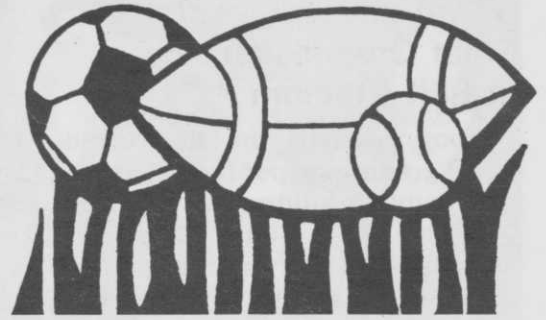


Sports Turf Newsletter



JULY 1985

VOLME 1 NUMBER 2

STMA Annual Meeting Set For San Francisco February 1-3, 1986

The Sports Turf Managers Association will hold their annual meeting in San Francisco February 1-3, 1986. Make plans now to attend.

The annual meeting, conference, elections and trade show will be held in San Francisco in conjunction with the Golf Course Superintendent of America Conference and Trade Show.

Educational sessions, the annual business meeting and elections and a dinner meeting are scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 1. Athletic field tours are planned for Sunday, February 2 and attendance at the trade show is set for February 2 and 3. A named personality is being sought for the dinner speaker.

Because we will be holding our meeting in San Francisco at the GCSA Conference and Trade Show, we will not hold our annual meeting in conjunction with the Parks & Grounds Management Institute in Knoxville, Tenn. This new arrangement will provide greater opportunities for the membership, for instance, top name speakers, the largest indoor trade show in the United States and unlimited educational opportunities.

More specific details about the meeting and registration procedures will be provided in the next newsletter.

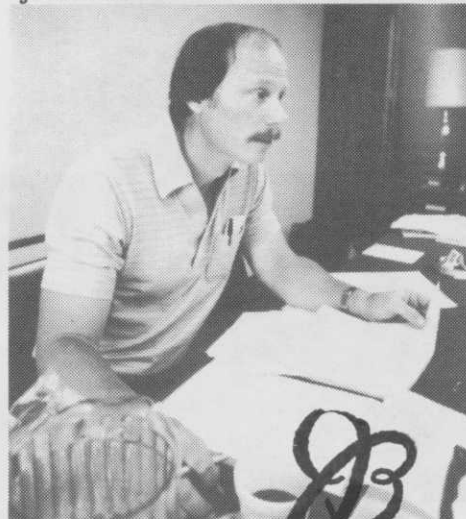
The information we have is not what we want; the information we want is not what we need; and the information we need is not available. Finagle's Law



Members of STMA's executive committee and board met at the Motor Lodge, Elk Grove Village, Ill. including Melissa Merritt (left), secretary; Roy Zehren, director; Kent Kurtz, executive secretary; Harry Gill, director and past president; and Mike Schiller, vice president. Not pictured Bruce Shank, publications liason and Steve Wightman, treasurer.

Executive Committee Meets; Finalizes Corporation Plans, Selects New Director

The STMA Executive Committee met June 11-12 at the Midway Motor Lodge in Elk Grove Village, Ill., to finalize and complete paperwork for incorporation as a non-profit corporation, to finish the By-Laws and Constitution and to discuss goals and objectives.



Steve Wightman

Tony Burnett, field supervisor at RFK Memorial Stadium, Washington D.C., was appointed a new director to fill the vacancy created when George Toma stepped down to devote more time to his job at Royals Stadium and Arrowhead Stadium.

Dale Sandin, field supervisor for the Orange Bowl, was appointed to serve on the Conference and Education Committee.

The Executive Committee meeting was chaired by Mike Schiller, vice president of STMA. Others attending were Dr. Kent Kurtz, executive secretary; Steve Wrightman, treasurer, Mile High Stadium, Denver; Melissa Merritt, secretary, Penn Valley College; Harry Gill, director, Milwaukee County Stadium; Roy Zehren, director, Natural Athletic Turf; and Bruce Shank, Industry and Publications Liason, Weeds, Trees & Turf.

STMA's New Director Chief Groundskeeper at RFK Stadium

Tony Burnett, the 40-year-old chief groundskeeper for Robert F. Kennedy Stadium, is excited about the possibility of Washington, D.C., landing a professional baseball team in the near future. Burnett served as host grounds manager for the STMA booth at the GCSAA Show in February and was recently appointed a director of STMA.

A committee put together by Washington city officials is beating the drums to land a major league team and sent 12 representatives to the baseball winter meetings. Washington lost professional baseball teams twice during Burnett's tenure at the Stadium, in the mid-60's when the Senators moved to Minnesota to become the Twins, and again in 1971 when the expansion Senators moved to Arlington, Texas. Burnett began his groundskeeping career in 1962 with the Senators.

"I'd love to see baseball again in Washington," Burnett says.

Would a new baseball team at RFK affect Burnett's job?

"I really don't know," he says. "I suppose it would mean a lot more work. We'd also need a bigger crew. That's for sure."

What is certain, the return of major league baseball to the nation's capital would require significant work to RFK which was built in 1961 and was known as D.C. Stadium until 15 years ago.

Frank Smith, Jr., chairman of the D.C. Baseball Commission, recently told the Senate Commerce Committee that it will cost about \$16 million to renovate RFK for baseball. The money could be raised by floating a bond issue or leasing the stadium to the owner of an expansion franchise. The funds would be needed to pay for the construction of a new retractable seating as well as improvements to the locker rooms and the stadium superstructure.



Tony Burnett

Of special note, Smith estimated the cost could be decreased by \$1.25 million if the decision is made to continue using a natural grass playing surface.

RFK sports a modified PAT playing surface of Bermudagrass that Burnett is more than satisfied with.

"The majority of the Redskin players love the natural grass," he points out. "I think the players from out of town like to play here too."

For Burnett, the STMA's recent host, the addition of a baseball team at RFK would be a welcome, if hectic, change of pace.

Executive Secretary: A Couple of Thoughts

Currently we are receiving inquiries and new members at approximately 5 per week. All new commercial affiliates are listed elsewhere in the newsletter but since the last newsletter we have processed over 80 new members.

The membership directory binders were mailed to new members in June. Let us know what you think of them.

The STMA educational display we held at trade shows in Washington, D.C. (GCSAA Conference), Cal Poly (Sports Turf Institute) and the Landscape Conference in Phoenix (ALCA) has encouraged several people to join. *Weeds Trees & Turf* has run an ad for STMA in two issues and this has also helped (thanks HBJ and Bruce Shank). In the near future *Grounds Maintenance* will also assist us with an ad (thanks Intertec and Kathy Copley).

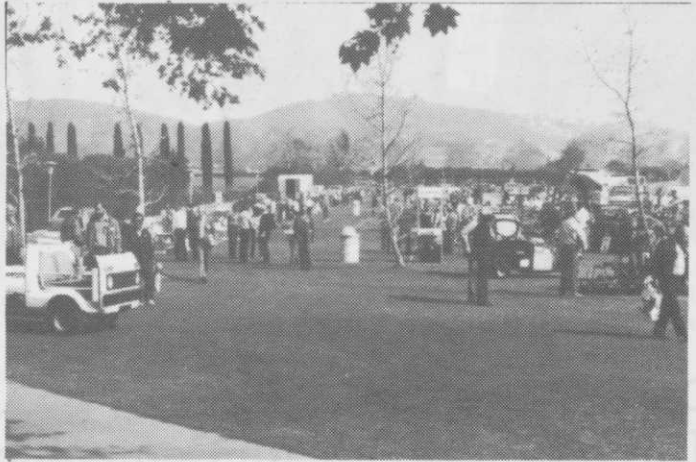
But the best way to get new members is by word of mouth so please encourage your school districts, parks, youth sports associations, colleges, universities, educators, extension personnel, farm advisors and commercial affiliates to join STMA.

I am currently on sabbatical leave from Cal Poly. I am travel-



An exhibit booth for the Sports Turf Manager's Association was setup at the Golf Course Superintendents Conference in Washington, D.C.

SPORTS TURF MANAGER'S ASSOCIATION



A successful regional turf institute was held at Cal Poly University, Pomona, Calif. **Upper left**: The turnout for the institute at Cal Poly exceeded 500 participants, many directly involved in the sports turf field. **Upper Right**: Several knowledgeable speakers participated in the

one-day event including Kent Kurtz, Don Marshall, George Toma, and Mike Hodnick, all members of STMA. **Lower left**: Indoor exhibits were set up in the university gym. **Lower right**: Outdoor exhibits include a variety of products and equipment related to the sports turf industry.

ing and collecting information on sports fields and construction and management techniques in order to write a book on sports fields.

In order to guarantee peace and quiet so I can write, I am primarily staying in our family farmhouse in Northern Illinois. If any member needs to reach me between now and December you may find it quicker to contact me at the following address or phone:

Dr. Kent W. Kurtz; P.O. Box 101; Davis, Ill. 61019-0101; (815) 865-5691.

I welcome any information, pictures, slides or personal experiences you would like to submit for the sports turf book. Since this book will be written for my constituents in the field, I really need your assistance particularly on specifications, infield mixes, special techniques, unique pictures or situations, historical

facts, etc. So please write and let me know what you have or are willing to share.

Kent W. Kurtz, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary

500 Attend Regional Sports Turf Institute

The 2nd Annual Sports Turf Institute at Cal Poly University in Pomona, Calif., March 19, brought out 500 conferees and 40 commercial companies. Key note speakers at the general session were STMA Directors Don Marshall (Anaheim Stadium) and former director George Toma (Kansas City Royals & Chiefs).

The Sports Turf Institute served as a regional meeting for STMA drawing together current members and many potential members.

STMA members who either participated or attended were: David Jacobs (Rose Bowl), Mark Razum (Oakland A's), Mark Hodnick (Cal Poly Pomona), David Fleming (San Diego Stadium), Ken Irons (L.A. Raiders), Mert Johnson (Cal State Fullerton), Melissa Merritt (Penn Valley Community College), Mike Kartchner (Jurupa Unified Schools), Bruce Carleton and Paul Magiera (Cal Poly), Bruce Shank (Weeds, Trees & Turf), Emory Hunter (Warrens), Adrienne Cohen (Greenstuff), Larry Vetter (Northrup King), Ted Smith (City of Paramount), George Toma (Kansas City), Don Marshall (Anaheim) and Kent Kurtz.

Conferees came from Illinois, Ohio, New York, Nebraska, Kansas, Ohio, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, and Nevada in addition to California.

The turn out suggests there is a great need to hold regional conferences throughout the U.S. to assist members and non-members and updating their skills and knowledge.

In March of 1986 there will be a



A group of former students attend the Midwest Regional Conference to honor Dr. Bill Daniel on his retirement. Dr. Daniel (holding picture) was presented numerous awards including a Scottish caricature of himself. John Souter (man in kilt) is a sports turf consultant from Scotland.

Dr. William Daniel Honored At Midwest Turfgrass Foundation Conference

The Midwest Regional Turfgrass Foundation Conference at Purdue University was held March 4-6, 1985. The conference program was studded with former Purdue turfgrass graduates who are making outstanding contributions to the turfgrass industry throughout the United States.

The former students dinner and the banquet the following evening, paid tribute to Dr. William H. Daniel for his 35 years of service

regional meeting for STMA membership in Valley Forge, Penn. We will be joined by ALCA, PGMS, The American Sod Growers Association and others for a conference and trade show. More details will be provided in a future newsletter.

to the turfgrass industry. He retired from the University in March.

Daniel was the first president of STMA and now serves as a director of the association. He is noted for many research and applied contributions to our industry and most significant the invention and development of the PAT system.

STMA members Mike Schiller, Dr. Kent Kurtz, M. Kercher, Dan Weisenberger, and Roy Zehren attended the conference.



Gathering at the Midwest Regional Conference were Dr. John King (left), Dr. Fred Grau, Dr. Kent Kurtz, Bruce Shank, Mike Schiller, and Phil Hargarten.

Sports Field Injuries Serious Problem For Football Players

Nowhere in sports do injuries play a larger role in either the athlete's performance or the success of the game than in football. In professional football, players who are drafted are about equal in ability but an injury to a player which reduces his ability only 2 or 3 percent will probably end his career. Offensive football players sustain more injuries than defensive and special team players combined.

Knee injuries are almost three times more common than all other injuries put together. In fact knee injuries account for 69 to 86 percent of the serious injuries in the National Football League. It has been conjectured that the shoe, the playing surface and the interrelationship between the two may well play a significant role in the production—prevention of these injuries.

Injuries have been found to be 1.6 times higher on artificial surfaces compared with natural grass covers. In a survey taken among players in the NFL, 83.8 percent preferred to play on natural grass fields, 14.5 percent preferred synthetics and 1.7 percent had no preference.

Recently the progressive Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council pledged \$36,000 to Penn State University to research sports turf related injuries and their interrelationship to field surfaces and conditions.

Injuries at all levels of competition from the elementary schools to the professional stadiums need our immediate attention. STMA has pledged to get involved and recently joined with other allied organizations as an affiliate of the Musser Foundation in a cooperative war on injuries to make fields safer for our athletes, young and old.

There's a difference between good sound reasons and reasons that sound good!



Meeting for a Sports Turf Summit in Beltsville, Md., were John Macik (left), Michael Latino, Elliot Roberts, Jack Murray, Fred Grau, John Macik, William Daniel, Kent Kurtz, Allan Shulder and Tim Bowyer.

It's A Two-Way Street

As the industry liason for STMA it is my job to communicate the value of STMA to industry manufacturers and distributors. Industry has listened with interest to STMA's requests for support and have responded with little hesitation.

However, communication is a two-way street. I think members of STMA should likewise listen to the requests of manufacturers and distributors. Industry's biggest concern is the frequent request by major professional and university teams for products and equipment in exchange for "exposure". They doubt the value of this "exposure" and are tired of being asked for free equipment and products.

Industry would prefer to support a central sports turf organization with funds and products for research: either research on maintenance techniques and construction specifications or research on the size and potential of the sports turf market.

We can't expect manufacturers to fully back STMA when individual sports facilities are out cutting their own deals.

The potential of STMA will be most quickly realized if manufacturer and distributor support is shared by all members through STMA.

We have much to do and will need a "large" amount of industry support. Please help STMA by encouraging your suppliers to get involved with and give to STMA, not just to your facility.

Bruce Shank, Executive Editor,
Weeds, Trees & Turf

Safe Playing Fields Main Topic At Sports Turf Summit

On April 23-24 STMA was well represented at a Sports Turf Summit meeting to discuss the growing concern of injuries related to sports field conditions. Converging on Beltsville, Md., where the USDA research facilities are headquartered, were a diverse group of individuals and interests. These individuals came together with a single purpose in mind, that of improving sports turf.

During the meeting John Macik, sports medicine coordinator for the National Football League Players Association, described the natural versus syn-

thetic turf injury rates that his organization has been concerned with for several years.

Also attending the meeting were Michael Latino, eastern sales manager for Ransomes Equipment Co.; Elliot Roberts, director, The Lawn Institute; Jack Murray, research agronomist, USDA; Fred Grau, chairman of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation; William Daniel, professor emeritus, Purdue University; Allan Shulder, executive director, Professional Grounds Management Society; Tim Bowyer, president, Southern Turf Nurseries; Tom Turner, University of Maryland; Don Waddington, Pennsylvania State University; and Kent Kurtz, executive secretary, Sports Turf Manager's Association.

Players Like Grass, Not Artificial Turf

The following is an article that appeared recently in the Kansas City Times, the morning line by Johnathan Rand.

The Missouri athletic department is examining the feasibility of replacing the grass surface of Faurot Field with artificial turf, which would put Missouri football on the same footing as all its Big Eight opponents. In the interest of conferencewide equality, here's a better idea—rip out the seven existing artificial surfaces and leave them for the garbagemen.

Artificial turf is basically indoor-outdoor carpet laid over asphalt. Why it's legal, much less popular, to play football on this surface is hard to understand. Players tackled on artificial turf get jarred twice—once by their opponent and once by the carpet, which does not give, as does grass.

The National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) found that over the first eight weeks of the 1984 regular season, injuries averaged 8.7 a game on artificial surfaces and 6.9 on

grass. On the average, players were sidelined, longer by injuries on synthetic surfaces.

NFLPA President Tom Condon of the Chiefs said that when information is assembled for the entire season, the union possibly will ask that no new artificial turf fields be installed and that old ones be replaced by grass when they wear out.

"When it came in (Arrowhead Stadium) in 1974, many of the players left over from the Super Bowl teams complained how their legs hurt on artificial turf." Condon said. "I was 21 and nothing much bothered me, so I didn't give it much thought. Now I understand what they meant.

"We practice on grass and artificial turf (mainly in inclement weather) and you can really feel the difference, it's pretty dramatic. When we practice on artificial turf, the next day you're stiff and sore and on grass, you feel real good."

Artificial surfaces routinely cause grotesque rug burns on knees and elbows. Such fields have created a new injury — "turf toe," a bruising, swelling or dislocation of the big toe that often results from a steady pounding on the artificial surface.

The NFL lost two of its biggest drawing cards, running backs

Curt Warner of the Seattle Seahawks and Billy Sims of the Detroit Lions, last season because of knee injuries attributed to artificial surfaces. Warner's season ended in his first game when his right foot stuck in the field of the Seattle Kingdome and his knee collapsed. Nobody hit him. Sims' season was ended Oct. 26 in Minneapolis' Metrodome.

"I just got caught in the turf, I couldn't move," Sims said after undergoing surgery. "So really, the injury came from the turf, not from getting hit. Minnesota has some terrible turf, I don't like it."

So why have artificial surfaces proliferated in college and professional football? Because they're weatherproof and drain quickly, teams can avoid playing and practicing on frozen fields or in mudbaths, although Condon says, "From a fan's standpoint, I think they like to see the players get dirty."

Artificial fields require much less maintenance than grass. They make stadiums suitable for multipurpose use. They're a must for domed stadiums, although it's hard to understand why we can send a man to the moon but can't grow grass indoors.

A major appeal of artificial surfaces, however, is strictly cosmetic. They become status

symbols in the 1970s, installed to keep up with the Joneses of college and pro football.

Missouri's grass field has deteriorated since the south end of the stadium was enclosed in 1978. According to a statement by the athletic department, the additional seating structure reduced the flow of air into the stadium and contributed to a fungus growth, which affected the field's root system and created a slick playing surface.

The best replacement might be Prescription Athletic Turf, which the school also will consider. PAT is a grass field with a network of tubing underneath that gives it the drainage advantages of artificial turf.

Missouri Athletic Director Dave Hart and football coach Woody Widenhofer have spoken enthusiastically about the possibility of artificial turf in Faurot Field. Both mentioned the desirability of being able to practice and play in any weather. Widenhofer suggested artificial turf would enable his team "to throw the football and entertain people."

A lot of people associated with a lot of football programs have praised the virtues of artificial turf. But isn't it funny none of them are players?

Sports Turf Manager's Association

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
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| Vice-President | Mike Schiller |
| Secretary | Melissa Merritt |
| Treasurer | Steve Wightman |
| Director | Don Marshall |
| Director | Tony Burnett |
| Director | Roy Zehren |
| Director | Dr. W. H. Daniel |
| Director | Harry Gill |
| Director | Dick Ericson |
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