

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf
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President's Message

by Mike Schiller, President

The holiday season is upon us. As I sit here in my office composing this article, I look forward with great anticipation to the holidays. What a great chance to spend some quality time with the people who are important in your life! As the year winds rapidly to a close, and 1998 is sneaking up on us, I wonder what happened to this past year? It seems that as we get older the time goes by much too quickly. For myself I know that statement is true, especially the last two years.

It seems like only yesterday I was handed the reins of STMA as your President from my good friend, Greg Petry. I have been fortunate to be a part of STMA's growth -- not only in numbers, but in the services we provide our members.

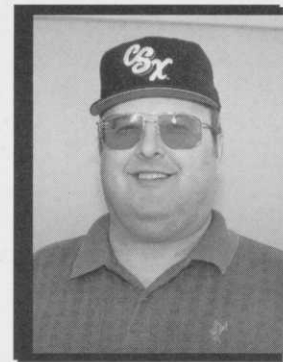
This growth didn't just happen, it was a by-product of some very hard work by some very special people, and as I hand over the reins of the presidency I would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

First, I must thank Steve Guise, President - Elect, Henry Indyk, Commercial Vice President, Eugene Mayer, Secretary, Rich Moffitt, Treasurer, L. Murray Cook, Bucky Trotter, Mary Owen, Bob Patt and Bob Curry, our board members, and Mr. Greg Petry Immediate Past President. These wonderful people have given of their time and talents to help make this one of the hardest working boards STMA has ever had. They are the reason we are such a success.

To Mike Trigg, Troy Smith and all the people who have worked on the raffle/silent auction committee, they have helped generate funds for our scholarship committee and have had some fun doing it.

To all of you who have volunteered to work on a committee of some sort or another, THANKS! You know who you are and please know how grateful I am for your dedication and service. A special note of thanks to all of you who have worked on the education and conference committees, our annual program has grown each year and becomes an even better event because of each of you.

There are three very special people whom I, as your President, owe a great deal of thanks, they are the people who make STMA work, without them the past two years I would have floundered. Stephanie Gamache, Suz and



Mike Schiller

Steve Trusty, you are the very finest I think I have had the pleasure to work with. A little over two years ago, you came on as our management company and, through your hard work, dedication, professionalism and great faith, have helped us grow and prosper. You are the best and on behalf of the membership I salute all three of you for all you have done for us to help us grow and prosper.

I would like to thank each and every member of STMA for your support. You have helped STMA grow and become a leader in the turf industry. I would challenge each of you to take an active part in the organization. There are plenty of activities to become involved in and you get much more than you'll ever give.

I also want to thank my employers over the past 15 years for allowing me an opportunity to become so actively involved in STMA. I owe a special debt of thanks to the Schaumburg and Rolling Meadows Park Districts for allowing me to serve as President-elect and President these past four years.

Last and most importantly -- I need to thank the most important people in my life: Elizabeth, Jennifer, Matt, John and my lovely wife of 26 years, Charlotte. Your patience, understanding and loving support have helped make these last few years speed by.

STMA has grown and continues to grow. We are alive and viable, and I am proud to say we are keeping the dream of my dear friend, Harry "Pops" Gill alive. I know he would be proud of us. I ask you to continue to support STMA as your new President and board take over. I'm sure they will continue to lead us forward.

Thanks for a great run, I hope to see you all in Orlando!