

Tampa 2001 - Upward and Onward!

It's January; you're in Tampa, Florida. You're warmed by the sun, cooled by the gentle Bay breeze, surrounded by friends - and **this is business**. IT'S THE 2001 STMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION!

Dates for the Conference are January 17th through the 21st and just look at what we have in store for you this time!

Events start off on Wednesday with some tough optional choices - a Seminar on Wheels tour of Tampa area sports venues, a golf outing, or a Floyd Perry Workshop - decisions, decisions! Then, later in the afternoon, come the "Category" Idea Exchange Sessions, followed by the Welcome Reception - a great place to meet and mingle with your friends both new and old.

Educational Sessions are bigger and better than before with regular Group Sessions and **four** choices in each Concurrent Session. We're also having two Sessions with your choice of one of six 2-Hour Workshops and multiple choices for the popular Round-Table Discussions.

The Tampa Convention Center, adjacent to our Headquarters Hotel, will house our largest trade show ever. You'll share a super evening reception with the exhibitors on Thursday, followed by a second opportunity

to view the exhibits and connect with suppliers on Friday.

Don't forget the "Live" and "Silent" Auctions and our Raffle of valuable sports memorabilia. It seems that people are getting more creative with their donations every year!

Of course, there is the Annual Awards Banquet on Friday evening where you can find out who this year's Award and Scholarship recipients are and who knows - it could be you!

Sunday caps things off with your choice of Seminar on Wheels tours - one to different Tampa area sports venues and one to area attractions (like Busch Gardens, or the Florida Aquarium, or maybe Ybor City, or maybe....)

SO - now's the time - mark your calendars for the 12th Annual STMA Conference & Exhibition - January 17-21, 2001 - Tampa, Florida. (*Sunscreen not included*).



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Volume XVIII Number 4
July/August 2000

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Sports Turf Manager is a publication of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). It is published bi-monthly and is free to STMA members. Sports Turf Managers' goal is to promote the mission of the association by providing a channel for communication between the representatives of the board and its constituency. STMA is not responsible for the opinions expressed in this publication. Address changes, advertising, photographs, and editorial inquiries should be directed to the executive offices. © 2000 Sports Turf Managers Association. All Rights Reserved.

President's Message

Upward and Onward

by Rich Moffitt, President

By the time you read this, one half of the year 2000 will have past. The January 17 to 21 dates of our 12th Annual Conference "Tampa 2001: Upward and Onward" are rapidly approaching. It's obvious we're living -- and working -- in a fast paced world.

Upward and Onward is not only a Conference theme, it's a fitting description. Upward because we're reaching new heights as individual professionals, as a profession, and as an association. And Onward, because we're moving forward at this higher level, looking ahead and tackling the challenges.

Your STMA Board and the Strategic Planning Committee have begun the task of preparing the Association to move forward and reach new heights in the new millennium.

A major item that took shape during the Strategic Planning meeting was the development of an updated Mission Statement. Now, a Mission Statement is much more than a lofty sounding sentence to put on Association literature. It's a clear statement not just of what we are, but also of what we are becoming and what we will achieve. It's a powerful tool to give a united sense of direction and focus to an organization.

Here is the updated STMA Mission Statement: *To be the recognized leader in strengthening the sports turf industry and enhancing members' competence and the acknowledgement of their professionalism.*

This Mission Statement was discussed, debated, and totally worked over at the Strategic Planning meeting and then ratified by the STMA Board at the June Board Meeting.

The words were carefully chosen for the messages they represent.

For example, consider the word strengthening in the phrase "strengthening the sports turf industry." Strengthening is the process of making stronger. Key areas associated with being strong are performing well, being morally powerful, being intellectually powerful, and leading with authority.



Rich Moffitt

Consider the word enhancing in the phrase "enhancing members' competence." Enhancing is the process of improving the quality, of making better. And competence in that same phrase is the condition of being competent, well qualified, capable, fit to accomplish the requirements of the position.

Also consider the word acknowledgement in the phrase "the acknowledgement of their professionalism." Acknowledgement is the recognition of something and the affirmation that something is true. In this case, that sports turf managers are professionals whose professionalism is to be recognized and affirmed.

Your Board believes this Mission Statement clearly expresses where we have come from the formation of this Association, and what we are becoming and will achieve. All this is possible because of you. Your dedication to your role as a professional and your commitment to the profession have led you to become STMA members and to support your Association. In turn, your Association must serve you. As part of the development of the STMA Strategic Plan and the key strategies to implement it, your Board will be asking you to tell us how to best serve you. You will be asked through a survey for your input to help define your wants and needs and to provide feedback on the scope of your position in the industry.

STMA is, above all else, your Association, formed and functioning to serve you. Working together, we can not only achieve everything the updated Mission Statement expresses, but also deliver on our ultimate goal as stated in the updated STMA Positioning Statement: "Providing the best sports surfaces for all levels of play."

How Do You Do...?

How Do You Develop Your Topdressing Program?

Answered by Randy Frater, San Diego State University

A few years ago, we started out with a program to topdress once a year but that didn't work out due to time constraints. Now, we basically do it on an as needed basis. We have a total of 6 fields and the high profile fields are done about once every 2 years with the low profile fields generally not done at all.

We do, however, topdress every time after we re-sod, and after any construction or when a tournament or other outside use of a field leaves damage. Our football practice field is re-sodded every year inside the sidelines. We always core aerify before we topdress. Also, when we don't topdress after coring, we drag the plugs back in which offers some of the benefits of topdressing but on a much smaller scale. This is done on an average of once a month during the playing season and every 2 months in the off-season.

I started out using a fairly inexpensive topdressing material but had a real problem with rocks in it so now we're switching to masonry sand. I always start with a 1/2" layer over the entire turf area and modify as needed depending on the field. I don't like to add organic matter to my topdressing material and I always apply material that has the same texture (or coarser texture) as the soil itself.

Answered by Chris Langley, Norwich (CT) Navigators

Our field is sand-based with a 90% sand, 10% North Dakota Peat profile and the turf is 80% bluegrass and 20% ryegrass. During the baseball playing season, we host 71 home games and numerous other events. Therefore, I make it a practice to do my topdressing every fall.

The first step in my program is to core aerate - removing the cores. I then topdress with the same soil profile as is already on the field at 1 inch, 2 inches in the high traffic areas. After spreading the material with a topdresser, I then use a drag mat or screen to fill in the holes left by the aeration process. We follow this in a couple weeks with verti-cutting and slice seeding, broadcasting extra seed as needed in the worn, high traffic areas.

Answered by Boyd "Rob" Montgomery, CSFM, Sylvania (OH) Recreation

The facilities I take care of in Sylvania cover a broad range of soil types. At Pacesetter Park we have a heavy clay soil and down the road, at all our off sites, we range from sand to a nice loam soil. In developing a good topdressing program the first step is to understand what is under your turf. Soil analysis are crucial to this process. After you have identified the soil profile the next step is to locate a vendor in your area to supply a material that matches. You want a material that matches so you do not create layers in your soil profile.

We try to target topdressing the fields after the season has ended and we have aerated the fields. With 135 acres at one facility it is not very cost effective to topdress the whole facility. We generally concentrate on the travel soccer areas and any other area that needs it. My one luxury is that we rotate the fields every season on the facility, so we very rarely have the same wear patterns on any field.

When we do topdress, it is combined with aeration and seeding. Aeration is done with a machine that has hollow tines and slit tines on the same unit. Unless it's during the playing season, we leave the plugs to break down. During the playing season we sweep them up. I have found that leaving the plugs helps us control the thatch layer. We have a Mill Creek spreader for topdressing that helps us spread the material. Then we broadcast seed and use a drag mat or rake for good seed to soil contact.



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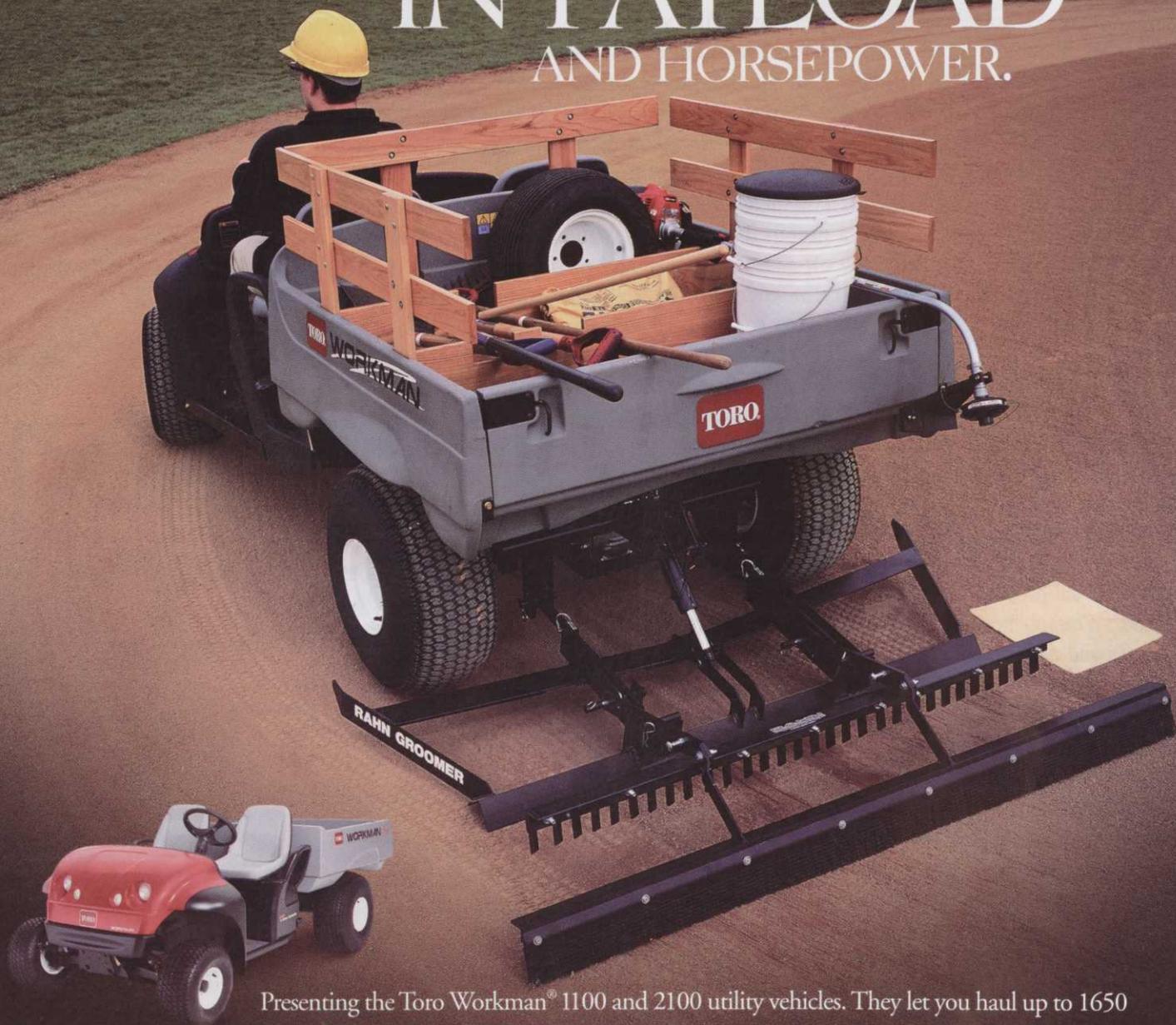
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Pro-Active Liability Defense

by Floyd Perry, GMS for Sports Fields

The climate in all areas of today's society is to try and beat the system. Whether it's a parking ticket, a library fine or a nuisance lawsuit, John Q. Public wants his just due.

In the athletic arena, whether it be college, high school or youth league, parents or employees today are claiming negligence and filing suit in greater numbers than ever before. The days of a bad hop, an uneven playing surface or no break times are over. If a lawyer feels there is a quick dollar to be captured, he's going to encourage the plaintiff to file papers and claim negligence.

Anyone can be sued at anytime, by anyone, over anything, but winning a decision is a different scenario. Let's create a strong case of **pro-active** defense mechanisms to protect ourselves and our organizations against the petty and frivolous lawsuits.

Pro-active means to create positive procedures and concise implementation before an accident occurs:

1. Instruct your staff that we must use good common sense in every action which takes place under your realm or responsibility. Error on the side of safety!

- Avoid working alone under difficult conditions.

- Avoid long work periods without water or time breaks.

- Use the partner system when doing continuous jobs.

- Explain the hazards of the job in early morning staff meetings so precautions are taken.

- Create a positive safety outlook with handbooks, poster sheets and identifying stickers.

- Identify staff member health problems and work accordingly.

2. Instruct your staff and/or part-time

employees in the primary steps in case of a serious or catastrophic accident.

- Do not move the injured person unless additional life threatening danger persists. Then and only then, move the person only far enough to stay away from additional danger.

- Immediately assume extreme injury. Call 911 on your cellular phone or two-way radio. With your staff's CPR training and first aid background, keep the airway open and the individual breathing until *continued on page 9*



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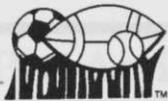
A Passing Noted

Long-time STMA Member, Ray Adameak, suffered a massive heart attack on June 21st. He was 52. Ray was Athletic Turf Maintenance Coordinator for the City of Duluth/Wheeler Athletic Complex, in Duluth, MN. The team cancelled games and the funeral was held at homeplate of the stadium.

Ray, you will be missed.



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Chapter Events

Florida Chapter #1: STMA

The Florida Chapter will have a booth at the Florida Turfgrass Association Turfgrass 2000 meeting on August 15 and 16 at the University of Florida campus in Gainesville.

September 21 is the date of the Florida Rec. & Parks Association and Florida STMA Chapter joint Turf Rodeo at Delray Beach. The Chapter also will meet on October 17 at the University of Miami. The educational focus of this meeting is Soils and Fertility.

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

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA)

KAFMO will help sponsor a Summer Field Day on August 16 at the Brandywine Picnic Park in Pocopson, Pennsylvania. Featured speakers are David Livingston, Research Support Associate, Penn State University, on mower maintenance with "Getting the Most from your Mower;" and Joe Lentz, Arborchem, Inc., with "Municipal and Playground Bare Ground Weed Control." Events will include: Equipment Safety Demonstration Trailers, Equipment Demonstrations by Local Vendors, and an all you can eat Pig Roast.

For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212 or via the chapter e-mail address: kafmo@aol.com.

The Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association

MiSTMA will participate in the Michigan State University Turfgrass Field Day to be held at MSU's Hancock Turfgrass Research Center from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on August 23. The morning session features research tours focusing on sports and commercial turf management. Afternoon workshops run from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. One ses-

sion, the Athletic field tour, will include MSU and other local athletic fields and will feature practices and tips for better field performance and for pest resistance. Additional workshop topics are: Boom sprayer calibration; Disease identification; Insect identification; Weed identification; Turfgrass identification; and the MSU Horticulture Gardens tour.

The trade show is open from 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

For information on the MSU Turfgrass Field Day, contact: Kay Patrick of MSU at (517) 321-1660. For information on the Chapter or other pending events, contact: Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at (616) 738-6974 or click on your computer to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's NEW website.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (formerly The Great Lakes Sports Turf Managers Association)

The Ohio Chapter will hold its third annual fall field day on September 12 at the intramural complex at Ohio State University. Events will include educational sessions and equipment demonstrations.

NOTE: The deadline for OSTMA field of the year awards and scholarship applications is October 1st.

For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, contact: Joe Zelinko at (800) 897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery at (419) 885-1982 extension 50, or visit the chapter's website www.glstma.org.

The North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association

NTSTMA will meet on September 12 for a triple play of events: the Annual Golf Tournament, Home Run Derby and Equipment Show. Activities will take place at Grapevine Golf Course and Flower Mound Gerault Park. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the North Texas Chapter or *continued on page 11*

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DOC'S DUGOUT - An Inning From Our Past -

The Year 1988

By Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

The Year 1988 was Significant in STMA's Life. Many milestones were reached during 1988 that solidified the Association's future and contributed to the success we enjoy today. The following are highlights from 1988.

Regional Sports Turf Institutes

Three regional Institutes were presented by STMA, the Western at Cal Poly, Pomona, the Midwestern at the College of DuPage, Illinois, and the Eastern at Holy Cross College in Massachusetts. Keynote speaker at the Western Institute was Dr. William H. Daniel who discussed the development of the PAT athletic field system. Chicago Cub Hall of Fame outfielder Billy Williams was the keynote speaker for the Midwestern Sports Turf Institute. His topic was turf management as it relates to the players. Keynote speaker at the Eastern Institute was the "old turf master" Harry Gill who entertained the audience with tales and stories about the trials and tribulations of the groundskeeper.

Scholarship Recipient

The Harry Gill Scholarship was presented to Eric Carl

Hansen who was a student at Texas A&M. Eric is a current STMA member and the Turf & Grounds Superintendent for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Beam Clay Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards

Professional Category - Tom Burns - Charlotte County Stadium, Port Charlotte, FL. Tom is a current STMA Board member and Director/Major League Field Operations for the Texas Rangers Baseball Club.

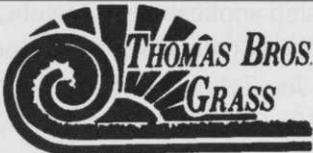
College/University Category - Leo Goertz - Head Groundskeeper - Olsen Field, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. Leo is still active at the University and within the Association.

Municipal Category - Jeffrey Bowman - Park Superintendent, City of Farmington, NM. Jeff is now Director/Parks & Rec. for the city and an active STMA member.

Research Grant

A \$1000 research grant was presented to Steve Cockerham, Superintendent/Ag Operations for the

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second aid appears. I encourage every staff member to have their pre-season CPR card updated and in their wallet.

☛ Place volunteers in a proper alignment to aid and direct the rescue vehicle immediately to the site of the injured victim. Your emergency entrance must be unlocked, void of obstructions and provide the ability to reach the victim while on the playing surface.

☛ To enhance emergency room access, make sure all medical and insurance forms are up to date and carried with the ambulance. The family must be contacted and instructed on the kind of action taken for the player. A progressive administrator should have those forms handy just for this situation.

☛ Have individuals who witnessed the accident fill out a visual report so there's an unbiased reporting as to what happened. This key point is one of the more important defense steps that a department or team has.

☛ Take pictures of the accident scene. Whether the picture is favorable or unfavorable, this is prudent and valuable in proving your case.

☛ Make every attempt to visit and console the injured person. This is the time when "bedside manner" plays an important part in the family's feelings surrounding the accident and/or long term problems.

☛ Review your accident procedures and correct any weaknesses.

Having a first aid certificate, a cellular phone on site, an emergency procedure in place and follow-up reporting documented doesn't necessarily mean you're out of the lawsuit woods, but you have shown to the court that serious problems have been discussed and thought out and that your policies and procedures were in place.

You or your department may still get sued and even lose when you have done everything correctly. The most important feature of this whole exercise is that maybe you might have just saved a life or saved a life-threatening situation because your department was ahead of the liability wave. Although you may have lost in court, you won on the job. Stay Pro-Active. Keep an eye on safety and take care of your valued employees, your field users and your spectators.

Floyd has three books, *The Pictorial Guides to Quality Groundskeeping: I Covering all the Bases, II There Ain't No Rules and III Maintain It Easy, Keep It Safe*. He also has three videos, *The ABC's of Grounds Maintenance, Vol. I, Softball; Vol. II, Baseball; and Vol. III, Soccer Football Field Refurbishment*. Floyd travels throughout the United States conducting workshops for men and women who maintain athletic fields. For more information about Perry's tips or other field maintenance questions, call (800) 227-9381 or visit the website at www.grounds-keeping.com.



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ID number (*Located on your
membership card - or call
Headquarters*) to see what's up
in the
Members Only Section!

YOUR BOARD MEETING REPORT

Your STMA Board met on June 2-3 at the Las Vegas Hilton in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Minutes of the March 3-4 Board Meeting were approved. Treasurer Bob Campbell reported STMA continues to be on solid financial footing. After review, the preliminary financial report for the period ending May 31 and the check disbursement records were approved.

As STMA continues to increase membership services, all Committees have become much more active. To facilitate Board Meetings and to allow better preparation for Board Meetings, Committee Chairs provide a written report for the Board Books noting what has been accomplished since the previous meeting, outlining goals for action and highlighting issues on which the Committee requests Board action. These books are sent to all Board Members during the week prior to the Board Meeting.

One major area of discussion was the preliminary Strategic Planning report. Extensive phone interviews had preceded the May 12-13 Strategic Planning meeting which then had focused on defining and refin-

ing all input into key strategic areas. The STMA Board reviewed and discussed this material. The Board ratified the updated Mission Statement and Positioning Statement. (See President's Message.) The Board also developed key strategies for post-Board Meeting individual input to recommend related action initiatives.

Other key areas of discussion were the report of the Foundation Committee and of the 2001 Conference Education Committee. Each Committee will proceed as directed with the input supplied by the Board.

Two action initiatives were to begin immediately: development of detailed financial guidelines by the Finance Committee and research into development of a national Resource Center, with the Education Committee working in conjunction with the Chapter Relations Committee.

The next Board Meeting will be held on September 29-30. Anyone having input for the Board Meeting, or questions about any of the administrative functions of STMA, is invited to contact STMA Headquarters or any of your Board Members.



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Chapter Events

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pending activities, contact: Rene Asprion, Diamond Pro, at (800) 228-2987 or Dr. James McAfee, Texas A & M University, at (972) 952-9220, or log onto www.ntstma.org to check out the website.

The Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona

The City of Peoria, Arizona, will host the Arizona Chapter Athletic Field Maintenance Workshop on September 15. Registration begins at 7:00 AM with the program hours 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. For information on this event or to arrange for vendor space, contact: Chris Calcaterra, Baseball Maintenance Supervisor, at (602) 412-4226.

For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Park, Recreation and Facilities Manager, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or phone: (480) 312-7954.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association

The Wisconsin Chapter will meet at Rice Lake High School on September 15. Registration opens at 8:00 AM. The morning session begins at 8:30 AM for a review of the Rice Lake fields. The lunch break is from 11 AM to noon at Turtleback Golf Course. This is followed by a golf outing at the course from noon to 5:00 PM. Evening events begin at 6:00 PM at the Rice High School Football Field with a pre-game band concert. Kickoff time for the game is 7:30 PM.

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

Southern California Chapter:STMA

The SO-CAL Chapter will meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at Filippi's at 9969 Mira Mesa Blvd. in San Diego.

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

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

The Iowa Chapter and the newly forming Nebraska Chapter feature a home run lineup for the October 11 meeting at Omaha, Nebraska's Rosenblatt Stadium. Rosenblatt Stadium Manager Jesse Cuevas will host a baseball workshop on the field that is the home of the NCAA Division I College World Series and of the Omaha Golden Spikes of the Pacific Coast League. Also featured on the program are Trevor Vance, Head Groundskeeper for the Kansas City Royal's Kauffman Stadium, and speakers from Iowa State University and the University of Nebraska.

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) or e-mail: Lori@iowasturfgrass.org.

The Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association

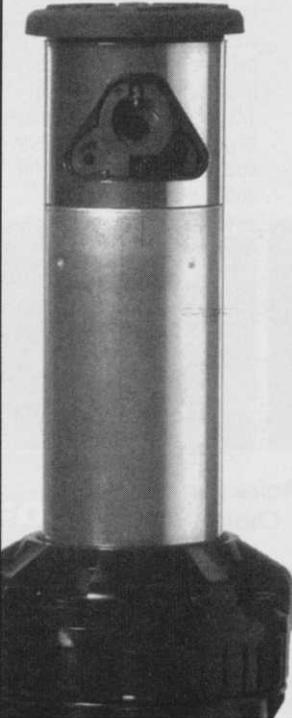
The Nor-Cal Chapter is planning their annual Fall Seminar for early October in Santa Cruz at a facility associated with the University of California-Santa Cruz. Details are yet to be finalized, but the event will take place on a Monday or a Friday to allow participants to combine the meeting with a weekend family outing on the beautiful Santa Cruz beaches. Dennis Suit is chair for the event.

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

The Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the Colorado Chapter or upcoming activities, log on to the Chapter's Web site: www.cstma.org or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline: (303) 346-8954.

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DOC'S DUGOUT - An Inning From Our Past - The Year 1988

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University of California/Riverside for sports turf studies and wear tolerance. Steve is remains an active STMA member and is continuing his work with sports turf research at UCR.

The IOG/STMA join forces at the GCSAA Conference

The Institute of

Groundsmanship sent 25 delegates to Houston for a joint educational program with STMA. Distinguished speakers included Dr. Peter Hayes, Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, England, Ray Johnston, National Chairman for the IOG and Brian Robinson, IOG Educational

Chairman. Speakers from the U.S. included Dr. James Beard, Dr. Eliot Roberts, Dr. Henry Indyk and Dr. Robert Carrow.

STMA's Youngest Member

Patrick Sherer was a senior at Stevens High School in Rapid City, South Dakota. He played baseball and graduated from Cal Poly, Pomona in Turfgrass Science. Currently Pat is a Sales Manager for High-Tech Irrigation in Palm Desert, CA.

Moving West

Steve Wightman left Mile High Stadium after 12 years as turf manager to become Stadium Turf Manager at Jack Murphy (now Qualcomm) Stadium in San Diego where he continues to perform his professional skills.

Souter of Stirling Celebrates 21 Years of Service

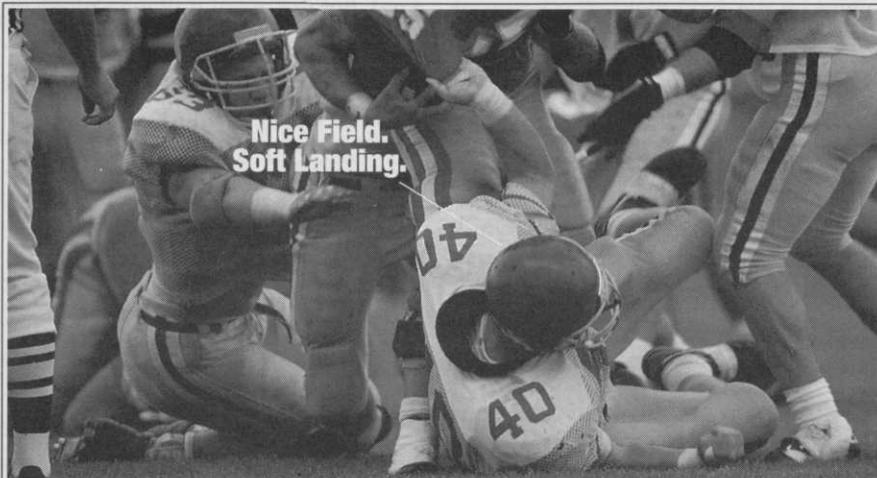
John Souter of Stirling, Scotland founded his business in 1967 with one helper working out of an 8'x6' shed and a working capital of \$370. It's now one of the largest sports turf construction and consulting businesses in the UK. John is an honorary life member of the STMA.

Other News

Wrigley Field in Chicago installed lights for night baseball and its first night game on August 8th. Soldier Field in Chicago replaced the artificial turf with Kentucky bluegrass and the Chicago Bears played the Miami Dolphins for a preseason game in August. STMA and the Sports Turf Association of Canada (STA) joined forces for an educational program in Toronto. Ken Mrock, turf manager of the Chicago Bears, and Dr. Kent Kurtz, STMA Executive Director, gave presentations at this first ever joint meeting.



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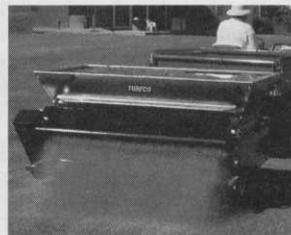
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Chapter Events

continued from page 11

Minnesota Chapter: STMA

For information on the Minnesota Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Ron Werner at (507) 634-1176.

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

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

The Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on upcoming events or on the chapter, contact: Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, at: (314) 977-2956.

Indiana Chapter: STMA

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

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association

For information on the TVSTMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc. at (931) 380-0023 or (800) 837-8062.

Midwest Chapter: STMA

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

The Mid-South Chapter STMA

For information on the Mid-South Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Robert Bodi at TURF419@aol.com or Jim Calhoun at (901) 755-1305.

Chapters On The Grow

Kansas City, Missouri - MO-KAN is planning a September meeting at Liberty School District. Events will focus on maintenance of cool season turfgrass football and soccer fields. Included in the program will be the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in logo paint-

ing techniques. More details soon.

For information on MO-KAN STMA, the newly forming Chapter, or on upcoming events, contact: Trevor Vance at 816/504-4271; Gary Custis at 816/460-6215; Jay Sutton at 816/795-8873, or Jody Gill at 913/681-4121.

Nebraska - The newly forming Nebraska Chapter will join the Iowa Chapter for a joint meeting at Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Nebraska, on October 11. See the Iowa Chapter listing for details.

For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact: Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at (308) 385-5426.

New York - A chapter is forming in Central New York. The group will meet at 10:30 AM on the first Wednesday of each month at the National Soccer Hall of Fame, Oneonta, NY.

Interested? Want more information? Contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, via e-mail at Kevin@wpe.com or by phone at (607) 432-2953.

New Jersey - For information on the forming chapter or upcoming events, contact: Jim Gavigan, Lesco, at (732) 248-8979 or Eleanora Murfitt, Director, Township of Clinton Parks & Recreation Department, at (908) 735-5999.

News from the Sports Turf Association of Canada

The Canadian Sports Turf Association will hold their 13th Annual Field Day on August 16, at the University of Guelph's Alumni Stadium.

For information contact Mrs. Lee Huether, Executive Manager, by phone at (519) 763-9431 or by fax (519) 766-1704.

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Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

As mentioned in my last column, a Strategic Planning session was held and progress is being made. Your board approved a revised Mission Statement and Positioning Statement for STMA (see President's column). A number of key strategies have been identified. Work is continuing on the strategic initiatives to carry STMA well into the 21st Century. One of the areas that will help the board tremendously in their planning is to receive input from the membership on what issues are most important to you and how you see STMA addressing your needs. We are working on a general survey that will be sent to all members and a more detailed survey that will be conducted by phone with a representative sampling of members. Please respond appropriately when you receive your survey or are contacted for the phone interview. YOUR input is vital to assure that STMA is providing the services you need in the way that is going to best grow recognition of the importance of

what it is you do.

By the time you read this, your Certification Committee will have met. Watch for more information to come out of their July 29 meeting in Chicago.

Awards program booklets have been mailed to all national and chapter STMA members. If you have a field that you feel may be worthy of recognition, be sure you take pictures during the season when the fields are in their prime and document your procedures for entry into our Fields of the Year program. Also, be sure you give consideration to those that you feel should be recognized for the Founders Awards. These individuals are chosen from member's nominations. The better job you do in providing information on why your nominee should be chosen, the easier it is for the Awards Committee to make the right selections. If you did not receive your booklet or need further information, don't hesitate to give the office a call.

continued on page 15

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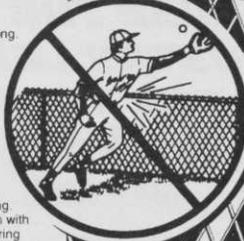
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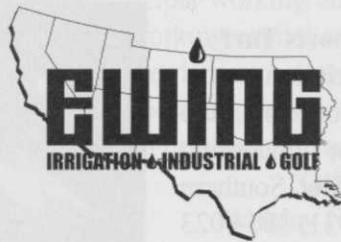
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Headquarters Report

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We are in the process of finalizing the financial report for the first half of the year. Preliminary review shows that STMA is continuing to grow and is meeting or exceeding projections in most areas of income and holding the line on expenses to provide an excellent base for continued growth. The Finance Committee will be meeting in Omaha on August 23rd to finalize the 2001 Budget for Board approval. They will also be working on some financial and investment policies to protect STMA's assets and help them grow in the best possible ways.

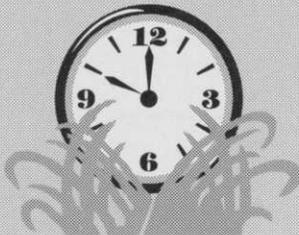
The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 29 and 30. If you have any issues that you would like the Board to consider now is the time to contact one or more of your Board members or the

office to make your thoughts known. The agenda will be set and sent to the Board Members by mid-September. Items already on the agenda include the Strategic Plan, the Foundation and selection of the site for our 2003 Conference. The Nominating Committee will be making their recommendations for the election of officers and board members. The 6 officers may run for another year in their position if they so desire. Board positions up for election are for Categories I, III and V. If you are interested in running or have any recommendations for the committee to consider, contact Stephen Guise, Nominating Committee Chair.

May your supervisors recognize your many talents and those controlling the purse strings reward you appropriately - and then some.



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