
Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

Since this is the last issue for 1996, I thought it would be a good idea to look back over the past year a little and look forward to the years ahead. It has been just over a year since Trusty & Associates took on the responsibility of managing your association. We have had some real challenges, but mostly, we have received so much positive feedback that all challenges have been met with enthusiasm and a true spirit of cooperation by all involved.

Membership is up better than 25%. Over 80% of the members we had last year renewed this year. Advertising and editorial content of your newsletter has increased over previous years. Booth reservations and conference registrations are coming in at what appears to be a record pace. STMA is on sound financial footing. Chapter involvement is up. Your Board of Directors have set the course for even bigger and better things.

Speaking of Chapters, thanks to the generosity of John Deere and Scotts, I have had the opportunity to visit all six STMA Chapters this year and four Chapters that are forming or considering official affiliation with STMA. Every one of these visits have been very enjoyable from my standpoint, and hopefully helpful to the chapter, and especially its board. Most of these visits have been reported previously in STM and/or in sportsTURF. My most recent visit was especially enjoyable for a number of reasons. First of all, this was the Southern California Chapter's annual combination educational and service project field day. They spent the morning hearing from a number of very informative speakers. That in itself made the event worthwhile for the attendees. There was also a time to visit with exhibitors and learn about new products and techniques. The afternoon was spent with hands-on demonstrations. These demonstrations pointed out the various aspects of renovating a baseball field. The chapter and their commercial members donated many hours of labor and many dollars worth of materials to renovate the baseball field for Rancho Buena Vista High

School. A number of the members returned on the next day to finish the project. The gratitude of the coaches, students and school officials in receipt of a new, top-notch field was overwhelming.

A great part of this event for me was I had the opportunity to learn -- from a master-- how to build a pitchers mound from scratch and how to renovate an existing mound. That's because it was one part of the renovation that Steve Wightman took charge of. He, Jim Mosa, from the Pasadena Parks Department, and I tackled the field mound and one of the home team bullpen mounds. A number of people assisted and completed the visiting team's mound. Anyone working on this project learned many valuable skills. Even I now know how to build a mound. I also saw first hand what a chapter can do to help a community at the same time as individuals learn valuable skills and the cause of good sports turf management is advanced.

I hope to see even more of you on chapter visits next year.

While your board has approved a number of projects that you will read about in other parts of this edition of STM and you'll be hearing more about later, the real future of STMA is up to you. If the positive spirit that we have experienced this year continues and individuals continue to volunteer to assist with various needs, your STMA will grow at an even faster pace. While much is being done to advance the stature of the Sports Turf Manager, there is much more that can be done. We look forward to assisting you in seeing to it that STMA continues to promote better and safer sports turf areas and that Sports Turf Managers are recognized for their true contribution to any sports program.

If you haven't as yet made your plans to be in Colorado Springs January 15-19, don't delay. You'll have a wonderful experience. I welcome the opportunity to see you again or meet you for the first time.

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Southern California Does It Again!

The Southern California Chapter's community service project at Rancho Buena Vista High School was a great success. In October 25 attendees combined seminar sessions, a trade show and hands-on demonstrations with "pitch in and do it" field renovation. (This project will be featured in the STMA in Action - Chapter News section of the January issue of sportsTURF Magazine.)

Ric Bethel, the school's Athletic Director, extended thanks to Chapter President and project coordinator Chris Bunnell, and all the generous volunteers and contributors. Bunnell expressed a special thank you to the project contributors: West Coast Turf; Stabilizer, Inc; Enviaible Greens; A-1 Soils Company; Mens Senior Baseball League; and A R Vertebrate.

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