

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf
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President's Message

It Only Comes Once A Year!

by Steve Guise, President

The Annual STMA Conference is just around the corner and I hope all of you can be there to get the opportunity to hear some of the most intelligent and experienced turf managers speak on a number of industry topics. I also hope all of you can experience the camaraderie of meeting fellow sports turf managers from all across the US and other parts of the world.

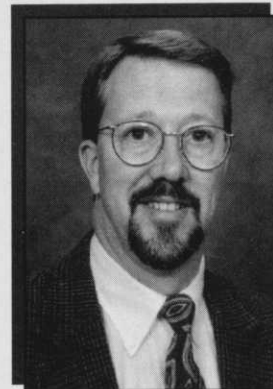
I've learned so much from our Conferences since my first one in San Diego some seven years back. I hope YOU can take advantage of this "once a year" opportunity.

January weather is pretty nice in Arizona's Valley of the Sun (Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe). That, along with the great facilities in the area, have made it the spring training site for many Major League Baseball teams and a popular location for year-round play in baseball as well as football, soccer and other sports. Many of the great facilities will be featured on the optional Seminar on Wheels bus tours held on Wednesday, January 13th and Sunday, January 17th. (See front page article for more details).

Another option available on January 13th is golf. Dedicated golfers and duffers alike will soak up some sun and enjoy the great views as they tackle the challenges of a desert course in this friendly competition.

A first for STMA – and we anticipate a trend of things to come – is the special January 13th session developed by Category I members for Category I sports turf managers: those responsible for professional sports facilities. This one-day session will contain educational sessions, Round-Table discussion and a separate tour of BOB, all focused on addressing issues as they affect those dealing with the special demands of professional sports facilities.

Depending on the feedback from



Steve Guise

those participating in this session, and input that will be requested from Conference attendees in other STMA membership categories, future Conferences may include such focused one-day sessions for several (or maybe all) STMA membership categories.

Thanks to feedback from last year's Conference, educational offerings again include both general sessions on issues of interest to all, and concurrent sessions – three at a time -- that focus on specific aspects of sports turf management and give you the opportunity to select the topics that matter most in your own operation. Also at your request, the Thursday evening reception and Friday lunch will both be held in the trade show area, giving attendees and exhibitors a great atmosphere for interaction.

Again, in response to last year's feedback, the Live Auction and the wrap-up of the Silent Auction are combined in a stand-alone event this year, right after lunch and the official Annual Meeting on Saturday. Saturday sessions will close with a Conference feature retained by popular demand – the interactive Round-Table discussions, with even more choices of topics.

So...don't forget to keep your summer wardrobe available for your trip to the Valley of the Sun this coming January. See you there!