

## DOC'S DUGOUT



Dr. Kent Kurtz, Executive Secretary, STMA

Quite often many of us are asked the question, "What will STMA do for me?" or the other one, "What do I get for my membership dues?" Several times I have turned their question around and asked them what they are going to do for STMA! This retort parallels the timely statement by our late President, John F. Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country".

STMA is growing in stature, prominence and numbers each day and STMA directly or indirectly affects the lives of many people, both members and non-members alike. The regional seminars (on both the west coast and in the midwest) have been very well received. These have been dubbed "the traveling road show" by several people but none the less attendees are exposed to the very latest ideas, techniques and products and many speakers are successful STMA members. We have purposely kept registration costs, including lunch, very low so everyone can afford to attend these events. We have a reduced rate for STMA members and members are singled out by special name tags bearing a white and blue membership ribbon. For the first time schools, parks and other grounds management personnel are beginning to meet colleagues and peers at these events and are beginning to share ideas, problems and solutions. New friendships are blossoming and many institutions are beginning to share equipment.

The STMA membership dues are quite low compared to other organizations.

However, it is common knowledge that dues alone will not carry an organization. STMA needs to share in the proceeds from trade shows, actively pursue commercial advertising and hold or sponsor special dinners or luncheons. Currently, no one in STMA, including your Executive Secretary, is paid a salary. Everyone is a non-paid volunteer and most of your officers and board members pay for their own expenses for executive meetings or in many instances their employers have been paying for these activities. When STMA became an independent association in the fall of 1984, we had only 60 members and only \$1600 in the bank. STMA membership is now 400 and we have begun to expand membership services. Financially we are stable but we have a long way to go in order to catch up with other professional organizations who have been operating for many more years. We will continue to grow within the means of our capabilities and will provide a positive, progressive and professional experience for our members.

Very soon all members who have paid their 1986-87 membership dues will receive a very attractive membership certificate. These personalized certificates are suitable for framing or can be mounted on a wall plaque. Currently members are eligible to receive, at no cost, all three of the cooperating sports turf related trade magazines, *Sports Turf*, *Grounds Maintenance*, and *Weeds, Trees, and Turf*. We are investigating the availability of both group and individual liability insurance. The STMA Board at its mid-year meeting in June established two scholarships which will be offered to student members on a competitive basis. STMA recognizes the need to encourage young people to catch the Sports Turf fever and pursue careers in this area of endeavor.

STMA would like to eventually initiate a consultation service which would be available to members. Thoughts are that we could utilize the talents of retired members, cooperative extension personnel and University Turf specialists, who would like to stay active and involved in this industry. We have been encouraged to begin compiling a set of suggested standards and specifications for the construction and maintenance of Sports Turf facilities. To accomplish this large undertaking we need everyone's input, cooperation and suggestions. Several STMA

members are currently offering internships to students who want to learn and gain experience in this career area.

A most unique and helpful gesture is being offered by some of our established professionals. A few STMA members are offering to allow young people and less experienced members the opportunity to participate, observe and learn the "how to" of proper techniques and cultural practices. The only requirement is that they sign a waiver of liability form. What a terrific step forward for our industry!

So what is STMA doing? A lot, but we can do even more if everyone works together. Let's encourage others to join STMA - that's your job!

### STMA BOARD Approves A Scholarship Program For Students

At its Midyear Board Meeting in June Officers and Directors established a Scholarship Award Program to provide financial assistance to students. Two \$250 Scholarship Awards will be awarded in Phoenix to two students who are pursuing careers as Sports Turf Managers. The first year, students who are STMA student members will be mailed scholarship forms this fall and the recipients will be selected by the Awards Committee chaired by Dale Sandin-STMA Director.

The Scholarship Awards will be named for two individuals who have contributed to Sports Turf, exemplified themselves and given of themselves in some special manner befitting of recognition. One Award will be called the *Harry Gill Award*, the other the *Jeff Wishard Award* (see story, page nine).

### HELPING BUILD A DREAM

by Samuel P. Newpher, Grounds Superintendent,  
Atlanta Braves Baseball

Any professional baseball grounds superintendent will tell you that the heart of his field is the infield. At the center of that infield is the most important seven yards of soil in the entire field, namely, the pitching mound. In my tenure as a Major League grounds superintendent, it has been my pleasure to visit and assist numerous college, high school, and Minor League field managers. Almost without exception, the pitching mound has been

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# PHOENIX FOR CONFERENCE

## STMA Annual Conference, Meeting & Trade Show

STMA's 2nd Annual Conference, Meeting and trade show will be held at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona, January 31, 1987. For the 2nd year STMA will be holding its annual meeting as an allied association with the Golf Course Association of America at their International Conference and Trade Show.

### Educational Sessions

The educational sessions will be held at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel Saturday January 31, 1987 (8:30-4:30pm). Sessions will feature information and ideas related to many types of sports turf facilities (baseball, football, soccer, softball, polo, horse race tracks, lawn bowling, lawn tennis, croquet, and others). There will be information on field safety, the economics of field construction, step-by-step construction techniques of baseball fields, specialized drainage systems, sports injuries, sports medicine, new ideas and techniques on maintenance and much more. (Early Bird registration forms are in the mail.)

### Annual Meeting and Elections

The annual meeting for all members will be held immediately following the educational sessions on Saturday, January 31, 1987 (4:45-5:30pm). All members are encouraged to participate in this meeting in order for the Association to remain strong and to help plan the Association's future. Elections of the Executive Board and Board of Directors will be held during this meeting.

### Dinner, Keynote Speaker and Awards Presentation

The annual dinner to raise funds for scholarships, education and research will be held Saturday, January 31, 1987 at 7:30 pm. A famous sports personality will be the keynote speaker at the dinner. The presentation of the Lawn Ranger Award to the sports turf manager who has made the greatest contribution to STMA and the Beam Clay Award to the best baseball facility and sports turf manager will be made. Scholarship Awards to the top two students who are pursuing careers as sports turf managers will also be presented.

## Sports Turf Tour

A bus tour to visit sports turf facilities in the Phoenix area will be held on Sunday, February 1, 1987 (8:30am-2:30pm). Tentative sites include the Fiesta Bowl Field and baseball complex at Arizona State University, The Milwaukee Brewers new spring training site at Chandler, a sod nursery, a municipal park and/or Turf Paradise Horse Race Track.

### Trade Show

The largest indoor turfgrass trade show will be held at the Phoenix Convention Center (adjacent to the Hyatt-Regency Hotel). Sports turf managers can visit the trade show on Sunday, February 1, 1987 (2:30-5:00pm) and Monday, February 2 (8:00am-1:00pm). The trade show will feature nearly 400 companies who sell or market products, supplies and equipment for all aspects of turf management.

### GSCAA's Annual Banquet and Show

The Golf Course Superintendent's Association sponsors their Annual Banquet and Show on Monday, January 2, 1987. Each year top personalities and entertainers are featured at this annual event. Robert Trent Jones, Sr., the renowned golf course architect, will receive the cherished "Old Tom Morris" Award.

### Special Airline Rates

Be sure to read the insert on page five regarding airline rates. As a member of STMA you can take advantage of the airline savings that are being offered to the members of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America.

### ACT NOW!

...to assure that you obtain reservations for this great opportunity.

For further information please contact:

Dr. Kent W. Kurtz,  
Executive Secretary STMA  
1458 North Euclid Avenue  
Ontario, California 91764  
(714) 984-4677 (714) 869-2176

## **Dream**

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a problem area for them. In one case, at an east Atlanta high school, I was questioned by a Player's father that the mound I helped build was too high with too much slope. After showing him the rule book, and going through the measurements step by step, the only thing he could say was, "My son has never pitched from a real pitching mound before."

I have spoken with Atlanta Braves Paul Snyder, Scouting Director; John Sain, Pitching Coach; and Jeff Porter, Assistant Athletic Trainer, and all are in agreement that rule book uniformity is a must for all pitching mounds. All three also agreed that pitching a baseball is a very unnatural physical act. Severe arm and shoulder injuries result if everything, including the mound, are not done correctly.

The cost to build a quality mound is less than \$200 and less than a day's labor for four people. The ongoing daily maintenance of two men is thirty to forty minutes work. Every coach and manager has a rule book. Every one of those books contains pitching mound specifications. When our children take the field for the 1987 baseball season, let's give them what they have needed for a long time: a rule book mound.

They all dream of a career in the Major Leagues. This is one way we all may be able to help them realize that dream.

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## **People in the News**

**Sam Monson** - Facilities Manager for the Minnesota Vikings National Football League Club was selected by the NFL to prepare London's Wembley Stadium for the August 3rd exhibition game between the Chicago Bears and Dallas Cowboys. "London was a grand time. The job went very well and I believe I left a few friends behind." Congratulations Sam! STMA is reaching out to help everywhere.

**Tom Mascaro** - STMA Honorary member, Turf Consultant, innovator, inventor and sports turf pioneer has done it again. Early in his career he helped bring the aerifier, vertical mower, and good top-dressing material to our industry. Now he has the Verti-Groover! (See Picture, Page Six) This implement when pulled by a tractor will cut 3 vertical grooves into the soil and will allow for better soil drainage

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