

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. Unsightly 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