

GREAT CONFERENCE ?? YOU BET!!!!

If you were one of the lucky ones who attended the 9th Annual Conference & Exhibition -- you KNOW it was great. If you didn't have the opportunity to attend -- you missed an excellent show!

STMA continues to grow. We had over 300 full conference attendees!

Conference kick-off on Wednesday put over 50 golfers on the Palm course for a challenging, spirited and fun-filled competition. At the same time, 2 busloads of participants headed out on our first Seminar on Wheels tour. A highlight of the 1st stop, Disney's Horticultural Center was an inside look at how some of those wonderful topiaries are created with ivy or creeping fig grown over wire frames and stuffed with sphagnum moss. The traditional topiaries (many of which are long time features on Disney property) are trimmed painstakingly and can take years to form.

In addition to our traditional classroom sessions and the 2nd year of the popular round-table discussions, both of which were SUPER, we were treated to a thoroughly memorable presentation by Captain Al Haynes, the captain of Flight 232, which crash landed in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1989 and had an amazing 184 people survive. This moving presentation focused on five factors every sports turf manager knows,

Luck, Communication, Preparation, Execution and Cooperation.

With the Thursday evening reception and Friday's lunch both in the Trade Show area, vendors and attendees had a chance to mix business and pleasure in the true spirit of "partnership." Add in Friday's Disney's Wide World of Sports™ complex tour, the seed plot evaluations, "Products on Parade" and "How We Do It" demos out on the fields and it was a full day.

The Awards & Scholarships were presented to a full house at the Banquet and basically, if you weren't there -- YOU MISSED A GREAT TIME! So, make plans now for 1999 in Mesa, Arizona. See You There!



Seed Trails



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Trade Show

photos courtesy of Helen M. Stone

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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Sports Turf Manager is a publication of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). It is published bi-monthly and is free to STMA members. Sports Turf Managers' goal is to promote the mission of the association by providing a channel for communication between the representatives of the board and its constituency. STMA is not responsible for the opinions expressed in this publication. Address changes, advertising, photographs, and editorial inquiries should be directed to the executive offices. © 1998 Sports Turf Managers Association. All Rights Reserved.

President's Message

by Steve Guise, President

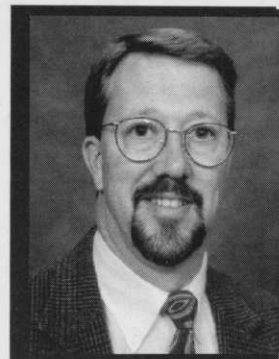
A president can only be as successful as his board and committees allow him to be through their work. It is the workers that make the difference. As our association grows, our committees need to grow. We require more out of our committees to continue and improve our member services. I want my term as president to be remembered as the time when the STMA created opportunity and became recognized for the professional organization it is.

My vision statement to all of you is to make a difference in your community, to use the STMA as a way to open doors for your personal and professional careers.

Start by bringing a rake, shovel and bucket to your local ball field and fix safety issues. It only takes one person to make a difference. Volunteerism is contagious. Others will join you as they understand your commitment to better and safer playing areas.

I want to promote you, STMA and your efforts toward this mission. Please write to the STMA with your story and send us pictures of your fields before and after.

The world is full of followers. What makes the STMA special is that our membership is made up of leaders. Most of us, as



Steve Guise

managers, came up through the ranks and reached our current positions through our leadership qualifications and good old fashioned hard work. It's through the same commitment and dedication that the STMA has reached its current position in the green industry. There is no limit to where we can go from here.

Please feel free to call me if you have any concerns or productive ideas on how we can improve our organization. My home phone number is 714/680-4026 and my business phone number is 818/834-1000. Don't hesitate to call. I want to be your voice in our organization.

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STMA ELECTS 1998 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STMA elected our 1998 officers and board of directors on January 17th, 1998, at the annual meeting held in conjunction with the 9th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Orlando, FL.

Elected to the office of President was Stephen Guise, Valley Crest, San Fernando, CA. Other officers elected include: President Elect - Rich Moffitt, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO; Vice President (Commercial) - Bob Curry, Covermaster, Rexdale, ON (Canada); Secretary - L. Murray Cook, Disney's Wide World of Sports™ complex, Lake Buena Vista, FL; and Treasurer - Bob Patt, Civic Center/Stadium Manager, City of Canton, OH.

Board Members elected to two year terms include: Category II (College & University Facilities) - Bob Campbell, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN; Category IV (Parks and Recreation Facilities) - Tim Moore, Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Chevy Chase, MD; and Category V (Commercial) - Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries, Inc., San Marcos, CA.

Elected to a one year term to fill out the Category I (Professional Facility Sports Turf Manager) position vacated by L. Murray Cook, was Tom Burns, Texas Rangers, Arlington, TX.

Mike Schiller, Rolling Meadows Park District, Rolling Meadows, IL, assumes the position of Past President, replacing Greg Petry, Waukegan Park District, Waukegan, IL.

Remaining on the board for the second year of her two year term as the Category III (Research, Teaching) board member is Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts, Rochdale, MA.

STM

STMA ISSUES SCHOLARSHIPS

The Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship, from this year forward designated for the students of two year technical programs or community colleges, was presented to Ryan Kasnitzke, a freshman majoring in Turfgrass Management/Sports Turf at the Michigan State University - Institute of Agricultural Technology.

The STMA Annual Scholarship for undergraduate students of four-year college or university programs was presented to Raechal Elizabeth Sager, a Senior majoring in Horticulture/Turf Management at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

The new STMA Scholarship for graduate students was presented to Andrew S. McNitt, a graduate student specializing in Soil Science/Athletic Field Surface Characterization at Penn State University.

STMA recognizes that the future of the industry lies in the education, dedication and commitment of outstanding students such as these.

STM

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How Do You Do...?

The Question -- How Do You Use Your "Slow" Time to Prepare For Your Busy Season?

Answered by Mike Hurd, Head Groundskeeper, Legends Field/New York Yankees

Our off season runs basically from September to December (right around Christmas time). So, the first thing we do is to make a list of all the projects that need doing and keep it posted so that nothing gets overlooked.

Our first project is to add clay to repair or reconstruct all of our skinned areas. These include the baseline paths, pitching mound and bullpens. Next is our preparation for our ryegrass program. We overseed in November, so before we do that, we aerify, topdress, fertilize with a high potassium fertilizer, and sometimes verticut.

We also do our safety inspections at this time. Included in this safety check is all the padding and netting in the stadium. Batting cages also are re-taped and re-netted.

In addition to the routine maintenance of our equipment throughout the year, we use the off season to do all of our major overhauls and rebuilding. This project also includes getting hydraulic kits and changing the hydraulic hoses on all of our mowers. These, along with a few other, projects pretty much take us right up to the start of the season.

Answered by Chris Conradson, Assistant Athletic Facility Manager, University of Colorado

At the University of Colorado, my "slow" time is actually pretty busy. As is the case at most institutions, I am not only the turf manager, but I'm also in charge of building maintenance for the athletic department.

During the off season, I am able to schedule larger projects in relation to building maintenance that don't normally get done during the fall. The "slow" time also allows us to tune up our equipment, the mowers, tractors, trimmers, field strippers, etc. We can also take a look at our equipment needs and see what we can fit into the next year's budget.

I also have a kind of unique situation in that most of my help comes from students. Scheduling becomes a real challenge at times, trying to fit projects in around their class schedules.

Right now, we are busy getting ready for Spring Football. This year, they are beginning drills a month earlier than in years past. We'll have to wait and see what the weather brings us in March -- it's entirely possible that my "slow" time just might turn out to be one of my busier times.

Answered by Bruce Boman, City of San Diego Parks & Rec.

Living and working in sunny San Diego doesn't provide very much "slow" time. There are just "not used as often times." San Diego is a very outdoor oriented city and our athletic fields are used by everyone. We have schools using them during the day, youth parks & recreation activities in the late afternoon and adult use during the evening hours and into the night.

Each area of turf responsibility throughout the City of San Diego is managed and directed by various supervisors. Each is responsible for coordinating turf projects during "slow" times. They also are responsible for use scheduling at their respective sites. Local area councils and community groups also contribute input into the turf maintenance needs and ways to accomplish those needs.

Our city budget includes aeration and fertilization about twice a year. Any other supplementary work (additional fertilization, aeration, pesticide applications, verticutting, topdressing, seeding, etc.) needs to be funded through creative sources and either coordinated with our city workforce or contracted out. We have many of our schools on a year around schedule, which makes "slow" time projects very precise and critical for the safety of the users. This "slow" time is also very critical to the rest and recovery of the turf. After all, alleviating heavily worn areas is all part of everyone's plan for safe, healthy and aesthetically pleasing athletic areas.

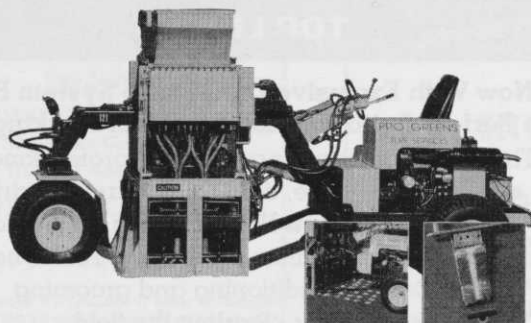
continued on page 13

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REMEDIES FOR FAILING FIELDS

Dr. Gil Landry, University of Georgia

The more we know about basic turfgrass management the easier it is to diagnose problems. Like the coach that is able to correct small basic problems, most successful sports turf managers recognize and correct factors limiting turf growth. These factors can be separated into three groups: 1) climate factors like temperature, moisture, light, wind, and air or gases; 2) soil properties like physical, chemical and biological factors; and 3) management factors like turf use, mowing, fertilization, irrigation, and pest problems. The better we are at identifying and correcting the most limiting factors, the more successful our turf management will be.

You know what they say, "pay me now or pay me later." Proper construction is a good example of this axiom and has immediate and long term benefits. Fields improperly sloped will have poor surface drainage which will lead to higher soil moisture which in turn leads to more soil compaction. It is also important to account for dispersal of surface water and water from bleachers and other facilities during design and construction. It is quite common to find a new recreation facility where removing surface water beyond the field surface was not considered, hence a sidewalk ends up becoming a dam. Even if a field is properly constructed, proper maintenance after construction is still important.

Like a great game plan is essential to success, proper soil preparation can have a significant effect on field management. Simple deep cultivation prior to establishment has an immediate and long term effect on turf management. Simply saving and replacing topsoil during construction also is very helpful. It's simple, the better the soil characteristics, the easier and less expensive a field will be to manage.

Another important factor is using the right turfgrass species and cultivar for the situation. Bermudagrasses are hard to beat when it comes to sports field performance. It is very common to find more than one type of bermudagrass on a field. The differences in bermudagrass types are generally more pronounced during spring and fall as the grass begins to grow or go into dormancy. Sometimes patches of grass may appear to be diseased when it is simply a different type grass.

Differences are minimized during the summer when being fertilized regularly. Obviously differences in traffic tolerance and winter hardiness are very important in the transition zone. Ideally we would like a turfgrass with both good winter hardiness and traffic tolerance. However, this combination can be difficult to find.

Field use and field overuse are basic facts of

sports turf management. So focusing cultural management practices on areas more intensely used like soccer goal mouths or between the hash marks of football fields before the turf injury is obvious helps. Knowing soil textures, whether your soils are sandy or finer textured, will help you determine the frequency of irrigation, fertilization, and cultivation. In most cases, soils with more than 75% sand are easier to manage because of their improved drainage and manageability.

Soil compaction is often considered Sports Turf Enemy #1. Using a soil probe or even a screwdriver helps determine soil compaction. Early drought stress, thinning turf and weed encroachment are all also common indicators of soil compaction. Vigorous growth in irrigation or other trenches may be a sign of good soil conditions while the surrounding compacted areas lack color and vigor.

Coring is most effective when the turf is actively growing and prior to the most active root growth period. Some bermudagrass fields are aerified weekly although monthly aerification is probably more common. However, heavy aerification
continued on page 10



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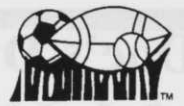
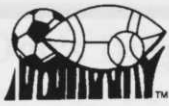
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New members continued on page 13



Chapter Events

WELCOME TO STMA'S NEWEST AFFILIATED CHAPTER: The Mid-South Chapter STMA has completed all requirements for affiliation and was officially recognized as an affiliated chapter by the STMA Board at the January 13th, 1998, Board Meeting. The Mid-South Chapter serves Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and parts of Louisiana, Missouri and Kentucky. For more information, contact: Chip Houmes at (901) 377-5081 or Jim Calhoun at (901) 755-1305.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO Chapter STMA)

On March 17th, the KAFMO Chapter will participate in the Northwest Pennsylvania Athletic Field, Turf, and Ornamentals Conference which will be held at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. For additional information on this event contact: Jeff Fowler at (814) 437-7507.

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

Florida Chapter #1: STMA

The Florida Chapter #1 will participate in the University of Florida IFAS Field Day on March 12th in Davie, FL.

The meeting at Pro Players Stadium, originally scheduled for March 18th, has been tentatively rescheduled for March 24th. The meeting focus will be Field and Equipment Safety.

The Chapter also is planning a meeting for May 19th in conjunction with the Miami Shores Parks and Recreation Department. This meeting will focus on all-purpose sports field maintenance.

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

Midwest Chapter: STMA

Plans are in the works for the Midwest Chapter's 1998 events calendar. The Chapter has appointed an Executive Secretary, Ms. Susan Green. Please note the new Hotline number.

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

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association recently held its election. President is Dale Roe, Iowa State University. Other Board Members elected are: Mike Andresen, Iowa State University; Bill Antons, Boone Community Schools; Ron Crooker, Upper Iowa University - Fayette Campus; Mike Grooms, United Seeds; Doug

Hoffman, Quality Care; Jim Lynch, Martensdale St. Mary's Schools; Rick Simpson, South Tama Schools; Charles Vance, AVP Const./Creative Landscapes of IA; Brad Vermeer, City of Sioux Center; Kevin Vos, Muscatine Soccer Complex; Bryan Wood, Commercial Turf & Tractor; Luke Yoder, Greater Des Moines Baseball.

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

MAFMO Chapter

The MAFMO Chapter STMA will hold a "Specification Writing Seminar" from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM on April 16th at the Holiday Inn in College Park, Maryland. Further details will be announced soon.

To make communication even easier -- MAFMO will soon be on the Internet!

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

Colorado Chapter

The Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association has elected their 1998 Board of Directors. President is Abby McNeal - Pleasant View Sports Complex; Vice President is Troy Smith - Denver Broncos; Past President is Dave Rulli - Jeffco Stadium; and Commercial Representative is Richard McDonald - RBI. Directors are: John Kasza - City of Westminster Parks; Jeff Henke - City of Fort Collins Parks; Jim Lamb - Littleton Public Schools; Jim Mueller - City of Westminster Parks; and Dave Brueggeman - South Suburban Parks and Recreation. CSTMA Executive Secretary is Bobbi Smith.

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

continued on page 12

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

by Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

THE EVOLUTION OF THE STMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

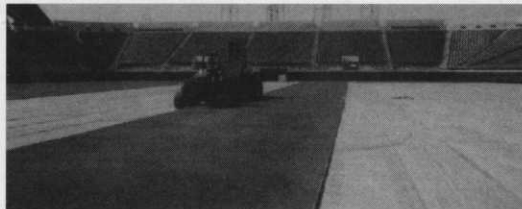
In 1984 STMA officers took a bold step and decided to break away from the the Parks and Grounds Management Institute (which they had been previously affiliated with), form their own national organization and have their own annual meeting. Once we established our first independent office (in my garage in Ontario, California), we approached the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) at their annual meeting and trade show in Washington, D.C., in 1985, to discuss the possibility of holding an educational meeting at their annual conference and allowing our members to attend their trade show. One of my former students, James Prusa, was the GCSAA's Associate Executive Director during this period and he arranged for STMA to be included in their conference in 1986 in San Francisco. In addition to holding our first *independent* annual meeting, STMA had a booth at the trade show.

Speakers at our first meeting included not only Drs. Beard, Daniel & Grau; but also David Frey, Barney Barron, Steve Wightman, Harry Gill, Mike Schiller, Don Marshall Tom Mascaro, John Souter and some I can't even remember

(sorry if I missed someone). By all accounts, our first attempt at an independent Conference was highly successful. We even launched our first "Seminar on Wheels," with stops at the athletic fields in Golden Gate Park, Candlestick Park and the Oakland Coliseum.

Our 2nd Annual Conference was held in conjunction with the GCSAA in Phoenix, Arizona. Not unlike our first attempt, this Conference was filled with great enthusiasm and hope for bigger and better things to come. We had an excellent educational program, a booth at the trade show, and our 2nd Seminar on Wheels which included stops at Sun Devil Stadium, the Chicago Cubs spring training facility in Mesa, and a visit to the Milwaukee Brewers new spring training site, Compadre Stadium, where Harry Gill and the Brewer's General Manager, Harry Dalton, led us on a tour and talked to the group. We also had our first banquet -- complete with keynote speaker, Joe Torre, former player with the St. Louis Cardinals, now a manager for the NY Yankees. The banquet also marked the first scholarship recipients, David Mellor
continued on page 9

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Doc's Dugout

continued from page 7

(Harry Gill Award) and David Arnold (Jeff Wishard Award). Jeff Wishard, who was permanently injured in a football accident and a paraplegic, was flown to the conference to honor him with a scholarship named for him and also made an Honorary Life Member. Also honored as Life Members were Tom Mascaro, Dr. William Kneebone, and John Souter.

The 3rd Annual Conference, held once again in conjunction with the GCSAA, was in Houston, Texas. The Seminar on Wheels tour visited the ballfields in Pasadena, Texas, and a worn out synthetic field. After a bus ride in a snow storm, we meet Eugene Mayer, who spent many hours making the turf plots at the O.M. Scotts research center, which the snow covered and we didn't get to see. This Conference marked the "winds of change" for STMA. The Board of Directors decided to move our headquarters to a new office building in Upland, California, and to initiate a conference and trade show separate from the GCSAA.

The 1st Annual STMA Conference & Exhibition was held in 1989 at Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Florida. We

arranged a large outdoor trade show for our commercial members and were able to utilize the ballfields for demonstrations of equipment, materials and products. Demonstrations included the painting of logos, topdressing of ballfields, equipment for scarifying skinned infields, and fertilizer plots. Speakers at OUR first Conference included; Dr. James Watson, John Souter, James Paterson, a bowling green specialist from Edinburgh, Scotland, and my late wife, Patricia. It was at this time, due to my wife's illness and eventual death, that I stepped down as Executive Director. The reins were handed to past president, Mark Hodnick, and then to Dale Keller from Las Vegas where the office was relocated. I was appointed by the Board to a new position in 1990 as Educational Director. I would like to thank, once again, the Board members from 1984 - David Frey, Dale Sandin, Mike Schiller, Don Marshall, Steve Wightman, Harry Gill, Roy Zehren and Barney Barton for the opportunity to serve STMA.

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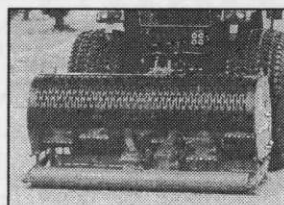
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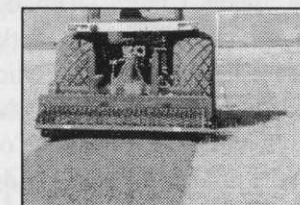
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STMA NAMES TOP FIELDS

Awards were presented for top maintenance of natural playing surfaces and support facilities in four major sports areas: baseball, softball, football and soccer.

The Football Field of the Year Award was presented to Casey Field of the City of Covington, Virginia. Director of Parks and Recreation for the city is Allen L. Dressler.

The College Soccer Field of the Year Award was presented to Pleasant View Sports Complex of Boulder, Colorado. Ms. Abby McNeal is the Turfgrass Manager at this Complex.

The High School Soccer Field of the Year Award was presented to Flinn Memorial Stadium, of the Quincy Public Schools, Quincy, Illinois. Kurt Knuf is turf manager for the facility. For the first time in STMA history, a field was selected Field of the Year in two different categories, in two successive years. Flinn Memorial Stadium was named High School Football Field of the Year at STMA's 1997 Conference.

The Softball Field of the Year Award was presented to the Joy Christian Complex of Bellevue Baptist Church of Cordova, Tennessee. Robert A. Bodi is Director and Clifford Smith is Supervisor of this Complex.

The baseball field awards, deemed the Beam Clay® Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards, are given in three categories. These awards are sponsored jointly by STMA, sportsTURF magazine, and Beam Clay®.

The Beam Clay® Professional Baseball Diamond of the Year Award was given to Hoover Metropolitan Stadium, home of the Southern League Double-A Birmingham Barons. This is the first time the same Head Groundskeeper has been honored twice for his work at two different facilities and at two different levels of baseball. Steve Horne was Head Groundskeeper/Stadium Manager at the University of Mississippi when Swayze Field was selected "College Baseball Diamond of the Year" for 1992. Steve is currently Director of Field Operations for the AAA Memphis Redbirds. Mike Zullo, who was Steve's assistant at Birmingham, is the new Head Groundskeeper for the Barons.

The Beam Clay® College Baseball Diamond of the Year Award was presented to Liberty University's Al Worthington Baseball Stadium in Lynchburg, Virginia. Honored for this achievement were: Dave Pastors, Head Baseball Coach; Randy Johnson, Director of Field Operations; and Brock Van Faussien, Baseball Groundskeeper.

The Beam Clay® Diamond of the Year Award in the Schools, Municipalities, and Parks category went to Potter Park Field of La Junta, Colorado. Michael Sexton, Director of Parks & Recreation; Tony Madrid, Maintenance Coordinator; and Richard Sandoval, Recreation Coordinator; along with their five person part-time crew were honored for this achievement.

STM

Remedies for Failing Fields

continued from page 5

during stress periods can cause significant root decline. Proper mowing may be very important to turf performance. Mowing at the proper height and frequency maintains a dense turf that is more wear tolerant and quicker to recover. Higher mowing heights reduce the number of growing points per unit area which results in a more open turf. Hybrid bermudagrasses may be mowed between 0.5 and 1.5 inches. As the mowing height increases above this upper range, turf quality decreases, and athlete slippage tends to increase. Common bermudagrass generally should be cut one inch higher than a hybrid. Close mowing, particularly late in the growing season, may increase winter injury, so allowing extra leaf growth at that time of year often provides more protection

continued on page 15

Members on the Move

Michael Zullo, former Assistant Head Groundskeeper with the Birmingham Barons is now Head Groundskeeper.

Walt Cargile, former student member, is now the Assistant Head Groundskeeper with the Birmingham Barons.

Martin K. Kaufman, former Assistant Groundskeeper in Greensboro, NC is now with the Charlotte Knights.

Matthew Clement has taken the position of Grounds Manager at Taft School, Watertown, CT.

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!

Employment Opportunities!!

The **University of Virginia** has an opening for a Head Groundskeeper/Agronomist.

The **Los Angeles Dodgers** have an opening for an Assistant Field Superintendent.

The **Miami Dolphins** are seeking a Grounds Superintendent and/or Assistant.

The **Oakland Athletics** have openings for an Assistant Groundskeeper, Spring Training Grounds Crew and Various Internship and Grounds Crew positions.

HersheyPark has an opening for a Stadium Grounds Specialist.

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

Awards Banquet Honors Members

The Harry C. Gill Award, STMA Groundskeeper of the Year, was presented to Eugene Mayer, Technical Training and Support Manager for The Scotts Company, Marysville, OH. The Harry C. Gill Award is one of the four Founders Awards, the most prestigious honors issued by STMA. Named for one of the original founders, legendary for his support of the goals and standards on which STMA is based, the Gill Award denotes an individual's long-time service and commitment to STMA and those same goals and standards. Eugene Mayer has given extraordinary service to STMA, filling a vital role on the board as board member, Commercial Vice-President, and just completing a two-year stint as Secretary. In addition, Mr. Mayer coordinated annual Conference details as both Committee Member and Exhibits Chair. His commitment to STMA and guidance of the Association's growth and development have been outstanding.

The Dick Ericson Award, another of the Founders Awards, was named for Mr. Ericson in honor of the significant contributions that he has made to STMA, including serving as its first President in 1981-1982, and his continuing impact in raising the level of professionalism within the industry. This Award is issued to someone who is planning and executing the sports turf management of their facility. The 1997 Dick Ericson Award recipient was Merton Johnson, California State University-Fullerton's Sports Turf Manager. During his 30 year career in sports turf management, Mr. Johnson made significant contributions for the good of the facilities under his management and for the benefit of the industry as a whole.

The George Toma Golden Rake Award was named for another STMA Founder. Besides being one of STMA's Founders, Mr. Toma is also a long-time STMA supporter, who has served, and continues to serve, as a mentor for many of those in the sports turf industry. The recipient of this Award is someone who is on that quest to reach their goals and is demonstrating the "and then some" spirit which is so much a part of Mr. Toma's approach to sports turf management. The recipient of the 1997 George Toma Golden Rake Award was Timothy Burke, Bethel, Connecticut's, Director of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Burke started out in the recreation department as a teen volunteer, moved into a paid position and worked his way up to the directorship. He's been in the position of Director for 18 years. He has not only instigated innovative programs that benefit the city's recreational facilities and outreach efforts, he also continues to be an active volunteer - definitely exhibiting the "and then some" spirit. It's significant that Mr. Burke's nomination for this Award was made on behalf of the Bethel Parks and Recreation Commission and the citizens of the town of Bethel, Connecticut.

The Dr. William H. Daniel Award, (formerly the Excellence in Research Award) is now one of the four Founders Awards, named for the late Dr. Daniel on behalf of his pioneering efforts and long-term support of STMA and the pattern he set for educator involvement in the Association. The Dr. William H. Daniel Award for 1997 was presented to Dr. James Beard for the tremendous impact that he has made in the fields of research and teaching in the sports turf industry.

Recipient of the Outstanding Commercial Affiliate Award for 1997 was The Toro Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Award was presented to The Toro Company in recognition of the company's long-standing and continuing support of the STMA. The company is a long-term advertising supporter of STMA's publications; provides sponsorship which reduces the production and mailing costs of the STMA newsletter, helps support the annual Conference, and continues to promote professionalism within the sports turf industry.

continued on page 12

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STMA Chapter Information

continued from page 7

Minnesota Chapter:STMA

The Minnesota Chapter is holding their Spring Workshop March 25th. Location to be announced.

New Board Members for the Minnesota Chapter are Paul Griffin, President, Joe Long, President-elect and Lori Gislason, Treasurer.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter and pending activities, contact: Connie Rudolph at (612) 646-1679.

The Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association is in the process of planning its 1998 schedule of events. Details will be announced soon.

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

For information on 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: Join the STMAZ as they move towards affiliation with meetings on February 19, March 12 and April 9. These meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at A to Z Equipment Rental & Sales located at 4050 E. Indian School Road in Phoenix. A summer seminar is also in the works to be held in Show Low.

This year's community service project is under way with a renovation of the softball/multi-use field at the Chandler Boy's and Girl's Club with a completion date of April 4. For more information and work times, contact: Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department at (602) 786-2728.

For information on meetings, the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona or upcoming events, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954.

A new Chapter is developing. The Great Lakes Sports Turf Managers Association will include Ohio and Michigan, and reach into areas of Indiana and Ontario, Canada. The first general meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on March 24th at Sylvania Pacesetter Park, 8801 Sylvania Metamora Road in Sylvania, Ohio.

For information on this event or the newly forming Chapter contact: Joe Zelinko of Athletic Field Services at (800) 897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery of the Sylvania Recreation Corporation at (419) 885-1982.

Plans are moving forward on the formation of a Nevada Chapter of STMA. For information on this developing Chapter, contact: Ibsen Dow, Phone (702) 649-1551.

Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association - The next meeting of the Great Plains STMA will be held March 12 in Wichita from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For information on the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association or upcoming activities, contact: Mark Schimming, City of Wichita, at (316) 337-9123.

Awards of Recognition

continued from page 11

The Presidents Award was given to Mike Trigg, Superintendent of Parks for the Waukegan, Illinois, Park District, in acknowledgment of his outstanding efforts on behalf of STMA's Raffle and Auction held each year at the Conference. Funds raised through these efforts have allowed STMA to greatly expand its Scholarship program.

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How Do You Do...?

continued from page 4

Answered by Charles Amos, Chief Supervisor of Recreation & Sports, University of Michigan

In my situation, we don't really have any "slow" time. We are not only in charge of field maintenance for outdoor sports, we are also snow removal, salting, and events set-up. SO -- during the winter, in addition to our outside work, we move indoors for basketball, hockey, gymnastics, track & field, etc.

As far as the outside fields go, we begin with the winterizing of our equipment in the fall. Then we do any additional servicing, repairs and/or overhauling as needed. Since the weather here is very unpredictable, we need to not only look at which type of field (football, baseball, etc.) is going to be needed first, but also which fields are going to be accessible first.

Our fiscal year begins July 1st, so we often have the problem that a lot of our major projects are going to occur towards the end of our budget year. Therefore, it is VERY important for us to set not only priorities, but NEEDS and WANTS. Our needs category would include such things as aerifying, seeding, topdressing and chemical applications -- wants, at this point, would include cosmetic improvements, new equipment, etc.

I feel that it is very important to have EVERYONE involved in the priority making discussions. This includes the coaches, students and my entire crews, as well as those that hold the purse strings. We have an outside consultant that I work with to set the spring schedules, which we can do after assessing field conditions in the fall. We have been working with #1 priority fields as well as a few that we are working with on a 5-year plan (i.e. working on them in stages to bring up to par, instead of blowing the budget on a major reconstruction project).

As with anything, communication is a top priority, and everyone involved needs to be kept up-to-date on the status of all of the fields.

STM

NEW MEMBERS

continued from page 6

Keith Stockford Colby College Waterville, ME	Henry L. Stone Marriott Mgmt. Svcs. St. Petersburg, FL	Justin Storm Michigan State Univ. E. Lansing, MI	Suntec Paint, Inc. Joseph Anderson Gainesville, FL
Supaturf Products Demie Moore Sandy, UT	John Sweet Texas Christian Univ. Fl. Worth, TX	William Sweeting Brockport Central School Brockport, NY	Gary Tanner Student Bowling Green, KY
John Terry Rain Bird Sales Tucson, AZ	David L. Thigpen Millsaps College Jackson, MS	Ike Thomas Thomas Bros. Grass Granbury, TX	Stan Thomas Thomas Bros. Grass Taft, TN
Paul Thorborn Jensen Corp. Cupertino, CA	Cindy Tonderum Iowa Lakes Comm. Coll. Spencer, IA	Tree Top Landscaping Doug Vescio Lexington, KY	Turfcon, Inc. Douglas Peabody Columbus, OH
Dr. A.J. Turgeon Penn State Univ. University Park, PA	Jeff Underwood Nicholasville-Jessamine Nicholasville, KY	Richard Vetstringhe Gananda Central School Wallworth, NY	Walter E. Wells Lake City Comm. Coll. Lake City, FL

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!

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Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

We have just returned from Orlando and this office's third Conference. I had the privilege of attending 3 Conferences prior to 1996. Each one has been better than the previous. Increased attendance is one of the primary reasons that the conferences are better. There are more people there to exchange ideas with, more people at the trade show, more people in the educational sessions and functions, and that makes the conference more valuable to everyone involved. Another factor that helps things go more smoothly is more activity by committee members, board members and others willing to pitch in to help whenever and wherever needed. Our getting to know more people helps with communication and camaraderie. While we really do appreciate all of the compliments, we especially want and need to hear what we can do to make next year's Conference even better. We welcome your thoughts and will give every possible consideration to all suggestions.

We also want to hear from those of you who didn't make it to Orlando. What can we do to make attending the annual Conference a must on your to-do list? What can be done to provide even more value? What can we do to make sure you have all the information you need to make the decision to attend? How can we help you convince your budget people that the STMA Conference is one of the most important aspects of your job? What can we do to convince you that your boss and/or co-workers and/or employees should also attend? Let us know -- **we want to see you next year in Arizona.**

Thank you to all who helped in this year's Conference success. The board and committee members, the folks at Disney, the speakers and moderators, the sponsors, the tour guides, all of the exhibitors and attendees. It is most enjoyable helping so many people have a good time and get something out of their efforts.

Besides all of the activities included on the program for the conference, several other meetings took place. Your Board held their quarterly Board Meeting to review STMA's progress and make plans for the future. As reported at the Annual Meeting, STMA membership has more than doubled in the last two years. STMA is financially stable. STMA gave more in scholarships than ever before and all three scholarship winners got to attend

the Conference. Thanks to all of the support on the silent and live auctions and the raffle, we'll be able to fund even more in scholarships next year!



Tom Curran calls live action

The certification committee met and did some fine tuning on the CSTM program. The certification Round-Table discussions were most informative -- for me and the other participants. Dale Getz has agreed to co-chair the Certification Committee with me for the coming year. Watch for more advancement of this worthwhile program.

The Chapter Breakfast again proved to be a lively exchange of ideas on chapter development. The Mid-South Chapter officially welcomed as your newest affiliated chapter and representatives of some additional forming chapters picked up good ideas. If you don't have a chapter in your area, maybe now is the time to help form one.

Several Category I members got together for breakfast and discussions on how they can get more Sports Turf Managers of professional facilities involved in STMA. They discussed ways that STMA and the individuals that deal with professional sports can work together to ensure a mutually beneficial relationship. Look for information on this as the year progresses. As in all areas, your thoughts are most welcome. Paul Zwaska, Steve Wightman, Murray Cook and Tom Burns, as well as Headquarters, would be your first contacts for suggestions.



Reggie Williams

The Sports Turf Manager does make a difference at every level of play. Reggie Williams' presentation at the kick-off of Friday's Trade Show session brought that point home once again in emphatic, dynamic and indisputable terms. STMA exists as your educational resource, your idea exchange center to help you raise the level of professionalism throughout the industry. But -- none of that "works" without you!

Dues notices went out at the end of December and renewals are coming in very strong. **If you haven't renewed, please do so right away to avoid missing your listing**

in the 1998 Membership Roster & Resource Manual.

If you know of someone that might benefit from STMA membership, pass the information along. We want membership to double again -- in less than two years.

Until next time -- may your challenges be no greater than those which will bring out the best in you and those around you!

Remedies for Failing Fields

continued from page 10
to growing points.

Understanding and identifying the first signs of drought stress is important to proper water management. Turfgrasses don't need water unless they are showing signs of moisture stress such as turning off color (bluish grey) and allowing foot prints to be seen for an extended period. The basic rule of one inch of water per week of active growth applied in a single application is still a good rule of thumb. Lighter, more frequent irrigation encourages shallow rooting and moist soils more easily compact than dry soils. So, if possible, don't irrigate 24 to 48 hours before field use. Perhaps running a system on successive nights to apply one inch is more effective than applying all the water at once. Don't forget that an irrigation system is a machine and like any machine it needs routine maintenance. Often budgeting time and resources to irrigation maintenance is overlooked.

Soil fertility problems often are very subtle. Normally, rapid greening and increased

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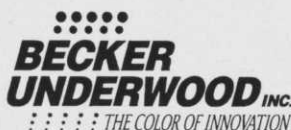
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growth result from N fertilization. However, if the soil pH drops from 7.0 to 4.5, N, P, K and other nutrient efficiencies decrease dramatically. So just because you don't see the normal response to N does not mean it is an N problem. Hard, compacted soils also may show similar problems. On sandy soils perhaps nematodes or other insects may be affecting fertilizer response. Excessive use of N provides beautiful color, but also increases water and mowing needs, and can significantly reduce traffic and other stress tolerance.

Finally, often the most difficult part of a sports turf manager's job is communicating his needs to produce the quality fields that people expect. Often good photographs of the good and the bad help explain situations. It is very difficult to find that "common" ground to communicate with administrators that sports fields are biological systems that respond according to a complex system of environmental and management factors. Being able to show symptoms usually helps explain problems. One very common oversight is the lack of consideration for increased field use without increased turf management.

This article is a reprint of Dr. Landry's handout at the Round-Table discussion at the Conference.

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