

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf
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President's Message

Fall is Big for STMA

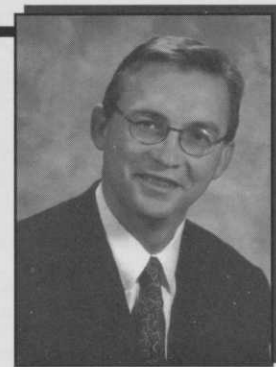
by Murray Cook

Fall is big for STMA. Fall sports are taking the field all across the country - with college and professional football fields starring on the TV screen - and the count down to the World Series keeping professional baseball front and center.

On the international front, this September, professional baseball finally settled the strike issue between owners and players. This was good news. But, at the same time, the IOC (International Olympic Committee) put baseball and softball on the chopping block for the 2008 Olympics. Industry baseball leaders from all national federations including MLB (Major League Baseball) and the Players Association met in Switzerland to discuss a strategy to present to the next council meeting in Mexico in November. All looks positive that a positive case will be submitted at the meeting that proves baseball and softball should stay as Olympic sports. The entire development of removing these sports would have a rippling effect on everyone involved in maintaining softball and baseball fields around the world.

The STMA 14th Annual Conference & Exhibition - Big as the Heart of Texas - is fast approaching. The great folks of Texas have been working with the Conference Committee to help make this event bigger and better than ever! The dates are January 15 - 19, 2003, and the location is San Antonio. Make your plans now! EVERYONE will be there!

The STMA Chapters have been busy! Fall events to date have been a huge success - and more are coming up. Check out the schedule included in this issue - and the STMA website: www.sportsturfmanager.com for last minute details. Most of our Chapters also are working with their state or regional Turfgrass Foundation or Council on the development of either a sports turf specific day or a sports turf specific "track" at the



Murray Cook

State Conferences. Joining in these events is another great way to take a step in your own professional development - and to take your place among other green industry professionals.

Mark your calendar for October 15. That's the deadline to get your entry packet for Field of the Year honors wrapped up and headed to STMA Headquarters. For all you students, that's also the postmark date for sending in all scholarship application materials for the SAFE Scholarship Program. If you have questions about either of these programs, please call or email STMA Headquarters.

The STMA mentoring program for the professional member is wrapping up its first year and is looking for partners to join in as mentors for next year. The commercial member mentoring program gets its start the first week of October. As of this writing, there were still a few openings for commercial mentors. Please contact STMA Headquarters if you are interested in serving as a mentor.

We are definitely reaching out to more and more people around the world through our organization. It's an exciting industry to be a part of. Although the economy has taken a bit of a downhill turn the sports turf industry market has continued to progress.

Thanks again,

(You can contact Murray via email at:
murrayc@brickmangroup.com)