Making It Work - Whatever - Whenever

Highlights from recent STMA Chapter Meetings

Making it work - whatever, whenever, is a common theme for sports turf managers, whether it’s whipping fields into playable condition despite difficult weather and heavy use, or putting together a dynamite meeting.

Working smarter is essential for success in today’s fast-moving environment. Gathering the knowledge, techniques and tools to do just that, through meetings and workshops, is the major function of local and regional STMA Chapters - and forming Chapters.

These are hard working sessions often combining a wide-ranging group of activities: classroom-type education sessions, hands-on demonstrations of maintenance practices, tours of the host facility, and an exhibitor’s booth visitation period and/or demonstration time.

Networking a Highlight of Wichita Workshop

After two snow cancellations, the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association got a break in the El Nino weather pattern and was able to hold their Field Preparation and Maintenance Workshop on April 23rd at the Linwood Recreation Center in Wichita, Kansas.

A combination ice-breaker and headstart on networking opened the Wichita meeting with each individual "pairing off" with someone they didn’t know. These pairs exchanged names and details about their facility and their position. Then, moving around the room, rather than introducing themselves, each of the 34 attend-ees introduced their new acquaintance to the group.

Highlighting each meeting are similar networking opportunities, those meet, greet and share sessions that not only provide you with ideas you can take home and put to work, but which also give you the connections for the give and take of the long-term information exchange. Networking is the basis for those times when a quick phone call or note sent over "the net" helps you sort through the options of problem-solving or gives you back-up support for an idea or procedure you want to use. You learn from the shared successes – and mistakes – of others and pass along similar information of your own.

The Field User’s Perspective a Highlight of Colorado Chapter Seminar

Eighty-four people braved a 10-inch snowfall to gather at the United States Air Force Academy’s Falcon Stadium Press Box in Colorado Springs for continued on page 15

Proud to Support STMA

“Promoting Better & Safer Sports Turf Areas”
President’s Message

Making Do With What We Have

by Steve Guise, President

As I reviewed this newsletter, a general theme hit me. It seems at least in my little world, that sports turf managers are constantly "making do with the time and resources available to them."

As you read through our chapter updates, consider the struggle and energies it takes to bring each of these chapter boards together to discuss their local events and membership services. It takes time to arrange a date to meet that fits everyone's calendar. I know our national Board of Directors meetings dates can only be decided after reviewing 3 to 4 separate weeks until we reach a majority consensus on a "workable" time.

Even more complex is working out the arrangements and all the details for Chapter events – and then doing everything it takes to make them happen successfully. Remember, each board member and all the other chapter volunteers are just as involved in their own job responsibilities as you are with yours. So, please, take a minute to say thanks to those in your chapter who are devoting the time and effort to keep things running and are helping to raise the level of professionalism throughout the industry. And, offer to lend a hand. As always, the more you give – the more you get.

Grady Miller’s article keeps with the theme of "making do with what we have" by discussing the use of effluent water for sports turf applications. I can tell you, that if the use of gray water is not a standard practice in your town, and you are working in the southern half of the US, it will be a standard option in the near future.

For those of you that have not heard, Bob Campbell, board member from the University of Tennessee, had open heart surgery a few weeks back and is on his way to recovery. I’ve been told that the University has installed a 12 foot fence around his stadium in order to keep him away during his recovery stage. All of you who know Bob, know that it will take more than five bypasses to keep him away. We all wish Bob a fast and complete recovery so that he can again prepare the fields for future NFL number one draft picks to play on.

I wish all of you a prosperous and safe spring season and don’t forget to help out the less fortunate groundskeepers in your community.

Employment Opportunities!!

Pima County (AZ) Parks & Rec. has an opening for a Complex Supervisor for Tucson Electric Park.

The Milwaukee Brewers and Nashville Sounds are always willing to talk to those interested in internships.

For more information on these openings contact STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875 OR call the Jobs Hotline at (712) 366-1145.
Managing sports turf is a TOUGH JOB. As sports turf managers, we are expected to produce a turf that can withstand the use and abuse of 300 pounders, practicing twice per day, sometimes 7 days a week. The turfgrass not only needs to withstand this kind of use/abuse but it also must look like the front lawn of the White House that may only get a few footsteps on it each year by scurrying 120 pound female interns.

All joking aside, it is our job to produce sports turf that both looks and performs at the highest standards. To accomplish this we must mow, aerify, verticut, spread fertilizers and apply pesticides often. One of the critical issues we face is the timing of the pesticide applications so as not to interfere with practice and/or play schedules and yet provide the plant protection necessary for healthy turfgrass.

I do four things when determining a spray program. The first is to know your turfgrass. Know where you have had disease or insect problems in the past so that you can plan preventive sprays prior to field use. This should decrease the number of "contact" pesticides needed during the busy part of field use.

Second, if you find it necessary to spray during the play or practice season, and eventually you will, choose pesticides that are the least toxic and yet will accomplish the control you are looking for. This is sound advice for any spray program and is the backbone of integrated pest management.

Third, time the applications so that you adhere to all label regulations for re-entry. This is extremely important since most sports turf is not just walked on, but it is rolled on and ground into clothes, skin, cuts, etc.. Whenever possible try to even extend the re-entry period stated on the label. To do this you may have to apply a spray in late evening or at night followed by irrigation to water it in or you may have to wait until a road trip or an away game. Whatever it takes to ensure the safety of the players.

Fourth, you must communicate with the coaches, administrators and/or medical staff the reasons for the spray, your plan for timing the spray application and the associated safety precautions of the product(s) you plan to apply. They may choose to practice on another field, they may reschedule a practice or they may decide to live with the damage that could occur if you did not spray.

Scheduling chemical applications is seldom as easy as loading the sprayer and doing the application. Here at The Ballpark in Arlington, in addition to the usual applicator and environmental safety concerns, we have tours that run year round. The tour office sends out a schedule every two weeks outlining special tours in addition to the regular 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. schedule. Our marketing and public relations departments also use the field for various commercial and photo shoots, in addition to promotional and sponsor related events. The team gets to use the field on the days that are left.

So, we are left with nights and early mornings. When the team is out of town we can make applications in the early evening and if necessary turn on the lights and work at night. We often will spray liquid fertilizers and micro-nutrients an hour or so after a game has ended. This helps us keep the turf color more consistent and reduces stress on high traffic areas. Winds are generally lighter at this time and there is less risk of drift to non target areas.

In April, we start to soil test the continued on page 12
Irrigation: Use of Recycled Water on Athletic Fields
by Dr. Grady L. Miller, University of Florida

There are a number of terms that have been used to
describe recycled water. These terms include: gray
water, effluent water, secondary and tertiary treated
water, treated wastewater, multiple use water, reclaimed
water and nonpotable water. While these do not all describe
the same type of water, they may all be lumped under the
heading of recycled water.

Why should we use recycled water? Why is it gaining
in popularity? First, it seems inevitable that the 80 to 85
percent of fresh water currently allocated for agriculture will
be reduced and made available for other purposes. The states
with the most widespread use of recycled water include
Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas. Each person in
Florida generates about 100 gallons of wastewater each day.
In 1995, there were about 400 reuse systems in Florida. These
systems provided about 360 million gallons of reclaimed
water each day for beneficial purposes. Total capacity of these
facilities was about 860 million gallons per day (mgd). In the
past, discharging the treated water into a surface water was the
most common form of wastewater management.

Rationale for recycled water use include:
• opportunity - location in proximity to recycled
  water sources
• need - increased freshwater demand with limited
  supplies
• conservation - reduce freshwater demand
• reliability of supply - may be more reliable in
times of freshwater shortages than potable water
• well-established technology - well tested over time
• economics - may be cheapest source of water
• pollution abatement - if you did not use it, it may
  be discharged into environmentally sensitive areas
• public policy - public supports reuse and it may
  be mandated in your area
• successful experiences - literally hundreds of successful
  water reclamation and reuse operations in the U.S.

The applicability of recycled water for athletic field
use depends on its physical, chemical, and microbiological
quality. The effects of recycled water's physical parameters
chemical constituents are, for the most part, well understood,
and recommended criteria have been established by the U.S.
EPA. Turfgrass managers should become familiar with fed-
eral, state, and local regulations to understand their own obli-
gations, and to assure themselves that their supplier is in com-
pliance. Some regulations include the following:
• identification of pipes, pumps, outlet, and valve boxes
• horizontal and vertical separation of potable and
  reclaimed water lines
• backflow protection devices on potable water lines
• pipeline design and construction criteria
• may require use of the color purple to denote
  reclaimed water
• Several states do not permit hose bibs on reclaimed
  water systems because of potential misuse.
• potable wells, eating and drinking facilities are a fixed
distance from irrigation heads or spray patterns
• may be required to post notification on all points of entry and
  exit that recycled water is being used for irrigation purposes
  only

The immediate effects of using recycled water can be
beneficial; however, turf can be stressed if high concentrations
of some compounds are present or allowed to accumulate. If
you are going to switch from potable water to recycled water, I
continued on page 10
Unsurpassed comfort, convenience and performance. That's why the Jacobsen Tri-King was selected to maintain Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Arizona for the 1996 Tostitos® Fiesta Bowl™ and Super Bowl XXX®. Since the Tri-King always delivers a precision cut on all types of grasses, premier groundskeepers count on it to perform at the high standards they demand. And with a new seat, easy-to-reach controls and handy steering wheel, it also has the convenience and comfort operators prefer. Ask your Jacobsen distributor for a demonstration today. For information on Jacobsen leasing and financing, call 1-800-722-TURF.
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Michael Kraemer
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Sports Turf Happenings

Chapter Events

The MAFMO Chapter STMA
MAFMO will hold a Seminar on Wheels on June 26th. Tour stops will include Byrd Stadium, home of the Maryland Terrapins; Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, home of the Washington Redskins; and Prince George’s Stadium, home of the Bowie Baysox. Following the tour of Prince George’s Stadium, the group will share a picnic dinner in the left field pavilion and take in a game between the Baysox and the Portland Seadogs.

For information on this event, the MAFMO Chapter, or other upcoming activities, contact the Hotline: (410) 290-5652.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association
The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will meet on July 8th at Kinnick Stadium at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Featured speakers for this event are Dale Getz of the University of Notre Dame, Ted Thorn of the University of Iowa and Mike Andresen of Iowa State University.

The Chapter also will participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Field Day which will be held July 16th at the ISU Horticulture Research Station in Ames.

For more information on these events, the Iowa Chapter or other upcoming activities, contact: Lori Westrum at The Turf Office at (515) 232-8222 (phone) or (515) 232-8228 (fax).

Mid-South Chapter STMA
The Mid-South Chapter STMA is STMA’s newest affiliated chapter. Their next meeting will be held on July 8th at Millington, Tennessee, in conjunction with Floyd Perry’s Groundskeepers Management Academy.

Construction of the new Redbird Stadium in Memphis is under way. A tour of this facility is in the planning stages.

For more information on these events, the Chapter, any of the regions, or other pending activities, contact: Chip Houmes at (901) 377-5081 or Jim Calhoun at (901) 755-1305.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association
The Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association will hold their CSTMA Mountain Seminar on July 17th at Steamboat Springs.

CSTMA’s Annual Golf Tournament, "Lawnmower Man Open," will be held on Monday, July 13th, at West Woods Golf Course in Arvada. For more information on these events, or on the Colorado Chapter and other upcoming activities, call the 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/FAX: (303) 438-9645.

Minnesota Chapter:STMA
The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association will hold their Workshop on Wheels on July 15th with the starting point Midway Stadium in St. Paul. The next stop is McMurray Field for groomer demonstrations. The tour moves on to Winter Park, the Minnesota Vikings’ Training Facility; then to Canterbury Park, a horse racing facility. Following lunch at Canterbury Park, the group heads to Lakeville for a tour of the high school athletic fields and on to the University of St. Thomas. The Workshop wraps up back at Midway Stadium for tailgating, networking and enjoying the St. Paul Saints game.

The Chapter also is planning a September Workshop.

For information on the Workshop on Wheels, the September event, the Minnesota Chapter or other pending activities, contact: Connie Rudolph at (612) 646-1679.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO)
Plans are in the works for a mid-July meeting. For information on this event, other upcoming activities, or the KAFMO Chapter STMA, contact: Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212.

Midwest Chapter: STMA
The Midwest Chapter will hold an Athletic Field Construction Seminar on July 29th at the Carol Stream Park District, Carol Stream, Illinois. The Panther Football Field will be highlighted at this Seminar.

For information on this event, the Midwest Chapter or other pending activities, call: The Chapter Hotline (847) 622-3517.

Florida Chapter #1: STMA
For information on the Florida Chapter or pending activities, contact: John Mascaro at (954) 938-7477.

Northern California Chapter: STMA
For general information about the Nor-Cal STMA Chapter, contact Gail Setka at the UC Davis Grounds Office at (916) 752-5035 or Fax at (916) 752-9631.

Southern California Chapter:STMA
The Chapter is planning its annual community service project for early August at Mount San Antonio College in Walnut (LA County). Further details will be announced soon.

continued on page 11

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A sports turf manager in the early years of the 20th century faced a lot of issues that he couldn’t explain or, in many instances, he didn’t know how to manage on his turf with the limited information that was available. Also remember, in those days there were no official turfgrass publications from which to glean information, or, for that matter, no farm advisors or research centers to gain new knowledge. This newsletter contains excerpts from the diary of an early turf manager who probably worked for a school with a fairly large acreage used for playgrounds and athletic fields.

Note: In the last issue, the diary stated that they seeded the turf on April 10, 1916.

September 7, 1917

Our grass is now considered to be the finest in our area. Due to the drought and heavy summer play the grass has deteriorated somewhat. Because of this we have negotiated to rent a fine, 10-foot wide, horse-drawn seeding machine. The reason for renting and not purchasing it at this time will save us money since our seeding operations occur only once a year in the fall. Also since we plan to seed quite heavily (about 12 bushels per acre) the cost of seeding will use up all of our reserve money. With the seed sowing machine we can do 10-12 acres a day, which is considerably faster than seeding by hand.

November 30, 1920

I shall note in my grass records that today the United States Golf Association adopted a resolution to form a Green Section for the purpose of collecting and distributing information of value respecting the proper upkeep of turf, including that of golf courses. This is a great step forward, since we have so many problems with disease, insects and lack of general knowledge most important to growing good turf. I am looking forward to receiving the first bulletin of the Green Section.

February 2, 1921

It is well worth noting that the second bulletin volume of the Green Section was devoted entirely to grass culture. This is truly a step in the right direction. I shall make a note of the following recommendations:

Item I. Buy grass seeds by the pound and not by the bushel. The number of pounds in a bushel is not definite and continued on page 9

ARE WE INSTALLING TURF OR STRIPPING??

Actually, we are stripping. Our process is so clean and efficient that it’s easy to be confused. So, whether it’s to strip a field, or install a field using our turf or yours, CYGNET TURF is able to perform under all kinds of conditions and we are able to respond to most emergencies.

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SPORTS TURF MANAGER May/June 1998
the purchaser has no means of knowing just how much he will get.

Item 2. It is well to establish a proper level of cutting grass as early as possible in the spring, as it is quite difficult to lower the level when it is once established. Especially is this true during the hot months of summer. Under such conditions, if the grass is crowned, it recovers very slowly.

Item 3. Earthworms begin to be active with the first warm days in spring just as soon as the earliest grasses take on a live green color. The number of worm casts is a good index to their abundance. If they are numerous the grass should be wormed just as soon as the soil is fairly dry so the poison will go down into their holes.

February 10, 1921

The U.S. G.A. Green Section has appointed two scientists, Dr. C.V. Piper and Dr. R.A. Oakley, to conduct experiments and disseminate the results of their findings.

March 21, 1921

Street sweepings as a source of manure for topdressing and general planting should be avoided. We killed a considerable amount of grass using this material. After consultation with authorities the following conclusions were drawn:

Street sweepings were for many years an excellent source of manure. With the advent of asphalt-paved streets and the increase of horseless carriages it appears that oil from the asphalt and the automobile is absorbed in the street sweepings. When mixed into compost the oil remains and if applied to the grass, will most likely kill it. Beware and avoid street sweepings.

Many of the early mysteries that confronted turfgrass managers were alleviated in the past 80 years with the establishment of state experiment stations, the U.S.G.A. Green Section, the Cooperative Extension Service, annual turfgrass conferences and trade shows, numerous publications to aid in the establishment and care of turfgrasses and, in 1981, by the formation of the STMA. Each of these have contributed to better and safer sports turf areas and continue to provide the athlete with the best possible surface available.

STM
suggest you establish baseline values when the turf is doing well and then watch for the development of undesirable trends before the turf shows signs of stress. Some recycled waters contain the right amount of many plant nutrients, others may have excess salts. A typical secondary treated sewage effluent will have sufficient nutrient levels to be considered fertigation and should be treated with the same care. Recycled water and potable water varies considerably by location and level of treatment. Secondarily treated municipals effluent can have considerable levels of plant nutrients, while tertiary treatment removes many of the compounds containing nitrogen and phosphorus.

**Nutrients**

Testing Laboratories will analyze a water sample and report nutrient and salt concentrations in parts per million (ppm). To estimate how many pounds of an element the irrigation system is applying per 1,000 square feet per month, simply multiply the ppm of that element by 0.0052 to obtain pounds of the element in every inch of water per 1,000 square feet. The amount of nutrient or salt added by irrigation can then be estimated by multiplying this value by the inches of water applied over the desired period of time.

**Salts**

Electrical conductivity (EC) and total dissolved salts (TDS or TSS) are a measure of salinity. As salt concentration increases, plant water uptake becomes less efficient. We also have some salt sensitive plants such as many of our ornamentals and trees. Salt-sensitive problems can occur when the TDS of irrigation water exceeds 480 ppm. Values greater than 1920 ppm causes severe restrictions for most plants (See chart).

**Damage signs**

First signs of recycled water problems usually show up in broadleaf plants (trees, shrubs, flowers) that are not as tolerant to higher salt or higher nitrogen content of some recycled water. The first problems noted with grasses are usually during establishment of grasses, particularly the cool-season grasses. Permanent or overseeded ryegrass establishment will commonly show the first signs of a problem. A high level of salinity in irrigation water can reduce or delay seed germination and seedling development. The first sign of salinity problems on established turf is blue-green colored plants that appear to be drought stressed. But the drought is osmotic in origin and not due to lack of irrigation. As damage from salinity stress increases, the turf will wilt, leaf tips will die and turf density will decline.

**Management of Saline Water**

Several management techniques can be used to handle salinity in water. The first line of defense is to use a tolerant grass. The first cultural practice to incorporate is to improve drainage. Salts are usually carried away in excess water, either from irrigation or rainfall, below the rootzone. If salts do not move through the rootzone they will accumulate. Drainage may be improved from something as simple as regular aerification to more extensive installation of a subsurface drainage system.

In those parts of the country where annual precipitation exceeds evapotranspiration, salts are naturally leached from the soil profile. Where precipitation does not exceed evapotranspiration, salts will accumulate in the rootzone unless they are leached. Leaching is the intentional application of excess water beyond the needs of turf to transport salts below the root zone. The goal is to maintain a salinity level in soil that the turf species can tolerate. Of course there are limitations as to how much salt can be removed from the rootzone since irrigation water contains salts.

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Table 1. Hazardous salt concentrations. (Note: multiply dSm$^{-1}$ by 640 to convert to ppm).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salinity Hazard</th>
<th>Total dissolved solids (TDS) ppm or mg L$^{-1}$</th>
<th>Electrical conductivity (EC) dSm$^{-1}$ or mmhos cm$^{-1}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>&lt;160</td>
<td>&lt;0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>160 to 480</td>
<td>0.25 to 0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>480 to 1,440</td>
<td>0.75 to 2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very high</td>
<td>&gt;1,440</td>
<td>&gt;2.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

taken from C. Throssel. 1996. Golf Course Management. 64:61-64
Chapter Events

continued from page 7

For information on the service project, the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact: The Chapter Hotline: (1-888) 578-STMA (toll free in Southern California).

Chapters On The Grow

Arizona: The Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona is planning a July meeting in Show Low. For information on this meeting, the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona or upcoming events, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954, or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department at (602) 786-2728.

Indiana: Plans are moving forward for the formation of a new chapter in Indiana. For information on this developing chapter, contact: Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at (219) 356-8424 or Pat Hickner at (800) 672-4273.

Michigan: A new chapter is taking shape in Michigan under the name Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association. They will be meeting from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM on June 25th at the West Ottawa Public Schools. Recertification credit can be earned through this meeting’s educational sessions: "Calibrating Spray Equipment," presented by David Gilstrap of Michigan State University (MSU); "Timing is Everything" and "Putting an IPM Program to Good Use," presented by Dr. Paul Rieke of MSU. Also making presentations are Doug Coe, 1998 Football Hall of Fame Coach, and Steve Trusty, STMA Executive Director. The meeting’s afternoon events include outdoor demonstrations of equipment and materials for baseball and football field care.

Plans for additional meetings include a July event at Michigan State University which will include a presentation on field marking and a tour of the athletic facilities and an August event with presentations on football field compaction. More details will be announced soon.

For information on these events, the developing chapter or other pending activities, contact: Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at 616/395-2364.

The Great Lakes Sports Turf Managers Association continues to move forward. They have elected the following officers for the 1998 term: President - Joe Zelinko, Athletic Field Services; President-elect - Boyd Montgomery, Sylvania Recreation; Vice President - Dave Conover, Conover Supply; Commercial Vice President - Rick Wiegand, Medalist America Seed; Treasurer - Karen Zelinko, Athletic Field Services; and Secretary - Duane Smith, Baldwin-Wallace College.

A June event, an August Golf Outing and a November meeting in Toledo, Ohio, are all in the planning stages.

A July 10th Field Day will be held at the Akron Arrows Stadium beginning with a tour of the facility at 9:30 AM. Events include on-field demonstrations, lunch, and an evening ball game.

For information on these events or the newly forming Chapter, contact: Joe Zelinko at (800) 897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery at (419) 885-1982.

Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association or upcoming activities, contact: Mark Schimming, City of Wichita, at (316) 337-9123.

Nevada: The newly forming Nevada Chapter of STMA continues to make progress. For information on this developing Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Ibsen Dow at (702) 649-1551 or Alan Paulson, Clark County School District, at (702) 799-8724.

Wisconsin: The newly forming Wisconsin Chapter is working on the details of their first meeting. It will be held on July 22 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. More details will be announced soon. For more information on this event, or on the forming Chapter, contact: Rich Riggs, R.H. Rettler & Associates, (715) 341-2633.

Executive board meetings are scheduled for June 30th, July 28th, August 25th, September 29th, and October 27th.

For information on these events or the newly forming Chapter, contact: Joe Zelinko at (800) 897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery at (419) 885-1982.

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Member STMA / Sports Turf Managers Association
fields that we plan to work on. This gives us a good program to work with.

This year, in addition to re-doing two of my fields (a job in itself), I am going to need to use and apply insecticide on two or more of the fields due to grubs. In order to accomplish all this, we work very closely with the schools to make sure that we know their schedules for practices, etc. and that they are notified when we are treating an area as to which area and how long they will need to stay out of that particular area.

In April, June, August and October, I do my major applications on the fields and we have the teams scheduled for at least three open days a month for fertilization, etc.

In addition to the weather, which we ALL know you can’t predict to schedule around, we have what we call outside teams (t-ball, soccer, field hockey, baseball and softball) to schedule around. We basically have to rely on communication and teamwork to help us to schedule our chemical applications and everyone else’s practices and games around each other.

STM

Members on the Move

Bruce Boman, formerly with the City of San Diego’s Park & Rec. Department, has taken a Lead position with the Grounds Department at Southwestern Community College, Chula Vista, CA.

Chris Bunnell, formerly with the City of San Marcos, has taken a position with Pro Greens Turf Services.

Steve Dugas, formerly with Pepperdine University, has taken the position of Manager for Landscape Services at Cal State Fullerton.

Anthony Leonard, former student member, is currently doing research for Hummer Turfgrass Systems in Lancaster, PA.

CONGRATULATIONS GUYS!!

If you, or someone you know, has changed positions, give us a call here at Headquarters. We'll be happy to help get the word out!

Educational Opportunities!!

1998 Groundskeepers Management Academy - conducted by STMA member & sportsTURF Magazine’s 1997 Sports Field Manager of the Year, Floyd Perry.

Dates and locations are:
July 6-10 - Millington, TN
August 17-21 - Bethel, CT
August 24-28 - Colonial Heights, VA
August 31-September 4 - Kissimmee, FL
September 27-October 1 - Salt Lake City, UT

If you are interested in learning more about the Groundskeepers Management Academy, contact Floyd Perry at (800) 227-9381.

Q: What do all of these teams have in common?

Oakland A's
Arizona Diamondbacks
University of Texas Longhorns
San Diego Chargers
University of Southern California Trojans
California Angels
Arizona State University Sun Devils
San Francisco 49'ers
San Diego State University Aztecs
San Francisco Giants
San Diego Padres
Los Angeles Dodgers
Oakland Raiders
Arizona Cardinals

A: They are at “HOME” on West Coast Turf!
Painting a Warning Track - Plus -
More Creative Thinking

by Mike Hebrard, Athletic Field Design

With The Babe Ruth World Series scheduled for action at the campus field of Lower Columbia College in Longview, Washington, there were many adjustments and reconstructive measures that needed to take place. Since the tournament was to be played at a Jr. College facility, the outfield fence was deemed to be too far and high for boys 14-15 years old to have a chance to win a game in the last inning with a heroic home run. The World Series Committee, headed up by Kirk Roland and Tony Murillo, decided to install a temporary 5' high cyclone fence down both the foul areas and the outfield. In order to accomplish this, the new red cinder warning track would be used as the base for temporary bleachers, and another warning track would need to be created. The Committee asked for my assistance, as I was in the midst of preparing my own tournament venue in Portland, the Girls Softball World Series.

As we have all done at one time or another, I decided to experiment. I used a product called Mulch Magic, which is used for coloring bark to its near natural appearance, in the shade of red that best matched the bright red cinder, and applied it to the 10' wide grass areas along the fence. First, I marked and painted a straight line 10' from the outfield fence, using the wand and hose method to fill in the remainder of the grass. Success! There was an area in center field where the fence line went back to the existing warning track, and from a glance, you couldn't tell the difference between the cinder and the sprayed grass! Next came the infield, which was a recycled artificial turf that was faded from the sun with 10' wide walkways from each dugout. I decided to paint the walkways with the Mulch Magic too. This really highlighted the homeplate area! To finish the effect, taking a tip from past Super Bowls on artificial turf, I painted mowing patterns. I first marked off each of the four sides in 4' widths. Stretching a string between the points, I sprayed every other section and then repeated it in the other direction. For a more drastic pattern, you might spray the entire infield first, then measure off and spray the 4' widths.

This is not for the low budget or everyday ballpark, but if you have that one time special event and want to highlight your skills and show off your field, this might be a project that could make a difference.
You might think that when you are in the midst of your busiest season that things would slow down at your headquarters. In some respects that is true. We don’t have conference registrations to handle. Membership renewals have slowed down, but new member applications are still coming in strong. Since I last spoke to you through this column, we have finalized the details on the Compendium and have almost finalized the new Roster. Watch for your copies shortly. Newsletters are an ongoing process.

One area that expands this time of year is phone calls with questions. We hear from members that have a problem that they would like assistance on. We hear from non-members that want to know how to do something. We hear from builders and architects with this question or that. While we answer the questions as directly as we can, we usually rely on you, the member, to provide the bulk of the assistance. Some of you have expressed a willingness to be on call, so to speak, when questions arise. Others haven’t formally offered assistance, but we are aware of their strengths and situations that they have been involved in so we pass their name and number along. So far, in all my years of contact with Sports Turf Managers, I have never been told by anyone that they don’t want to help others.

We would like to provide even more assistance to callers and to readers of this newsletter and industry publications. If you have had a learning experience that you would like to share, just let us know. It could be some idea that would warrant a sentence or two. It could lead to a "How Do You Do?..." topic. It could be a topic worthy of consideration for a feature story in this newsletter, sportsTurf or some other publication. You might want your name added to our "willing helpers" list. In any event, your helping someone else will make them even more willing to share their experiences when the time comes. Your problems can create someone else’s solutions and your solutions can prevent someone else from having problems.

In keeping with the sharing of information, we are introducing a new feature in this issue of STM. Trusty Tips® will include short items that just might save you a little time or money. They will be tips that I have picked up from others in the industry, and from my years of experience in the horticultural field. The number of tips in each issue will depend on space available and information passed along to me, or whatever I can come up with when it’s time to finalize the newsletter.

Until next issue, and as always, stay in touch.
Making It Work - Whatever – Whenever

continued from page 1

the Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association’s April 16th Spring Seminar. The seminar’s classroom-style educational sessions were capped off with show and tell tours of Falcon Stadium, the fieldhouse and athletic complex.

One of the highlights of this Seminar was the opportunity to look at the field from a different perspective, as Fisher DeBerry, USAFA Football Coach, shared his views on "what a well-maintained field means" in the "mind game" of football. Open communication between those in charge of on-field activities and the sports turf managers provide the give and take that result in the highly-playable field conditions both are seeking.

Community Service Project Highlights

STMAAZ Meeting

The April 24th meeting of the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona was held at the Chandler, Arizona, Boys & Girls Club, site of their field renovation service project. A highlight of the meeting was viewing the results of their efforts.

The commitment to give something back to one of their local communities in the form of a similar service project outreach is a goal of most STMA Chapters and forming chapters. The selected site is always a field in need, often for a wide variety of reasons, which lacks the resources for necessary renovation or repair.

According to STMAAZ President, Kris Kircher, the call for assistance was issued in late January. More than 25 vendors kicked in with donations of various types in equipment and supplies. Individuals, sports turf managers and local members of the community, gathered at the field on Friday nights and Saturdays until early April to get the job done.

Join In

It takes support to pull off successful chapter meetings. So, besides making sure you and your staff participate by attending, consider lending a hand to "make it happen."

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