

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf
Managers Association

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President's Message

Spring into Action

by Murray Cook

Spring sports are starting to heat up for many of you. So, make the most of all that pre-season preparation by starting to take photos of your fields to enter the STMA awards sweeps for the top fields in our organization. The best time to begin planning your awards presentation is now. Take a series of photos, to show the before, during and after views to demonstrate how your field changes throughout the season. You will reap other benefits besides using the photos to develop a great presentation package illustrating your field operations for awards consideration.

I have found that taking photos on a weekly basis helps in detecting problems on your fields. Since you are on the fields daily, it's tough to see the turf changes/problems in their early stages. Comparison of the weekly photos can make those differences stand out so it's easier for you to catch them.

You can also use photos to document on-field events, especially those where play takes place in poor weather conditions. A before, during and after photo series for such events may help you explain to field user groups, coaches and supervisors why it may be necessary to limit or cancel play in bad weather.

The poor weather conditions as they relate to turf growth over the winter may test us all. Lack of rainfall and snowfall has depleted many basins and reservoirs along the East Coast. Unless the almanac proves us all wrong, water restrictions are sure to be imposed. This makes our job more difficult, but be patient and be professional in how you handle your water management issues.

Your Board met in San Antonio at the end of March and we have started the development of the slate of topics



Murray Cook

and speakers for next year's conference.

Many of you provided great feedback to the Education Committee to include in next year's format. Those of you who have additional ideas on how we can improve the conference educational information for your sports turf management programs, please give Headquarters a call. Your input is always welcome!

Our Headquarters Hotel, The Hyatt Regency, is located on the Riverwalk, which is the great meeting, greeting and mingling spot of San Antonio. And, it's right across the street from the Alamo, the city's top tourist attraction. The Hyatt is just a few minutes walk from the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center where the trade show will be held. San Antonio is a super location, with lots of great sports venues nearby to tour. And, with two great Texas Chapters helping in the planning, we're sure to experience a greeting as big as the heart of Texas. There's much more to come about the Conference in the next newsletter. Budget now for next year's show and plan to bring your assistant!

Make sure you continue to check the website for STMA updates and don't forget to return those calls to your vendors. They help support your association, which helps us all in the long run!