

# News From STMA Headquarters

by Bret Kelsey, Executive Director

I hope your 1993 is off to a good start. We have a lot of activity to report. Many of the items in this report are from the board meeting held during the annual conference and exhibition in Indianapolis. Your board of directors and staff are striving to make STMA more proactive and in turn more responsive to member needs. Here are some highlights from the meeting:

In 1993 there will be four board meetings, two of which will be full board meetings and two with just the executive committee. This meeting policy saves meeting costs and worked effectively in 1992. February 12 is an executive committee meeting. May will include the full board, and in August the executive committee.

Payments to past creditors have totaled \$25,249.30 through January. The monthly financial statement indicates that the balance to creditors as of April 1, 1992, was \$45,505.07. As of January 21, 1993, the balance was \$20,255.77. That's a decrease of nearly 45 percent in 10 months. The board intends to maintain a prudent fiscal policy in order to eliminate past debts by 1994.

Currently, STMA has nearly 600 paid members. Among the members are 111 new members and eight life members. Currently there 124 past members that have not renewed. The STMA board has divided those names and will initiate personal calls to bring them in. A national membership drive will begin in April/May. In conjunction, many of our professional facilities members will begin a letter writing campaign to bring in their colleagues from baseball, football, race tracks, etc.

An "honorary" contract membership was presented to John Deere & Company for their contribution of public relations and communications efforts. Through the assistance of Trusty & Associates (Deere contracts STMA's Public Relations work to the Trusty's), over 30 articles were placed on STMA's behalf. Deere & Company approved funding for 1993. In addition, an "Honorary" contract membership was presented to Adams Publishing for their contribution to STMA making *sportsTURF*

our official magazine and providing valuable space for association news and events.

Chapter relations was a hot subject at the conference. A special meeting to discuss the structure for the future was highly attended. Those attending (through a vote) were receptive to a unification of national and chapter membership. A booklet outlining the structure and benefits of membership will be sent to each group and chapter prior to March 31, 1993. Any change in membership structure would be phased in beginning in 1994.

STMA will launch a reference library of articles as education materials which would be offered for sale. Look for the listing in future issues of *Sports Turf Manager* and *sportsTURF Magazine*.

STMA will publish its long awaited update of the membership directory. Board member Bob Milano and Bruce Shank of Adams Publishing have offered to help with design and production of the directory. A breakdown of members, affiliates and industry information sources will be included. STMA is offering commercial members the opportunity to advertise in the directory. Plans are to publish by March 31, 1993.

The 1993 Conference and Exhibition site is being nailed down. Co-chairs Greg Petry and Dr. Henry Indyk are meeting in early February with officials from Camden Yards in Baltimore to lock up a date in November. We'll keep you posted. Future meeting sites will be on a rotating basis to each regional chapter. □

## Calendar of Events

March 30-31

### Sports Turf Management for Professionals

This two-day course provides basic information and scientific background needed for effective sports turf and other high traffic turf facilities. Current sports turf research and maintenance practices will be covered during a field tour of the sports grounds at UC-Davis in cooperation with the campus grounds division and STMA. The program is designed for parks and recreation site managers, athletic turf managers, school and college grounds managers, horticultural consultants, pest control advisors and other professional turf and landscape managers.

For enrollment information, contact University Club, University of California-Davis Campus, Davis, Calif., 916/757-8899.

June 30

### Midwest Sports Turf Institute

The Midwest Chapter of the STMA is sponsoring a Midwest Regional Sports Turf Institute June 30, 1993, at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill. The institute offers sports turf operations information for all levels of management, from high schools and park districts to colleges and professional organizations. The morning session includes a panel discussion of leading industry experts, while the afternoon is devoted to a trade show, which features the latest products in turf grass management.

For more information, contact STMA Headquarters, 401 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-4267; 312/644-6610.

## Your Comments Are Welcome!

The written word is a powerful thing. Exercise your power by letting us know what you think -- about this issue or about STMA. You can address your comments to Lisa Bruno, editorial coordinator, *Sports Turf Manager*, 401 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-4267, call 312/644-6610 or send a FAX to 312/245-1083.