

Doc's Dugout



Time sure flies as here we are into basketball, football is winding down and right around the corner is baseball. Once again we will celebrate the holiday season with gifts, the joy and voices of happy children, festive lights, singing, delicious food, family get-togethers and the warmth of love and friendship.

I would like to reflect on an event that took place nearly 10 years ago in Milwaukee, Wisconsin during the holiday season. A gentleman we have all come to know and respect - Harry Gill - started what we call today STMA, by sending out holiday greeting cards to other head groundskeepers around the country. Harry did this with the dream that it might lead to getting groundskeepers better acquainted with each other, and hence, initiate a sharing of knowledge, expertise and possibly some close and lasting friendships. Well, it has blossomed and prospered from those meager beginnings into a well-respected international association with a membership of nearly 800. But STMA would not have evolved so rapidly without the volunteer assistance, hard work and dedication of the many individuals like Harry Gill, who have given so much of themselves.

While many of you will enjoy the holidays in the warmth of your home, several of our dedicated members will have the holiday festivities cut short by the demands of the job or the adversities of the weather. Some will be plowing snow, others de-icing roads, while the more fortunate will be nurturing the seed that was sown earlier, fertilizing a weakened sward or painting end zones and logos in preparation for the main event; football.

Our hats are off to each and everyone of you who will spend the holidays performing the most important job in sports - preparing a field of play which is safe, aesthetically pleasing and agronomically sound for the athlete. For this dedication we are proud of your accomplishments. We all support your efforts and are with you in spirit. Remember, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." It is the inner pride, the job satisfaction, and the opportunity to make the most of yourself that is most important in our profession.

Last spring I had the privilege of listening to the legendary, retired head basketball coach from UCLA, John Wooden. He talked about the seven point creed that was given to him by his father when he graduated from a small country grade school. John has tried to live by this creed throughout his life and I feel it is worth sharing with each of you and possibly will be material for some New Year's Resolutions.

The creed is called, "*Making the most of one's self.*"

1. Be true to yourself
2. Make each day your masterpiece
3. Help others
4. Drink deeply from good books
5. Make friendship a fine art
6. Build a shelter against a rainy day
7. Pray for guidance and give thanks for your blessings everyday

Thanks John Wooden for this wonderful message, it certainly is food for thought.

Now, may I wish each and every one of you a joyous and safe holiday and a healthy and prosperous 1989 Sports Turf season.

I look forward to seeing you, and encourage your attendance and support at our first annual International Sports Turf Conference and Show at Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Florida, January 13-15, 1989.

Yours for better and safer sports turf,

Kent W. Kurtz
Executive Director

President's Farewell

First of all, I would like to wish all STMA members, affiliates, their families and friends a very happy holiday season and a very happy and prosperous new year. As the time is growing closer for STMA's Annual Meeting and Conference, I hope all of you have made plans to attend. A great deal of effort has gone into the planning of the educational session and trade show and it promises to be one of the best conferences that STMA has ever offered. I am personally looking forward to participating in the conference and meeting many of you at Dodgertown.

Since this is my last "President's Message," I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and help this past year. STMA has continued to grow at a phenomenal rate through the efforts and leadership of some very dedicated people. The most notable accomplishment this past year has been the establishment of SPORTSturf Magazine as our official journal. The second, but not any less important, has been the decision to sponsor our first "solo" Annual Conference. In the coming years, my most sincere hope is that the enthusiasm and dedication that has benefited me during my tenure as President will continue and that STMA and its members will continue to lead the industry in the management of quality sports turf.

Sincerely,

Mark Hodnick
President

TRIVIA

1. When was the first night baseball game held in Wrigley Field history?
2. How many miles of hot water pipes are required under a regulation soccer field to adequately transfer heat from the shaded side while still keeping the grass in tip-top condition throughout the problem months?

Answers are on page 13

