

## From the President

As I drive through the Ozark hills, I see evidence of the trees waking up from their winter slumber. It reminds me that the busy season of spring sports is upon all of us in this industry. It also reminds me that once those activities begin, I'll be going in full gear until football season ends in November.

In January I had the privilege of attending for the first time the National Sports Turf Managers Association Conference in San Jose. It was everything I expected it to be and more. One of the best things was getting away from the record cold here and being in the warmth of record highs in sunny California!

Educational opportunities abounded through the many seminars that were offered. Seminar highlights will be featured later in the newsletter. The trade show offered a great experience to see the latest in sports field care, equipment, and accessories.

Having the opportunity to meet other sports turf professionals from the region and across the country was also a highlight for me. During the

chapter officer training I met several sports turf managers from across the Midwest region. As a result, our chapter has become a part of the regional sports turf seminar this summer in Iowa. Look for more information on that in the newsletter.

Perhaps one of the more life-changing events of the national conference was the skin-cancer screening booth at the trade show. I just want to remind everyone to take care of their skin and wear good protection - even on cloudy days.

We have several upcoming events so I hope everyone is getting into full swing in their season, but also setting aside time to learn, grow, and meet as professionals.

Jeff McQueen  
OSTMA President



In addition to baseball, tennis, and track, girls soccer and junior high softball have been added to the Branson program this year!

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## Winter Kill?

The ice storm the last week of January left ice on my softball field for over a week, causing me to wonder if the Bermuda survived. I'll be pulling plugs from my various Bermuda fields to put in a greenhouse to determine whether it survived the storm or whether I'll have to replant. If anyone else has similar concerns you might want to make sure your Bermuda survived before applying pre-emergence herbicides.



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## Upcoming Events

- OSTMA meeting April 15 @ 4:00 at OTC campus in Ozark, Missouri
- OSTMA Night at Hammons Field, May 22 - details coming soon
- STMA Midwest Conference, June 24-25 in Ames, Iowa
- University of Missouri Field Day, July 14 at the Research Farm in Columbia, Missouri

## Highlights from the STMA Conference

- Chapter Officer Training :** Desire for the national organization to promote greater communication between the chapter organizations through regional events such as the up-coming Midwest Regional Seminar in Ames, Iowa.
- Weather Seminar:** Highlighted how to interpret various weather charts to predict short and long range forecasts for the purpose of planning field maintenance activities.
- Record Keeping Seminar:** Provided many useful templates for the sports turf manager in regards to tracking maintenance activities and costs for budgetary and scheduling purposes.
- Communicating with Field Users Seminar:** Highlighted various means of communicating with athletic directors, coaches, and other users of the athletic facilities.
- Future Technology for Sports Turf Managers:** Equipment related along the lines of environmental fuels and battery technology that will be coming down the pike for more environmentally friendly sports turf equipment.
- Transition Zone Round Table:** An open discussion from members who work in the transition zone, the two biggest topics of discussion being the economy as it pertains to budgets and labor, and new varieties of Bermuda grass that are more cold tolerant. This winter tested those new varieties of Bermuda, so it will be interesting to see how they survived.
- Trade Show:** Big, awesome, educational
- Banquet:** Excellent food and encouraging to see the top sport turf managers being recognized for their work..



San Jose Convention Center, site of 2009 STMA Convention

2010 STMA Conference in Orlando, Florida - January 12-16 at Disney's Coronado Resort and Conference Center

### Speaker:

The speaker for the April 15 meeting will be Scott Parker with Dupont Co. He will be speaking on chemical application record keeping as well as new developments in chemical technology.

## Midwest Conference: Press Release

STMA Regional Conference and Exhibition to be Held at Iowa State in June

STMA, in partnership with eight chapters from the Midwest, will be bringing national level education and a trade show to Ames, Iowa, June 24-25, 2009.

Topics that may be addressed include weather fundamentals for Sports Turf Managers, fertil-

izers, communicating with user groups, project management and operations management, and environmental stewardship. Attendees will be afforded an intimate look at the Iowa State University athletic facilities, as well as an in-depth view of some of Dr. Dave Minner's sports field specific turf research

plots. STMA encourages attendance by Sports Turf Managers and crew alike, and will be providing education for all levels of experience.

If you have pictures of your facility or have news articles/events you want included in the newsletter, be sure to contact Jeff McQueen.

## Professional Involvement Opportunities

Continuing education in our ever-changing industry is imperative. In addition to our local chapter of the OSTMA, I would encourage everyone to think about becoming involved with the Sports Turf Managers Association and with MoTOC. Both can provide opportunities for growth through educational seminars and workshops throughout the year.

STMA is the national organization that envelops our

chapter as well as other local and regional sports turf managers organizations. MoTOC is the statewide organization that supports the sports turf industry as well as golf, lawncare, landscaping, and ornamentals. MoTOC sponsors the annual statewide conference as well as the annual field day at the University of Missouri. For more information visit their websites:

STMA.org  
motoc.org

