

## President's Message

Mark Hodnick

The Sports Turf Manager's Association Conference held in Houston in February in conjunction with the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America Conference and Show is now history. It was a good Conference and I met a lot of wonderful people, especially the people from the Institute of Groundsmanship in England with whom we have established an excellent working relationship and with whom we look forward to cooperating more in the future.

I am looking ahead to the 1988 year for the STMA with great enthusiasm. We are in a period of strong growth, adding 30 to 35 new members a month. We have settled into our new office and operations are flowing smoothly.

However, the Sports Turf Managers Association is only as good as the people who belong to it. The core of members who serve on your Board and plan your Conferences and other activities work very hard. It is disappointing that the attendance at Conferences is not higher. Our purpose is to disseminate knowledge and information to make you better sports turf managers. Our meetings are for YOU; it is to your advantage to be there. Please make every effort to attend in the future and become more active in your association.

My congratulations to the two STMA Scholarship winners. Because of the support from the membership, we were able this year to increase the two scholarships to \$500 each from \$250. With your continued support, we will be able to add programs in the future that will benefit the membership and the entire industry.

We are looking forward to the upcoming Conferences in Pomona in March and the College of Du Page in June. I hope to see all of you there.

I again thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your President and for the confidence you have displayed in me. Your support is important in this, a critical year in our history. Together we can become a major force in turfgrass industry.

## Does "Thirsty" Turf Make Noise?

Plants have been exposed to music in jest and in research. Not too many years ago the University of Illinois exposed corn to sound for 18 hours per day without changing growth. Maybe it is time for man to listen to plants. Dr. E.L. Fiscus, USDA, has listened to noises made by drying plants. These sounds are in the 100 kilohertz range. Since the human ear hears in the 10 hertz to 20 kilohertz range, special equipment is needed to hear the sounds plants make as they become drier. The cells of the vascular system conducting water and nutrients from roots to leaves make minute, high-frequency noise when a deficiency of water causes fracturing in this pathway. Discoveries of this type stimulate many interesting questions for research and theoretical uses. Perhaps this could be used to activate a watering system at a precise time to the advantage of the preferred turfgrass species and to save water. Does this eliminate the need for an on-site agronomist? Scarcely! Things other than a shortage of available soil moisture can cause deficiency of water in the water conducting tissue. An agronomist would seem more important than ever to assume correct interpretation and treatments.

# Sports Turf Manager's Association



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## Marshall Receives The Gift of Life

In the last newsletter it was reported that Don Marshall was home quite ill awaiting a heart donor. Don received a heart in January and came through a successful heart transplant operation and is now home recuperating. Our prayers go out to Don for his courage and strength during a very stressful and difficult time in his life. We all wish him a speedy and successful period of recovery. For those who may want to drop him a note, his address is:

Don Marshall  
11244 Warmington  
Riverside, California 92503

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