

## SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf  
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# President's Message

by Mike Schiller, President

## Resources Found

When an unusual problem pops up on your turf, who do you call? Problem busters -- your peers within the industry who are most likely to have encountered, and found solutions to, those same problems. When you're faced with budget-tightening initiatives or personnel issues, this same peer group is ready with "case histories" and background information pertinent to workable solutions.

Networking is information sharing at its best, a give and take of what works and what doesn't, a grapevine of new technology and industry happenings, and a solid connection that helps you realize that -- on both the darkest and the brightest days -- you're not "out there" alone.

Use STMA -- *your association* -- as your networking connection. Use the STMA Membership Roster & Resource Manual to look up the latest contact information for someone you know or to track down that person you met at the last Conference whose facility or city you remember, but whose name has slipped your mind.

Or call Headquarters. Maybe you want to touch bases with some of the new members in your area that you haven't met personally. Maybe you're having a concert on the field for the first time and want some hints to avoid damage. Maybe you want to know how a certain product or technique is working out after a year or so of use. Or maybe you need some ideas to help convince the band director that one weekly session of on-the-field, under-the-lights practice is sufficient. The STMA staff is ready to help connect you with an information source.

## And Resources Lost

A leader of the turfgrass industry has gone on to greater rewards. The Lord



Mike Schiller

needed another innovator and took Tom Mascaro from us.

Tom was a truly neat guy, personally and professionally. I was privileged to meet him years ago and to present him with his Honorary Life Membership in STMA at our 1986 Conference in San Francisco. I had the opportunity to listen to some of his formal presentations. His ability to tell the story of where our profession had been and to back it up with the slides to show it was truly special. His informal group discussions were enthralling; I could have listened -- and kept learning -- all day.

It was awesome to meet someone who has been such a big part of the history of turfgrass management. It's amazing to think of all the things we take for granted that Tom Mascaro had some part in developing. Tom's "inventor's touch" was evident in over 100 different items, including the first aerifiers, and a battery powered lawn mower.

Tom Mascaro wanted to share the ideas so that we all became better turfgrass managers. In that, he was a kindred spirit with Harry Gill. They both said the same thing about new techniques, procedures and equipment, "Let's get it out to those who need it the most."

Tom, you may be gone, but you'll never be forgotten.