

## Membership Has Its Rewards

What better return could there be on your investment as a student than to have a job the day you graduate? Could anything possibly be better than that? Well - you could land a job with a minor league facility! That, my friends, is having your cake and eating it too! STMA is proud to say that FIVE of our student members at the beginning of this school year are now Head Groundskeepers for minor league franchises.



Jeff Limburg receives his award from STMA President Steve Guise at the Awards Banquet in Mesa, Arizona



Steve Guise, Sarah Martin & Dr. Jim Watson at the STMA Awards Banquet in Mesa, Arizona

Colorado State University student and 1999 recipient of one of our new Dr. Jim Watson Scholarships, is headed to Geneva, Illinois, to work magic on the Kane County Cougar's field. Congratulations guys and gals!

Past student members (some of them also scholarship winners) also have participated in Chapter events and the National Conference, gaining a greater handle on future possibilities and making those vital networking connections. All of which pays off when the job hunt begins.

If you've ever wondered if your membership paid for itself, I'm sure after seeing these young members' good fortune, that question is answered with a resounding YES! The networking that is done through our membership and association is priceless!



**Raechal Sager**, former student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, AND 1998 STMA Annual Scholarship winner, is with the West Michigan Whitecaps in Comstock Park, Michigan. **Jeff Limburg** has had a busy year: He was awarded the Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship at this year's Conference, he graduated from Michigan State University, and is now in Ohio with the Columbus Clippers. **Matthew Mattes**, who attended school at Longview Community College in Kansas City, MO, (and combined the 1999 Conference with his honeymoon!) landed in Columbus, Georgia, with the Columbus Redstixx. **Patrick Skunda**, who also graduated from Michigan State University, is grooming for the Carolina Mud Cats. AND **Sarah Martin**, former

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## SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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# President's Message

## It's Sports Turf MANAGEMENT

by Steve Guise, President

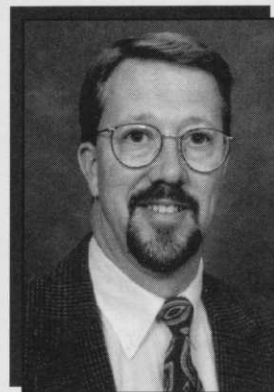
Management is the key. My 11 year old daughter Kelley demonstrated this factor for me during a recent weekend when my wife was visiting an out-of-town friend. Dad was home alone with our three girls. Kelley had gone to the local shopping mall with a friend and the friend's parents. When she returned, she was sporting a new earring at the top of her ear. Just as I prepared to launch into the lecture on never doing such a thing without her parents' permission, she also revealed a second ring - this one appearing to pierce her navel. Being a normal Dad, I immediately lost my cool and exclaimed, "Kelley, your Mom is going to ..." Before I could go any further, she laughed and said, "Don't panic, Dad." Then she removed the navel décor to show me it was just one of those new magnetic gadgets, as was the new earring.

Okay, she got me. And we shared a good laugh over it.

But, in retrospect, I realize she "managed" the incident, not only recognizing one of my "hot buttons," but also recognizing how to activate it - and how to diffuse the situation before the results of that activation passed the "acceptable" level.

As sports turf managers, part of our every day job is dealing with "hot buttons" and diffusing situations where these buttons may have been activated. The greater our skills in this stress busting action, the greater the cooperation of our employees, employers, and field users.

The way we notify a coach or field user group that a game must be cancelled because of field conditions



Steve Guise

can either bring them into agreement and partnership in that action or cause disagreement because we "don't understand" the importance of the game. The way we respond to employees' errors can either turn a situation into a teaching tool that improves their skills or become a point of confrontation, a barrier to open communication and a stumbling block to their successful performance of their job. The way we react to unexpected demands from our bosses can either demonstrate our ability to think on our feet and do the best possible job within the constraints of our resources or classify us with those who only function well when all goes according to plan.

Our job is sports turf MANAGEMENT, and that includes our communication, planning, and coordination skills along with our agronomic and turf skills.

Our annual Conference provides an opportunity to fine-tune all those skills. Our Certification and Strategic Planning Committees' programs will both advance the profession - confirming the management role. STMA is working for YOU.



# The Sports Turf Industry (Part I)

by Dr. Coleman Y. Ward, Auburn University

## The State of Sports Turf Management

On the eve of the 21st Century, sports turf management has evolved as a highly visible profession with great growth potential. This first of two articles is based on the results of a recent survey of sports turf managers who were asked to complete a 26 item questionnaire about the industry. The survey was selective in that it was mailed only to sports turf managers who are STMA members.

During the decade of the 1990's, the number of new sports fields, be they baseball, football, soccer, or softball, has increased dramatically. Perhaps the greatest and most visible increase, has been in multi-million dollar municipal sports complexes where citizens from age 5 and up can enjoy playing their favorite sport(s). For example, here in Alabama, the number of sports fields is estimated to be 7,650, which is one for every 500 citizens, based on a population of 4,000,000. With the growth in the number of facilities, there should be a growing need and appreciation for qualified sports turf managers who can provide better and safer playing surfaces for these fields.

### THE SPORTS TURF STAFF

Among managers surveyed, the average number of years in the profession was 13. The range in service varies from 1 to 24 years. The typical manager had been in his or her current position 7.5 years, while 38% had more than 10 years tenure in their present position. These findings indicate strong job stability for the profession.

As shown in Table 1, the number of staff members involved in sports turf management at a given facility varied with the sports activity and whether it was at the municipal or professional level. NFL and MLB facilities have the smallest staffs, usually three or less permanent staff members. Whereas universities and municipal park systems have an average of 7 to 11 on their turf maintenance staff. The number of workers fluctuates with the season, increasing in

**Table I.** Average number of turf maintenance staff members employed at various athletic facilities

Type of Facility	Peak Season	Off Season
Major League Baseball	8	3
National Football League	3	2
University or college	11	7
Municipal or public	9	4
Mean	8	4
Range	(1-35)	(1-35)

the summer and decreasing in the winter. However, there is a growing trend toward maintaining a larger permanent staff by providing alternate job activities during periods of low field use. This is a sound personnel management strategy because it ensures having well trained employees who take more pride in their work and the facility.

Averages can be misleading. For example, turf maintenance staffs for professional stadiums have little variance in staff employed with more than half having a staff of less than 3. Conversely, turf maintenance staffs at universities ranged from 2 to 35 year-round employees.

At Southern latitudes where climates permit outdoor sports activities on a year-round basis, there is often no seasonal fluctuation in the number of staff as there is no "off-season". This was the case for universities at Anaheim, CA (35)\*, Auburn, AL (10), and Miami, FL (5).

\*Numbers in parenthesis = number on turf maintenance staff

### NUMBER OF FIELD EVENTS PER FACILITY

**Table II.** Number of sports fields maintained per manager

Number	Percentage of respondents
1 field	20%
2-3 fields	17%
5-10 fields	42%
11-20 fields	16%
> 20 fields	5%

Range in number of fields managed - 1 to 100

The number of fields managed by each responding manager varied from one (1) to 100 with an average of 9 fields. The distribution is shown in Table II.

The number of events per sports complex reported ranged from a low of 8 where only a single football field was involved to >3500 events where multiple use complexes involved youth and adults in all sports. As shown in figure 1 (see page 4), softball fields had the most use and football fields the least. The range in events reported for each major sport are shown in parenthesis. Other sports and events on fields not shown included band practices, concerts,

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# The Sports Turf Industry

continued from page 3

drill teams, religious crusades, lacrosse, field hockey and intra-mural activities.

**Figure 1.** Event per facility for designated sport

	Sport	Mean	Range Reported
Most	Softball	151	30-2000
↑	Soccer	125	30-1000
↓	Baseball	112	30-1000
Least	Football	62	6-500

Because respondents did not always indicate field numbers by sport it was not possible to determine events per field. What these data clearly show is that municipal and university fields provide recreational turf for large numbers of participants, subjecting the fields to high levels of traffic. This gives credence to sports managers identifying soil compaction as a major problem.

## ROOTZONES

**Figure 2.** Types of sports field rootzones

Type	% of field type in each region	
	Cool season (Bluegrass)	Warm season (Bermudagrass)
Native Soil	81%	82%
Sand Based	19%	18%

Interestingly, the survey showed an equal percentage of fields having sand based rootzones in the Northern and Southern Regions of the USA, about 20%. However, given a choice, sports managers expressed a 3 to 1 preference for sand based fields. The major reasons given for preferring sand based fields were greater resistance to compaction and better playability under wet conditions. Greater soil strength was cited as the most important advantage of native soil fields. Loss of nutrients to leaching was the major problem encountered with sand based fields.

## AGRONOMIC PRACTICES

### A. HOW SPORTS TURF MANAGERS MOW

The survey shows that STMA members are to be commended for their attention to good mowing practices. Figure 3. shows that more athletic fields are mowed daily than at any other mowing frequency.

**Figure 3.** Frequency of mowing sports fields

Interval	Percentage of Managers
Daily	40%
4x weekly	9%
3x weekly	30%
2x weekly	21%



Frequent mowing is essential for healthy, dense turf because it reduces scalping, disease incidence, the need for sweeping and it improves field appearance (*as pictured above*).

Probably because of the rapid growth of bermudagrass and its susceptibility to scalping, a higher percent of turf managers in the southeast reported daily mowing of sports fields than did managers from other regions.

### B. FERTILIZATION AND SOIL TESTING OF SPORTS FIELDS

All survey respondents use soil testing as a common part of their turf nutrition program. Figure 4 shows the survey results on frequency of soil sampling.

**Figure 4.** Frequency of soil testing on sports fields

Interval of testing	Percentage for each frequency interval reported
12x annually	2%
6x annually	10%
2x annually	22%
1x annually	42%
Bi-annually	22%
Tri-annually	2%

More frequent soil testing was reported by managers who have sand-based fields.

The use of tissue testing is a standard practice by 44% of survey respondents.

Survey results also showed that all sports turf managers use more than one type of nitrogen fertilizer and that they use one or more slow release synthetic nitrogen sources; see Figures 5 and 6 on the next page.

continued on page 5



# The Sports Turf Industry,

continued from page 4

**Figure 5. Types of fertilizers applied to sports fields**

Type	Percentage of respondents
Soluble nitrogen	78%*
Slow release synthetic N	73%
Speciality formulations	60%
Natural organics	50%

\*all managers use more than one type.

**Figure 6. Percentage of turf managers using various**

Slow release synthetic N-sources

IBDU-----	27%*
Polyon-----	33%
SCU-----	66%
UF-----	30%

\*Some managers use more than one of the slow release nitrogen sources listed

Because of its acceptable performance at a lower cost per unit of nitrogen, sulfur coated urea (SCU) was the most widely used slow release source used by survey respondents.



Off-field irrigation gun in use

## C. IRRIGATION SYSTEMS USED BY SPORTS TURF MANAGERS

The survey data showed that 80% of sports fields are irrigated with "on field" pop up sprinklers. The remainder of the fields are irrigated with off-field water cannons (11%);

on-field quick coupler sprinklers (7%); and by traveling or towed impact sprinklers (2%).

Part II of this series will present survey results on what's ahead for sports turf management in the 21st century - specific topics will include turf cultivars, edu-

cation and training, factors motivating turf managers, where and from whom they seek advice, and a forecast of job opportunities in sports turf management.



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# How Do You Do...?

**The Question -- How Do You Increase Field Playability and Use During Weather Extremes?**

**Answered by Rick Jurries, West Ottawa (MI) Public Schools**

The first thing that we try to do is plan and coordinate with everyone that uses the field BEFORE the extreme weather hits. That way, no matter what the conditions, extreme frost in the morning, heavy rain the night before, or drought-like conditions, they already know that their games will either be postponed or cancelled -- depending on the extreme.

We have been pretty dry this year, but we do have a good irrigation system. Since we aren't allowed to water here during peak hours, we do a heavy watering in the evenings. During the summer we do not aerify at all as that dries out the field that much quicker, and we raise mowing heights. We also try to limit field usage during extreme weather. This year we are doing a 3-day soccer tournament for the Lakeshore United Soccer League but, for the most part, we save the field strictly for school sponsored events. That way we can have it in the best possible condition for use.

**Answered by Mickey Landry, City of Colleyville (TX)**

Part of the success of our fields, I feel, has to do with the initial construction and how well the drainage aspect was considered. I also am very pleased with the grass on our fields, all of which are Tifway 419 bermudagrass.

As far as the field maintenance aspect goes, we aerify twice a month and mow to 1.5 inches a minimum of once a week. Our fertilization program is industry-standard and we fluctuate our irrigation schedule to be consistent with the weather. For the baseball and softball fields, infield conditioners and drying agents are vital components.

We also are strict in our regulation of field usage. On the soccer fields, as well as baseball and softball, we will wait until 4:00 PM to make a final decision on play if there was, or is, a chance of rain. If rain occurs over the weekend, a City field representative will come out and inspect and make the recommendation on whether to play or not. To control access, the fields are kept locked when not in use and only maintenance personnel have keys.

I believe that the most important thing is to keep your fields in their best condition possible. It takes less time to keep them in top condition than it does to repair them after the damage is done.

**Answered by Matt Johns, North Thurston (WA) School District**

That's a very good question considering that in

the first 3 months of the year, we've had more than 3 times our normal amount of rain (including one 45 day stretch). Since most of our fields are sand-based, they did a pretty good job of draining once the rain stopped.

We did put down a polyon/nitrogen fertilizer April 1st, and are getting someone to come in and do a deep-tine aeration on the areas that are sealed over. When we mow, we leave minimal clippings this time of year to prevent areas from sealing over. We do our equipment maintenance check weekly to insure sharp blades, and change mowing directions (it surprises the grass and dandelions; they don't know which way we're coming from).

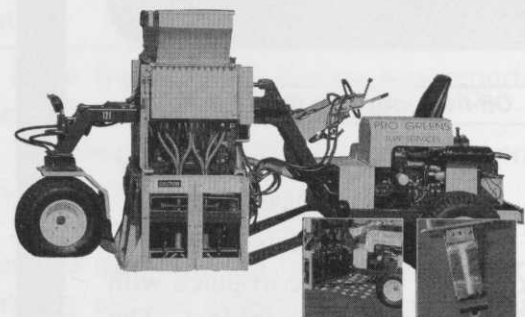
The most important practices are to walk your fields weekly so you know where your problem areas are. Check the rootzones for damage, especially in wet areas. Keep very detailed notes, and educate your staff to make sure they know what to look for and how and when to report it. Most of all, *continued on page 15*

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## Chapter Events

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

KAFMO will hold a Grounds Seminar at Hershey Stadium on Saturday, June 19th, while the family heads to Hershey Park (to be joined later by seminar attendees). Morning educational sessions for sports turf managers include presentations by Bob Hummer of Hummer Turfgrass Systems, John Tshudy, Director of Buildings and Grounds for Hershey Park, and Steve LeGros, Superintendent of Hershey Stadium. To help make this a family day, the chapter has put together a package that includes full day reduced admission to Hershey Park and admission to the Hershey Wildcats Soccer game.

KAFMO will hold a Summer Field Day on Wednesday, August 11th, at Brandywine Picnic Park, Pocopson, PA. This event will concentrate on maintenance of all-purpose fields just in time for fall renovations. There will be equipment demonstrations, topdressing, irrigation, seeding and soil preparation plots, and a pig roast. For more information on this event, contact: Nancy Bosold, Del. Co. Coop Ext. at (610) 690-2655.

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

### Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association

TVSTMA will hold a Workshop on June 23 at the University of Tennessee. Featured speakers include: Bob Campbell, Dr. Gil Landry, Dr. Jim McAfee, Dr. A. J. Powell, Dr. Tom Samples, and Dr. Coleman Ward. For information on this event contact Bob Campbell at 423/974-2977 or the contacts listed below.

For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Tom McAfee, Nashville Sounds, at 615/242-4371 or Bob Hogan at 888/224-6426.

### The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

ISTMA will hold a Seminar on Wheels tour in the Ames area on June 23rd. Registration begins at 9:00 AM. Sites on the tour include Iowa State University Sports Fields, the Ames Youth Complex, Reiman Gardens, and Ames High School. Speakers will include: Dr. Dave Minner, Richard Moore and Mike Andresen all of Iowa State University, and Don Larson of Ames High School.

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

### The Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association

The Colorado Chapter will hold its first ever Seminar on Wheels tour on June 23rd. Sites include Coors Field, Mile High Stadium and the Denver Broncos Practice Facility.

Participants will attend a Colorado Rockies game that evening.

CSTMA's Annual Golf Tournament, the "Lawnmower Man Open," will be held on July 20th at Westwoods Golf Course.

An August event in Grand Junction, Colorado, is in the planning stages. Also on the planning schedule is a September 15th event at Jackie Robinson Field of Lawry Air Force Base.

For information on the Colorado Chapter or any of these upcoming activities, call the NEW CSTMA Chapter Hotline: (303) 346-8954.

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

GLSTMA will hold an Athletic Field Day at Ohio State University from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on July 7th. Tours of the grounds and maintenance facility will be led by Brian Gimbel, head groundskeeper. Speakers for this event include Dr. John Street, OSU Agronomy, and Steve Trusty, STMA.

GLSTMA will hold a General Meeting for the membership along with the July 27th Board Meeting. This event is in the planning stages.

A Fall Field Day will be held from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on September 14th at Sylvania Pacesetter Park. This event will feature equipment manufacturers, turf product manufacturers and speakers.

GLSTMA has announced a \$250 scholarship program for students pursuing a career in turf. Contact (419) 885-1982 for application materials.

GLSTMA, along with Profile Products, will again sponsor Field of the Year Awards for facilities. Interested members can obtain application material by contacting (419) 885-1982 or at the web site.

For information on the GLSTMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Joe Zelinko at (800) 897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery at (419) 885-1982 or the chapter website: <http://members.tripod.com/~glstma>.

### The Mid-South Chapter STMA

A joint meeting between the Mid-South Chapter and the TVSTMA Chapter is in the planning stages a mid-state location and the date yet to be announced.

For information on the Mid-South Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Jim Calhoun at (901) 755-1305 or Robert Bodi at (901) 383-2414.

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

by Dr. Kent Kurtz, STMA Historian

## Remembering Dr. Fred Grau

Our good friend, the late Dr. Fred Grau, wrote a piece in 1984 entitled, "For Sports, The Word is **SMOOTH**."

It states, "Basketball players running full tilt down the court have no fear of a rut, an unexpected hole or a sudden high point which could cause the player to trip, fall, and sustain possible severe injuries. The court is **SMOOTH**!"

Tennis players enjoy smooth, unruffled surfaces on which to enjoy their vigorous fast foot-work game. They have no cause to fear twisted ankles due to a rough, rutted surface. The surface is **SMOOTH**!

Other sports such as racquetball, handball, lawn bowling and baseball are favored with smooth playing surfaces. On rare occasions a baseball outfield may be less than 100% smooth. Few outfielders will tolerate an uneven rough condition for long. Sports turf managers can ill afford to be the cause of ankle injuries to valuable players.

Football comes in various sizes and categories. Artificial surfaces are the ultimate in **SMOOTHNESS** but lack something in resiliency and cushion. Big league and col-

lege stadiums cater to the **SMOOTH**.

Soccer is a vigorous running sport played on natural turf fields. Here, as in basketball, the quality smooth is of utmost importance. It is a sad commentary that some schools have been forced to close out this popular sport because there have been so many injuries. It is **ROUGH RUTTED** fields that allow players to incur ankle and knee injuries. A soccer player running hard, stepping into a hole, is roughly equivalent to an automobile, going 50 miles per hour, hitting an unseen chuck hole. Both types of injuries, flesh and mechanical, can be repaired at a cost of time and money. Flesh and blood may not be restored to its original perfection as can the cars.

Why do we, parents, players and spectators alike, continue to tolerate rough, dangerous sports playing surfaces? Is it apathy? Is it lack of equipment, knowledge, money? All three can be furnished if we care enough."

Dr. Grau's article went on to note that, besides his years of expounding the cause of "Better Turf," encouraging students *continued on page 15*

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## Members on the Move

**Timothy Burke**, formerly with the Town of Bethel (CT), has moved within the state to the position of Parks Superintendent with the Town of Westport. Tim can be reached at 203/794-8531.

**Darian Daily**, formerly with the City of Brentwood (TN), is now Head Groundskeeper at the Columbus (OH) Crew Soccer Stadium. You can reach Darian at 614/221-CREW.

**Jim Haun**, has moved from the Beloit (WI) Snappers to the position of Athletic Grounds Supervisor at Western Michigan University. Jim's new phone number is 616/387-8091.

**Abby McNeal**, former Turfgrass Manager at the Award Winning Pleasant View Sports Complex (CO), has moved on to new challenges as Assistant Turfgrass Manager with the University of Colorado. Call her at 303/492-4749.

**Brock Phipps**, formerly with the Columbus (GA) Redstixx is now in the position of Head Groundskeeper for the Ozark Mountain Ducks in Ozark, MO. Brock can now be reached at 417/581-2868.

**Michael Sexton**, has moved from the La Junta (CO) Parks & Rec. Dept. to the position of Assistant Manager for Recreation with the Pueblo Park District. Michael's new number is 719/566-1745.

**Mike Varner** is now with Ballpark Services as Head Groundskeeper for the Delmarva (MD) Shorebirds and can be reached at 410/219-3112 ext. 104.

**Congratulations to all of you!**

*If you, or someone you know, has changed positions, let us know so we can continue to keep everyone informed!*

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## Chapter Events

continued from page 8

### Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association

The Wisconsin Chapter's Summer meeting will be held on August 10th, during the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association's Summer Field Day at the O. J. Noer Facility in Verona. Highlights will include: research, demonstrations, equipment, and products specifically for athletic field use.

On September 14th, WSTMA will meet at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. A highlight of this event will be a field tour with sports field supervisor, Pete Bemis.

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

### Florida Chapter #1: STMA

The Florida Chapter is planning an August 17th meeting at Rodger Dean Stadium in Palm Beach.

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

### Indiana Chapter: STMA

For information on the Indiana Chapter or pending activities, contact: Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at (219) 356-8424 or Pat Hickner at (800) 672-4273.

### The Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association

The MiSTMA will hold its Second Annual Summer Conference on June 24th at Novi, Michigan.

In the planning stages is a July Seminar in Lansing, Michigan.

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

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

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

### 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 upcoming events, contact: Connie Rudolph at (651) 646-1679.

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

For information on the Nor-Cal STMA Chapter or pending activities, contact: Janet Gift at 530/758-4200.

### The North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the North Texas Chapter or pending activities, contact: Rene Asprien, Diamond Pro, at (800) 228-2987 or Tom Welch, CSM, Central Garden and Pet, at (800) 788-9581, or check out their new website at [www.ntstma.org](http://www.ntstma.org).

### Southern California Chapter:STMA

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

### Chapters On The Grow

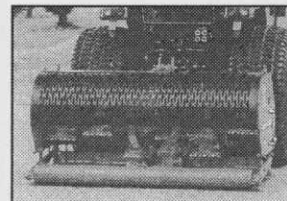
A new Chapter is taking shape in the **Kansas City Missouri - Kansas** area. For more information contact: Trevor Vance at 816/504-4271; John Cundiff at 816/525-7600; Bill Tritt at 816/941-4424; Jody Gill at 913/681-4121; Gary Custis at 816/468-6215; or Jay Sutton at 816/795-8873.

**Arizona** - For information on upcoming events, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks & Recreation Department, at (602) 312-7954, or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department at (602) 786-2728.

**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.

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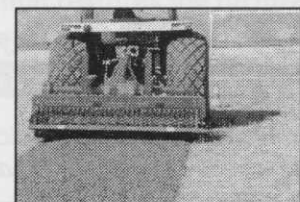
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# Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

As usual, it's a busy time here. We're sure that it's a very busy time for you, too.

Some very busy people have found time to put a lot of effort into a couple of very important programs for you.

The Certification Committee held a very productive meeting in Chicago in March. They have pretty well finished the Competencies for Certification and some of the other "paper" items that are needed. The next and most important area that needs to be finalized is the test itself. A sub-committee is working diligently on that and the entire committee is scheduled to get together in Chicago again June 25 and 26. The plan is to have the committee members take a version of the test to determine about how long it should take for a person to take the test and how well the test covers the necessary competencies. A few other details will be taken care of at that meeting.

After that meeting the Test Sub-committee will finalize the test process. After that STMA can start accepting applications and start individuals on the road to Certification. The timetable towards that point will be determined after the

June meeting. We may find it necessary to hold another session to "test the test" before we can finalize it. We'll keep you posted.

If you have any questions that you feel any Certified Sports Field Manager should know the answer to, please share them with Headquarters. We'll pass them on to the Test Sub-committee. It is a monumental task to come up with enough questions to provide a large enough pool to give applicants a fair test without giving everyone the same set of questions. This is your program and your input will be appreciated.

Another committee that has been hard at work is your Conference Education Committee. They have spent many hours putting together a program that is going to provide THE INFORMATION that YOU will need to continue in your profession into the next millennium. The program is pretty well set and the Committee is in the final stages of contacting and locking in speakers. It won't be long before we are ready to finalize the program to mail out to you. Be sure you have the Conference in your budget and your calendar marked for January 12 - 16, 2000. The program promises to be outstanding.

The Office staff has been busy finalizing the Compendium and Roster. By the time you receive this newsletter they should both be at the printers and following in the mail shortly afterward. When we do mail them, we will be including some membership brochures. We figure that since you are already a member and know what you get out of STMA, you are the best one to pass the brochures along and encourage new members. If each member were to get just one new member this spring and summer STMA would double its membership (as our granddaughter would say - "well duh").

We hope you are having a great spring and may your challenges be no greater than you can handle.



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**A Passing Noted:**  
**Mrs. Harry (Mary) Gill**

Mary Gill, wife of STMA founding father, the late, great Harry Gill, passed away this past month following an extended illness.

Though Mary will be missed on this earth, we are sure that Harry is enjoying showing her around that great sports field in the sky.



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Water Insoluble Nitrogen	0.5%
Water Soluble Nitrogen	2.5%
Available Phosphate (P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	3.0%
Soluble Potash (K <sub>2</sub> O)	4.0%
Calcium (Ca)	9.0%
Magnesium, Water Soluble (Mg)	0.8%
Sulfur, combined as (S)	1.5%
Iron (Fe)	1.0%

Derived from: North Atlantic Kelp Meal, Humic Acid, Feather Meal, composted Poultry Manure, Rock Phosphate, Langbeinite, Ferrous Sulfate, Vitamins C, B<sub>1</sub>, and E, Glycine, and Myo-Inositol. Chlorine less than 1%.

### Contents

SPORTS TURF dryROOTS formula has a low salt content, so it is non-burning on plantings, turf and landscapes. It is screened for consistency, and is free of unwanted pathogens.

### Notice

Buyer assumes all responsibility for safety and use not in accordance with directions. Read entire label carefully.

### Caution

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

### Applications

**Field preparation/pre-game application**  
5 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. Apply one to three days before play. Water in if practical.

**Field restoration/post-game application**  
10 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. Apply soon after the period of play, usually after a weekend. Water in if practical.

### Maintenance

In off-play period during the grass growing season, apply SPORTS TURF dryROOTS every thirty days at the rate of 10 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. Not necessary to water in.

### Growing in from Seed

Work 10 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. into soil as part of preparation, before seeding.

### Installing Sod

Apply 10 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. before and after laying sod.

### Spreader settings

Settings are approximate for 5,000 sq. ft. coverage, at the rate of 10 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. You may need to adjust for proper coverage.

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## FIELD PREPARATION/PRE-GAME APPLICATION

5 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. will prepare the sports turf for the stress of play, building up the root system and encouraging a strong leaf system without flush growth. Apply one to three days before play. Water in if practical.

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# Sports Turf Articles and Photos Win TOCA Awards

Sports turf articles and photos earned awards in the annual Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) Writing, Photography and Design Awards Competition at the association's 10th Annual Meeting held May 1-3, 1999, in Orlando, Florida.

Bob Tracinski earned first place honors in the Writing for Commercial Publications - Operations Profile category for the article, "Joy Christian Athletic Complex" in the July 1998 issue of sportsTURF magazine. Steve and Suz Trusty earned a merit award in the same category for the article, "Practice Makes Perfect," in the November 1998 issue of sportsTURF.

Steve and Suz Trusty earned first place honors in the Writing for Commercial Publications - Turf Feature Article category for the article, "Sod and Field Repairs" in the October 1998 issue of sportsTURF. Congratulations also to Ron Hall for winning a Merit Award in this category for his article, "From a Sow's Ear to a Silk Purse" in the Spring 1998 issue of Athletic Turf Magazine.


Steve Trusty earned a merit award in the Writing for Commercial Publications - Column category for the STMA Message, "February is for Looking Forward" in the February 1998 issue of sportsTURF. Steve Trusty also earned two pho-

tography awards: a merit award for the cover photo of the October 1998 issue of sportsTURF and a first place award for Photography - Magazines, one or more photos to illustrate an article, for his shots used in the "Battling Compaction" article in the March 1998 issue of sportsTURF.

Steve and Suz Trusty also earned the first place award in the Writing for Commercial Publications - Environmental Stewardship Article category for the "Preserving a Heritage" article in the July 1998 issue of Golf Course Management magazine.

The TOCA meeting included a tour of Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex, conducted by STMA member, Jon Strantz.

TOCA is composed of editors, writers, publishers, photographers, public relations/advertising practitioners, industry association leaders and others involved in green industry communications. A prime objective of the organization is to provide a network to foster understanding and awareness of the Green Industry as a whole.

Steve Trusty, STMA Executive Director and president of Trusty & Associates, was elected President of TOCA during the association's annual meeting. 

## STMA Members Offered 20% Discount on New Book

Coming into print this June is a new book with a total sports field focus, "Sports Fields: A Manual for Design, Construction and Maintenance," written by Jim Puhalla, Jeff Krans and Mike Goatley. This is a definitive how-to book that covers football, baseball and soccer - and everything in between. It covers the important aspects of planning, design, construction and turfgrass maintenance with hundreds of illustrations and step-by-step procedures to help you get the job done right.

This book (ISBN 157504-070-0) is published by Sleeping Bear Press/Ann Arbor Press of Chelsea, Michigan, and can be ordered directly from them with a \$5 shipping charge added to the book price. List price is \$74.95. STMA national and chapter members are offered a 20 percent discount - bringing the price to \$59.96. (Just write STMA Discount on the order form.) Contact STMA Headquarters for ordering information.

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## Doc's Dugout

*continued from page 9*

and consulting on fields -- he instigated other venues to improve field conditions.

One of these efforts involved the national PTA organization. Working with their Program Director, Dr. Carter, Grau helped form the initial concept, "BAT TRITTY" (Better Athletic Turf - To Reduce Injuries To The Young).

This concept gave way to PTA/PTI and eventually to the National Sports Turf Council which met biannually at the USDA Research facility in Beltsville, Maryland, and included many major industry groups: STMA (represented by Kent Kurtz), The Lawn Institute (Roberts), the NFLPA (Macik),

PGMS (Shoulders), USDA (Murray), commercial companies (Watson, etc.), the University of Maryland (Turner), Virginia Polytechnic (Hall), Penn State University (Harper & Waddington) and others.

By 1984, The National Sports Turf Council was acting to coordinate efforts to improve turf and playing surfaces primarily of fields at the elementary, junior and high school levels. The PTA/PTI and National Sports Turf Council never reached their potential due to the deaths of Dr. Fred Grau and Jack Murray and they no longer exist. The challenge remains and addressing it is part of the STMA outreach.



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## How Do You Do...?

*continued from page 6*

communicate with your Athletic Directors. SHOW them the conditions, make them put their boots on and come splash around with you so they know exactly what you're working with.

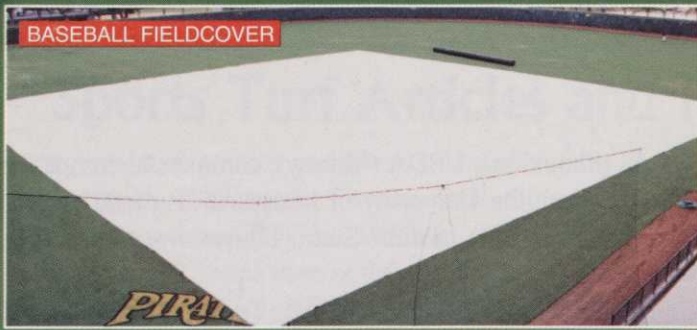
### **Answered by Alan Dungey, Frontier Field (NY)**

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Spring play begins when fields are dormant, so any repairs or renovations must be done in the fall. Aeration and fertilization in the fall help ensure a healthy, well draining field for spring. Evergreen turf blankets can be used for high traffic areas to help control ice damage and promote earlier spring green up. All skinned areas should be prepared in the fall so the only efforts in the spring are to dry the field.

We rely on our fields for heavy use during any weather. When we attempt to play in poor weather, we try not to over react to a problem; it often looks worse than it is. Making the field playable when you have to use it is the focus. You can cause more harm to a field by trying to provide optimal conditions. When the weather changes back to normal, you then have to work harder to get the field back to normal. The toughest decision is whether to jeopardize the field's future for the event that day.





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