ago that I attended the conference in St. Louis, where I got to meet several of you for the first time. I hope all of you reading this will be able to attend, because, as a source for contacts, advice, fun and friendship, the National Convention is unbeatable.

To get a taste of what to expect in January, we've devoted a large portion of this issue to the speakers and exhibitors attendees will be able to meet, talk with and learn from at the show. Use this issue as a resource to find which booths you must visit, and which speakers and workshops you must attend.

Thanks to all the exhibitors and speakers for supplying information. A special thank you to Ross Kurcab, who gave me a chuckle when he supplied this quote on why the conference is so important: "I go to the STMA Conference because Steve Trusty is not only funny, but also sexy."

All joking aside, Ross added the following: "Let's face it, this is a tough profession. Few outside the industry understand what it takes, and what we put into it. But when I'm at the STMA Conference, I'm with family. I've made lifelong friends who can sit down with me, have a cold one, and really understand."

Well said, Ross.

### Sports Turf Managers Association Announces Formation of SAFE

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) announced the formation of the Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE). This Foundation is being formed as a 501(c)(3) corporation for the purposes as outlined in the SAFE Mission Statement: "To support sports field specific research, educational programs and environmental concerns to promote user safety."

"The STMA Strategic Planning initiative identified the need for sports specific research as one of our top priorities," said STMA President Richard T. Moffitt. "I speak on behalf of the Association to note the formation of this Foundation as another positive step forward in our continued focus on helping increase the level of professionalism throughout the sports turf industry."

For information on SAFE, please contact Trusty by phone at (800)323-3875.

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## Tip of the Month

### Efficiency - The Buzzword for the 21st Century

by *Floyd Perry*

As I travel across our country and visit various athletic centers, it always amazes me how some park centers, recreation complexes, stadium venues seem to always have the big events annually played on their respective fields. But after talking to the teams, coaches and administrators, the same pattern is evident—efficiency of task and dedicated working crews.

What sets these particular maintenance departments apart from others is sometimes measured in the smallest of detail:

**Easy, convenient means to move and manage your equipment.** Groundskeepers today are creating an arsenal of quality tools and equipment that can perform a multitude of tasks. There is nothing worse than beginning a maintenance repair puzzle and finding you left some key equipment pieces at the shop.

**Create and develop tools that do multiple tasks.** All groundskeepers strive to do the best they can with what they have," but why not move a step beyond that philosophy in the future? Why not attempt to make tools that can do various tasks, under various conditions with a reduction in time? Groundskeepers and maintenance personnel are extremely handy at making things for specific jobs. Rather than creating an extensive wish list, why not attempt to make something that performs for you?