

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf Managers Association

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President's Message

"Tis the Season"

by Murray Cook

It's time to be thankful and generous. We have a lot to be thankful for and sometimes we need to stop and think about it, especially during this time of year when everyone is preparing for the holidays. It was a great year for our association, especially considering the lagging economy. Personally, I am thankful for the law enforcement agencies in Maryland that captured the sniper in our state. Fields were shut down and all sporting activities were discontinued. It was very close to home and sometimes we forget how fortunate we are until the problems in the world affect us personally.

Now the generous part! By now everyone that receives this magazine should have registered for the STMA 14th Annual Conference in San Antonio. If you haven't - it's not too late! But space is filling up very quickly - so get it in gear and call Headquarters for a packet of information. Or, for immediate access, just go to the website: www.sportsturfmanager.com for a preview of the Conference. You can even register online if you prefer.

We have some great educational sessions lined up and some exciting optional events including two different tours of several wonderful facilities, a tour of area attractions, and the Textron sponsored SAFE Golf Tournament at The Quarry.

A highlight of this year's optional events is the Major League Baseball sports turf managers field seminar. MLB sports turf managers will be stationed around the field providing information and demonstrations on topics ranging from turf management to infield maintenance. The best part is this super seminar only costs 50 bucks and - here comes the generous part - every dollar goes back to the Association. (So if you would like to pay more for this session, we can make special arrangements!)

In this issue you also will see Minor League Baseball's Sports Turf Manager of the Year selections. The awards will be



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presented to these individuals at the Baseball Winter Meetings in Nashville on December 15th. The presentation takes place in front of all the owners and executives from Major League and Minor League teams - a great place for our profession and our professionals to be recognized.

We had a wonderful response for the awards program this year. Many worthy individuals were nominated for the Founders Awards and we had a record number of entries - all outstanding - for our Field of the Year Awards. I wish we could give an award to everyone!

At this writing, the SAFE Scholarship judging team was working their way through another record number of applications. So many excellent applicants makes a great statement for the future of our industry.

There are too many people to thank in this column for a great job in moving our association forward during 2002, however, I'd like to name a few. The Trustys, and our Headquarters Staff, as always going beyond the call of duty to get the information to everyone continue to amaze me. The past and current board of directors whom I thank personally for your support in my inaugural year as the Prez. And finally I say thank you to each of you who have been involved nationally and in your local chapters sharing information and contributing to our growth.

It was a good year and I can foresee that 2003 is going to be even better. May God bless each of you and your families during the holiday season!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I'll see yawl in Texas!