

Is Your Field the BEST?

by **Tim Moore, STMA Awards & Scholarships Chair**

You present it to coaches and players in a state of near perfection - the ultimate in safety and playability and, most often, in aesthetics as well. Visiting teams love playing on it. Officials compliment you on it. It's the field everyone wants to play on, the first choice for playoff and championship games.



Baseball Field of the Year - M.S. Deal Stadium, Granite Falls (NC) Middle School

If all of the above sounds familiar, now is the time to start gathering the materials to submit your potential award winner in the STMA Field of the Year competition.

STMA presents Field of the Year Awards in Baseball, Softball, Football and Soccer. The panel of judges reviews the submissions and makes their selection within the following category breakdowns: professional, college and university, high school, municipal or park. The selections are at the judges' discretion with a total of no more than three awards made for each type of field.

Each Field of the Year evaluation is made on the merits of the field as compared to others with similar circumstances, with due consideration to the resources available for field maintenance. Doing the best with what you have is an important consideration to earning the Field of the Year designation.

Awards Sponsors

STMA welcomes the following Awards Sponsors to the program: Advanced Drainage Systems, Covermaster, Hunter Industries, Partac Peat (Beam Clay), Textron Turf Care, and West Coast Turf. Because of their generous contributions, the 2000 Field of the Year Award recipients will receive a plaque, a jacket, registration for the STMA 2001 Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida, January 17 to 21, and up to \$500 toward travel

expenses for the Conference. The Field of the Year also will be featured in an article in sportsTURF magazine.

How To Prepare Your Winning Entry

Tell the details. What's the geographical location? When was your field originally constructed? Has it been renovated? Describe the soil profile, drainage system



Softball Field of the Year - The Great Lawn in Central Park, New York

and irrigation system. Is the field lighted? How many games and what other events are held on the field?

Track your maintenance program. Detail your operating budget and staffing levels. Tell why you do what you do and how you make the best use of resources.

TAKE PICTURES! Show details of your field throughout the year; show it prepped for play, show crews at work, players in action. Include a few "vertical" shots. (One might make the cover of sportsTURF magazine when your winning field is featured.)

Describe the challenges you've faced and overcome. Include your own "tricks of the trade." Finally - Tell why you think your field is THE BEST and deserves the Field of the Year honors.



Football Field of the Year - Legion Field, Birmingham, Alabama

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President's Message

STMA is moving forward. Plans are underway for the biggest and best Conference ever, January 17 to 21, 2001, in Tampa, Florida. This is the 2001 Super Bowl city, the week before the Super Bowl. Our headquarters hotel is the Super new facility, the Tampa Marriott Waterside, and our trade show site is right next door at another Super facility, the Tampa Convention Center. Mark your calendars now; it's going to be SUPER.

Our Strategic Planning committee met in mid-May to fine tune our long-range goals and develop a road map of how to meet them. We're a fast-growing association in a rapidly changing world. Member services must address your needs of keeping fields in top shape over longer playing seasons with ever-increasing field use demands. The Strategic Planning initiative includes methods to deliver the resources you need in areas of education, research, networking opportunities and of informing those within the industry - and watching from the outside about what the role of the sports field manager is and why it matters.

The Foundation Committee is exploring ways to increase support in the vital areas of education for all our membership categories and beyond, research specific to sports fields, and scholarships to encourage more young people to focus on our segment of the turf industry.

I'm also moving forward. In 15 great years with Saint Louis University as Director of Grounds & Materials Management, I've invested a lot of time, effort, heart and soul into the campus, its projects, and its people. I've also gained much in personal growth and professional growth. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank St. Louis University for all the opportunities I've had to develop our athletic field program and special landscape projects. I want to say thank you to all those I've had the privilege of working with over the years and



Rich Moffitt

to express a special thanks to my boss and mentor, Chuck Smith, Vice President of Facilities Services. I'm especially grateful to Chuck and the University for their support of my STMA activities.

I have accepted the position of Vice President of Operations for Munie Outdoor Services, Inc. of Caseyville, Illinois (just across the river from St. Louis, Missouri). They're an established company and STMA member specializing in athletic field, golf course and commercial property construction, renovation, irrigation and maintenance. Over the years, I've had the chance to observe and interact with the Munie company. This contact led to the decision to join forces. The opportunities in this new position intrigue me and, as I'm already learning, they will certainly challenge me.

That's one of the many things that are so special about this industry. The opportunities are many and varied. There's always a new area to explore where the challenges test you and help you to grow and develop professionally.

The ultimate goal, no matter what hat we wear in this industry, is the quality of the playing fields we provide for athletes in every sport, of every age, and at every level of ability.

I pledge my continued support to STMA, to the STMA members, and to the programs and services that will continue to move us forward in the pursuit of our mission and our goals in this ever-changing world.

How Do You Do...?

How Do You Present "Field Use" Issues to Coaches & A.D.s to Avoid Conflicts/Confrontations?

Answered by Mike Schiller, CSFM, Rolling Meadows (IL) Park District

Our Recreation Department issues the permits for the fields, then gets schedules to us when the fields have been scheduled for games. Because we lack staff, we may not drag every field every day, but we do the scheduled fields, so it is important for all the different affiliates to let the Rec Staff know when they plan to have a game.

My Foreman Scott Dell stays in contact with our Recreation staff to let them know when weather may prevent a scheduled event from taking place. Our biggest problem is when we have an all night or a heavy morning rain, and our fields won't dry out. The Cubs or the Sox may get to play that night, but we can't because we don't have their fancy drainage systems, tarps or the number of staff they do for their one field.

People get upset with us if there is a rain out, but we do the best we can with the resources available to us. We try to communicate with our rec staff to let them know the reasons why they can't play on any given night.

Our staff works hard to provide the fields in all types of weather but sometimes mother nature wins. And keeping the lines of communication open is the key to avoiding upset parents and participants.

Answered by Dick Buelter, Lakewood (CO) Memorial Field

We at Jefferson County Public Schools have a unique situation where all the scheduling goes through the District Athletic Office for all three stadiums. The stadiums are game fields only. The Athletic Office gives the A.D.s what dates the stadiums can be used and the time slots available for all games except for football. The time slots are filled on a first come-first served basis. The District Athletic Office makes the league schedule. Coaches and A.D.s are aware of the schedule several months prior to the start of the spring season and by the end of the school year for the fall season.

Once in a while, we have a school who has a game scheduled at their school site and they show up at the stadium thinking they have a game there. We take the coaches aside and try to remain calm and make some phone calls to the District Athletic Office to find out what the problem is and get it corrected. Most of the time, when these problems occur, the Athletic Director has made the mistake of thinking the game is at one of the stadiums.

Answered by Casey Gifford, Miami (FL) Dolphins

The first and most important thing to remember is to always keep a good working relationship with those around you. That's the starting point for being able to approach anyone with anything. Never TELL them what you're going to do - ASK them what they think about your plan - tell them WHY you feel

the need to do this and then give them your alternative.

A perfect example of this happened to me today. We are in the process of growing-in the grass between the hash marks on the field, but with all the practices lately, we have had to paint the hash marks. So, I took the coach aside (this also is a new coach and it's the first time I've had to approach him with an issue like this), and told him that I'd like to avoid painting hash marks for at least a month, because we're trying to get the grass grown in and painting slows the growth. I then explained to him that what I would do instead is to paint the inbound line every 5 yards so that the players can still line up on the field and my grass will have a chance to grow. Having already built a good working relationship with the coach, he was more than happy to comply.

If you can build trust through good, hard work and justifying the things that you do, it will be much easier to approach people and to get your point across without conflicts.



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Characteristics of a Professional

by Kurt Nilsson, STMA Membership Co-Chair

Sports Turf Managers are asked to do and be a number of things - one of which is a PROFESSIONAL - Do YOU fit the bill?

- Professionals love problems: Non-professionals whine and worry about problems rather than tackle them. Professionals can't wait to get started on solving a problem. To the Pros, problems are like candy to a kid. They devour them. They solve them.
- Professionals are on time: To a professional, time is the scarcest of all commodities. Therefore, they respect the time of others by meeting all commitments on time. They resent those who fail to do the same.
- Professionals complete and follow through: Professionals get the job done because they avoid excuses, alibis, and passing the buck. They do what is necessary to complete a job even if tremendous obstacles get in the way. To the Pro, there is no such phrase as, "the computer can't do it". They simply figure out another way to accomplish the task at hand.
- Professionals love numbers and details: The undisciplined mind works in generalities and platitudes, the "profes-

sional" mind works in specifics and substance. The professional remembers facts and figures, hunts for ratios, analyzes detailed information, quotes resources, and substantiates all opinions with sound reasoning.

- Professionals assign priorities: True pros do not stamp out ants if elephants are coming down the path. They do not hit tacks with sledgehammers. Rather they apply just the right amount of emphasis and effort that a job requires. Professionals can sift through a myriad of variables, get to the heart of the matter, and take decisive action speedily.

- Professionals are organized: A professional has a To Do list with him or her at all times. They also use a calendar and a notebook for recording thoughts and inspirational ideas as they occur. Professionals can find things. They never misplace a memo, lose a scrap of paper with an important phone number, or write the wrong date for important meetings.

- Professionals read avidly: Professionals have something to read with them at all times. If they have a spare moment, they read. They rate what they read in priority, i.e. articles, memos, the paper.

- Professionals communicate well: They know how to speak, listen and write. In most cases, good speakers are weak writers, and vice versa. Professionals, however, try to work on their shortcomings. They also demonstrate compassion and

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Characteristics of a Professional

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sensitivity. They watch and listen for little clues that help them understand their supervisors and subordinates.

- **Eternal optimists:** Professionals abhor negative thinking. If there is any way to get the job done, they will figure it out. Professionals also inspire others to be positive in attitude.

- **Professionals do not procrastinate:** The temptation to put things off is strong, even for a professional. The pros resist it with the "ready, aim, fire" philosophy. Get it done, get it done now.

- **Professionals compensate for their weaknesses:** God's children are not equally talented. The professional is aware of personal weaknesses but does not allow them to detour progress. He or she compensates by seeking advice when necessary, trying to overcome flaws, and allotting extra time for unfamiliar difficulties.

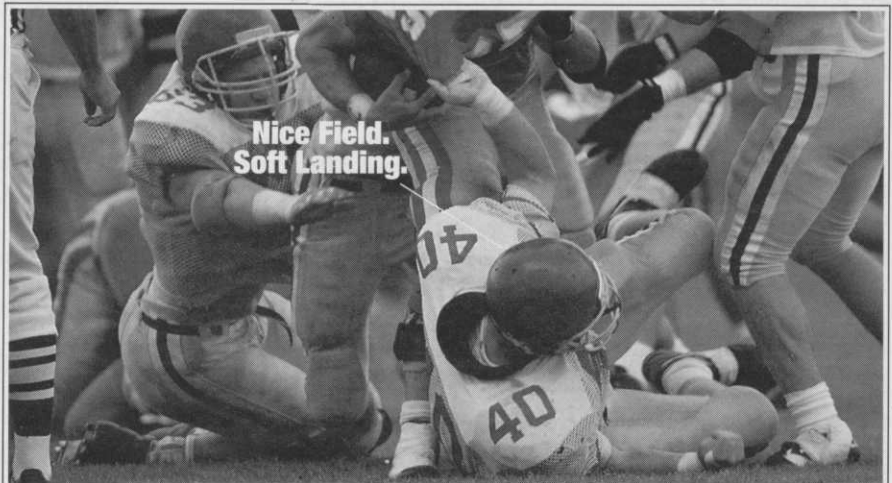
- **Professionals always praise others:** Those who are most successful tend to credit others with their success. They do so continually and sincerely. Their praise comes fast by telephone call, thank you note, follow-up memo or recognition among peers. Since professionals understand the power of positive reinforcement, "stroking" is natural for them.

- **Professionals have a special look or manner:** About 90% of our first impression of a new acquaintance is based on visual cues. Professionals are very careful about making sure their visual

image is appropriate.

They are neatly groomed and tastefully attired. Professionals are neither flamboyant nor dull. They know what to wear and what to say on all occasions. When a professional enters a room,

he or she sends signals of confidence, humility, and discipline. Charisma is not based on pretension or gimmickry, but upon long-time experiences with success.



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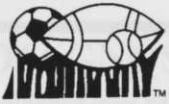
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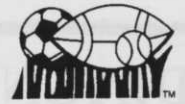
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Sports Turf Happenings



Chapter Events

The North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association

NTSTMA will meet on June 14 at the Ballpark in Arlington, home of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club.

For information on the North Texas Chapter or 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 Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

The Iowa Chapter will hold a Field Maintenance Workshop at Iowa State University on June 21 with registration beginning at 8:00 AM. Four concurrent sessions are on the morning program: Dr. Dave Minner with Mowing Principles and Demonstrations; Mike Andresen with Aeration Principles and Demonstrations; Don Larson with Topdressing Principles and Demonstrations; and Dale Roe with Painting Principles and Demonstrations. Next on the program will be lunch with the "Vendors on Parade." During the afternoon session, from 1:30 to 4:00 PM, 30 minute presentations at five separate stations will be repeated five times, allowing participants to visit each station. The stations are: Calibrating Spreaders, Calibrating Sprayers, Irrigation Repairs, Renovation Seeding Principles, and the Vendor area.

The Chapter also will participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Field Day on July 13 at the ISU Horticulture Research Station in Ames, Iowa.

The Iowa/Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Chapter Challenge will be in Des Moines, Iowa, with the Golf Challenge on July 14 and the Softball Challenge on July 15.

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@iowaturfgrass.org.

The Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association

MiSTMA will hold its Annual Summer Conference on June 22 at the West Ottawa Public Schools in Holland, MI.

GLSTMA and MiSTMA will hold a joint Tour on Wheels on July 18. Sites will include the new Comerica Park, two high school locations with Birmingham Public Schools, and winding up the tour by catching the game between Detroit and Cincinnati.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, contact: Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at (616) 395-2364 or click on your computer to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's NEW website.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association

TVSTMA will hold a Seminar in conjunction with the Tennessee Turfgrass Association on June 27 at the University of Tennessee's Neyland Stadium in Knoxville. Registration opens at 8:00 AM. Events begin at 8:45 AM. Sessions will focus on Diseases, Insects, Weeds, New Products and Application Technologies.

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

The Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona

The Arizona Chapter will meet in Tucson on June 29. Along with educational sessions, events include a tour of the Rainbird Irrigation Plant. Events conclude with the 7:00 PM ballgame of the Tucson Sidewinders, AAA affiliate of

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DIAGNOSING TURF PROBLEMS

Gil Landry, Ph.D.
The University of Georgia

A dictionary might define diagnosis as a careful examination and analysis of the facts in an attempt to understand or explain something. So whether it is a human heart or a sports field "careful examination and analysis" is key. Recognizing that a turf problem exists does not require much expertise, but correctly identifying the problem does, and correct diagnosis is essential to assure appropriate action. Unfortunately, like the human body, turf problems and their interactions are often too numerous and complex to correctly identify, especially under intense management.

Like a physician, good training and practical experience are essential to success. Think and work professionally. Basic qualifications include common sense and good judgment, and basic knowledge of turfgrass growth and the major pests. The ability to look, to listen, to ask good questions, and to use all available resources is also important. Resources may come in the form of accurate and timely records, past experiences, peers, and


turf specialists, and useful publications.

Early recognition and identification of a problem are essential. A subtle change in color or growth rate, wilting or foot printing earlier in the day than normal, cottony growths on the grass in the morning, birds or other animals actively feeding in the turf may all be symptoms of a problem.

Other problems also result from environmental stresses such as shade, drought, water quality, traffic, or extreme temperatures. Some problems are the result of turf pests. The most common problems are the ones created by intensive management.


Regular inspections of turf areas are important to establish a reference from which changes can be recognized. For example, differences in soil conditions may cause the grass in one area to wilt sooner than in another area. The height of the grass before mowing, or the frequency of mowing required all help to detect changes in growth rate. Color changes require even closer observations, but they can be

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DIAGNOSING TURF PROBLEMS

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an early warning to a serious turf problem. A subtle change in color may signal a nutrient deficiency, a disease occurrence or an insect infestation.

Detailed and accurate records of what, when, why and how management practices were performed and the environmental conditions are all important pieces of information. Cultural management practices such as mowing, fertilization, irrigation, aeration, vertical mowing and top-dressing should all be included in the daily records. Insect, disease and weed control treatments must be recorded along with the response obtained.

The turf manager trying to identify a problem without these records is at a serious disadvantage. Often, by reviewing well-kept records, some potential causes of a problem can be eliminated. Trade journals, conference proceedings, and turfgrass newsletters can provide valuable reference information.

Turf problems can be categorized as cultural (man-made), environmental or pest-related. Often two or more of these factors contribute to the problem. For example, a grass that has limited shade tolerance (environmental) should not be mowed too low (cultural). Likewise, a nitrogen deficiency (cultural) can be a contributing factor to an outbreak of dollar spot (*Sclerotinia*, a

pest); or shade (environmental) and over fertilization (cultural) can contribute to leaf spot (pest). When two or more factors contribute to the problem all factors must be identified before the problem can be effectively corrected.

Cultural problems are created and are often the most difficult to identify because accepting blame can be tough to swallow. One of the most common is improper irrigation. Light, frequent irrigation encourages a never-ending cycle like shallow rooting, algae, and soil compaction. When applying a chemical to any turf area, and particularly when trying to solve a problem, place a small 24-inch square on the turf to prevent an area from being treated. You now have something to compare with and you might be surprised by what does and does not work.

Environmental problems include soil conditions (acidity, alkalinity, salinity, poor physical conditions, dry spots), drought, shade, winterkill, heat stress and combinations of these conditions can cause serious problems for turfgrasses. Characteristics such as stand deterioration, localized dry spots, chlorosis, desiccation, foot printing and scald may occur where environmental conditions are not favorable. Often the factors that cause the problem are not apparent when the symptoms are observed and the turf

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DIAGNOSING TURF PROBLEMS

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manager must depend on records to accurately identify the problem. Drought stress, winterkill and scald are all caused by temporary environmental conditions that may not exist when the damage is most apparent.

Soil compaction is often referred to as a "hidden" stress because in most instances reduced plant activity is not noticeable. However, soil compaction influences soil aeration and drainage, plant and soil moisture relationships and soil temperature.

Pest problems often are only one factor contributing to a situation. Knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare*), Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*), and Goosegrass (*Eleusine indica*) are often a symptom of soil compaction. Many diseases don't become serious until moisture stress is a factor. Turf diseases result from the combination of a susceptible host, virulent pathogen, and environmental conditions favorable for disease development. Turfgrass diseases are particularly difficult to identify because environ-

mental conditions modify the visual symptoms.

Once the cause (or causes) of the problem has been determined, it is necessary to decide if control measures are justified based on economics and the severity of the problem. Choose the safest and most effective control measures. Such measures include the use of adapted grasses, changes in the management regime and the use of chemicals. If chemical control is necessary, select the proper pesticide and read and follow label directions. Become familiar with the proper use of the pesticide and time your applications when the pesticide will be most effective. Determine the area to be treated to control the targeted pest. Monitor the effectiveness of the treatment. Finally, take the necessary steps to insure that the problem will not recur. Remember, if you are a professional, you must be able to document your observations and practices.



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Chapter Events

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the Arizona Diamondbacks. July and September meetings are in the planning stages.

For information on 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.

The Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association

The Gateway Chapter is planning a June meeting at John Burroughs School. Irrigation management will be the meeting focus. More information will be announced soon.

For information on upcoming events or on the chapter, contact: Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, at: (314) 977-3228.

Indiana Chapter: STMA

The Indiana Chapter is helping coordinate the July 11th Multi-Chapter Meeting to be held at the University of Notre Dame campus. The morning's educational sessions will be followed by lunch and an afternoon tour of the athletic fields and facilities conducted by Dale Getz, CSFM.

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.

Minnesota Chapter:STMA

The Iowa/Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Chapter Challenge will be in Des Moines, Iowa, with the Golf Challenge on July 14 and the Softball Challenge on July 15. The Minnesota Chapter's annual Tour on Wheels will be held on July 26th. Already on the agenda are a stop at St. Olaf College to check out the new softball field and closing the event by attending the evening St. Paul Saints game.

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

The Great Lakes Sports Turf Managers Association (GLSTMA)

GLSTMA and MiSTMA will hold a joint Tour on Wheels on July 18. Sites will include the new Comerica Park and two high school locations with Birmingham Public Schools. Attendees will end the day by catching the game between the Detroit Tigers and Cincinnati.

GLSTMA will participate in two August events: the Ohio State University Extension Day at Owens Community College on August 2, and the Ohio Turf Foundation Research Day at the OTF Research Center in Columbus on August 9.

For information on the GLSTMA Chapter, the Chapter's Field of the Year Program, or upcoming events, contact: Joe Zelinko at (800) 897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery at (419) 885-1982 extension 50, or click on your computer to www.glstma.org to visit the chapter's website.

Florida Chapter #1: STMA

The Florida Chapter will meet on July 18 at the Town of Lantana. The Education theme is Overseeding Sports Fields and Maintaining High Wear Athletic Field Areas. A tour of the Town of Lantana's athletic fields will be included in the program.

The Florida Chapter also will have a booth at the Florida Turfgrass Association meeting on August 15 and 16.

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

The Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association

The Colorado Chapter is planning its second annual Seminar on Wheels. Also in the planning stage is an August 3 Football Seminar at Folsom Field on the University of Colorado campus.

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.

Midwest Chapter: STMA

The Midwest Chapter is helping coordinate the July 11th Multi-Chapter Meeting to be held at the University of Notre Dame campus. The morning's educational sessions will be followed by lunch and an afternoon tour of the athletic fields and facilities conducted by Dale Getz, CSFM.

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

The Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association

The next Northern California Chapter event is the annual Fall Seminar, "The Greatest Show on Turf." It will be held on August 8 at the San Jose Municipal Stadium, home of the San Jose Giants, a SF Giants farm club. Scheduled activities include: sports field maintenance demonstrations, vendor exhibits, and attendance at the ball game between the San Jose Giants and the Stockton Ports.

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

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DUGOUT - An Inning From Our Past

By Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

The Power Mower Became of Age in the 1920's

Even though Ransomes, an English company, was the first to develop a gasoline powered mower in 1902, it was nearly 20 years later when several U.S. companies began to compete for the sports turf and golf course markets with their innovations in America.

R.S. Kinkead who received his engineering degree in 1909 from Purdue University founded the National Mower Company in 1919. Kinkead who served as an artillery officer developed the rough plans for

the business in France during World War I. After the war he returned to his home in St. Paul, Minnesota and developed the 25" power mower and a friction drive gang mower.

The 25" power mower was originally powered by a 2-cylinder, 2-cycle engine, which was designed and built by R.S. Kinkead. After several years he realized it would be more economical to purchase a 4-cycle engine to install on the mower rather than to continue with the 2-cycle version. He decided to investigate a gasoline engine used by Maytag to drive their washing machines and this was used for many years. The 25" power mower was manufactured from 1919 to 1978.

Jacobsen introduced an internal combustion engine in 1921 to drive their new mower known as the 4-acre because it could cut 4 acres of grass in a day. It was developed for sports fields, cemeteries, school grounds and golf courses. Toro followed a couple of years later with its version of a power-driven reel mower. Some companies such as National, Toro and Worthington were also manufacturing tractor-drawn gang mower units to cut large areas of grass. Worthington began producing small tractors in 1918 and later Toro did the same to pull the gang mowers they manufactured. National Mower sold gang mowers during the 1920's and 1930's and sold single cutting units for \$95.00, today single cutting units sell for \$1500.

National Mower Company introduced friction drive gang mowers and these were the first of their kind to be manufactured with Timken tapered roller bearings for the reels. This was an improvement since all other mower manufacturers used bronze bushings, *continued on page 15*



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Chapter Events

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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. The theme is Everything for Athletic Fields. Events will include: Equipment Demonstrations, Test Plots, Panel Discussions 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 Mid-Atlantic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA)

The MAFMO Chapter is planning an August Seminar on Sports Field Design & Construction. More details will be announced soon.

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

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).

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association

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

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

Nebraska - A new Chapter is taking shape in Nebraska. A meeting will be held on June 15 at the Smith Softball Complex in Hastings.

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

New York - A chapter is developing 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.


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.

Kansas City, Missouri - Kansas area.

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.


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.

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Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

As I write this column another record setting Membership Roster is being finalized and readied for the printer. It will be the largest STMA Roster ever due to two very positive reasons. First of all there will be a record number of members listed. Last year at this time, STMA had 1,424 members; this year's directory will list at least 1,680 members. The STMA office staff is in the process of double-checking all of the member's listings for accuracy. They have tried to contact every member for updates. The other reason this year's Roster will be a record size is that we have added a feature to provide more service to all members. All Category V (Commercial) members have been given the opportunity to provide a brief description of their goods or services (in 25 words or less) to be included with their main listing in the Roster. Besides giving more exposure to our suppliers, it gives the Professional members more information to help them find their needs. We hope you like and use this information.

Your Conference Committee is hard at work finalizing plans for another terrific conference. Have you included Tampa 2001 in your budget? Have you marked your calendar for next January 17 to 21 to assure your schedule will get you there?

The Strategic Planning session has been held and your Board will be reviewing the outcomes from that to set the stage for the next 3 to 5 years.


The Foundation Planning Committee is meeting the last Saturday of May to work out all the details of setting up a separate 501(c)(3) corporation and make their recommendations to the Board. All contributions to this type of corporation can be fully deductible on individual and company tax returns. Dues and other payments to STMA are not deductible except as to how they might qualify as a business expense. 501(c)(3) Corporations can be involved in education, research and scholarships. When properly set up, STMA and the foundation should be able to maximize the best combination of accepting payments into STMA, donations into the foundation, and programs adequately funded to benefit the entire sports turf industry and the athletes at all levels that utilize the fields.

Your Certification Committee is in the process of scheduling a date to get together to work out a number of details to further the certification program. Items to be discussed include increased internal and external marketing. How can we get more of you involved in the program and how can we get employers and the public to recognize the abilities of the Certified Sports Field Manager? We also need to streamline the processes for tracking CEUs and ISPs to make it easy and fair to the participants and the office staff.

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions for any of the activities of STMA, the Board, committees or staff, don't hesitate to let us know.

I have been able to make a number of Chapter visits and have several more scheduled. It is a real treat to be able to get out and see so many of you. I welcome the opportunity to update you on your association's programs and to convey the benefits of involvement in STMA at both the national and local levels.

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DUGOUT - An Inning From Our Past

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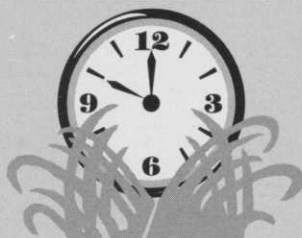
which didn't hold up very well with heavy use.

Before the rotary mower became popular in the 1960's and 1970's tall grass and small brush was mowed with sickle mowers. National Mower Company manufactured different models of sickle bar mowers from 1930 to 1970 to fill the void in this market. Toro also sold sickle mowers, which were operated using the small Toro tractors. National was very successful selling sickle mowers by mail order throughout the 1930's. Sickle mowers were replaced by the rotary mower and later by the flail mower on sports fields, playgrounds and along highways in the United States.

By the 1950's the market demand was for reel mowers that could be ridden to increase the efficiency of the mower operation. National introduced one of the first reel mowers, which could be ridden, the 30" Rider. This was a small tractor with a 30" reel-cutting unit mounted under the tractor. National also manufactured the tractor and this was a very successful product

through the early 1960's. During this period National's most recognized and successful mower the "84" Triplex was introduced in 1954 and is still manufactured today. The "84" Triplex was designed as a simple, straightforward machine to cut a lot of grass and to cut it fast. This mower also proved to be one of the best slope mowers on the market and is still used by schools, parks and golf courses for this purpose.

National Mower Company is probably the only manufacturer of mowers in the United States still owned and managed by the same family. During the 1970's and 1980's there were three generations of Kinkeads working at National Mower Company. The founder, R.S Kinkead, lived to be 100 years old and worked every day up to his death. His two sons and grandsons followed R.S. Kinkead in the business. In reality, mowers haven't changed much since the early years as far as operation of the cutting units. What has changed is the efficiency and comfort of the mowing operation particularly on sports fields.



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