

“Get The Feel” of Arizona

One major reason for holding the STMA annual Conferences in different areas of the country is to

give sports turf managers the opportunity to see and “get the feel” of the field conditions



and maintenance practices adapted to different regions. So much is the same – and yet so much is different.

Arizona topography is spectacular – and presents great challenges for managing turf.

The golf course shown in the top two pictures on this page is quite a challenge to play. It’s the Gold Canyon Dinosaur Mountain Course – site of STMA’s Wednesday golf outing where golfers play a championship course set against the magnificent backdrop of the legendary Superstition Mountains.

If you’re planning an extra day or two in Arizona, Headquarters can help you arrange to view the area by horseback, jeep, hot air balloon, or even by swooping through the canyons in a biplane. The Seminar on Wheels tours on January 13th and January 17th provide an up close view of area fields and the opportunity to connect with the individuals involved with those field programs.

Though your field may be far removed from

the mountains and deserts of Arizona, you’ll find much of what you observe during these tours are ideas you can take home and put to work – maybe a



water-saving technique you’ll adopt during drought situations; maybe a method for clearing off morning dew or frost to get a head start on mowing or field painting; maybe an option for disease, insect or weed control.

The Conference educational sessions are developed to focus on specifics you’ve requested,

whether you’re tackling the challenges of sand-based fields, native soil fields, or



some of both. At your request, there also are sessions *continued on page 3*

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President's Message

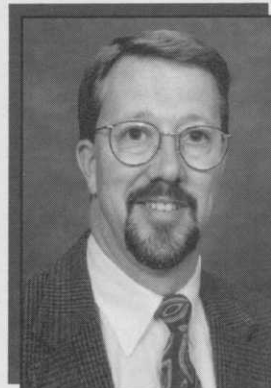
Wow - What A Year!

by Steve Guise, President

There's some major recognition happening for our industry – sportscasters covering play at the organized amateur, high school, college and professional levels are beginning to acknowledge the great fields as well as the poor ones. They're noting excellent playing conditions before and during the game and discussing rapid field recovery following heavy rains or snows. They're acknowledging that it takes someone with a combination of education, experience and commitment to keep these fields at safe, playable levels, for game after game, week after week.

We need to keep encouraging this positive reaction to our efforts. We should say, "Thanks for noticing the results of our work. We appreciate your bringing it to the attentions of the public." Maybe we can become more accessible to those members of the media seeking our input prior to the games they are covering, and afterwards as well. We can alert them to special projects that may be newsworthy – such as a Chapter tackling a field renovation as a service project, or a hands-on mound building or field painting demonstration for a group of volunteers. These types of events make great copy for the local newspapers and TV. The better the connection with media personnel during the good times, the more likely they will be to seek your explanations about the contributing factors when conditions are less than ideal.

STMA is moving forward by leaps and bounds – Thanks to all of you. Membership for 1998 has topped the 1254 mark and we have 12 officially affiliated Chapters, plus several working toward affiliation. The Certification Program continues to move forward with more exciting news to be announced at the 1999 Conference. And, that Conference looks to be bigger and better than ever before.




Steve Guise

I know some of you are having a hard time deciding on which choice to make for the Wednesday and Sunday events. Will it be golf or the Seminar on Wheels session for Wednesday – and on Sunday, will it be the Seminar on Wheels tour to multiple sports facilities around the Phoenix area, or the Seminar on Wheels tour to the Tucson area? Then there are those decisions on which of the three concurrent sessions you want to attend – and which Round-Table groups you want to join. Now here's where cloning would come in handy.

Some really great items are coming in for the Silent Auction, Live Auction and Raffle – and there's still time to make your contribution, even at the Conference itself. All funds raised through these three events go into the Scholarship and Awards program. Again this year, Scholarship winners will receive their monetary award AND full conference registration plus up to \$500 toward their expenses to attend the Conference. Be sure to meet, greet and congratulate these folks. And...if you're looking for an intern or new employee, maybe you'd like to pick up a resume or arrange an interview.

It's going to be GREAT!! See you there!!



"Get The Feel" of Arizona

continued from page 1

on working with those who use your fields, developing successful internship programs, and the business management part of your program. In Dr. Bree Hayes' presentations you'll fine-tune the most important aspect of sports turf management: growing your own professional management skills as you personally grow and rally your own team for the challenges of the new millennium.

Networking is a highlight of the

Conference. You'll have the opportunity to meet your peers on the Seminar on Wheels tours, during the Conference educational seminars, the Round-Table discussions, and the Trade Show. You'll make connections at breaks, meals, receptions and those casual "in between" moments, sharing professional insights that will help you further develop your sports turf management program.

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Powell Receives Award

Dr. A.J. Powell, STMA member and extension Agronomy professor at the University of Kentucky, has been awarded the American Society of Agronomy's Fred V. Grau Award for Turfgrass Science.

Powell, who earned his degrees from the University of Kentucky and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, was involved in the release of Tift 94 and Vamont bermudagrasses and was the major investigator in the release of Quickstand bermudagrass. Dr. Powell and associates have quantified the effect of surface moisture displacement on dollar spot infections, thus reducing fungicide reliance. Dr. Powell is a Fellow of ASA, has been Chair of Division C-5, and was inducted into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame.

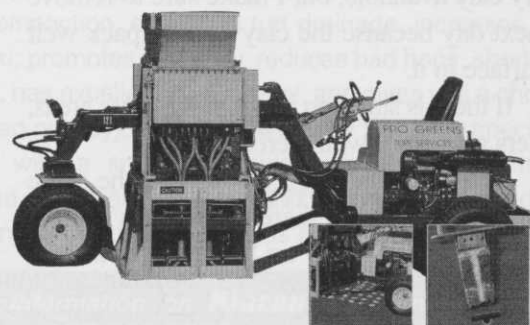
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How Do You Do...?

The Question -- How Do You Overcome Crisis Situations to Keep Fields in Play?

Answered by *Sal M. Genito, III, Manager, Landscape Services, University of California-Davis*

Wet weather is a challenge every sports turf manager deals with as part of the normal duties and responsibilities of the job. To be successful, one must plan for the worst and be prepared to act whenever necessary. Fields that have been well tended and managed hold up much better than those that have not. The key to keeping any field in good condition is as follows: 1) Maintain proper drainage through either aeration or other means, 2) Keep nutrition levels high, 3) Tarp baseball and softball fields, especially the mound and home plate areas, 4) Communicate with coaches - ask for assistance to minimize wear patterns, 5) Keep plenty of field drying agents on hand, 6) Monitor weather changes and humidity levels for disease activity and make preventive applications if necessary, 7) Last, but not least, try to convince your organization to adopt a field-closed policy. This is one of the best ways to not only protect fields and save money, it also protects the safety of field participants who will have a greater chance on injury due to poor footing caused by wet weather.

Answered by *Connie Rudolph, Groundskeeper, Midway Stadium (MN)*

In this business, a crisis situation usually involves water - lots of it. In order to keep the field in play, I first try to get as much time on my side as possible to let Mother Nature do her job, and then I spring into action.

On the skinned areas, I use a combination of rollers (to push the water around evenly) and Turface to dry the standing water.

On the mound, I also use Turface if I don't have dry clay available, but I make sure to remove it the next day because the clay doesn't pack well with Turface in it.

If there is standing water in the grass areas, the rollers also work well there.

Ideally, if conditions are terrible, the game shouldn't be played, but there are times when the show must go on and then we have to deal with it.

Submitted anonymously

This spectacular method for drying a mound in a crisis, must play, situation is filled with cautions. The photo was supplied by a sports turf

manager who does not recommend this method and who wishes to have no name connection with it. In this situation,

the super soggy mound was doused with gasoline, then set on fire. Obviously, the application of gasoline to the field in itself raises environmental questions. Then factor in the possibility of the fire escaping into the surrounding turf and causing short-term and perhaps long-term damage. It's also



possible that the fire could "sap the life" from the mound clay. There is an injury risk for the crew members

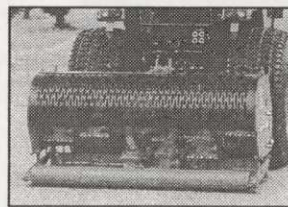
assisting

with this process if the fire flares up too high or gets out of hand. In the situation pictured, a sudden gust of wind did cause the fire to flare up, resulting in some short-term injury to the turf at one side of the mound. The game was played as scheduled.

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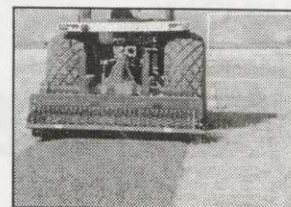
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Choosing Cool-Season Turfgrasses for Athletic Fields

by Bridget Ruummele, Associate Professor, University of Rhode Island & Victoria Wallace, Turfgrass Agronomist, Lofts Seed, Inc.

Attaining attractive turf, suitable for northern athletic fields, begins with proper turfgrass selection. Vigorous turf has been achievable using a battalion of products and cultural practices in an intensive maintenance program. High fertilizer rates, supplemental irrigation as needed, and a strong preventative or curative program for disease, insect, and weed control, both cultural and chemical keep turf at its prime. Increasing costs and stricter environmental rules require changes for the turf manager, including choosing the best adapted turfgrass species and cultivars.

Major turfgrasses used on athletic fields in the North include Kentucky bluegrasses, perennial ryegrasses, and tall fescues. These species, used alone as blends of cultivars or in combination of species in mixes, provide the best surfaces for natural athletic turf. Football, soccer, rugby, baseball, softball, polo, lacrosse, and field hockey require turfgrass heights ranging from 0.5 to 2 inches. Lower cutting heights occur with lawn bowling, bocce, cricket, croquet and tennis, where 0.25 inches is the maximum height. Bentgrasses dominate these turf fields, but are not included in this article.

Kentucky bluegrasses are the most aggressive of the cool-season turfgrasses used for athletic fields, spreading by rhizomes. These underground stems spread below the soil surface to provide a strong network of intertwined vegetation able to withstand tearing action from athletic activities as well as enabling fast recovery from the damage. Kentucky bluegrass leaves are medium to fine textured with a medium to dark green color, providing what some consider to be the most attractive cool-season turf. Mowing tolerance ranges from 0.5 to 2.5 inches.

Cultivar choices are greatest with this species. Research at Rutgers University (J.A. Murphy, et al, 1995 Rutgers Turfgrass Proceedings) resulted in classification of several cultivars in one of eleven groups. You can choose compact types like "Midnight," "Limousine," "Odyssey," "Nuglade," and "Glade." These cultivars tolerate of some of the lowest mowing heights (next to Bentgrasses), or more aggressive types such as "P-105," "A-34," or "Touchdown" capable

of recovering from the most severe play.

Other vigorous cultivars tolerate summer stress fairly well. Examples of the the Mid-Atlantic ecotype, include "SR200," "Preakness" and "Livingston." The cultivars, "Suffolk," "Monopoly," "Unique," "Freedom," "Haga" and "Cynthia," exhibited superior wear tolerance in National Turfgrass Evaluation Program testing begun in 1990.

Perennial ryegrasses, once considered weakly perennial because they survived only a few years at most, have been greatly improved over the past 20 years. Desirable attributes for use as an athletic turf include improved seedling establish-

ment, rapid tillering, dense growth, improved mowing quality and color, high traffic tolerance and some insect resistance, particularly if endophytic cultivars are selected.

This grass is a bunch-type grass that does not form rhizomes or stolons (above-ground stems). This means it does not have as strong a recuperative ability as Kentucky bluegrass. Perennial ryegrass does, however, spread by tillers, which are new stems formed within the leaves of existing plants. Perennial ryegrass can be mown at heights between 0.75 and 2.5 inches.

continued on page 9

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Members on the Move

Walt Cargile, formerly with the Birmingham Barons, has taken the position of Agronomist with Sweetwater Construction, Inc., in Alabaster, AL. Walt's new phone/fax is (205) 620-2776.

Mike Boekholder, formerly with the Durham Bulls Baseball Club, is now Head Groundskeeper for the Indianapolis Indians. Mike can be reached at (317) 269-3545 x242.

David L. Thigpen, formerly with Millsaps College, can now be found at Sports Turf Services, Clinton, MS, (601) 924-4041.

Murray Cook, Board Member and former Baseball Stadium Manager at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex, is now President of Ballpark Services, LLC in Bowie, Maryland (301) 805-7785.

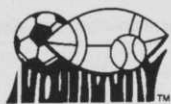
Skip Keller, former Parks & Rec. Coordinator with the City of Colleyville (TX), is now the Athletic Director for the City of Waco. Skip can be reached at (254) 750-8666

Turf-Tec International (John Mascaro) has moved - their new address is 3669 NW 124th Avenue, Coral Springs, FL 33065. New phone: (954) 341-3115, fax: (954) 341-3185.

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Sports Turf Happenings



Chapter Events

The Mid-South Chapter STMA

The Mid-South Chapter will hold a Field day at Memphis University School in Memphis on December 16, 1998. Registration opens at 8:15 AM with morning educational sessions beginning at 8:30 AM. Afternoon events will include on-field demonstrations on re-doing a grass infield, building a pitching mound and discussing various soil amendments.

Plans also are moving forward for a January Field Day, with the date and location to be announced soon.

For information on these events, the Chapter, or other pending activities, contact: Chip Houmes at (901) 377-5081, Jim Calhoun at (901) 755-1305 or Robert Bodi at (901) 383-2414.

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

ISTMA will again participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference which will be held January 25-27, 1999, at the Des Moines Convention Center. A special sports turf "track" of educational sessions will be held from 8:30 AM through 4:00 PM on January 25th, from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM on January 26th and from 8:00 AM to 11:45 AM on January 27th. ISTMA will hold its annual meeting from 3:00 to 4:00 PM on January 26th.

The General Session on the morning of January 26th will feature Keynote Speaker, Gerry Sweda, Sweda Training, from 10:15 to 11:30 AM, addressing, "How Could a Job That Felt So Good in the Past, Feel So Bad Today." A two hour Continuing Pesticide Instructional Course begins at 1:30 PM on January 27th.

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

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO Chapter STMA)

KAFMO/STMA members are encouraged to attend the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council's Eastern PA Turf Conference and Trade Show. January 7, 1999, will feature four hours of athletic field related seminars and four hours of trade show.

On February 19, 1999, KAFMO/STMA will sponsor an Athletic Field Conference in Grantville, PA, featuring seminars and vendor displays. Presentation topics will include: drainage, liability, sprayer calibration, low budget turf care, innovative establishment systems, and more.

On March 23, 1999, KAFMO/STMA is co-spon-

soring the Northwestern Pennsylvania Athletic Field, Turf and Ornamental Conference in Meadville, PA. Contact Jeff Fowler at 814/437-7607 for details on this event

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

The Great Lakes Sports Turf Managers Association (GLSTMA)

GLSTMA has elected its board for 1999. President is Boyd Montgomery, Sylvania Recreation; Immediate Past President is Joe Zelinko, Athletic Field Services; President Elect is Duane Smith, Baldwin Wallace College; Vice President Commercial is Dave Conover, Conover Supply Company; Secretary is Karen Zelinko, Athletic Field Services; and Treasurer is Allen Weirauch, Liberty Center Schools. This board will serve from January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999.

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

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

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

Florida Chapter #1: STMA

For information on the Florida Chapter or pending activities, contact: John Mascaro at (954) 341-3115.

continued on page 12

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Choosing Cool-Season Turfgrasses for Athletic Fields

continued from page 5

The rapid establishment of this grass makes it suitable for overseeding thinned or damaged turf. Due to the aggressive nature in initial establishment of perennial ryegrasses, it is generally recommended to use no more than 20% of this grass in mixtures with other grasses. Where heavy wear is expected, up to 40% perennial ryegrass is sometimes used. Soccer goal mouths may be seeded to 100% perennial ryegrass. Cultivars of this species include "Palmer III," "Brightstar II," "Prelude III," and "Manhattan III."

Like perennial ryegrasses, tall fescues show excellent wear tolerance required of sporting events. For athletic field use, turf-type tall fescue cultivars provide finer leaf texture; denser and lower growth habits; greater persistence, closer mowing tolerance, and heat, drought and insect tolerance. In spite of improvements, mowing height tolerances for tall fescues are not as low as with Kentucky bluegrass or perennial ryegrass, ranging from 1.5 to 3 inches. Cultivar examples of this species include "Rebel, Jr.," "Millennium," "Plantation" and "Arid III."

Kentucky bluegrass-perennial ryegrass mixtures or blends of two or more cultivars of either perennial ryegrass or Kentucky bluegrass dominate athletic turf in the North. Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrasses may be mixed in varying percentages from mainly Kentucky bluegrass to 50% of each species. Some fields are established by sodding with Kentucky bluegrass and overseeding with perennial ryegrass.

Tall fescues, when mixed with Kentucky bluegrass and/or perennial ryegrass, is usually the predominant

component of the mix. An example is 80% tall fescue and 10% each Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass. Some sports turf managers have reported success mixing higher percentages of Kentucky bluegrass and/or perennial ryegrass with turf-type tall fescues, which produced a more uniform mixture than older tall fescue cultivars.

The general public appreciates a dark green turf. Pushing turf with nitrogen or iron enhances the natural green color, but high nitrogen applications may contribute to excessive thatch and a more succulent and easily damaged grass. Diseases and insects may also be a problem with overfertilization. Turfgrass breeders continually strive to improve color genetically. Density, the other important component of turf quality for sports turf managers, is desirable from the standpoint that a dense turf will provide a safer surface for athletes. Dense turf is also more likely to contain aggressive grasses which will recover more quickly from damage, something common on sports fields. Kentucky bluegrasses fit this need better than perennial ryegrasses or tall fescues.

Breeders continue to strive for improved turf quality and better environmental stress tolerance. As more locations restrict cultural practices, new cultivars will need the ability to withstand reduced maintenance and irrigation.

Due to the changing availability of turfgrass cultivars, you should check with your county or university extension personnel for the most current information turfgrass performance in your area.

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WRIGLEY FIELD - (PART III) - LET THERE BE LIGHT

Early Night Baseball

The average baseball fan knows that the first major league night game was played on May 24, 1935, at Crosley Field in Cincinnati between the Reds and the Phillies. But how many of you know that the very first night game was played 118 years ago in 1880, at Nantasket, MA, between two amateur teams? Thirty six carbon arc lamps were lit by an electric generator operated by a 30 hp engine. The lamps were attached to three 100 foot towers that were propped up around the field. It was still very hard to see and there were numerous errors. The game ended in a 16-16 tie. The first official night game was played in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1930 at Western League Park. **Trivia Question: The first game in Wrigley Field was April 28, 1961. True/False? (see answer on next page)**

Light Finally Comes to the North Side of Chicago

Wrigley Field, the oldest National League ball park, opened in 1914 as Weeghman Park at a cost of \$250,000. After the Cubs went to the National League playoffs in 1984, work began on the planning stages of installation of lights at Wrigley Field. After much negotiation, night baseball was finally approved for the Chicago Cubs in February 1988. The task of designing the lighting system was given to the engineers at General Electric's Lighting Systems Division (E. Flat Rock, NC). They were instructed to design a lighting system that wouldn't destroy the quaintness of Wrigley Field. To further challenge the engineers, residents who lived near the park, as well as some baseball traditionalists, were opposed to

lighting at the field. The project was begun on April 7, 1988, when a helicopter arrived to begin lifting the first of the six light towers to the roof. The helicopter was used throughout the project to secure the towers and the 3,500 pound light banks. The lights were

installed by mid-July and the first night game was scheduled for August 8, 1988. The design they selected incorporates 540 fixtures with three rows of lights along the left and right field lines. As a courtesy to those residents in the

continued on page 11

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
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San Francisco Giants
San Diego Padres
Los Angeles Dodgers
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Doc's Dugout

continued from page 10

area, no lights were placed in center field. According to GE's Chief Engineer, John Frier, "The lights look as if they were always there, they are completely integrated with the design of the building."

The hype and hoopla surrounding this first night game was overwhelming. Every radio talk show was giving away memorabilia and tickets, the print media had souvenirs and give-aways, and, of course, there were the television stations. The pre-game was chaotic for the groundscrew - 614 media credentials were issued and newsmen and dignitaries were all over the field. I (as an STMA representative) was lucky to be among that number. During the rain-shortened game, I stayed with my friends on the groundscrew who were exhausted from

days of preparation. Some call it coincidence, others called it divine providence, but whatever the cause, thunder, lightning and rain combined to spoil the debut of night baseball at Wrigley Field. The game was called at 10:25 P.M., after a 2-hour and 10 minute rain delay, with the Cubs leading the Phillies 3-1. The "official" first night game was played the next night against the Mets.

Answer to Trivia Question: True - although it was the Wrigley Field in Los Angeles and the tenants for the first night game at this field were the Los Angeles Angels.

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Chapter Events

continued from page 8

The Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the Nor-Cal STMA Chapter or pending activities, contact: Sal Genito, UC Davis, at (530) 752-1691.

Southern California Chapter: STMA

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

Midwest Chapter: STMA

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

Minnesota Chapter: STMA

For information on the Minnesota Chapter or pending activities, contact: Connie Rudolph at (651) 646-1679.

Colorado Chapter

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

The Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA)

For information on MiSTMA events or the Chapter, contact: Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at (616) 395-2364.

Chapters On The Grow

Texas - A new chapter is taking shape -- the North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association. They will hold a breakfast meeting at 7:00 AM on Tuesday, December 15th at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Fort Worth, in conjunction with the Texas Turfgrass Association Conference.

For information on this event, the North Texas Chapter or other pend-

ing activities, contact: Rene Asprien, Diamond Pro, at (800) 228-2987 or Tom Welch, CSM, Central Garden and Pet, at (800) 788-9581.

Arizona - The Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona will be taking an active part in the STMA 10th Annual Conference & Exposition to be held January 13 - 17, 1999 at the Sheraton Mesa hotel in Mesa, Arizona. Area sports turf facilities will be featured in the Seminar on Wheels tours on the 13th and 17th. Trade Show hours are from 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM on January 14th and from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM on January 15th. Other events on the 13th through the 16th include general and break-out educational sessions, interactive roundtable discussions, and the annual awards banquet. For information on the Conference, contact STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875.

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

Indiana - The newly forming Indiana

Chapter of the STMA has elected the following officers: President - Ron Clites; President-Elect - Don Rowley; Commercial Vice President - Terry Updike; Secretary - Pat Hickner; and Treasurer - Jim Dayhuff. This board will be meeting in December to set the event schedule for 1999.

For information on this developing chapter and pending activities, contact: Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at (219) 356-8424 or Pat Hickner at (800) 672-4273.

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

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.

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

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STMA Certification Committee Report

Progress continues on STMA's Certification Program. The Certification Committee met in Chicago, Illinois, on October 10, 1998. Following are key details of the meeting.

The Committee discussed various aspects of the credentialing information booklet currently under development, made several revisions, and recommended it be reviewed by the STMA Board, compared to criteria of the National Certification Commission and be reviewed by legal counsel.

After discussion of Continuing Education Units (CEUs), the Committee recommended adoption of the CEU as defined and accepted by national educational accreditation standards.

The Committee recommended that, along with offering the test in a supervised setting in conjunction with STMA's annual Conferences (starting in 2000), STMA make available a proctored test to be given at accepted assessment centers.

The Committee refined application forms, educa-

tion worksheets and acceptance and rejection letters, recommending their acceptance subject to Board approval and any revisions necessary according to information presented by the National Certification Commission or by attorney review.

The Committee refined the Resource List for the Sports Turf Manager currently being developed and remanded it to the STMA Board and then back to individual Committee members for final review. This list will be used as a general educational tool and as a part of the Certification Applicant Packet.

Recommended CEU and industry service point (ISP) levels for recertification were developed. The Committee recommended that those certified be required to renew every 3 years. The committee further recommended an annual renewal fee, with a notice issued 30 days before the end of the 365 day period, accompanied by a form containing the record of CEUs and the other designated points. The Committee also established a set

continued on page 14

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STMA Certification Committee Report

continued from page 13

of recommended fees. All this was presented to the Board for approval, noting all are subject to any revisions necessary according to information presented by the National Certification Commission or by attorney review.

The list of competencies is in the final stages of development. Committee members were assigned areas for development of test questions, with the understanding that review will be handled by a test development organization.

Certification Committee Co-Chairs, Dale Getz and Steve Trusty, attended the National Certification Commission Conference in Bethesda, Maryland, on November 5th and 6th, 1998. Key items moved forward at this meeting were legal issues concerning certification and the certification process, formal certification training or educational programs, and certification testing and examination issues. The meeting verified the Committee is on target with the development of our program in terms of competencies, CEUs, ISPs, the application process and fee structure.

Questions? Comments? Please contact Headquarters.

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Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

As I write this column I am pleased to report that Conference Registrations have been coming in at a pace well ahead of last year. It looks like we are going to have a full house of exhibitors for our Trade Show. Interest in the tours and golf have been good. Have you made your arrangements to be in Mesa in January? By the time you read this, the early pay deadline (December 1) has probably passed, but it is not too late to register at the slightly higher rate and become a part of another record breaking conference.

There have been a few questions about the Category I meeting on Wednesday. 1) "I am interested in some of those topics, can I attend?" 2) "I'd like to sell my products to the folks that maintain the fields used by professional teams, can I meet with them during their meeting?" 3) "Are other Conference events or my dues subsidizing this session?" 4) "Why do Category I members have a special session?" These are all good questions. We'll answer the last one first. Each STMA membership category has a representative on the Board. In previous years, the Category I members have gotten together for a breakfast during Conference week to discuss common problems. As an outgrowth of last January's breakfast, a committee of Category I members surveyed the head grounds people at the NFL and MLB teams. The survey results indicated that both STMA members and those individuals not presently holding membership wanted a time that they could get together, learn from each other and hear from some speakers that would address some of their specific needs. The committee came to the board with a proposal to hold a special session prior to the start of the STMA Annual Conference. The session will be self supporting. If attendance is good enough, it could even provide some additional income to STMA. The proposal requested that this session be open only to Category I members and to those eligible for Category I membership. It is hoped that this meeting will attract some individuals that for one reason or another have not previously felt the need to join STMA. It is felt that they then can see that they should get involved after spending a day with members that have the same types of concerns as they do.

It is further hoped that some of these folks will register for the entire conference. In either case it can be a win - win situation for STMA and the attendees. I hate to seem negative, but the answer to the first 3 questions is NO.

Now to be more positive, your Board encourages any STMA membership category constituency to get involved in conference planning. Offer suggestions as to what you would like to see and hear. I think it would be great for STMA, as it continues to expand, to offer special days or tracks for all sorts of special interests and needs. Let headquarters and your Board know what you'd like and we'll do what we can to accommodate those needs.

Another special session will be held prior to this year's conference. Chapter officers have been invited to a Chapter Officers Training and Exchange Session. This event is designed to help Chapter Officers serve their Chapters more efficiently and effectively. I was a member of another association for 27 years that had a super annual 3 day weekend school for chapter officers. I learned a terrific amount of information from those schools over the years and decided we would try, in a small way, to utilize some of the ideas from SPEBSQSA (the Barbershop Quartet Society) to help STMA Chapter Officers. This is just one more service that STMA can provide to our Chapters through the funding of our Chapter Sponsors: John Deere, Novartis, Alpine Services, Hunter Industries, and The Scotts Company. Stronger Chapters will help support a stronger STMA. If the officers of your chapter have not made plans to attend, you might want to encourage them to do so. If you have shied away from serving as a chapter officer in the past because you weren't sure what needed to be done, I hope that this Chapter Officers Session can become an annual event and even more meaningful to allow you to get involved.

our Headquarters staff is here to serve you and the STMA Board of Directors. Let us know what we can do to serve you even better.

All of us at Headquarters hope that you and yours have a most joyful holiday season.



STMA Board Meeting Report

Your Board of Directors met on October 23rd and 24th in St. Louis, Missouri, site of STMA's year 2000 Conference. Following are key details of the meeting.

The board toured potential sites for the Seminar on Wheels tour before beginning the official meeting.

STMA continues to be on solid ground financially. Alternate options for investment of reserve funds were discussed with the decision reached to continue with the existing banking arrangement. Membership for 1998 reached 1,254 by October 1, the point at which 1999 membership recruiting went into effect.

Issues with both the newsletter and magazine were discussed. Trusty was directed to follow up with Adams Publishing on key items.

Awards and Scholarship Chair Tim Moore reported a significant numbers of field of the year and scholarship applications had been received and the evaluation process was beginning. The board voted to issue an additional scholarship and Conference attendance funding at the four-year undergraduate level for 1999 and to re-evaluate the scholarship levels at the March 1999 meeting.

Headquarters was directed to send a letter to all corporate members listing chapters and developing chapters and outlining the opportunities for commercial membership at the chapter level.

The board voted to approve the slate of officers and directors for 1999 as presented by Nominations Chair Mike Schiller.

Following the completion of the individual board members' evaluations of executive director Steve Trusty and Trusty & Associates management services, the board reviewed the proposed service contract and compensation package for 1999. Both were approved with direction given in specific areas of performance and reporting.

The board toured the Regal Riverfront Hotel room, meeting and trade show facilities. They voted to keep exhibitor booth costs at the 1999 level for the 2000 Conference.

The Category I session was discussed and the board confirmed the qualifications for attendance be Category I members or non-members who qualify for Category I membership.

Trusty will supply additional input from potential sites to the board before a decision is reached on the site for the 2001 Conference.

The Board reviewed the Certification Committee

report and areas of recommendation, approving the majority of the recommendations subject to review by legal counsel, and remanding some to the committee for further review. Co-chairs Dale Getz and Trusty were authorized to attend the National Certification Commission meeting.

The Board discussed the budget items as submitted for 1999, reviewing the appropriate level of funding for individual categories of expenditures. The budget was approved with changes as discussed.

The board approved 1999 newsletter and roster advertising rates as submitted.

The Chapter Officers Training and Exchange Session was discussed, approved and expenses authorized from Chapter Sponsorship funding.

The board discussed proper designation for certified individuals and remanded that back to the certification committee for recommendations.

Trusty was directed to explore the alternatives for a facilitator to assist the board in determining STMA's long term goals and marketing plan.

The next Board Meeting will be held in Mesa, Arizona, from 8:00 AM to noon on January 12, 1999, in conjunction with the 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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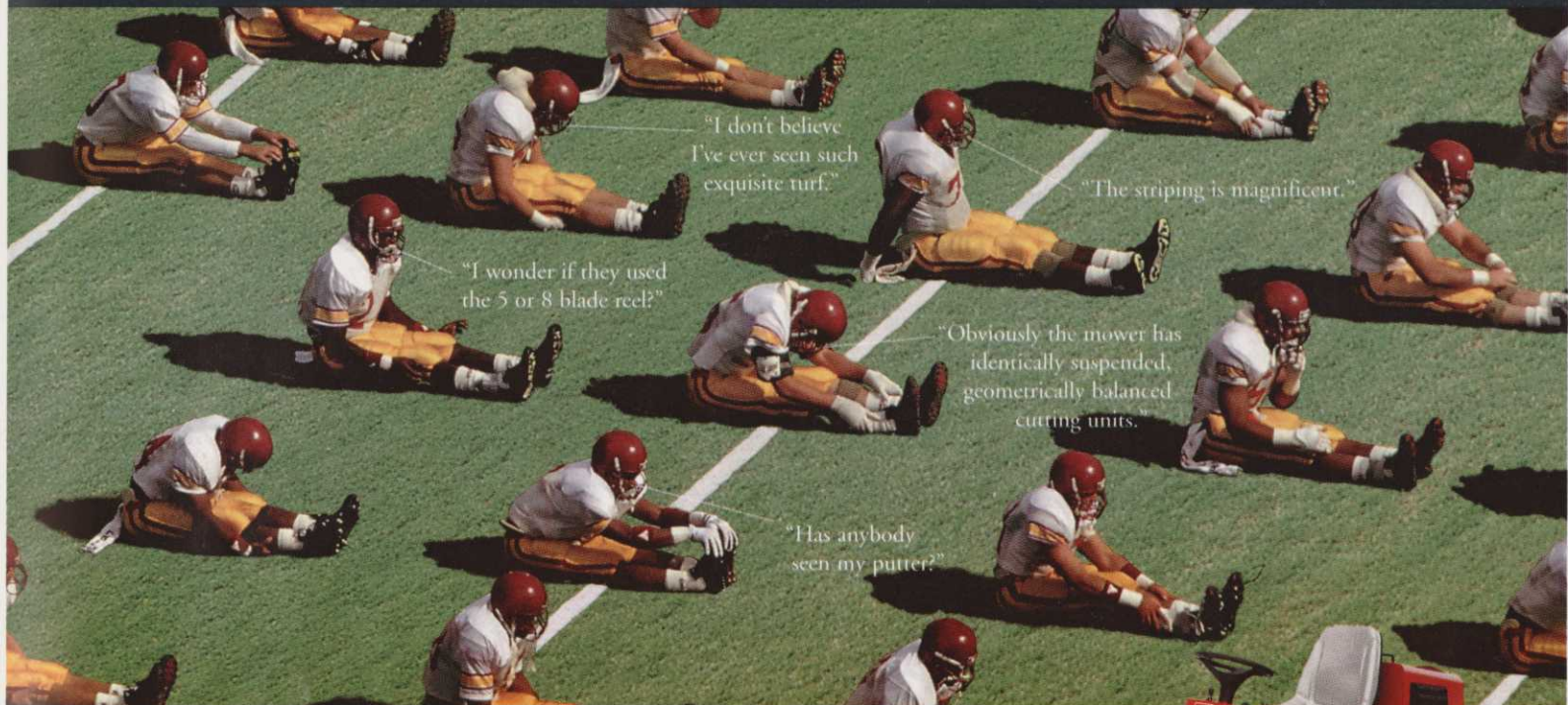
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Chapter Officers Training and Exchange Session

Are you an officer of an affiliated chapter or part of the leadership team of a developing Chapter? Then you are invited to join in the Chapter Officers Training and Exchange Session that will be held on January 12, 1999, at the Sheraton Mesa hotel as a special kick-off for the 10th Annual STMA Conference in Mesa, Arizona.

The formal portion of the Session runs from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM with an informal work and idea exchange following from 7:00 to 10:00 PM.

One purpose of this special session is to provide officers with tools to more effectively serve their constituents. The second purpose is to provide the opportunity for an open exchange of ideas between chapters.

This special session is brought to you thanks to the funding of your Chapter Sponsors: Gold Level - John Deere and Novartis, and Silver Level - Alpine Services, Hunter Industries and The Scotts Company.

So bring your questions, bring your ideas, bring your Chapter materials to this first-time gather-

ing in the Valley of the Sun.

You'll tackle the challenges head-on with the guidance of a skilled facilitator with years of experience in training and assisting chapter officers. Under his guidance you'll clarify the obligations of the various offices and join together in an open exchange of ideas.

The Challenge for First Timers: You've been asked to become an officer in your STMA Chapter or to take a leadership role in developing a new Chapter of STMA and you're not sure what is expected of you. Just what does an STMA Chapter do? What needs could it, does it, and should it fill on a regional level? What kind of commitment will you be making? Why does it matter?

The Challenge for Seasoned Officers of Established Chapters: How do you continue to provide a meaningful, interactive program for your members and potential members without becoming repetitive and relying too much on your core volunteers?

To answer all these questions and equip you for Chapter success, each of the offices will spend some time working together - Presidents with Presidents, Secretaries with Secretaries, etc. You'll also spend some time together, in a large group setting, sharing ideas and insights for the good of all.

To help move this process forward, outgoing Chapter Relations Chair, Mike Andresen, and incoming Chapter Relations Chair, Abby McNeal, have put together a survey that has been mailed to the designated contact of each chapter and forming chapter. Along with this survey was a sign up sheet so that arrangements can be made to accommodate all attendees.

If you have any questions about this special session, please contact Steve or Suz Trusty at Headquarters by phone, fax or e-mail.

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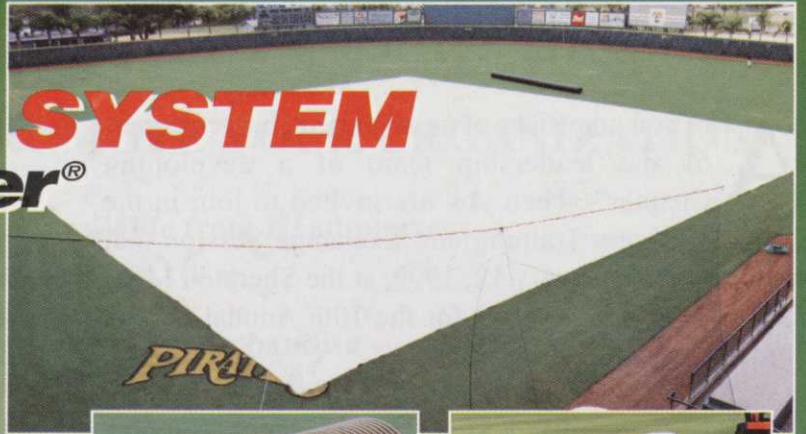
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