

## In Warm, Wonderful Florida, Turf and Great Ideas Grow Year-Round

Okay, you barely slow down enough to catch your breath during the heavy play season and, even when the snow is flying up north, your days are packed with all those tasks that must be deferred until what some laughingly refer to as the "slow time."

This year -- you can become a snow bird, migrating to the sunny south to recharge your batteries and take in some great information that will give you a headstart on the season ahead. Or, if you're already in that warm, wonderful climate, you can squeeze in a few days to pick up ideas that will fine-tune your program in progress.

STMA Annual Conferences are working meetings. Like your typical day, things start early and keep running at full throttle. Just check out the schedule in that Conference Pack that came by mail a few days ago.



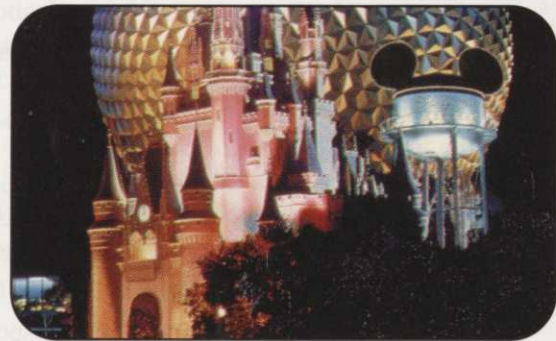
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So, your Conference Committee figured the least we could do is give you some great surroundings and at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, our headquarters hotel, are SOME GREAT SURROUNDINGS.

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And -- if you are on a really tight budget -- don't worry. Your Conference Committee is looking out for you, too. If you would like to share a room, but don't know with whom, Headquarters will do their best to "match" you with others in the same situation. Just call. *STM*

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## SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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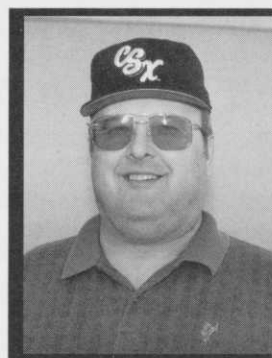
# President's Message

by Mike Schiller, President

It's already fall. While you're juggling a packed schedule to keep all your fields in top shape for fall play, 1997 is winding down fast. On the horizon is our 9th Annual Conference, "Meeting the Challenges," which will be held January 14 - 18, 1998, in Orlando, Florida. By now you should have received your Conference packet and I'm betting you're as excited as I am about the program, the seminars on wheels, and those great facilities: Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Disney's Wide World of Sports<sup>TM</sup> complex.

Did you catch the special extras on the Friday Conference program? We'll kick off on Friday with a behind the scenes tour of the sports complex. We'll close the afternoon with two outdoor events. The Products on Parade will be a series of demonstrations by vendors "on the field" at the complex. Following that, you'll have your choice of multiple sessions of "How We Do It" real-life action Demos given by Disney personnel and other sports turf managers at various parts of the complex.

So...right now, while you're putting your budget together for 1998, allocate funds for Conference attendance and STMA membership at both the national and chapter levels. These are, and rightfully should be, a portion of your professional development funds allocation. STMA is your year-round resource for information, ideas, and personal contacts that directly affect your job performance. The Conference will be packed with opportunities to pick up new information, find that solution to a specific problem, discover a time-saving technique, and network with your peers from across the nation and the world. I know you'll take home ideas to put to work that



Mike Schiller

will more than make up for the costs of the trip.

And, as the Conference grows near, so does our annual meeting at which I will officially hand over the reins at the end of my two year run as your President. STMA has made lots of changes over these last two years. We've grown, we've added programs and services, and we've tried very hard to be more responsive to your needs. All of your board has worked hard, but it's been a very positive labor of love with the opportunity to get to know some of the greatest people in the world.

You'll note that again in this issue, STMA's nominations committee chair, Greg Petry, is putting out a call for nominations for board positions. Along with that, I'm issuing a call for volunteers to serve on committees. This is your organization. Make your own personal commitment to it and GET INVOLVED. Questions, comments, just want to talk about it? Your calls, faxes and e-mail messages are always welcome.

And back to those great STMA people. As this newsletter was going to press, Dr. Kent Kurtz was scheduled for extensive surgery on his back. Please keep him in your prayers and let him know you care.

# How Do You Do...?

## The Question -- How Do You Keep Your Fields In Shape For Fall Play?

*Answered by David Mills, Parks Maintenance, City of Buhl (ID)*

We don't generally have a lot of fall activity up here, but we do adjust our basic maintenance plan slightly for fall. Naturally, any major repairs will be done after the regular season ends. After that, we will keep up with our regular mowing schedule only we cut a little shorter. We will also apply our weed killer and a low nitrogen fertilizer to keep things "in shape" through the winter.

*Answered by Dale Wysocki, Facility Supervisor, Minnesota Vikings Football Club*

During the late summer-early autumn months, it becomes increasingly important to keep grass growing on our practice fields. Prior to each practice, from August 15 to September 15, we apply seed consisting of a 70% perennial ryegrass and 30% Kentucky bluegrass at the rate of 6 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. We allow the players to pound the seed in the soil during practices. After Friday's practice, the areas that are abused the most are seeded with 100% perennial ryegrass at 4 lbs. per 1,000 sq.ft. Then we aerify with a Ryan Greensaire and apply more perennial ryegrass at the same rate. Topdressing is applied and brushed in. We apply Milorganite at a rate of 1 lb. per 1,000 sq.ft. The secret to great seeding success is to always get the seed in contact with the soil.

As the season and the weather start to wane, 100% perennial ryegrass will be used in conjunction with the Evergreen covers. Since the weather in the upper mid-West can change at a moments notice, we are always prepared to remove snow from the field to facilitate the team's practice schedule.

This year, we will try a dormant seeding with a heavy application of Milorganite. The areas between the numbers will be covered with Evergreen covers.

*Answered by Abby McNeal, Pleasant View Fields, Boulder, CO*

"We" are myself and one other full-time employee -- so -- once our fall season has begun, we focus mainly on the maintenance of problem areas, such as the goal mouths, sidelines and centers of the fields. We currently maintain 7 soccer fields -- all sand based (next summer we'll have 9). At least once a week we're filling divots, repairing goal mouths, etc. If we need to, we'll re-sod with existing materials from elsewhere within the facility, and re-sand as needed. We will also schedule two fall fertilizer applications to our worn areas.

We've been pretty lucky in that, if we have a field that is badly damaged, we can often schedule play to another field, when not in use, and repair the damaged field.

*Answered by Tim Moore, Park Manager, M-NCPPC, Montgomery County, MD*

Getting ready for fall play is really a year-round process. The better the condition of fields going into the packed play schedule, the better they will hold up to the heavy use. We have 96 fields, none of them with in-ground irrigation systems. Our only window before fall football and soccer comes during the last week of August and the first week of September. We take advantage of this by aerating, overseeding with a combination of 70 percent turf-type fescue, 20 percent perennial ryegrass and 10 percent bluegrass, and fertilizing with our first pound of nitrogen. During the last week in October, while fall play is still in full swing, we apply another pound of nitrogen and aerate one more time. On our higher quality fields, during the last week of the season, we overseed with bluegrass and let the players cleat it in. Because the bluegrass has a hard seed coat, it remains dormant over the winter and is in place to start growth as soon as temperatures hit the proper range the next spring.

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# A Sports Turf Management Game plan

by Steve Wightman, Qualcomm Stadium (formerly Jack Murphy Stadium)

Sports turf management can be compared to just about any sport I know of. It involves teamwork, knowledge of your opponent, a well defined game plan, and plays that are designed to capitalize on the opponent's weaknesses and your team's strengths with the ultimate goal of winning the game.

Teamwork can be defined as a cohesive work effort that embraces the successful completing of ones desired goals and objectives. It involves leadership, training and camaraderie among the manager and the workers. Properly trained team members and the desire to "rise above the rest" will help make you a winner.

Knowledge of your opponent means gaining an understanding of who or what you are dealing with. In the case of the turf manager, this means knowing the turfgrass type and its growth habits; the soil type and its reaction to traffic and water; prevailing climatic conditions and the effect of these conditions on the turf area.

A well defined game plan simply means a written strategy that you feel is the best approach for you to win the game. The plays that you design as a turf manager are the proper cultural and renovational practices that are interwoven around the various scheduled events that take place on your fields. The manner in which these tasks are administered as well as when they are performed will determine their effectiveness in promoting healthy strong turfgrass. Plays for the turfgrass manager are mowing, irrigation, fertilization, pest control, dethatching, aeration, topdressing, overseeding and sodding.

Plays that have stood the test of time for turf managers usually involve common sense and a basic knowledge of plant, soil and water relationships.

**Mowing** should be done in such a way as to minimize the damage it creates to the plant. Mow at a height that is within the desired range of that particular turfgrass species. Knowledge of your opponent is very important when running this play. Warm-season grasses normally enjoy a height of cut of between 1/2" to 1". Cool-season grasses usually enjoy a height of cut of between 1 1/2" to 3". There are, of course, exceptions to every rule, however, mowing at a height outside the desired range for an extended period of time most always brings disaster to the turfgrass stand as well as the turf manager. Mowing when the grass is dry is much easier on the grass as well as the machinery. Dew and wet weather make mowing more injurious to both plant and machine while adding to soil compaction. Alternating mowing directions helps prevent grain within the grass, especially on warm-season turfgrasses. Too much grain creates matted turf which promotes shade and a thinning canopy while adversely affecting the way a ball rolls, particularly in baseball.

**Irrigation** should be applied only when the plant requires

it and in a manner that is most beneficial to the plant. Again, knowledge of your opponent is very important here. Remember, warm-season and cool-season turfgrasses have different water requirements. Soil types, soil structure, and the time of the year also affect water requirements. Irrigation components also dictate water delivery amounts and efficiency. Wind patterns can greatly effect irrigation efficiency. When scheduling irrigation for a turfgrass it's essential that you know how much water your irrigation system is delivering to the turfgrass. This is known as the precipitation ratio of the irrigation system. Contact an irrigation professional for help in determining this value if you don't already know. And, of course, scheduled events affect how and when you irrigate. Proper irrigation scheduling is an ongoing daily exercise and all of these variables need to be considered.

**Fertilization** is food for the plant and, just like a well conditioned athlete, the plant must receive a proper diet if it is expected to perform up to its maximum potential. Providing the proper type of food in the proper amount and at the proper time involves knowledge of how the plant eats. Different types of turfgrasses have different growth patterns, based mostly on air and soil temperatures. Understanding turfgrass growth habits is one of the first items in developing a fertility program. Knowing the existing soil conditions is the next item because when you fertilize with a granular you are really feeding the soil which, with water, creates a solution that is held within the soil profile for the plant root to absorb. Optimum pH range for maximum nutrient absorbancy is 6.5 to 7.0. Having a soil outside of this pH range can affect fertilization effectiveness. The farther away from this optimum pH the soil is, the more dramatic the ineffectiveness of fertilization becomes. So, it is best to take a soil sample and have it analyzed at a reputable lab to determine the condition of the soil and the amount of nutrients contained within the soil. Once that information is known, an effective fertility program can be implemented.

**Pest control** is another play that is included in a winning game plan. Pests include weeds, insects and diseases that, even under the best of environments, will at some time or another present a problem. In order to be able to maintain healthy turfgrass, you need to know what conditions invite these problems, how to spot the first signs of their presence and what actions to take to control them. The best defense against turfgrass pests is a healthy growing environment for the turfgrass involving proper soil conditions, adequate soil drainage and prudent cultural practices. Pests that do present themselves must be quickly identified and proper action taken in a timely manner. If need be, consult your local Extension service, or another pest professional for advise. Misdiagnosis and the

*continued on page 12*

# LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Your nominating committee is seeking individuals willing to serve STMA as board members in the following categories: Category II - Four-year colleges and universities sports turf facility manager; Category IV - Parks and recreational sports turf facilities; and Category V - Commercial.

If you feel a strong commitment to STMA and would like to get involved, contact Nominating Committee Chair, Greg Petry. If you would like to recommend someone, contact them and make sure they are willing to serve before contacting Greg.

STMA has a WORKING Board. The Board meets four times a year: once in conjunction with the annual Conference, then once in March, July and November. The 1-1/2-day meetings are usually held on Friday afternoons and all day Saturday. In addition, board

members are asked to serve on one or more committees, provide input to other committees, review and vote on key issues affecting the direction of STMA and be responsive to the needs of the membership.

As with most national and international associations, the Nominating Committee traditionally selects officer nominees from among those who have previously served as Board members and are thus familiar with the administrative and financial functions of the Association.

As well as nominations, any questions or requests for further information may be directed to committee chair, Greg Petry, Waukegan Park District, 2000 Belvidere, Waukegan, IL 60085 phone (847) 360-4721 or fax (847) 244-8270.



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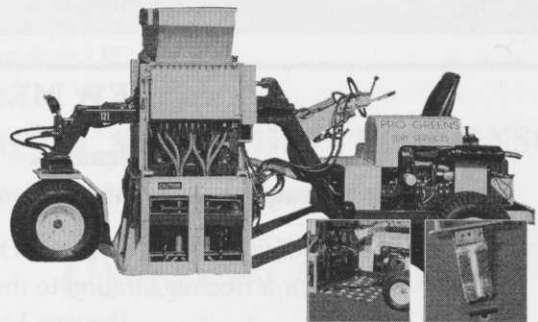
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## Welcome New STMA Members

**Markus Archuletta**  
City of Caldwell  
Caldwell, ID

**Terry Blum**  
City of Mendota Hts.  
Mendota Hts., MN

**Gloria Chillon**  
Automatic Rain Co.  
Menlo Park, CA

**Charles R. Dixon**  
Turf Diagnostics & Design, Inc.  
Olathe, KS

**Florida Rock Products**  
Roland Boney  
Jacksonville, FL

**Michael Hiel**  
Carroll College  
Helena, MT

**John Lamers**  
Forest Lake School  
Forest Lake, MN

**Allen Middleton**  
A & J Lawn & Plant Care  
Piscataway, NJ

**Barbara Murphy**  
Sunniland Corp.  
Coconut Creek, FL

**Charles A. Pyron**  
The Stadium  
Chattanooga, TN

**Rick Rodier**  
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Minneapolis, MN

**TMSG, Inc./Tpar Turf Blankets**  
Brian Schell  
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Cambridge, MN

**Automatic Rain Co.**  
Jorge Garcia  
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**Bob Britton**  
Trees 'n Turf  
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**Club Car, Inc.**  
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Augusta, GA

**Scott Dobbins**  
Student/Washington State Univ.  
Pullman, WA

**John Grande**  
Rutgers University  
Pittstown, NJ

**Greg Hollahan**  
The Toro Company  
Bloomington, MN

**Matthew Mattes**  
Student  
Overland Park, KS

**Dan Miller**  
Morenci Area Schools  
Morenci, MI

**Thomas Oropeza**  
City of Santa Ana, R&CSA  
Santa Ana, CA

**Wayne Radke**  
Town of Windsor  
Windsor, CT

**Tony Rossi**  
Prospect H.S. Dist. #214  
Mt. Prospect, IL

**Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.**  
James W. Betts  
Hammonton, NJ

**Phil Whitehouse**  
City of St. Petersburg  
St. Petersburg, FL

**Brain Alan Baker**  
Centenary College  
Shreveport, LA

**John D. Broderick**  
Univ. of Southwestern LA  
Lafayette, LA

**Josh Cole**  
Clinton Twnshp. Parks & Rec.  
Annandale, NJ

**Scott Duddeck**  
City of N. St. Paul  
N. St. Paul, MN

**Todd Hamann**  
School District #728  
Elk River, MN

**Chad Huss**  
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers  
Kaukauna, WI

**John Mattlin**  
City of Parkland  
Parkland, FL

**Lee E. Miller**  
City of Mission Viejo  
Mission Viejo, CA

**Pacific Coast Seed, Inc.**  
Peter Boffey  
Livermore, CA

**Jon Reed**  
Kansas City Royals Baseball  
Kansas City, MO

**Reed J. Seaton**  
SW Recreational Industries  
Leander, TX

**Gary Vandenberg**  
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball  
Milwaukee, WI

**Tracy Williams**  
Student/Iowa State Univ.  
Ames, IA

**Bob Benyo**  
Opti-Gro  
Bealeton, VA

**Thomas M. Brunwin**  
Student  
Palm Desert, CA

**Cornbelt Chemical Co.**  
Dann A. Watson  
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**Mike Fisher**  
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**Erick Hammerdahl**  
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**Mark Jeker**  
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**David Mellor**  
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball  
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**David Montgomery**  
Sedalia Public Schools  
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**Dr. Michael Richardson**  
Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ

**Sweetwater Construction**  
Chip Richardson  
Alabaster, AL

**Rob Weeda**  
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### NEW MEMBER SWEEPSTAKES!!

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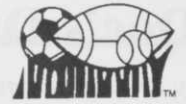
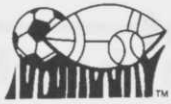
**Please share your membership information from your Conference packet – or your October sportsTURF.**

All New Members Joining STMA Between October 1st and December 1st, 1997, will be eligible for a drawing for a free registration to the STMA 9th Annual Conference & Exhibition, January 14-18, 1998, in Orlando, Florida.

**BONUS – EVERYONE WINS**

That's Right! New memberships received during this time are in force through December 31, 1998.

**Get Serious With STMA!!**



## Chapter Events

### Florida Chapter #1:STMA

The Florida # 1 Chapter will meet at the Ft. Lauderdale Stadium from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM on October 21st. The meeting focus will be aerifying and topdressing with demonstrations part of the program. All vendors are encouraged to participate. Please contact John Mascaro for details.

The Chapter also will meet on December 10th from 8:30 AM to 1 PM at the University of Miami in South Miami. The topic for this meeting is turfgrasses for sports fields.

For information on these events, other pending activities, or the Florida Chapter, contact: John Mascaro at (954) 938-7477.

### The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

The Iowa Chapter will hold a Football Workshop on October 25th at Iowa State University in Ames. Attendees will meet at 11:00 AM outside Jack Trice Stadium for a 1-1/2 hour group discussion on the procedures and practices of painting, marking and mowing. From 1:00 to 4:00 PM, they'll attend the Homecoming football game as Iowa State University takes on Baylor. Following the game, the group will meet in the north end zone area to begin post-game repairs. The ISU stadium staff will go through the different procedures of preparing the field for the next game including field sweeping, aerifying, overseeding with pre-germinated seed, and topdressing. During this time, attendees will have a second opportunity to ask questions and discuss field maintenance issues. An information packet on football field maintenance also will be provided. Featured speakers include Mike Andresen and the Jack Trice stadium staff, and Jeff Salmond and Gary Peterson of ISU. Registration for this Workshop includes a ticket to the game.

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

### Southern California Chapter:STMA

The Southern California Chapter will hold a Fall Football Event in San Diego on October 18th. Activities start at 2:00 PM with a tour of Qualcomm Stadium (formerly Jack Murphy Stadium). A tailgate party follows the tour. The group will then attend the game between San Diego State University and UNLV.

A December Pesticide Workshop to be held at MiraCosta College is in the planning stages. There will be 8 hours of CEUs offered at this event.

Plan now to attend a Super Bowl Seminar in early January at Qualcomm Stadium, the site of the 1998 Super Bowl.

Further details on these December and January events will be announced soon. For further information on

any of these three events or the Southern California Chapter contact: The Chapter Hotline: (1-888) 578-STMA (toll free in Southern California).

### Midwest Chapter:STMA

The Midwest Chapter:STMA will hold their annual meeting on December 2nd in conjunction with the North Central Turfgrass Exposition at Pheasant Run Resort and Conference Center in St. Charles, Illinois. The annual meeting will wrap up that day's special sports turf track of educational sessions. The NCTG Exposition runs from December 1st through December 3rd.

For information on this event, the Midwest Chapter or other pending activities, call: The Chapter Hotline (847) 439-4727.

### Colorado Chapter:STMA

The Colorado Chapter:STMA will again participate in the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association (RMRTA) Annual Turf Conference and Trade Show. This event will be held December 10 - 12, 1997, at Currihan Hall in Downtown Denver. For more information on this event, call 303/770-2220.

For information on the Colorado Chapter and other upcoming activities, call the 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/FAX: (303) 438-9645.

### Minnesota Chapter:STMA

As part of the Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation, The Minnesota Chapter:STMA will take part in the MTGF 4th Annual Conference and Trade Show which will be held December 10 - 12, 1997, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. For more information on this event contact: Scott Turtinen at 612/473-8169.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter's schedule *continued on page 10*

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# Doc's Dugout - An Inning from our Past & Present

by Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAWN MOWER FOR SPORTS TURF (PART I)

The invention of the Lawn Mower is considered to be the single, most significant development for the improvement of sports fields in the world. Edwin Budding was a textile engineer in England and in 1830 he designed and developed the first lawn mower. A partnership was developed between Budding and John Farrabee who was the owner of the Phoenix Iron Works Company and was well known for producing high quality engineered goods. Their first lawn mower was a 19" reel mower with a wrought iron frame. Grass clippings were pushed forward into a tray-like box. The early mower was difficult to push through a grass lawn so a second handle was added so the mower could also be pulled from the front. By 1832, their original mower was patented and the two men realized they needed assistance in distribution of the machines. As a result, they entered into a licensing agreement with Ransomes of Ipswich, England, to produce and wholesale Budding's Mower. By 1840, over 1,000 mowers had been sold. But like so many inventors, Budding did not live to see the result of his labor; he died in 1845 at the age of 50.

In Arbroath, Scotland, a gentleman by the name of W. F. Carnegie had purchased one of Budding's mowers but discovered that it wasn't capable of mowing his 2 fi acre lawn. So Carnegie solicited the help of a local engineer, James Shanks, to develop a more versatile mower. Shanks designed a 27" machine that could be pulled by two men or a pony. Shortly thereafter, in 1842, Shanks patented his design in Scotland and later produced a second mower, a 42" mower designed by one of his employees. Following Budding's death, many other people became involved in the production of lawn mowers. Thomas Green of Leeds, England, patented the first chain-driven mower. This was a significant development since chains made the mower lighter in weight. By 1864, cast iron mowers were being produced. These mowers were more intricate in design because molten cast iron could be poured into venous "forms" or molds.

Lawn mowers manufactured in the United States began to be sold in England by 1870. The Pennsylvania mower was featured at the Worlds Fair in Chicago in 1878 and was produced by Lloyd, Supplee, and Walton. By the end of the 1870's, the American manufacturers were exporting a number of different machines to England. These mowers sold well because they were cheaper in cost and much lighter in design than their English counterparts.

By 1890, as more sports developed in the United States and the UK, better playing surfaces were demanded by the general public. To keep up with the times a new mode of power was added to the lawn mower, steam. The

inventor was J. Sumner of Leyland, England, who made mowers with reels in three sizes - 25, 30 and 36 inches. The boiler was fired by paraffin under pressure and was first used at Lord's cricket ground in London. By 1902, other manufacturers followed Sumner's lead as both Shanks and Green came out with steam mowers. Shanks came out with a 42" mower that weighed 1.5 tons and, if desired, could also be used as a roller. Shanks produced an oil-fired boiler while Green introduced a coal-fired version. Further developments followed with a prototype combustion engine mower produced in the United States in 1896 by W. J. Stephensen-Peach. Ransomes became the first company to patent and produce a gasoline-powered mower in 1902. This mower featured a 42" cut with a roller. The operator sat over the rear roller to balance the weight. The first machine of this type was purchased by the Cadbury Company for their sports grounds at Boumville, England.

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(Look for Part II in the next issue of the newsletter)

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# Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

**T**HANKS TO YOU! -- STMA continues to grow. As I write this column, there are now 975 members who have paid their national dues for 1997. There are an additional 726 Chapter members in our 8 Affiliated Chapters. That's 1701 individuals and companies that have made the commitment to get involved in bettering themselves and the industry that provides at least a portion of their income. While each new member means more work for Headquarters, we are thrilled with the growth. The more growth we have, the more important STMA will be to the members and to those who provide services to the industry.

Headquarters is providing another service to the chapters to make it easier for people to be members of both the Local Chapter and the National Association. We have had a number of people tell us that it is much easier to process one invoice through their system for both chapter and national dues, rather than having two separate invoices. This year, we handled the billings for the Minnesota Chapter and gained 18 new National members. We have just recently billed the Florida #1 Chapter members on a pro-rated basis and already have 2 new national members. We hope that all chapters will take advantage of this service for 1998.

Speaking of Chapters, we have several potential Chapters in various stages of formation. The two that are the furthest along are located in Southern Nevada and Northern California. I had the opportunity to attend the formation meeting with the group in Nevada and I'm scheduled to visit the Northern California meeting on November 11th. If you are interested in getting involved with a chapter in your area, contact headquarters for information.

If you know of individuals that should be members of STMA, tell them about the New Member Sweepstakes on page 3 and

encourage them to join you in a growing organization.

All chapter and national members should have received their packet of information on the 9th Annual Conference by now. If for some reason you

didn't receive yours, misplaced it, or would like extra copies to share with others, please let Headquarters know.

Until next issue, may your problems be small and your successes huge. *STM*

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## Chapter Events

continued from page 7

for the Conference, the Chapter, or other upcoming activities, contact: Connie Rudolph at (612) 646-1679

### **MAFMO Chapter:STMA**

The MAFMO Board will hold a planning meeting at 6:00 PM on November 20th at the Last Chance Saloon in Columbia, Maryland.

To provide input for this planning meeting, or for information on the MAFMO Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact the Hotline: (410) 290-5652.

### **Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO Chapter:STMA)**

For information on upcoming activities, or the KAFMO Chapter STMA, contact: Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212.

### **STMA Chapters on the Grow:**

**The Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association** will hold its "Grand Opening" and Fall Seminar on Tuesday, November 11, at the Oakland Alameda County Coliseum Complex with seminar sessions in the West Side Club of the Stadium. Registration begins at 8:00 AM. Seminar sessions will run from 9:00 AM to noon, followed by lunch and a facilities tour.

Featured speakers include Steve Wightman of Qualcomm Stadium (formerly Jack Murphy Stadium), Clay Wood of the Oakland A's, and Bob Milano of the University of California - Berkeley. The facilities tour will be conducted by Dave Renetti, Facility Manager of the Coliseum, and will include the recently renovated stadium, behind-the-scenes areas, the new playing field and the new Arena.

For information about this event, contact the UC Davis Grounds Services office at (916) 752-6741. 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.

**Arizona:** Mark your calendars for December 4th and 5th and join The Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona in two major events in Yuma. Begin with the Second Annual City of Yuma Golf Tournament which will be held at Desert Hills Golf Course in Yuma on December 4th. Then take part in the Fifth Annual City of Yuma Sports Turf & Equipment Field Day on December 5th. For more information on either of these events, contact Larry Munoz at: (520) 329-2824.

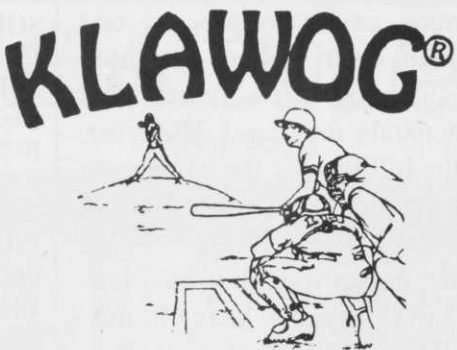
Plans are developing for an educational day in

Phoenix on November 13th featuring several STMA Board Members. For information on this event, the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona, or other upcoming activities, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954.

Interest is building for an **STMA Chapter in the Mid-South: Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and bordering areas of Kentucky and Missouri.** For more information, contact: Chip Houmes, phone (901) 377-5081 or fax (901) 377-6051 or Jim Calhoun, phone/fax (901)755-1305.

Plans are moving forward on the formation of a **Nevada Chapter of STMA.** Following positive response at the August introductory meeting, an organizational meeting was held on September 30th. For information on this developing Chapter, contact: Ibsen Dow, phone (702) 649-1551.

**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.



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# Sports Turf Management Game plan

continued from page 4

and the subsequent improper action taken can sometimes even proliferate the pest problem.

**Detaching** is the removal of excessive decomposed plant material that builds up on the soil surface and adversely affects plant growth and its healthy environment. Most rhizominous turfgrasses require periodical dethatching to control this excessive decomposed plant matter. Maintaining excessive thatch invites fertility loss, water loss, excess shade and a proliferation of detrimental microorganisms, all of which adversely affect healthy plant growth. Some thatch actually enhances plant growth by tempering hot and cold air temperatures, providing an adequate growth medium for beneficial microorganisms, and adding some resiliency to the turfgrass surface. Problems occur when the thatch layer becomes excessive (usually more than 1" in depth). Dethatching should take place when the turfgrass is in its maximum growth period (spring and fall for cool-season species and summer for warm-season species).

**Aerification** is the play within your game plan that involves relieving soil compaction and tension so water and air can move down into the rootzone. Even the best constructed rootzones periodically require aerification, especially those with heavy traffic. Rootzones whose soil compositions include substantial clay and silt will require greater aerification to promote an adequate plant growth environment. Again, aerification should be done when the turfgrass is growing well so it can quickly repair itself from the damage created by the process.

**Topdressing** involves the surface application of an adequate growth medium that helps to level the surface areas and break down the thatch layer. When done in conjunction with core aerification, proper topdressing can actually enhance the aerification process by maintaining an avenue for water, air and nutrients into the rootzone for a longer period of time. Too much topdressing material applied at a given time will suffocate the plant, so numerous, lighter applications are better (usually 1/8" thickness is best with any one application).

**Overseeding** is the process of applying seed to an already established turfgrass area, either to thicken the turfgrass stand or to transition the stand from one turfgrass species to another. The amount of seed used during overseeding varies substantially depending on the density of the stand desired or the time available for establishment to take place.

Transitioning of a high traffic turf area where the predominate turfgrass stand goes dormant requires approx. 15 to 25 pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet. To increase the density of a turfgrass stand would require substantially less amounts. For overseeding to be successful, the seed must be in contact with the soil so that when the seedling germinates

the root can absorb the water and nutrients contained in the soil. The soil also provides adequate anchoring for the fragile plant. Proper fertilization and irrigation are extremely important at this critical time for a new plant, as are adequate amounts of phosphorous and potassium, to maximize germination and growth.

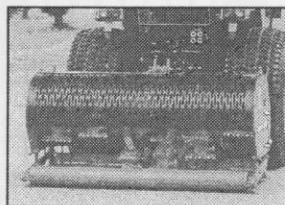
**Sodding** is the fastest way to provide a turfgrass surface, however, it involves more than just the green side up. Proper soil preparation and soft fertility are important. The growth medium of the sod should be similar to that of the soil it is laid on to avoid layering. Layering will greatly affect downward water movement. If layering is allowed to persist, it will eventually eliminate the turfgrass stand. Proper irrigation is, again, very important because the root system of the sod is very shallow and fragile when first installed.

As with any winning team, having a game plan based on the knowledge of your opponent, with plays that are designed and executed with precision and teamwork most always accomplishes the goals and objectives desired. A turf manager who studies his opponent, trains his players, develops a comprehensive game plan and embraces his goals and objectives will most certainly be a winner.

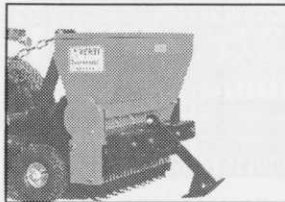
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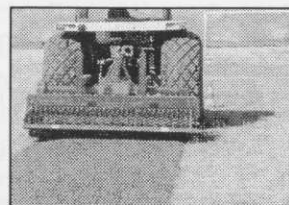
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All proceeds benefit the Scholarship & Awards Fund

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Tom Curran (954) 786-4013 or Lori Gislason (612) 625-6097 or David Mellor (414) 933-4114 x 161 or  
Jon Strantz (407) 939-2061

### Member News

**Don Follett**, formerly with Arizona State University, has joined the Washington Redskins organization at the new Jack Kent Cooke Stadium.

**Chris Bunnell**, formerly with the Escondido Union School District, has taken the position of Parks Supervisor for the City of San Marcos (CA).

**David Doguet**, Bladerunner Farms, Inc., became the 27th president of Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) at the groups Summer Convention Field Days, July 17-19, 1997.

**Gary Peterson**, ISU Commercial Horticulturist, was awarded the Iowa State Horticultural Society Honor Award at the ISHS Annual Meeting, September 3, 1997.

**CONGRATULATIONS GUYS!!**

### Employment Opportunities

The *Pima County (AZ) Parks & Rec. Dept.* is seeking a Complex Supervisor for its new major league spring training facility.

*Lake City Community College* is seeking qualified candidates for an Irrigation Management Program Instructor/Coordinator.

For more information on these openings contact STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875 OR call the Jobs Hotline at (712) 366-1145.

*If you know of an opening, or if you have news to share, give us a call at Headquarters. We'll be happy to help get the word out!*

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  
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# STMA Board Meeting Report

(Part 2 from the July 11 - 12, 1997 Board Meeting)

In response to questions about when commercial members were authorized to serve in positions other than Commercial Category Board Member and Commercial Vice President, the bylaws committee, headed by Past-President Greg Petry, researched past records. Petry reported that in October of 1993, a bylaws change was put before the STMA membership due to a lack of non-commercial members with the time and resources to serve on the board of directors. Bylaws prior to that time had read: Persons engaged in commercial enterprise providing services or products to the sports turf profession, upon payment of dues and being accepted for membership, may become an active voting member and are eligible to hold elective office only as a Director or Vice President. The proposed change as submitted to a vote of the membership read: *Persons engaged in a commercial enterprise providing services or products to the sports turf profession, upon payment of dues and being accepted for membership, may become an active voting member and are eligible to hold elective office.* At the November 5, 1993, STMA Board Meeting, it was reported that "the vote on the bylaws change was eight to one in favor of allowing commercial members to hold officer positions other than Commercial Vice President."

In response to inflationary pressures over the last several years, STMA dues will be moving up a notch in all categories except student members for 1998. In Categories I through IV, (professional members at all facilities, educators, researchers) and Category VII (international non-commercial members) annual dues will be \$85 per year. In Category V (commercial members) dues will be \$195 for the first member of a commercial company and \$50 for each additional member from the same commercial company. Category VI (student [non-voting] members) rates remain at \$20.

Again for 1998, the board

approved a new member drive beginning in the fall. For all new members joining STMA from October 1, 1997, through December of 1997, the initial membership "year" extends through December 31, 1998. (STMA membership is based on the calendar year from January 1st through December 31st.) So, if you know someone who has put off joining STMA because the year is "nearly over," you can let them know it's a great time to sign up.

To help all members in their own budgeting and accounting procedures, STMA membership fees for both national and individual chapters again may be paid along with Conference registration. There is a blank on your Conference registration form for the amount and, if you

are including Chapter membership, a sheet enclosed to note which Chapter. You also may use that sheet to update any information, such as a change in job title or address, or in phone or fax number, or the addition of an e-mail address.

The Board's next meeting is November 14th and 15th in Mesa, Arizona, site of the 1999 STMA Annual Conference.

Questions? Comments? Great Ideas? Member input is always welcome. Please contact Headquarters or any of your Board members. (They are all listed on page 2 of this newsletter.)

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# The STMA 9th Annual Conference and Exhibition -- THE WORK AND THE PLAY

**Y**our Conference Committee is dedicated to bringing you an information-packed program with educational sessions to meet your needs whatever your position or the size and scope of your facility. And, because past Conferences have proven it's important to you, there are great networking opportunities giving you a chance to meet others in similar positions and to exchange information and ideas that will help all of you do your jobs better, faster, more efficiently and cost effectively.

Maybe you'll pick up your best ideas from a presentation during one of the educational sessions, or in the Round-Table discussions, or during the "How We Do It" demonstrations or the Products on Parade. Maybe it will come from a vendor during your discussions in the Trade Show Exhibition area.

Maybe you'll pass along what someone else considers the best idea they've heard during casual discussion at the Opening Reception, the Pre-Banquet Reception, on one of the Seminar on Wheels buses, during a Break between Conference sessions or even out on the course during the Golf Outing.

Maybe you'll find that guy or gal bidding against you in one of the Auctions is another big fan of the same football or baseball star, or wants that jacket because of working conditions just like yours, or has an eye on that book because it's a potential problem solver for the same nagging problem you've been fighting.

Many of you have told the Conference Committee members, the STMA Board members, or the Headquarters staff that you are planning to bring your family to the 1998 Conference, and we think that's GREAT! Few destinations offer the scope of family-oriented options that are readily available in the Orlando area.

If you've browsed through that Conference packet, you already know that the special rates on airline travel, car rental and hotel accommodations have been extended before and after the actual Conference dates to make it easier for you to arrange a few extra days for rest, relaxation, theme park visits and other sightseeing.

Headquarters also has had some questions about alternative accommodations. Maybe you're wondering about a hotel in a little lower price range or the options available in camp sites. Just give us a call. We'll be glad to help.

Maybe you're wondering about child care services for part of a day or an evening, or about the possibility of a special program for "the kids" so your spouse can attend the Annual Banquet with you and put faces to those names you keep mentioning. Again, just give us a call. We've made connections with a highly recommended, bonded, child care service provider and -- if there is enough interest -- can offer a fun and safe "party" alternative during the Friday evening Pre-Banquet Reception and Banquet.

And, because there is so much to do, whether you are with your family, part of a group from your facility or on your own, our Orlando Conference contacts "strongly suggested" that one evening be left open to explore the opportunities. That evening is Saturday, January 17th. Here too, if you're looking for suggestions and want more information on some of those options, we can help.

Or, your family may have made connections with another family that just happens to be the family of the sports turf manager you were discussing seed varieties or equipment options with just a few hours ago. Remember - it's a small world after all.

*STM*

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