

Welcome New STMA Members

Devin Bair
The Good Earth
Mt. Pleasant, SC

James B. Boynton III
City of Birmingham
Birmingham, AL

Ron Collins
City of Fairfield
Fairfield, CA

Richard Doyle
ISU-Athletic Dept.
Story City, IA

Brad Fresenburg
Univ. of MO-Turf Research
Columbia, MO

Great Greens of America, Inc.
R.D. "Rick" Parker
Colleyville, TX

Philip Harbaugh
Columbus Parks & Rec.
Columbus, IN

Larry Harrison
Tooele City Corporation
Tooele, UT

Steve Heck
Columbus Parks & Rec.
Columbus, IN

Hunter Industries
Cita Berthelsen
Idledale, CO

Jim Lamb
Littleton Public Schools
Littleton, CO

Munie Outdoor Services
Joseph A. Munie
Belleville, IL

L.R. Nelson Corp.
Todd Chilton
Vista, CA

L.R. Nelson Corp.
Frank Rhein
Stuart, FL

L.R. Nelson Corp.
Bob Yakel
Waukesha, WI

Northcoast Distributing
Warren Reinhard
Cleveland, OH

Dale Roe
ISU-Athletic Dept.
Ames, IA

Donald Skeens
Glynn County Bd. of Ed.
St. Simons Island, GA

Smithco
Donald H. Smith
Wayne, PA

Joe Sousa
City of Los Banos
Los Banos, CA

Turfster International
Julie Crouse
Brighton, MI

Robert Urban
NPAA Soccer
Wallingford, PA

Trevor Vance
Kansas City Royals
Kansas City, MO

Luke Yoder
Iowa Cubs
Des Moines, IA

How Do You Do?

The Question -- How Do You Repair Your Batter's Boxes?

Answered by Tim Estes and Mark Schimming of the Wichita Wranglers

We repair our batter's boxes after any event in which they have been dug out. We first sweep out the holes so that there is not even any dust left because we feel dust from old clay hurts the packing and consistency of the clay we use to rebuild the holes. We use new clay every time we rebuild because we feel this provides us with the best results and we can afford to do it.

After the holes have been swept, we sprinkle them with water from a watering can, applying just enough to moisten everything. If there are puddles, we've put on too much water. We then put a layer of new clay in the hole and tamp it down quite well. The layer of clay we use is usually about one inch thick, but the thickness would vary depending on the type of clay and how much you want to pack in. We then remoisten the clay and put another layer of new clay on and tamp it in. We will repeat this process until the holes have been filled and leveled.

We will check for "levelness" with the flat side of a rake, just pushing the rake over the area and looking for any depressions or high spots.

Tim likes to put a rag or towel over the clay as he packs it to keep the clay from doing that annoying sticking to the tamp. The rest of the crew just chooses to use the burlap or nylon covered tamps to prevent that problem.

We do these repairs every night after the game and broom it over or rake it over and the holes are pretty well taken care of.

Periodically, we will remove the excess clay to compen-

sate for all the new clay that we have added.

Answered by Charles Forsman, Lakeside School, Seattle, Washington

Our school has one softball field, used for girls' fast pitch softball. Damage in the batter's box is minimal. We keep some of the infield dirt mix on hand for repairs. We rake out any holes, then fill them in with the appropriate amount of infield dirt and tamp it in. Retained soil

continued on page 10

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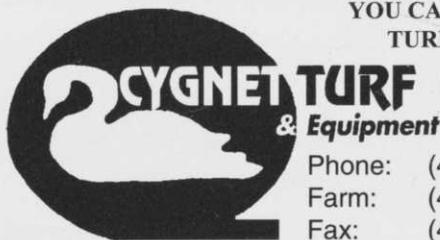
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How Do You Do....?

continued from page 8

moisture generally is adequate during our playing season, so wetting the material isn't necessary. Because holes are small and occur infrequently, "eyeballing" for leveling is all we need to do. Final leveling of the repaired areas is handled during the usual pre-game preparations of scarifying and dragging.

Answered by Tom Curran, City of Pampano Beach (Florida), Parks and Recreation

We have multiple baseball fields in our system, with multiple levels of play. We use Beam Clay in the batter's boxes, even at the recreational level, using the pitcher's mound mix, because it's a bit less expensive. We start the season by digging out the batter's box area, removing some of the typical clay and adding a layer of several inches of the pitcher's mound mix. We wet and pack following instructions on the bag, then put a little bit of the field clay over the top as a dusting, so we have a solid base for firm footing with a light, looser topping. We repair the entire batter's box area every day, rather than spot repairing holes. If the budget is tight, we'll repair only the right hander's batter's box every day, tackling the left hander's batter's box as needed. Every few months, we'll remove the old clay and replace it with new pitcher's mound mix.

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A Taste of What's in Store

continued from page 4

Trade Show area.

The STMA Annual Meeting & Election of Officers will be held Saturday afternoon with the gala Banquet and Awards program held Saturday night.

This is just a peek of what's in store for you in Colorado Springs. SO -- Make your plans NOW. I Hope to see you there!

STM



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