

## STMA Soars Into the Valley of the Sun

**S**oar to the heights of Arizona's Valley of the Sun as the breathtaking scenery and temperate climate remind you why snowbirds from around the world flock here. This region is filled with sites that tie right into the STMA Conference theme, "Growing Into The New Millennium" and many of them are featured in the Seminar on Wheels tours. Past participants have called these tours a "traveling Round-Table discussion," a "networking bonanza," and a "college course on wheels."

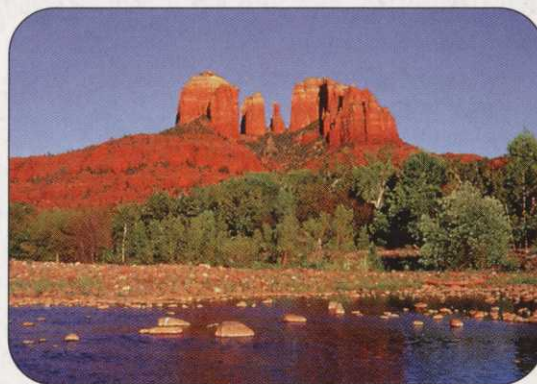
Seminar on Wheels I, on January 13th, is a baseball facilities tour. The first tour stop is Scottsdale Stadium, the first of the New Wave Stadiums in Rustic Old Town and the Giants' training facility. Next is Papago Park, a new style, open stadium with multiple, tiered fields, that is the Oakland A's training facility. Next comes the historic and traditional Municipal Stadium.



*If soaring to new heights appeals to you, make sure you check out the Auction prizes!*

Then comes the brand new facility, Maryvale, winter home of the Milwaukee Brewers. The last stop is BOB, the domed stadium with natural turf which is home of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Seminar on Wheels II, on Sunday, January 17th, is a multiple sport facility tour. The first stop is Hohokam Stadium, a relatively new facility used by the Cubs. Next stop is Arizona State University for a tour of Sun Devil



*Add a day or two on either end of the Conference to explore the beauty of the Valley of the Sun*

Stadium, site of the Fiesta Bowl and used by the Arizona Cardinals, and a tour of Packard Stadium, College Diamond of the Year for 1995. Then comes the NFL Cardinals state-of-the-art training facility. Next is the multi-sport complex of Corona Del Sol High School. Last on this tour is Diablo Stadium, the newly rebuilt facility of the Anaheim Angels that also is used for soccer.

Seminar on Wheels III, also on the 17th, heads for Tucson. First stop is Gardner Turfgrass, Inc.'s sod production facility. Next comes the University of Arizona - Karsten Research Facility for an up close view of ongoing research. The last stop is the Tucson Electric Park and the Kino Sports Complex with multiple baseball and soccer fields. It's the spring home of the Chicago White Sox and the Arizona Diamondbacks.

**What a way to Grow!**



## SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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# President's Message

## It Only Comes Once A Year!

by Steve Guise, President

The Annual STMA Conference is just around the corner and I hope all of you can be there to get the opportunity to hear some of the most intelligent and experienced turf managers speak on a number of industry topics. I also hope all of you can experience the camaraderie of meeting fellow sports turf managers from all across the US and other parts of the world.

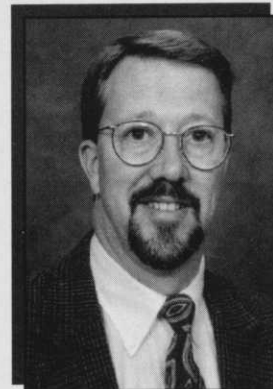
I've learned so much from our Conferences since my first one in San Diego some seven years back. I hope YOU can take advantage of this "once a year" opportunity.

January weather is pretty nice in Arizona's Valley of the Sun (Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe). That, along with the great facilities in the area, have made it the spring training site for many Major League Baseball teams and a popular location for year-round play in baseball as well as football, soccer and other sports. Many of the great facilities will be featured on the optional Seminar on Wheels bus tours held on Wednesday, January 13th and Sunday, January 17th. (See front page article for more details).

Another option available on January 13th is golf. Dedicated golfers and duffers alike will soak up some sun and enjoy the great views as they tackle the challenges of a desert course in this friendly competition.

A first for STMA – and we anticipate a trend of things to come – is the special January 13th session developed by Category I members for Category I sports turf managers: those responsible for professional sports facilities. This one-day session will contain educational sessions, Round-Table discussion and a separate tour of BOB, all focused on addressing issues as they affect those dealing with the special demands of professional sports facilities.

Depending on the feedback from



Steve Guise

those participating in this session, and input that will be requested from Conference attendees in other STMA membership categories, future Conferences may include such focused one-day sessions for several (or maybe all) STMA membership categories.

Thanks to feedback from last year's Conference, educational offerings again include both general sessions on issues of interest to all, and concurrent sessions – three at a time -- that focus on specific aspects of sports turf management and give you the opportunity to select the topics that matter most in your own operation. Also at your request, the Thursday evening reception and Friday lunch will both be held in the trade show area, giving attendees and exhibitors a great atmosphere for interaction.

Again, in response to last year's feedback, the Live Auction and the wrap-up of the Silent Auction are combined in a stand-alone event this year, right after lunch and the official Annual Meeting on Saturday. Saturday sessions will close with a Conference feature retained by popular demand – the interactive Round-Table discussions, with even more choices of topics.

So...don't forget to keep your summer wardrobe available for your trip to the Valley of the Sun this coming January. See you there!

# How Do You Do...?

## The Question -- How Do You Prepare for Special Events on your Fields?

*Answered by David Mellor, Milwaukee Brewers Baseball*

We try to get involved right from the start for any special event on our field, whether it's a high school tournament, special dinner function, concert, etc. We talk directly to the promoters to make sure that they understand that their event IS going to require extra man-hours, possibly re-sodding afterwards, aerification, etc. so that they will have that planned into their budget. Communication is very important so make sure that you have one key person to deal with issues concerning changes, problems, their damage control deposit, etc. Make sure that both this contact person and your powers that be recognize the fact that a special event is an extra job and that anything that might be needed after the event to repair the field to pre-event status should be the responsibility of the event promoter and NOT come out of your budget.

As far as pre-event conditioning, we try to apply a preventive fungicide and extra potassium to the field, but our main goal is to go into an event with a healthy field, then you have a much better chance of coming out with a healthy field.

*Answered by Charles Forsman, Lakeside School, Seattle, WA*

I would have to say that our preparation for special events is to try and keep the fields well maintained throughout the year. We have a relatively small operation here, however, a special event is special no matter how big or small you are. We have a football/lacrosse field, a soccer field and a softball field that are in use from September through mid-May, so the only thing we can do is fertilize and do spot maintenance where we can. The football field is used for practice every day with 2 home games. The soccer field also is used for practice every day except we play 15 home games and any playoff games, with practices, that are needed, depending on how the season goes. Generally, we're in post season tournaments every year.

After the season is over (depending

on the weather) we try to overseed and topdress before winter sets in. We do fertilize in late October or early November to give the field something to nibble on during the winter. Spring sports (lacrosse on the football field and boys soccer on the soccer field) start in March, so, that means practices start as early as February and the fields are then in use until mid-May. As soon as sports are over in May, we till up the center section of the football field and re-seed with 9-10 lbs. of ryegrass mix per thousand, with starter fertilizer and topdress with a 1/4" application of sand. On the soccer field, we aerate, drag, overseed and topdress at the same time. Fortunately, we have no play on any of the fields during the summer and we generally have them ready to go when practices start up again in mid-August.

As far as pre-event conditioning, we try to apply a fertilizer with extra potassium so we go in with the field as healthy as we can. That way, we come out much better on the other end.

*Answered by Bret Prather, War Memorial Stadium, Little Rock, AR*

Since I'm in the middle of preparation for my 1st major college game of the season, I'll walk you through that. Main preparations include a balancing act of mowing,

fertilizing, painting and final mowing before the 1st game. We try to get the painting done in between mowing demands of every two days so that it will be dry in time to mow in the late afternoon/evening. Day 1) we concentrate on the red 14" outline of ARKANSAS on each endzone. We mix / oz. of Primo for every 5 gallons of paint to keep the grass from growing out and to keep the color in longer. Day 2) we concentrate on the boundaries, lines, numbers and hash marks. Day 3) is devoted to the decorative 6' border and the end zone letters filled in with white paint. Day 4) Following a fresh cutting, we'll refresh all the white coats as needed before the Friday practice. After practice ends, we'll re-mow the field one more time before the game on Saturday. This particular week, Mother Nature threw us a curve with 3 rain-out days so everything now doubles on two long days. I am hopeful that it will allow time for at least the basics like the regulation lines and markings. No two field painting schedules are exactly alike, especially when our seasonal rains come in on a game week.

STM

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STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875.

# Layout & Striping of Athletic Fields

by Mike Hebrard, Athletic Field Design

**C**ongratulations! Because of your years of loyalty and your high degree of intellect, you have been selected to lay out and stripe the athletic fields this season.

Now for the hard part, where does the measurement of the lines begin? The middle of the line, the inside or the outside? Actually, all of the above are correct depending on which sports you are laying out. With the outside lines for football, the measurement is from the inside of the line along the goal line, with all of the yard lines being measured from the middle. But, in soccer and baseball, the line is in play so the measurement is from the outside of the line. Education is a GREAT thing to have. Keep on file drawings of the dimensions for the sports that pertain to you as well as to others. That quick reference source will come in handy.

## FIELD LAYOUT

The easiest way to lay out a field is to start from the center of the field. With football, always start in the middle of the goal posts. Remember, not all of the goal posts are the correct distance apart, nor are they in line with each other. The width never changes -- with a couple simple guidelines, everyone should have the sidelines at the same spot. The trick is to know where to start the length. Measure between the goal posts to obtain the center of the field. If you have single pole goal posts, run a string the entire length of the field, from the middle of each goal post. From that spot, measure 80' to each sideline -- and since 80' can be used as one of our multiples in the 3-4-5 method -- you can spray an arc with an inverted spray can at 100' at each sideline. Do this at both ends. After stringing the sideline, measure back from the 100' arc (which, by the way, is the 10 yard line) 60' to obtain the corner pins at each corner.

The same method can work for soccer by using half of the width and dividing it by 4, then multiplying it by 3 & 5 to get the other measurements.

With baseball, I like to put the homeplate so that it sits in the middle of the backstop and the apex is at a round number such as 15' or 30'. By triangling the backstop or using a transit, establish the middle of the field. A quick way to check or lay out a field is to measure the distance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base in line with the center, marking the pitcher's rubber at the same time. Then, by holding the combined distance of 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> at that spot, and placing your finger at the proper base distance, mark that spot at the 1<sup>st</sup> base location, then flip the tape to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base location and mark accordingly.

## MARKING

There are many products available for marking the

field. My personal preferences may not appeal to you so, if you don't already have a personal favorite, shop around, ask your peers, check out ads, and find what YOU like.

## STRING

I like to use a 1/8" nylon cord on a reel that I can wind up with a cordless electric drill. Cotton can be used but it tends to lose its strength over a period of time and can break. Builders string is also good for marking short distances as it absorbs the paint better and is less likely to mark the grass when moving the string. Make sure the string is tight enough and that the holding pins won't pull out easily, even in soft ground. It's a good idea to paint any and all marking devices with a bright color so that you can find them easily when you are finished. By lifting the string, snapping it, and rolling it off your fingers, you can get the line as straight as possible.


## STENCILS

With a little clever planning and construction, anyone can make their field look like the "Game of the Week." You can get your stencils pre-made or make them yourself out of plywood or other materials. Some of the plastic stencils tend to re-dilute the paint if used in

*continued on page 5*

# GREEN

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## Layout & Striping of Athletic Fields

continued from page 5

drizzle or rain and make for a messy job. If using a prepared stencil with different colors, use the proper color with an aerosol can when applying so you know what dot goes where.

All the marks of the field aren't just for show, there are some underlying advantages that also take place. Besides building up atmosphere and excitement among the players and student body, there are statisticians, announcers, coaches, fans, radio, TV and game officials that value these markings to help with the overall administration of the game. Also, I like to use a standard football helmet stencil in the middle of the field. That's where most of the turf damage takes place and sometimes a big logo right there can cover some of that wear. By outlining any logo or letter with a pin line up to 4" in a contrasting color, definition is improved. You also might try painting the school or team colors on each side of the 20 and 50 yard lines. This gives a much better perspective of ball location.

### PAINT

There are several paint manufacturers that specialize in athletic field paint. As with any equipment used on your fields, there are several things to consider when looking for paint. Availability and service support are certainly something to consider -- what good is the paint on Monday if the game was on Friday? Does the supplier offer technical support and accessories? Compare prices too -- sometimes a company with the best price for white can't even come close to matching other companies for red, etc. Different colors can have drastic price differences according to the quantity and ingredients. Check the labels carefully. Some colored paints can kill the grass if not intended for that application. Aerosol cans are fine for layout and quick striping but can't give the clarity for the cost that a properly applied mixed paint solution can.

There also are several different ways to mix your paint. My favorite is a string trimmer with a curved shaft (remove the shroud and line holder. This gives you a fast and thorough mix. You also can try bucket to bucket, or a mixing paddle on an electric drill. Be sure to have an MSDS on file for any paint or chemical you apply to the field.

### PAINTING

It's best to paint in a light coat first and let it dry if you have the time. This will act as a primer base and allow for a brighter line. There are several ways to apply paint to the field -- the standard is

a powered painter. I feel the most professional method of application is with an airless type painter. This allows you to atomize the paint during application for a quicker drying time, allowing a second coat or different color to be applied quicker. The easiest and quickest method is to paint directly on the string. Or, you could use a 4" paint brush along a string, and a 20' long aluminum stencil board like that used by George Toma's Super Bowl Grounds Crew and other crews.

Spray nozzles also come in different shapes and sizes. Fan tip nozzles are the most popular and have several patterns and angles to choose from. I have also had some success with a twin type nozzle that sprays out of two orifices, painting on both sides of the grass in one pass. Be sure to use a filter to prevent clogging. Replace nozzles when the spray pattern becomes distorted. Always remove the nozzle after painting, as some of the paint residue may still be in the line and settle in the nozzle.

As with any job you do, there are going to be challenges -- rain days, last minute adjustments, etc. But, we ARE sports turf managers and everybody loves a good challenge, right?!

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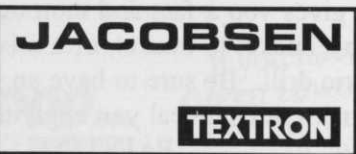
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## The People Factor

People - your personnel - are the highest dollar item on your sports turf management budget - and the one resource without which absolutely nothing would be accomplished. At the STMA Conference, on Saturday, January 16, 1999, you'll have the opportunity to sharpen your skills in this most important aspect of sports turf management - the people factor.

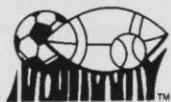
Come prepared for the give and take of hands-on workshop sessions as counseling psychologist and international management consultant, Dr. Bree A. Hayes, combines the practical and the philosophical aspects of people management. Dr. Hayes is president of The Hayes Group, an Athens, Georgia, based consulting firm, a renowned speaker and author, and consults regularly with turf, landscape and golf organizations. She'll focus on helping you grow your own professional management skills to rally your "team" for the challenges of the new millennium.

In the first session, "Building Teams That Work," Dr. Hayes will address both the chemistry that makes teams function and how teams work for the same goals. She says, "There's a difference between a group and a team. Teams have a common goal. When a number of individuals get on an elevator and begin their ascent, they're a group. If that elevator stops between floors, they become a team with a mutual goal: to get out of that elevator."

Hayes notes that people tend to come together in ways they never knew they could when they cope with a crisis such as a tornado or hurricane. They find strengths and abilities they never knew they had, yet few describe all they do as work. They draw energy from deep within their heart and soul and what they accomplish is very fulfilling.

Hayes' session will show you, as a team leader, how to find those natural strengths and really capitalize on them in such ways that people want to work. The work

*continued on page 11*



# Sports Turf Happenings



## Chapter Events

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

KAFMO is planning a Field Day for October 13th at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, PA. Don Follett, Head Groundskeeper of the Washington Redskins' home field, Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, will demonstrate football field layout and logo placement. Also included in the program will be field layout demonstrations for soccer and lacrosse, and tips on late fall field repairs. The Field Day also will feature a tour of the turf plots, a Products on Parade product demonstration by industry suppliers and a Trade Show.

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.

### Southern California Chapter:STMA

The Southern California Chapter will hold a Football-Soccer Seminar at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, CA, on November 5th.

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

### The Great Lakes Sports Turf Managers Association (GLSTMA)

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

The next GLSTMA Executive board meeting is scheduled for October 27th.

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

### The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

ISTMA encourages members to take part in the professional seminar titled, "Dealing with Jerks," which will be presented by Patt Schwab from 1:00 to 5:00 PM on November 10th at Willow Creek Golf 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).

### Florida Chapter #1: STMA

The Chapter will meet on November 17th at the City of Parkland Parks and Recreation Department. This meeting will be sponsored by Rain Bird Sales, Inc. and the

topic is irrigation. Included in this event will be a tour of the completed field construction project which the chapter viewed in process approximately one year ago. Further details will be announced soon.

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

### The Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association

The Nor-Cal STMA Chapter's Fall Seminar will be held on November 18th at the Simpkins Center at San Jose State University Stadium in San Jose. Morning seminar sessions will include a presentation by featured speaker Rich Genoff, sports turf manager for the San Francisco 49ers. Activities will move to the field in the afternoon for demonstrations and an "on the field" lawn mower competition.

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

### Minnesota Chapter:STMA

As part of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation, the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association will be an active participant in the 1998 Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference and Trade Show to be held December 9 - 11 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Further details will be announced soon.

For more information on the MSTMA role in this event, or for information on the Minnesota Chapter or other pending activities, contact: Connie Rudolph at (612) 646-1679.

### Colorado Chapter

The Colorado Chapters encourages members to attend the Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Conference, December 9-11, 1998 in Denver. For information call (303) 770-2220 or the Chapter Hotline/FAX as listed below.

For information on the Colorado Chapter or upcoming

*continued on page 12*

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PREMIUM SPORTS FIELDS



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

by Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

## WRIGLEY FIELD - (PART II)

When the decision was made to replace the Kentucky bluegrass turf at Wrigley Field in the mid 1980's, I was asked to assist the grounds crew in selecting the new sod for the field. I was Executive Director of STMA at that time and saw the opportunity at Wrigley Field as a way for STMA to become better known.

In August of 1985, Lubie Veal, Frank Capparelli, Roger O'Conner and I set off to visit sod farms in northern Illinois and Indiana. After visiting four sod farms, we stopped for lunch and a discussion of what we had seen. We considered the quality of the sod, the varieties of bluegrass that made up the sod blend, the soil on which the sod was grown and how well it would match the Wrigley Field soil, and the delivery and service of each source. It was their decision to purchase the sod from Evergreen Sod Farm (an STMA member) and, coincidentally, the sod used by their counterparts, Harry Gill at Milwaukee, and Roger Bossard at White Sox Park.

Under the direction of Head Groundskeeper, Roger O'Conner, maintenance of the Wrigley Field turf and grounds was intensified and modern technology instituted. Once the

new sod was installed the improved Kentucky bluegrass cultivars required additional nutrition, care and grooming. Slow release fertilizers were applied, a new automatic irrigation system was installed, aerification was instituted, calcined clay was worked into the infield skin areas, and a new mower was purchased so mowing patterns could be seen. Other projects also were undertaken.

O'Conner became ill and died suddenly in August of 1995. Although Roger never joined STMA, he was a supporter of the Association and conducted a clinic on preparation of pitching mounds at one of the STMA sponsored regional conferences and field days at the College of Dupage in the late 1980's. He also welcomed sports turf managers who were interested in the field and his maintenance program.

Following Roger O'Conner's death, a member of the Chicago Cubs grounds crew, Roger Baird, was asked to fill in as the Head Groundskeeper for the remainder of the season. Baird had worked closely with O'Conner since joining the grounds crew in 1978. He was promoted to the top spot in 1996.

*continued on page 10*

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## Doc's Dugout

*continued from page 9*

I had the privilege of meeting Roger Baird recently, prior to the September 11, 1998, game with the Milwaukee Brewers. Baird credits his skills and knowledge to the man who trained him, Roger O'Conner. O'Conner was his close friend, role model and his father away from home.

Roger has made some changes during his short tenure as Head Groundskeeper. He instituted a split crew - one group for general field maintenance and the other for home games. Since the Wrigley Field scoreboard is operated manually, three members of his crew are assigned to that duty during the games and one crew member works in the press box and operates the balls, strikes and outs on the scoreboard. The remaining home game grounds crew drags the infield skin areas and changes the bases after the 5th inning.

In 1995, the field was heavily infested with nutsedge. It was fumigated to eradicate the nutsedge and the entire field was resodded during the fall of 1995 with big roll sod. Roger has instituted striped mowing patterns. He uses Kankakee River clay on the infield areas along with a small percentage of sand and calcined clay. The exact percentage of these three ingredients varies with conditions, weather and use. The field is fertilized at least 7 times per year. Fungicides are applied when disease symptoms are present.

Junipers have been planted in the center field area to create a green background so batters can see the ball more accurately. Prior to this, that area had been a green tarp or concrete. The junipers do create more work since they need to be watered in the summer 2 to 3 times per week with soaker hoses.

I came away from the old ball park feeling great - after all - Sammy Sosa hit his 59th home run and I met a new friend, Roger Baird.

*In the next issue: A look at the history of night baseball and the job of designing and installing the lights at Wrigley Field to match the architecture of the old ballpark.*

## Headquarters Staff Expanding

Trusty & Associates has added two new employees to assist us in assisting YOU.

Angela Collinson has been hired as Office Manager. Angela will be doing most of the data entry for STMA memberships, bookkeeping, invoicing, etc. Angela has worked previously as a receptionist, tax secretary, and for the US Postal Service. She is married and has two sons, ages 15 and 10.

Jaci Pettie is our new Operations Coordinator. She will be in charge of most of the filing, faxing, mailing and general organization. Jaci is a single mother with 4 children ranging in age from 18 to 11. She brings with her great organizational skills from 11 years experience in her previous position.

We welcome both our new employees and hope you will too.

**Q: What do all of these teams have in common?**

Oakland A's  
Arizona Diamondbacks  
University of Texas Longhorns  
San Diego Chargers  
University of Southern California Trojans  
California Angels  
Arizona State University Sun Devils  
San Francisco 49'ers  
San Diego State University Aztecs  
San Francisco Giants  
San Diego Padres  
Los Angeles Dodgers  
Oakland Raiders  
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## The People Factor

continued from page 7

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place on your fields. Dr. Hayes will equip you to keep that in perspective even as you take accurate criticism to heart and react positively to it. While you won't be able to achieve continual perfection with your fields, that doesn't necessarily make you a bad person.

Dr. Hayes says, "Because this is a very stressful field (pun intended), it's extremely important that you manage your own stress. Remember, we have to take care of ourselves all of our lives. You must take the time to do the things on a day to day basis, managing sleep, diet, exercise, caffeine use, so that your stress won't come back and kick you in a destructive manner."

During the give and take of this session you'll gain a specific set of ideas and strategies to manage that stress, and still handle your job. You'll take home skills to make growing into the new millennium a whole lot easier. STM



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## Chapter Events

continued from page 8

activities, call the 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/FAX: (303) 438-9645.

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

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

### 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.

### The Mid-South Chapter STMA

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

### Midwest Chapter: STMA

The Midwest Chapter will again participate in the North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE) to be held November 30th through December 3rd at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois. More details will be announced soon.

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

### Chapters On The Grow

A new chapter is taking shape – the **North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association**. Newly elected officers are: Dr. James McAfee - President; Skip Keller - Vice-President; Rene Asprion - Commercial Vice-President; Sharlotta Connally - Secretary; and Tom Welch - Treasurer. The new Board of Directors, along with their areas of prime responsibility, are: Helen Monroe - Communications/Publicity; Mike Reber - Membership; Kathy Cassmeyer - Meeting Arrangements; and Brian Baker - Program.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 29th at the Ballpark in Arlington.

For information on this event, the North Texas Chapter or pending activities, contact: Rene Asprion, 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 take part in the City of Yuma Sixth Annual Sportsturf and Equipment Show which will be held on December 4th from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Ray Kroc Baseball Complex. Grant Trenbeath, Head Groundskeeper of the Arizona Diamondbacks, will be the featured speaker. Along with the Equipment and Products Show, events will include both educational sessions and demonstrations, covering: irrigation, ballfield maintenance, fertilization, pest identification and xeriscape.

The Third Annual Sportsturf Golf Tournament will be held on December 3rd at Desert Hills Golf Course. Tee off time is Noon.

For more information on these two events contact: Larry Munoz, Yuma Parks and Recreation Department at: (520) 329-2824.

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** - Things continue to move forward for chapter formation with the officer and board member selection process taking place and meeting plans in the works. For information on this developing chapter, 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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# THANK YOUR BOSS!

by *Connie Rudolph, Groundskeeper, Midway Stadium*

**T**hank You matters. Remember that positive feeling you had at the end of the 1998 STMA Conference? Remember those ideas you were just itching to incorporate into your program? The cost-cutting technique you worked into your budget? The great contacts you made? No wonder your schedule includes the 1999 Conference this January!

But wait – who else knows how much you gained?

Did you thank your boss for making it possible for you to attend? Did you let him (or her) know how your attendance impacted your program?

I appreciate the opportunity for professional development the Conference provides, and I want my boss to know it. So, I write a thank you note.

I understand that my Conference attendance is an investment in me and my program. Included in that thank you note is a brief summary of the Conference highlights with special emphasis on site visits to facilities similar to my own and on educational sessions that could apply to my situation. I spell out how I could apply that informa-

tion to my work. I also include tips I picked up that could save money at my site. I take a camera and include photos with the note if they can help illustrate an idea I'm planning to incorporate. I also mention some of the key contacts I've made at the Conference, and note all the opportunities for networking it provides.

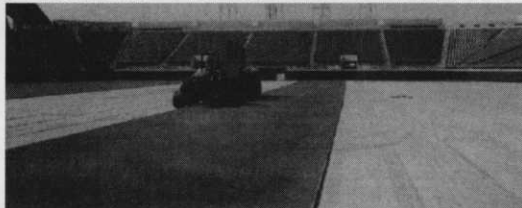
I make sure to say thank you a few times for allowing me to take the trip and that I think it was money well spent.

My boss has told me he really appreciates this feedback. He has control over many people and makes the final decision on which Conferences and other educational opportunities each should attend. All too often, he has no idea how that function went and whether or not it was beneficial to the individual and to our overall program. Knowing that the investment was worthwhile makes a difference in his decision for allocation of funds and personnel time for the next Conference.

Thank you matters.

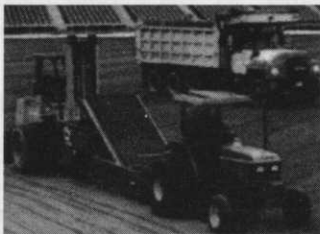
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# Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

By now you should have received your packet of information on the 10th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Additional Conference information is provided throughout this edition of the Sports Turf Manager. We've tried to cover everything most of you will need to know to assist you in making your decision to attend. If anything at all comes up that we haven't covered, don't hesitate to contact us. We want to do everything we can to convince you and/or your boss that you've "just gotta" be there. If you need any further convincing, talk to some past attendees. We'd be happy to pass along some names.

You will probably be receiving this issue right at or just past the deadline for the STMA Awards and Scholarship program entries. It will depend on how quickly the US Postal Service delivers your copy. If you receive this before October 15th you have until that date to get entries postmarked. We will be awarding a record amount for scholarships again this year, so we're hoping for plenty of quality entries. The earlier deadline date will allow the judges more time to evaluate the entries and make their selections. It also will allow the recipients more time to make their plans to have family or friends in Mesa to see them be honored.

Your Certification Committee is hard at work. Their goal is still to have a program to present at the January Conference. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 10th in Chicago. They plan to have a number of things ready to present to the Board at their meeting October 23rd and 24th.

If you have any additional thoughts or suggestions for this very important program, now is the time to express them. The best way to reach the Certification Committee is to fax, mail or e-mail your thoughts to Headquarters. We will then copy and get the information to all committee members. If you prefer to visit with someone, you can call us or any of those on the committee. Please refer to your membership roster. After talking with us or any of the committee members, it would be very helpful if you would then summarize those thoughts in writing so they can be shared with the rest of the committee.

There seems to be as much interest in this program from employers and prospective employers as there is from STMA members. This is a pretty good indication of the importance of Certification. Please share your thoughts now, when they will do the most good in shaping the program.

STMA will have a booth at several shows between now and next spring. If you're in the area and would like to assist in the booth, let us know. Or just stop by and say "hi." Shows include the GIE in November in Nashville, the Baseball Trade Show in December in Nashville, the High School Athletic Directors Conference in Las Vegas and the GCSAA in Orlando in February. We also will be working with several chapters at the various state and regional shows. If you know of any shows that you'd recommend we look into to reach prospective members, please alert Headquarters.

Until next issue, may your challenges be no greater than you and your staff can handle.



## Trusty Tips®

- Put some seed out before each fall football game and let the players cleat it in. This will keep new grass growing into the high traffic areas as the established turf is getting worn away.
- Try to get your coaches to utilize different areas for drills each day to spread the wear around instead of concentrating it in one area.
- Develop your game plan for attending the January Conference so you can obtain the approval of those who control the purse strings at the earliest possible moment.

## Members on the Move

**Tim Moore**, M-NCPPC, has moved to a new location. Tim can now be reached at the Wheaton Maintenance Facility at 301/680-3803.

**Ryan Kaspitzke**, 1997 Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship recipient, is GRADUATING!

### 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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