

Braving Florida's Raging Infernos

Input provided by members Newton Nicholson, Chris McCarthy and Murray Cook

You've seen it on the news -- the raging fires, the thick black smoke. You can imagine, in your own mind, the heat, the smell, the devastation. What would you do if this happened to you? Would your fields hold up under this kind of pressure? Would you? Here's a first-hand look at what a few of our members in Florida actually DID have to put up with - and how they endured.



Soccer Field at Ormond Beach Recreation Complex

What was once acres and acres of green - trees, grass and other vegetation - now stands black and bleak along the highways, roadways, housing developments and parks. Approximately 435,000 acres of Florida's agricultural land were covered by the fires. That's around 3.2 percent of their total agricultural land but adds up to 11 percent of Brevard and 19 percent of Flagler counties' agricultural land. (These figures were being updated and residential and community property damage totals were still being tabulated at press time.)

The heat and lack of rain combined to create "tinder-box" conditions. Trees that looked green on the outside were actually dry and brittle, and would snap into flames.

Newton Nicholson, Maintenance Supervisor for the City of Daytona Beach, was right in the thick of things. He said that before the fires even started, their football field looked like a desert and he had to replace about 20,000 sq. ft. of sod. Fire came to within 100-200 feet of the stadium and between the ash and embers, he's not sure now how that sod is going to fare.

Murray Cook, Baseball Stadium Manager at

Disney's Wide World of Sports™ complex, in the Orlando area, said they actually had a lightning strike on the sports complex property that started a fire that was visible from the top of the stadium. The call went out immediately and fire crews responded at once, but despite all that, 1 1/2 acres were burned.

Fourth of July fireworks were cancelled in Daytona Beach, Orlando, and surrounding areas. The Disney Theme Parks cancelled their fireworks displays for a full week as an added precaution, even though standard safety measures include the use of a water cannon throughout the day to thoroughly wet down the "landing site."

The Pepsi 400 at the Daytona International Speedway was cancelled because of the fires. Daytona Beach, which is usually



Next to the Parking Lot at Ormond Beach Recreation Complex

packed during the races, was almost deserted. Summer parks concerts and playground activities for children were also cancelled in Daytona Beach.

Ormond Beach, just north of Daytona, suffered severe damage also. At the recreation complex, the

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President's Message

What a Group!

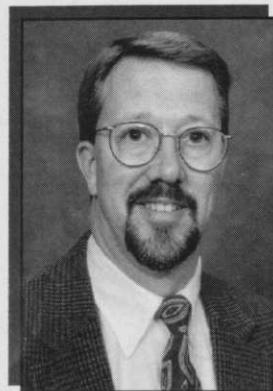
by Steve Guise, President

By now you all should have received your 1998 Membership Roster and Resource Manual. As I thumb through the names and titles, I feel very proud of the individuals, facilities and companies now represented in our growing organization. As a seasoned member, I can tell you that this list of sports turf managers is the best I've seen during my eight year tenure for networking within our elite industry. This new Roster is a library of contacts each representing years of experience and knowledge – information to aid us all.

I can't tell you how many times over the past years I have called members and been called by members from around the country. It's great!

For me, with my consulting business, this networking has been a resource of advice, especially on agronomic suggestions in areas of the country that I am not familiar with or where I've had limited previous hands-on experience. I have called on member resources such as Dr. Gil Landry, of the University of Georgia, and Frank Hardy, of Standard Sand in Florida, for Southeastern field design and turf maintenance recommendations. I've sought assistance from Eugene Mayer, of the Scotts Company, and Dr. Henry Indyk, of Turfcon, for their East Coast and Midwest experience. And, in the western part of the country, the members I've contacted are too numerous to mention. THANKS to ALL of you! Your help is, and has been, much appreciated.

The resources are endless and all that accumulated education, knowledge and experience that you tap into will expand your own personal resources, not only making you a better sports turf manager, but also making you a better resource for other sports turf managers when you're on the receiving end of one of those networking calls.



Steve Guise

Another resource manual that you should have received with your Membership Roster is the STMA Compendium of articles, Sports Turf Topics. These are either written by, or about, STMA members. As you review these articles that were published worldwide on behalf of our organization, you will detect some of those members who have a great deal of knowledge to share. It takes time and effort to produce an article and I thank all of you that have contributed.

I invite those of you that have something to share to contact our Headquarters. Suz Trusty or Stephanie Watts (*congratulations Steph to you and your new husband David!*) can work with you -- by interview, from notes, or from a draft of an article -- to help get out your message. As a past contributor, I can tell you that the experience is rewarding.

So don't just file your Roster and Compendium. Visit with your fellow members and read about their experiences and their solutions to the everyday problems that we all experience in one of the most demanding jobs known to mankind - the sports turf manager.

Summer is here - let's get at it!

How Do You Do...?

The Question -- How Do You Explain the Benefits of Attending Conferences/Educational Sessions to Include them in Your Budget?

Answered by Mike Boekholder, Durham (NC) Bulls Baseball Club

Attending conferences is an excellent way to not only improve your knowledge but to also network with other individuals within your field. When I am asked to justify conference registration, travel and expenses to my general manager during our yearly budget sessions, I give the following reasons why conference attendance is so important:

By allowing staff to attend conferences, it accomplishes a few things. First off, the educational sessions give you and your staff the opportunity to stay current on the latest trends and techniques being used by others in your field. Second, it gives you the opportunity to meet and interact with other individuals within your industry from all parts of the country (if it is a national conference) or at least from your geographic area (if it is a regional conference), something you normally wouldn't have the opportunity to do. These contacts will more than likely help you solve some problem down the road and can be as valuable a resource as the information you gain during the educational sessions. In addition, conferences allow your staff in many instances to gain valuable CEU's that are required by most states to maintain a current pesticide applicators license.

All of these reasons can help you justify the expense of attending conferences to your organization. They can also help your boss better understand how these educational opportunities benefit the organization as a whole, allowing your department to become more effective in doing its job for the company.

Answered by Bob Milano, Jr., University of California-Berkeley

I feel very strongly that

attending educational seminars and conferences is not an option but a requirement for any sports turf manager. I would highly recommend that you take a strong proactive stance and include these costs in your budget for yourself as well as your staff. Explain to your administration that these training sessions will yield much more than the investment in the following areas: 1) Improve networking for advice and troubleshooting 2) New materials, methods and techniques 3) Increase vendor contacts for competitive pricing, and 4) Safer more effective chemical use and environmental sensitivity

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY - Allowing staff to participate demonstrates to them that they are important, valuable components of the program, thus improving morale, productivity and staff self esteem. Good Luck!

Answered by David Flumbaum, University of Maryland Campus Recreation

Practice can make perfect, but consulting with and learning

from leading sports turf experts and other sports turf managers is a more practical and better use of your resources. Most sports turf managers have very limited resources and justifying the use of some of these resources on a conference, seminar or trade show can be a challenge.

Justification of conference expenses requires demonstrating the practical benefits that you and your organization will gain from your attendance and participation in the conference, as well as the resourcefulness of doing so.

Some practical benefits include: State or local recertification of pesticide licenses/permits through session attendance, continuing education credit for certain session participation, and the demonstration of products and equipment at trade shows that provide valuable information for future purchases.

Demonstrating the resourcefulness of conference participation
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picnic areas and trees surrounding the soccer fields suffered the most. Luckily, the soccer field itself escaped serious damage.

Back in Daytona Beach, Nicholson was also having a problem with irrigation water. Although the football field is next to the water re-use plant, all available water HAD TO BE be channeled to putting out these fires - lives as well as property were at stake.

Chris McCarthy, Parks Supervisor, City of Sebastian, said that the closest actual fire to them was about 10 miles to the north in a wildlife refuge area

but that the combination of heat (temperatures remain in the upper 90s even now), smoke and the smell of the actual fires made it difficult to be outside for any more than a couple hours at a time.



Picnic area at Ormond Beach Recreation Complex

The heat, smoke and ash throughout the region were a big factor in cancellations of sporting events in many parts of Florida. Exposure, especially during the exertion of practice and competition, were a physical risk. Crew time in that environment needed to be monitored closely.

Masks were provided to McCarthy's crew and it was up to the discretion of each individual to wear them or not. Breaks after about 2 hours were mandatory.

We hear as we get ready to go to press that the rains have begun again and the fires have died down and are under control. Our sports turf managers, and everyone else in the area, can begin anew. Our prayers are with you guys - keep us informed of your progress

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Aeration Strategies to Reduce Compaction

by Dr. Gil Landry, Jr., University of Georgia

Compaction is one of turf's hidden enemies. It reduces turf quality and affects athletic field playing conditions. Top growth slows, resulting in less cushioning for the players. Weeds become a problem. The compacted soil itself forms a harder surface due to increased density of soil particles.

Soil aeration is an important tool in a turf-maintenance program. It not only reduces compaction, but also helps turf stand up to stress, including heavy use. Aeration opens channels in the soil through which air, water and nutrients can move more freely. Percolation and infiltration are improved. Deep rooting is encouraged. Aeration also "softens" hard soil by increasing pore space, enabling the soil to "give" in response to impact, an excellent benefit for sports fields. The most effective aeration strategies meet the needs of the turf without disrupting its aesthetic appeal or the field-use requirements.

Assess Current Conditions

Unlike soil pH or fertility, soil compaction is not easy to quantify. Inspect turf for such signs of stress as thinning, lack of vigor or fading color. Note sections that react most quickly to high temperatures or lack of moisture. Check spots where turf shows weed invasion, insect or disease damage or less response to fertilization.

Look for factors other than compaction that can contribute to turf stress. Such situations might include high spots that receive inadequate moisture and dry out quickly, low spots where drainage is poor and excess moisture puddles, areas of heavy thatch buildup, or sections with buried rocks or debris.

Where no other contributing factors are discovered, compare stressed turf with areas of thriving turf. Are the grass varieties and soil types the same? Do both areas receive the same maintenance including fertilization and irrigation?

Compare turf-use patterns. Sections subjected to the most activity will be the most susceptible to compaction - for example, between the hash marks on a football field or the goal mouths of a soccer field.

Degree and Depth of Compaction

Use a soil probe, shovel or penetrometer to check the degree and depth of compaction. Soil should be moist during this process. The greater the degree of compaction at a specific point, the more difficult it will be to sink the probe into the soil.

Foot traffic and sports activity normally will cause the greatest compaction in the top two or three inches of soil. Construction equipment or frequent traffic by maintenance equipment can cause deeper compaction. Core

aeration, repeated to the same depth, may cause a layer of compaction at the penetration depth.

Examine the core of soil removed for changes in texture or color. Clay soils and other fine-textured silt soils are more easily compacted than those with a higher sand content.

Different soil textures and/or colors within the soil-probe sample could signal a layering condition. When layering occurs, soil moisture movement, air movement and rooting may be disrupted. Aeration and topdressing can help alleviate this condition.

Check turf root growth. Shallow roots or poor root development can indicate the depth of compaction or a change in soil texture.

Cultivation may not be the answer. Improved drainage or soil modification may be necessary, or perhaps better traffic and irrigation control are sufficient. In most cases, a combination of cultivation and these practices will be needed.

Explore Your Aeration Options

Shallow aeration reaches into the top three or four inches of soil. Deep aeration reaches deeper than four inches.

Shallow aeration equipment may use solid spikes or hollow tines or spoons. Solid spikes punch holes in the soil, creating openings without removing soils. Hollow tines or spoons remove a "core" of soil that is deposited on the soil surface and then becomes topdressing over the turf. Deep aeration equipment may move the soil with a vibrating or lifting action, or it may spike or slice into the soil with little movement.

Any tool used to penetrate the soil will cause some compaction. The question should be whether it relieves more compaction than it causes. Hollow tines or spoons that remove the soil cause less compaction around and below the tine than do solid tines. Also, cultivation with different types of equipment and to different depths should minimize compaction from cultivation. Normal coring will not increase weed problems after a preemergent herbicide is applied.

Another consideration is the depth to which the aeration method is effective. Obviously, even in shallow aeration, the procedure must work deeply enough in the soil to reach the level of compaction. With deep compaction, temporary relief can be achieved with frequent, shallow aeration. But, eventually that hardpan barrier must be penetrated for proper turf growth. With subsurface aeration, determine whether loosening or vibration of

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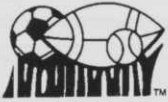
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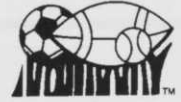
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Sports Turf Happenings



Chapter Events

WELCOME TO STMA'S TWO NEWEST AFFILIATED CHAPTERS: The Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA) and the Great Lakes Sports Turf Managers Association (GLSTMA) both have completed all requirements for affiliation and were officially recognized as affiliated chapters by the STMA Board at the June 19-20, 1998, Board Meeting.

The Great Lakes Sports Turf Managers Association (GLSTMA)

GLSTMA closed their Charter Membership enrollment at the end of their July 10th Workshop, the first meeting as an official affiliated Chapter. As with all Chapters, new members are always welcome and can sign up anytime!

GLSTMA is now accepting entries from their active members for the '98 Sports Facility Awards. Categories are : Professional Facility; College Facility; and School, Municipal or Park Facility. All entries must be submitted by September 1st.

The annual Dinner and Awards Banquet will be held November 5th at 6:30 PM at Baldwin-Wallace College. More details will be announced soon.

Executive board meetings are scheduled for August 25th, September 29th, and October 27th.

For information on these events, the Awards program, or the Chapter contact: Joe Zelinko at (800) 897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery at (419) 885-1982.

The Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA)

MiSTMA 1998 officers are: Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools - President; Chuck Amos, Western Michigan University - President-Elect; Kurt Brace, J. Mollema & Son, Inc. - Secretary; Heather Nabozny, West Michigan Whitecaps - Treasurer; and Matt Heiss, Turf Services - Commercial Vice President.

MiSTMA is planing an August event with presentations on football field compaction. More details will be announced soon.

For information on this event, the Chapter or other pending activities, contact: Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at 616/395-2364.

The Mid-Atlantic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA)

Plans are in the works for an October 1st Fall Field Day at the Baltimore Stadiums. Further details will be announced soon.

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

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

ISTMA will participate in the Iowa Turf Institute Benefit Golf Tournament planned for September 14th at the Glen Oaks Country Club in West Des Moines.

For 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).

The Mid-South Chapter STMA

A Tour of the Pringle Stadium in Jackson, Tennessee, is being planned for early September. More details will be announced soon.

Those within the Mid-South Chapter area with ideas for a regional meeting are asked to contact Chip or Robert at the numbers below.

For more information on this event, the Chapter, any of the regions, or other pending activities, contact: Chip Houmes at (901) 377-5081, Jim Calhoun at (901) 755-1305 or Robert Bodi at (901) 383-2414.

Colorado Chapter

The Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association will hold their CSTMA Fall Seminar on September 17th at Westminster City Park in Westminster, Colorado.

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

Minnesota Chapter:STMA

The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association is planning a September Workshop. Details will be announced soon.

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

by Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

WRIGLEY FIELD - A NOSTALGIC JOURNEY INTO THE FRIENDLY CONFINES

In 1984, I was invited to Wrigley Field - not to watch a game - but to see the field and to meet with Lubie Veal, who at that time was the assistant director of stadium operations. Lubie had spent time in the Montreal and Cincinnati organizations before coming to the Chicago Cubs. Dallas Green was the executive vice-president and general manager who hired Lubie. Frank Capparelli was the supervisor of stadium facilities and Roger O'Connor was the working foreman who directed the grounds crew and made sure the field was prepared for games. Since my initial visit, Lubie and Frank have retired, Dallas Green went to the New York Mets and may have since retired, and Roger has passed away.

When I was a youngster growing up in the Chicago area, I went to games at Wrigley Field with my parents or groups from school. Never did I imagine at that time that I would be involved with sports turf and be able to walk on the field where immortal and legendary

heroes of the past, such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Honus Wagner, Mel Ott, Jimmy Foxx and many others had once trod. The field has not changed much since the Cubs played their first game there on April 20, 1916, except for the installation of the lights in 1988. Only two other ball parks are older than Wrigley Field, Tiger Stadium in Detroit, and Fenway Park in Boston, both of which began operations in 1912.

Early History

The first baseball game was played at Wrigley Field on April 23, 1914. In those days, the field was known as Weeghman Park and was the home of the Chicago Whales, a Federal League team that went out of business two years later. Weeghman Park was built for a sum of \$250,000 and held 14,000 fans. It required 490 men to build the park - 350 were involved in building the structure and 140 landscape specialists from the George

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Doc's Dugout

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Wittbold Florist Company were employed to haul in 4,000 cubic yards of topsoil, install a drainage system (which still works) and to plant 4 acres of Kentucky bluegrass turf. The name of the field was changed to Cubs Park in 1918, and then to Wrigley Field in 1926. The park was double-decked in 1928, and for opening day, 46,000 fans jammed into the park. Over 10,000 watched the game standing along the edge of the field. The large center field scoreboard was constructed in 1937 and continues today to be the only one in the major leagues to be operated by hand. In 1938, a young Bill Veeck (later owner of the Chicago White Sox) left his mark in the friendly confines. Veeck purchased ivy and bittersweet from "Clavey's Corners" and with the aid of Bob Dorr (Park Superintendent) and Cotton Bogren (clubhouse boy and later groundskeeper) ran copper wire up and down the walls and strung the ivy and bittersweet on the brick facade. Each spring, when the ivy comes out of its winter dormancy and greens the brick walls, baseball season has already begun. Until August, 1988, Wrigley Field was the only ball park in the major leagues without lights.

It is interesting to note that in 1941, when night games had become commonplace in major league baseball, the Wrigley family was about to give in to the trend. They purchased the bulbs, wiring, fixtures and had steel fabricated for the light standards. However, when Pearl Harbor was attacked and we went to war, all the lighting equipment was given to the war effort and the lights were never installed.

In the next issue: A look at the modern era at the "friendly confines".

STM

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10th Annual Conference & Exhibition

January 13-17, 1999

Mesa, Arizona

For more information, contact Tom Curran (954) 786-4013 or
Mike Trigg (847) 360-4725.

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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How Do You Do...?

continued from page 3

can be done in several ways: Conference attendance can actually pay for itself through savings resulting from new knowledge gained at the conference. Finding a more cost effective product, learning about a new time saving approach, finding out how to better manage disease and insect problems, learning how to do minor repairs and preventive maintenance on equipment, and learning about athletic field safety and liability issues are some examples of how knowledge learned at a conference will save time and money. Also, being an effective sports turf manager requires a broad range of knowledge, from diseases, insects, agricultural practices, pesticide application, seed and product selection, irrigation operation, maintenance procedures, equipment selection and operation, budget management, etc. No one has all the

knowledge and expertise in every one of these areas, nor should they be expected to. More important is knowing who to ask or where to get the information you need. Networking at conferences and seminars provides the opportunity for making contacts and developing relationships with extension agents, professors, sports turf consultants, other sports turf managers, and vendors. It is these contacts that allow one to quickly get the information needed when new problems arise. Getting the proper information will save time and money. These examples demonstrate how conference attendance can help make better use of available resources.

Justification of conference expenses can take some explaining, but the benefits are well worth the cost and effort.

STM

Call For Nominations

Your nominating committee is seeking individuals willing to serve as board members in the following categories: Category I -- Professional facility sports turf manager and Category III -- Other schools, research, extension agents, teaching.

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

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.

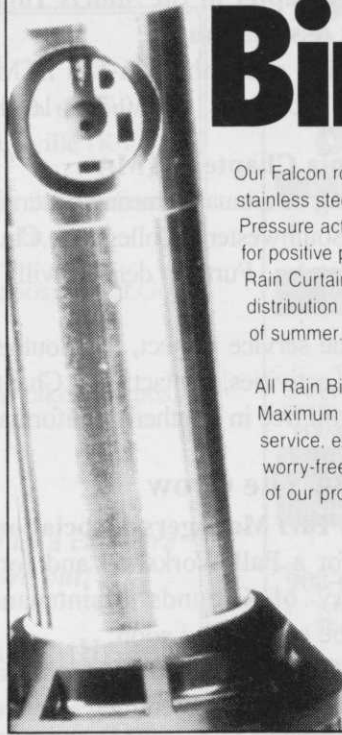
In addition, board members are asked to serve on one or more committees, provide input to other committees, review and vote on key issues affecting the direction of STMA and be responsive to the needs of the membership.

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, Mike Schiller, Rolling Meadows

Park Maintenance Facility, 3900 Berdnick Street, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008, phone: (847) 963-0550, fax: (847) 963-0549 or e-mail: mobygrape@aol.com.

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RAIN BIRD

Chapter Events

continued from page 8

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

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO Chapter STMA)

KAFMO is planning a Fall Field Day tentatively set for October 6th at Lehigh University. More details will be announced soon.

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

Midwest Chapter: STMA

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

Florida Chapter #1: STMA

The Chapter will participate in the Florida Turfgrass Association Show in Tampa September 16 through the 19th. Stop by the STMA booth for updates on the Chapter and on National.

A field construction and renovation Seminar is planned for October 20th at Palm Beach Gardens. Further details will be announced soon.

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

The Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association

For general information about the Nor-Cal STMA Chapter, contact: Sal Genito, UC Davis, at 530/752-1691.

Southern California Chapter:STMA

The Chapter is planning its annual community service project for early August at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, CA (San Diego County). Further details will be announced soon.

For information on the service project, the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact: The Chapter Hotline: (1-888) 578-STMA (toll free in Southern California).

Chapters On The Grow

Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association -

Plans are moving forward for a Fall Workshop and for a Workshop with Floyd Perry of Grounds Maintenance Services. More details will be announced soon.

For information on these events, the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association or other upcoming activities, contact: Mark Schimming, City of Wichita, at (316) 337-9123.

Arizona - For information on the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona or upcoming events, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954, or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department at (602) 786-2728.

Indiana - Plans are moving forward for the formation of a new chapter in Indiana. For information on this developing chapter, contact: Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at (219) 356-8424 or Pat Hickner at (800) 672-4273.

Nevada - For information on the forming Nevada Chapter of STMA or upcoming events, contact: Ibsen Dow at (702) 649-1551 or Alan Paulson, Clark County School District, at (702) 799-8724.

Wisconsin - For information on the newly forming Wisconsin Chapter, contact: Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates, Inc. at (715) 341-2633.

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Member STMA / Sports Turf Managers Association

Growing into the New Millennium

What's in Store For You!?!?

As we rapidly approach the new millennium, I'm sure we are all plagued by numerous questions - from others as well as those we ask ourselves. STMA's 1999 Conference & Exhibition in Mesa, Arizona, January 13-17, will help you to prepare for the challenges ahead as you "grow" your sports turf management program, your relationships with your employees, co-workers, supervisors and peers -- and as you move forward in your own career growth.

Mesa is one of the cities in the greater Phoenix area, just a short distance from the Phoenix airport -- and in the heart of the Arizona sports mecca -- so the Seminar on Wheels tours will be GREAT!

Our headquarters hotel is the Sheraton Mesa. The trade show will be held indoors at the

Mesa Community Center, right next door to the headquarters hotel. You'll have ample time to view the exhibits and, again this year, a reception and a luncheon in the trade show area will give you some informal time to get to know the vendors.

By popular demand, Products on Parade, a show and tell" session by vendors will be included in the Friday program. It will take place in the outdoor amphitheater next to the hotel and Community Center.

Along with our general and triple choice concurrent sessions, the 1999 Conference will feature extended and expanded Round-Table discussions.

So -- Make your plans NOW to get in on the education -- and the FUN in store for you in Mesa as we Grow Into the New Millennium! STM

Members on the Move

Douglas Bradley, formerly with Georgetown College, has taken the position of Superintendent of Athletic Grounds for the University of Louisville (KY).

Scott Gaunky, formerly with Mundelein High School, has taken the position of Grounds/Fleet Supervisor at the College of Lake County, Grays Lake, IL.

Steven Nash, formerly with Gallaudet University has taken the position of Golf Course Superintendent at the Hidden Creek Country Club.

Jeff Salmond, former grad student at Iowa State University has taken the position of Turf Manager with the Baltimore Ravens.

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!

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Aeration Strategies to Reduce Compaction

continued from page 5

the soil will be needed, rather than penetration alone, to break the compaction barrier effectively.

The greater the degree of change in existing conditions, the greater and longer lasting the effect. Core aeration is more effective than spike aeration and has longer-lasting benefits; deep shatter aeration has a greater and longer-lasting effect than a deep slicing or spiking, which causes little soil movement.

Consider the extent of the problem. How much effect is compaction having on turf growth and recovery?

If turf on a field is severely thinned or has worn away completely, players may be exposed to potential injury. In that case, immediate action, such as resodding, may be required. If damage is minor, less disruptive practices can be used.

Match Method to Turf Conditions

No one cultivation option is right for all conditions or time periods. Matching the method to turf growth cycles, weather conditions and scheduled use will mean using different types of cultivation at different times during the year. Ideally, an annual deep cultivation should be combined with a shallow aeration program to achieve the best results. Consider both turf use and aesthetics. The more disruptive a procedure is, the longer the turf will take to recover.

The length of the positive effects resulting from each alternative procedure must be weighed. More damage can be tolerated when the benefits of treatment are long lasting.

Procedures that bring soil to the surface must be scheduled when they will not disrupt play. Turf takes time to recover from the disruption caused by core aeration. Even when the cores are dragged back into the turf and any tufts of thatch or grass are removed, the turf will require a recovery period. Grass roots need time to regenerate and spread deeper into the soil before top growth will reflect the benefits of the process.

Shallow spiking will make less of an immediate impact on turf aesthetics and can be used when some compaction relief is essential during heavy-use periods. Spiking also is less disruptive to turf growth and can be used more frequently than core aeration.

Increasing Aeration Effectiveness

Soil moisture levels are critical during cultivation. Soil that is too dry is hard to penetrate. Soil that is too dry also puts more stress on cultivation equipment. If soil is too wet, there will be little shattering in response to cultivation.

Aeration methods that loosen the soil should be timed when moisture levels are slightly below field capacity, such as 24 hours after rainfall or irrigation. Aeration methods that cause little loosening, such as spoon-type tines, should be timed when moisture levels are near field capacity.

Hot, dry weather and strong winds can cause the turf bordering aeration holes to dry out. Avoid aeration during those periods or arrange irrigation to compensate for moisture loss.

In most cases once holes are made, the longer they remain open to the surface, the longer the effect lasts. Once a hole is sealed, even if only at the surface, the benefits of air and water movement are significantly, if not totally, eliminated. Topdressing with a coarse material like sand keeps the holes open. If topdressing is not practical, more frequent cultivation will be needed to overcome surface sealing.

Timing the shallow aeration to periods of active turf growth will enable the turf to recover quicker. Aeration in conjunction with overseeding and fertilization will increase their effectiveness.

Since significant root growth occurs at lower temperatures than leaf growth, fields that are heavily used going into winter probably should be core aerated after use, unless winter desiccation is a common problem. Core aeration will improve the water/air relationships during this

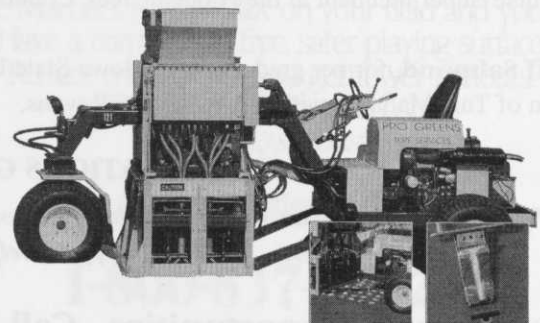
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Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

New member applications keep rolling in. Welcome to you all!! Many of our new members come from our ads in sportsTurf and other industry publications. Others come from our attendance at related industry shows and conferences. Our best source of new members continues to be current members.

How many new members have you told about STMA? If you would like some membership brochures to hand out to your peers, call the office and we'll send you as many as you can use. If you would like us to mail or fax information to someone, just call the office and provide the information. We'll be happy to contact others on your behalf to assist in spreading the word.

Speaking of members, there are now over 1200 of you paid up for 1998. That is a new high for a current year period. You might recall a report last year of about 1200 members, but that included all members in December that had paid for 1998 and those whose membership had not yet expired for 1997.

While, according to what we hear from other associations, STMA non-renewals are quite low on a

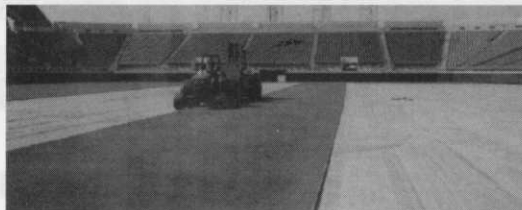
percentage basis, we hate to lose even one member. Your board is in the process of contacting each of the 1997 members who had not renewed as of June 15th. There are always those who leave an industry or drop out of a group through no fault of the association. We want to make sure that all former members know that they matter and we want to know if there is anything that has been done -- or not been done -- to cause a person not to renew their commitment to STMA.

Really, we hope that any of you that have any concerns about the value of your STMA membership would contact headquarters and/or any board members to express your concerns so that they may be addressed. Your board is working hard to implement the programs that will meet your needs and your headquarters staff has the responsibility of carrying out the board's direction. Don't hesitate to let us know what we can do better.

As I write this column, I am about to head to Ohio to officially welcome one of STMA's two newest chapters. I welcomed the other new chapter in Michigan

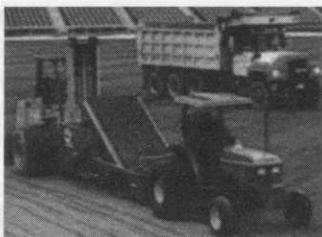
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ARE WE INSTALLING TURF OR STRIPPING??

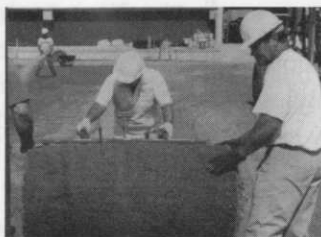


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Aeration Strategies to Reduce Compaction

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period and result in healthier turf the following year.

To increase the effectiveness of aeration throughout the soil profile, use a deep aeration procedure within two weeks of shallow depth aeration.

Consider Budget Constraints

With ever-tightening budgets, the ideal aeration program may not be practical. When lack of equipment, personnel or funding limit aeration options, concentrate resources where they will provide the greatest benefits. For example, make more aeration passes between the hashmarks and bench areas of a football field than the rest of the field. Schedule regular aeration of park system playground areas and sports fields, and use aeration as required to avoid turf decline in lesser used areas.

Develop a reciprocal relationship with other turf professionals, arranging joint purchases of equipment or swapping existing equipment. Though golf courses, school systems, park systems, municipalities and large commercial properties will have similar needs, different timing of equipment use may make such arrangements workable.

As with all sports turf maintenance practices, constant monitoring is necessary to evaluate the success of the program throughout the year and from year to year. Because quantifying aeration results is difficult, detailed record-keeping will be needed. Record the type and timing of aeration procedures. Since wet soils compact more quickly than dry ones, note irrigation and rainfall in relation to field use. Also, keep records of daily temperature ranges, the frequency of games and practices on each field and the times they take place, fertilization schedules, overseeding and topdressing procedures, and any other pertinent activities.

Note the effect of procedures on turf health, including any reductions in irrigation, fertilization, weed, insect and disease control. Budgeting entities are more willing to consider funding when they can see documented results.

Be Flexible

Develop a workable cultivation program that meets field needs and your budget, but remember that even the best-prepared plans must be modified at times. Know what options are available and be flexible enough to adjust the plan to meet changing conditions and turf needs.

STM

Your Certification Committee Report

Progress continues on STMA's Certification Program. The Certification Committee met on June 6, 1998. Following are key details of the meeting.

The Certification Committee reviewed the list of competencies already compiled by committee members and fine-tuned the format for presenting this material. Assignments were made within the committee to develop specific competencies to that format and develop additional competencies where needed to complete the list.

The committee reached consensus on specific issues of recommendation to be presented to the board.

Committee members are developing a glossary of terms and a list of references of background and study materials. Educational program information continues to be channeled to the review sub-committee to determine if and how they fit into the overall certification program and the point allocations for them.

Questions? Comments? Please contact Headquarters.

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Your Board Meeting Report

Your board met on June 19 and 20, 1998. Following are key details of the meeting.

STMA continues to be on solid ground financially. The 1998 Conference was a financial success, with income over expenses above the Conference budget projections. Membership for 1998 has topped the 1,200 mark, and continues to grow. In one more step to insure fiscal stability for your association, the board directed additional funds be moved to the reserve fund (above the 75 percent of the year-end surplus from 1996 and 1997, as previously approved by the board). The reserve fund can only be used with the approval of 2/3 of the board.

Board member Tim Moore, Chair of the Awards and Scholarships Committee, reviewed plans to insure individuals and facilities will receive greater recognition, both at the annual Conference and throughout the industry. (An Awards Booklet was included in your Roster and Compendium mailing. It contains all the information for entering a field for Field of the Year and nominating an individual for one of the Founders Awards.) Scholarship application information will be sent to each student member, and to those two and four year colleges listed at Headquarters. If you have a student or a college you'd like to make sure receives this information, please contact Headquarters.)

Board member Bob Campbell, Chair of the Membership Committee, recommended, and the board approved, further outreach by state in conjunction with turfgrass extension educators. Headquarters is charged with coordinating this. Membership is growing, but STMA does have some previous members who have not renewed membership for 1998. A board member will be contacting each of these individuals to determine why they have not renewed.

Board member Mary Owen, Education Committee and Conference Education Committee Chair, reviewed the

Conference educational program to date with the board and board input was provided. Board member Bob Curry, Conference Exhibits Chair, reviewed the trade show and Products on Parade plans. Steve Trusty outlined the Seminar on Wheels plans. The board amended the Conference budget to allow additional funds for the Awards presentations, and approved the budget as amended.

Board Member Tom Burns, Category I Committee Chair, presented the results of a survey that was sent to NFL and MLB sports turf managers and outlined plans to help STMA better meet the needs of Category I members.

The Board officially recognized two new affiliated chapters: the Great Lakes Chapter: STMA (GLSTMA) and the

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA).

The Board reviewed the Certification Committee report and areas of recommendation submitted by Co-Chairs Dale Getz and Steve Trusty, approving the majority of the recommendations, asking for clarification on a few points, and authorizing the funding to keep this program moving forward.

The next STMA Board Meeting will be held on October 23 and 24, 1998, in St. Louis, Missouri, site of the year 2000 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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Headquarters Update

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in June. Board member Bob Curry, Suz and I also had the opportunity to meet with a group holding their first meeting to start a chapter in Texas. One of the most enjoyable opportunities I have as your Executive Director is getting out and meeting you at your facilities or at one of your peer's facilities as you share your experiences in a Chapter setting. Not only do I get a chance to hear first hand what you want from your association, I get a chance to learn more about what you do everyday. This helps in developing ideas to help you get more out of your STMA membership. Chapters are an excellent tool to provide more helpful information on a local level to involve those who are not yet able to get involved on the national level. They also provide opportunities for several members of your staff to share in one-day educational and networking sessions throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing you soon. If you don't have a chapter in your area and would be willing to help get one going, let headquarters know and we'll help you get started.

You should have received your new compendium, Sports Turf Topics 1997-98, and your new 1998 Membership Roster. We're sure you'll make good use out of these during the year ahead. If you haven't received your copies, please let us know.

Until next issue, we hope that just one of your membership benefits provides more value than your investment and everything else is a bonus.



Trusty Tips®

- Add such weather data as temperature, humidity, precipitation and wind speed and direction to your daily maintenance log. This will help you track results of current procedures and give you a more accurate long-range database for planning and budgeting in the future.
- Review your contacts and communications system with those who schedule field use and manage on-field activities for fall sports. Be sure you're all working together for player safety and optimum use of field resources.
- Excessive heat and drying winds may cause turf and ornamental plant materials to show signs of moisture stress even though sufficient soil moisture is present. Use syringing to reduce evapotranspiration without increasing soil moisture.

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