

President's Message

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A wise use of resources

STMA'S ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE IS the source of inspiration behind this month's message as they are tackling a host of issues related to sustainability, environmental protection, etc. My perspective of resources will take a different spin, however, as I wish to reflect on the talents of our people and our resources that make STMA so valuable.

STMA's most valuable resource is its people, beginning with you as a member, the HQ staff, the Board, and of utmost importance to the continued growth and success of STMA, our committees. At our spring Board meeting, we gave extra attention to the distinction between "Board responsibilities" and "committee responsibilities." The Board's purpose is to set the direction and the committee's purpose is to figure out how to take us there... and CEO Kim Heck does a great job reminding the Board when we wander into the area of doing the committee's work!

I want you to know how much the Board appreciates your volunteer spirit and the time, dedication, and commitment you demonstrate so willingly. We are truly a "committee-led" organization and it is extremely rewarding to witness this year's committees becoming fully engaged in the pursuit of the goals of our new strategic plan.

Our Website Committee has produced another valuable resource in its upgraded website and the improvements and additions continue. Many of our outreach resources have been posted online by Education Director Kristen Althouse and STMA's Information Outreach Committee continues to work diligently to increase the number and type of outreach publications available to members. Many of these resources were developed by your peers, so they have the unique perspective of sports turf managers facing the same challenges as you.

And don't forget the availability of two other resources: TGIF (Turfgrass Information File) and the PCI (Playing Conditions Index). Both require some time to get comfortable in their use, but once you are familiar with these resources, you have tools to use for years to come. TGIF is the preeminent searchable library for all things "turf" and PCI is a peer-developed field assessment tool that provides a comprehensive evaluation of athletic fields and facilities, identifying both limitations and strengths.

A brand new membership resource is detailed in this month's issue, the partnership between STMA and the Plant Management Network (PMN) [see page 42]. Carefully read this article and then spend a few moments exploring the information available to you through PMN. Of particular interest to sports turf managers is access to the e-journal *Applied Turfgrass Science*, a peer-reviewed scientific publication that is intended for an applied audience, not academicians. The PMN site also provides access to an extensive photo gallery, the latest data from pesticide evaluation trials, and a searchable link to university extension websites.

Finally, this spring provided a lot of great banter back and forth between myself as a Kentucky graduate and HQ's predominantly Kansas alums. My compliments to the never-quit attitude of the Jayhawks, but after all was said and done, KU had to "bow to the brow"! Take care, everyone.