

Doc's Dugout



SUCCESS IS CONTAGIOUS

The success of any organization depends upon the participation of the entire membership of that organization. STMA has committed to sponsor regional conferences, seminars, trade shows and field demonstrations. However, at most of these events the largest attendance is comprised of non-members. We need our members to be present to lend credibility and impetus to our mission of upgrading the status of the grounds person, providing recognition long overdue, and establishing the finest professional association anywhere. What is needed most is for our members to become more viable, visible, and vibrant. STMA members need to enthusiastically spread the word, recruit new members and provide assistance to colleagues. We need more of our members at regional meetings to volunteer to present talks, assist in conducting field demonstrations, help at registration, and encourage commercial vendors to participate and support STMA.

HELP SUPPORT OUR COMMERCIAL COLLEAGUES

Commercial vendors are providing considerable time, energy and financial support at STMA functions. The primary funds that pay STMA's bills and daily operating expenses come from the commercial companies who exhibit at our trade shows. Membership dues are necessary and very important but they do not cover the majority of STMA's monetary obligations. These commercial vendors also assist us in defraying expenses in publication of our newsletter and directory through advertisements. They also contribute gifts for our raffles and assist in providing coffee breaks and hospitality events.

Marking Materials And Applicators Available To The Sports Turf Manager

by
Donna Lewis

Within the past 50 years the materials utilized to mark athletic fields have drastically changed. The predominant materials used in the United States and Europe during the 1940's and into the 1960's were asbestos. Asbestos fibers were laid directly on the grass but this practice was discontinued in the mid 1960's when it was learned that asbestos fibers were carcinogenic.

In the United States, field marking materials, methods, techniques and applicators vary from area to area, site to site or region to region. For instance, in northern Alaska, some playing fields are marked with whale's blood using the whale's intestines as the applicator.

In Wyoming we have found that certain materials work better than others. A few years ago we marked fields with a motorized edger that had multiple blades. It was used to chew up the turf and left numerous ruts rather than nice crisp white lines. These ruts were responsible for numerous ankle and knee injuries. Later the school district began using gasoline, diesel oil, round-up and other chemicals which didn't seem to make

any improvement to the appearance of the field. These materials leached with the slightest addition of moisture, burned the grass causing permanent ruts, and required time, energy, patience and money to correct following the playing season. The only advantage to these materials would be their permanence. Unightly athletic fields and a greater risk of injuries are some of the disadvantages to the use of these products and methods.

Dry Marking Materials

Agricultural lime was used for many years in the United States before it was discontinued because of its toxicity, allergic reactions, severe burns to player's skin, and irritation to eyes. Today it is prohibited from use on the high school and collegiate level. However, lime is still used in some countries on their playing fields, especially in warm humid climates such as Jamaica. A direct result of the humidity in warm climates is the persistence of the lime on

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Memo from the office:

I would like to thank all of you who sent your renewal check and all or part of the invoice to the office. In an astounding two months 59 percent of our membership has expressed enough enthusiasm to make payment through personal check or the paper weighted warrant. I am excited at such an accomplishment.

I wish also to thank those of you who joined after your predecessors' departure and/or had a change of address. It has been a pleasure to converse with you by phone, some letters, and soon at "The Annual Conference." You are going to attend, I hope. Registration forms are on page 14.

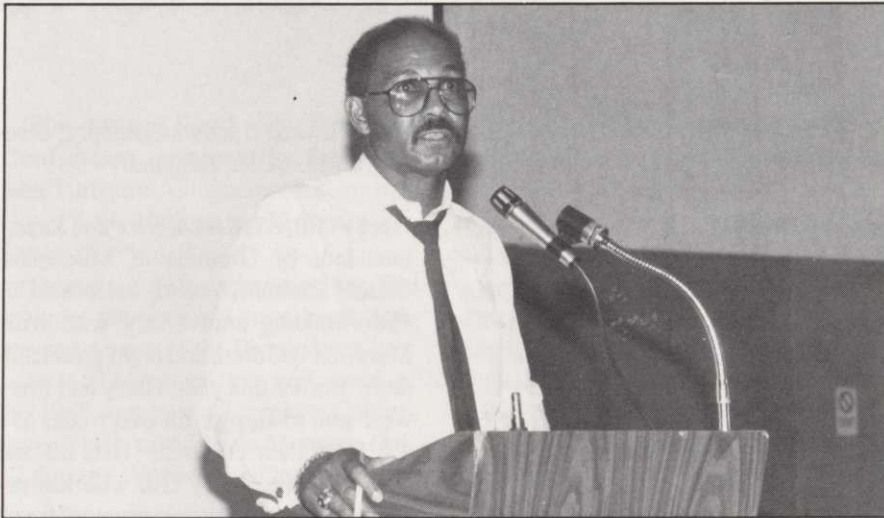
Thanks for all your support and encouragement from day one, when I as-

sumed this first STMA fulltime position. This organization means a great deal to me because the people who constitute its membership mean even more.

DON'T FORGET. Send your address, phone number, and name changes. Please let us know what's happening at your facility and what products or people you want to tell STMA readers about in the newsletter. There is always room for a photo (black and white) or two.

See you in Florida!

Melissa A. Merritt,
Operations Assistant
STMA



Billy Williams, one of the most popular Chicago Cub players during the 1960's and 1970's, was a clutch player who always seemed to deliver the key hit or drive in the winning run when it looked like the game was lost. Even though the Cubs never won a pennant during his tenure with the ball club, he, along with Ernie Banks, provided a lot of excitement on Chicago's Northside. In 1987 Billy was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame and joined Ernie Banks who was enshrined a few years earlier. Billy Williams is a fine gentleman and a new friend of STMA.

The following are excerpts from the talk Billy Williams presented to the Midwest Sports Turf Institute which was held at the College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, June 22, 1988. The quotes and photo were furnished by Will Perry, managing editor, Landscape Management Magazine, Cleveland, Ohio.

I've played on both natural grass and synthetic surfaces and enjoyed both, but from an offensive point of view, if the ball is hit within three or four feet of the baseman, more than likely it will be a hit on artificial turf. It is known, and ball players agree; that synthetic turf will take two or three years off a player's career. In my experience from playing on it, it's the constant pounding to the knees that causes the problem. I enjoyed playing on natural turf, espe-

cially at Wrigley Field—it's a great place to play.

On natural grass, if you have a good grounds crew, they can mean the difference between winning and losing five or six games a year. Several years ago when Maurey Wills and the Dodgers came to Wrigley Field, Leo Durocher would tell Cotton (Cotton Bogren-grounds crew), "I want you to be sure you measure three and one-half steps off first base toward second base, and chew it up—make it soft because we don't want Maury Wills to get a good jump or steal second base." It's always nice if the head of the grounds crew and the field manager communicate. There's a lot of ways that the grounds crew can work with the ball club and do a lot of good.

I had a great career. I enjoyed the game of baseball. When I grew up in a little town in Alabama I had no idea I would ever play major league baseball or be elected to the Hall of Fame. But through hard work and excellent tutoring with earlier coaches, I went on to be one of the best ball players in baseball.

In conclusion, I preferred natural grass playing surfaces. Players receive fewer injuries on natural turf. Besides Wrigley Field, I thought Dodger Stadium was a great place to play a baseball game because of its natural beauty.

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playing surfaces because it adheres to the moisture on the soil particles.

Several dry materials are currently being used for marking playing fields in the U.S. Common marking materials include marble dust, and chalk; however, gypsum sand, calcium carbonate powder and coal dust may also be used. In Wyoming the coal dust is used to mark fields that are covered with snow. Dry materials are inexpensive, adhere well to the soil or skinned infields and are easy to apply. Humidity, as a result of rain or irrigation, may cause these materials to cake or clog around the auger or moveable parts in hand-pushed marking applicators.

Liquid Marking Materials

From our experience, the most economical marking materials are those in the liquid form. Many of the paint sprayers on the market are quite large and very cumbersome to move from location to location. This can be a major disadvantage if one has 12 fields and 42 parking lots to stripe as we do. Clean up time is increased when one color is changed to another or when the type of paint, oil base to water base, is changed. The spray tanks, guns and hoses must be thoroughly cleaned before one color can be changed for another. Drying time of paint is increased during humid days or when the grass is damp. Even with these disadvantages, paints are excellent on large areas such as for emblems, logos or end zones.

A fairly new item on the market for marking athletic fields is the aerosol can and applicator. The paints come in either water base or oil base. The applicators are lightweight, easily transported and take very little space when stored. The aerosol cans require very little cleanup or maintenance and their cost per case is only slightly more than a five gallon container of a water base latex paint.

Other advantages of the aerosol can include a multitude of colors and no mixing of paints or colors. One can apply two separate colors at the same

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College Courses Through Correspondence

We have had many inquiries from members regarding the possibility of taking a class or several classes through correspondence. The University of Guelph, at Guelph, Ontario, Canada, offers an independent study program the student can complete in his/her home. Students can take either a single class or earn a diploma. Lectures are on audio tapes. Visuals are provided on color fiche and video tapes.

Students who choose to work toward the Ontario diploma in horticulture have ten options available which include: Cemetery management, commercial floriculture, general horticulture, landscape contracting, landscape design, landscape maintenance, nursery operations, park horticulture, turf management, and urban forestry. The course in turf management is described as follows:



16 Introduction to Turf Management

Turfs were developed to enhance the environment. This study of turf considers species and cultivars of turfgrasses; their establishment, maintenance nutrition and soil requirements. Weed control, pests and diseases are also covered. Three credits, \$100 tuition.

For more information on this program write to: Independent Study, South House, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, or call (519) 824-4120, ext. 3375.

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time with fast drying time, quick application and minimal cleanup, and no ground pollution when cleaning the applicators with paint thinners. The only disadvantage would be the quantity of paint and numerous aerosol cans that would be required if one chose to spray an emblem, logo or entire end zone.

There really is quite a selection of materials and applicators available to grounds personnel and sports turf managers on the market today. With numerous products,

applicators and price ranges, it is best for each individual to investigate and select the products and materials best suited to the needs, area and situation at hand. Any of the aforementioned materials will make ones job easier and their sports turf safer.

Donna Lewis is on the grounds staff for the Laramie County School District in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Donna has spent considerable time and effort contacting manufacturers of paints and applicators and researching the availability and use of materials, products and applicators currently being marketed and sold.

Note: This year there will be a new award for the best softball field.

YOU COULD WIN!

Why not enter your baseball field in the **Beam Clay**® Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards contest? No entry fee is required. You could be honored at the upcoming Sports Turf Managers Association Awards Banquet.

The Awards are sponsored by **Beam Clay**®, the **Sports Turf Managers Association**, and **sportsTURF** magazine in recognition of excellence and professionalism in maintaining outstanding, safe, professional quality baseball diamonds. Entries will be judged in three categories: professional diamonds; college diamonds; and school, municipal or park diamonds.

Send the information below to enter:

1. Age of baseball diamond (year of installation).
2. Geographic location (city and state).
3. Description of maintenance program.
4. Operating budget for baseball diamond.
5. Irrigation: None _____ Manual _____ Automatic _____
6. Total number of maintenance staff for field.
7. Does baseball field have lighting for night games?
8. Number of events on baseball diamond per year.
9. Types and number of events on diamond other than baseball?
10. How many months during the year is the field used?
11. Why you think this field is one of the best?
12. Include an assortment of color slides or prints of the diamond.

Deadline for entries: Entries must be postmarked no later than November 1, 1988. Selection of winners will be made by the Awards Committee of the **Sports Turf Managers Association**.

Mail entries to:
Beam Clay Award
sportsTURF magazine
 P.O. Box 8420
 Van Nuys, CA 91409

Sports Turf Managers Association



sportsTURF
 magazine

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