

We're on a Roll!

Stakes are high and we're ready to roll at the Riviera Hotel & Casino and the Cashman Center, in Las Vegas, January 16-20, 2002

Your STMA Conference Committee has been hard at work to ensure that the 13th Annual Conference & Exhibition will be the biggest and best STMA event yet!

And they aim to do it with such big names as: Gene Smith, Director of Athletics, Arizona State University; John Robinson, Head Football Coach, UNLV; and Dwaine Knight, Head Golf Coach, UNLV. ALL on Thursday morning!

Hired as ASU Director of Athletics in 2000, Smith is no stranger to collegiate athletics or to accomplishing what he sets out to do, having served as athletic director at Iowa State University for seven years prior to coming to ASU.



Cashman Center

In his first year at Arizona State, Smith has definitely made his mark, hiring nationally regarded coaches in football, soccer and wrestling while overseeing each of ASU's 21-sports programs. In addition, he assisted in completing a \$30 million capital campaign, which in part is funding the construction of the Ed & Nadine Carson Student-Athlete Center.

When completed in late 2001 and early 2002, the state-of-the-art facility will give ASU one of the finest student-athletic centers in the country.

Smith is a past president of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA). He oversaw an athletic department transformation during his tenure at Iowa State. In addition, Smith is a member of the Fiesta Bowl Board in Tempe as



Conference Headquarters -
 The Riviera Hotel & Casino

well as a number of Pacific-10 Conference committees. He serves as the vice-president of the Pac-10 Executive Committee, is the chair of the Pac-10 Football Officiating Committee, and is a member of the Pac-10 Selection, Athletics Directors' Revenue Sharing, Rose Bowl Management and Bowl (ad hoc) Committees. Come hear Gene Smith tell you why he's "on a roll!"

Hired as the eighth head football coach for the University of Nevada Las Vegas on December 3, 1998, John Robinson came to town as one of college football's most successful and recognizable figures and brought instant credibility to a program that was staring at a move into the new Mountain West Conference.

Since then, Robinson has produced a program that has led UNLV to win five more games in his first 24 games as coach than in the team's previous four seasons combined. Coach Robinson will share his tips on "Becoming a Winner."

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President's Message

The Web We Weave

By Rich Moffitt, President

In today's world, promotion is part of everyday life. Your radio, TV, and newspaper push the hype: new and improved, bigger, better, faster, brighter. And, while the constant repetition of these terms does get tiresome, in reality, they do focus on the important issue of change. Change, for the sake of change, proves nothing. Change that actually improves something is the key to success.

Change is a vital part of sports turf management. Through the introduction of new ideas and new technology, we have made great strides in the level of athletic field design, construction and maintenance. Whatever the age or skill level of the athletes who play on your fields, you are never satisfied with good enough. You want to provide the best possible playing conditions and are willing to do whatever it takes to make that happen.

STMA, as the organization that represents you and this profession of sports turf management, also is dedicated to doing whatever it takes to get the job done. Part of the STMA "job" is promotion. We need to make everyone - from your employers to your field user groups to the general public - aware of who you are, what you do and, most importantly, why it matters.

As part of the ongoing campaign to promote you and your profession, and to better serve our members, the STMA Website Committee is undertaking an extensive upgrade of the website (www.sportsturfmanager.com). It will be new and improved, bigger, better, faster, brighter. And that's not hype. This change will provide a more interactive forum for you to connect with your peers to exchange ideas and fine-tune your own sports turf management program. This change will make it easier for you to tap into industry news and keep up with the latest in research and technology.



Rich Moffitt

Improved methods of communication and an improved forum to enhance the positive image of the sports turf manager are key components of the STMA Strategic Plan as developed last year to direct the changes that are involved in the growth of this industry and your association.

Your input in the STMA Survey, conducted at the beginning of this year, confirmed that you were eager to take your programs and your association to a higher level. Your input helped direct the STMA Board to move forward with the Website upgrade because it was a vehicle you asked to have improved to help make that happen.

The web we weave, through the website upgrade, our membership promotions, our marketing committee developments, the interaction and networking of our affiliated chapters, and the continual forward progress of this industry and STMA are all changes geared for improvement.

This forward motion is emphasized by the theme of the STMA 13th Annual Conference & Exhibition, "We're on a Roll." The dates are January 16 - 20, 2002, and the site is Las Vegas, Nevada. Along with a jackpot of educational sessions, workshops, round-table discussions and tours, the biggest ever trade show, networking opportunities galore, there's even more. At the Conference, you'll have the opportunity to explore the updated Website and learn more about the options available to make it work even better for you. Make your plans now to join with your peers as we move forward together. We're on a roll and that's reality, not hype.

Is Your Turf Conditioned for the Season?

By Dr. Gil Landry, Jr., University of Georgia

Just as an athlete's conditioning doesn't show up until the second half or last quarter of a game, good soil conditions often are not apparent until late in the season. Soil aeration is as important to field performance as aerobic conditioning is to an athlete. And just like an athlete, a field can't be conditioned overnight. A field should be on a conditioning program that begins before the season and continues throughout.

Sports fields become compacted by the weight of athletes and equipment. Soil particles are compressed together resulting in reduced pore space and increased soil density. Air, water and nutrient movement are decreased by the lack of pore space. Water infiltration and percolation are reduced, and roots struggle in the restrictive soil environment.

Generally, the first symptom of compaction is the reduction of leaf growth resulting in fewer clippings than normal after mowing. The second symptom is the development of drought stress symptoms in three to five days instead of the normal seven to ten days. Obviously as soils become more compacted water movement into the soil slows. It becomes more difficult to apply water slowly enough to prevent puddling or runoff. The shift to light, frequent irrigation simply increases the problem by encouraging shallow rooting and maintaining a moist surface.

The initial turf growth reduction further develops symptoms similar to nitrogen (N) deficiency (slow growth rate, decreased density, and sometimes leaf yellowing). Under compacted conditions, the root system is reduced and less viable. This results in a 10% to 30% reduction in fertilizer uptake. Increasing fertilizer applications (particularly N) often results in increased succulence, reduced carbohydrate reserves, and dramatically reduced rooting. Thus the additional fertilizer actually makes the grass less tolerant to traffic and other stress.

Generally, the last symptom of soil compaction but the first one often observed by the untrained eye is a reduction in turf density and the invasion of weeds such as annual bluegrass and goosegrass. Applying a herbicide to prevent or remove weeds will treat the secondary problem but do nothing to relieve the soil compaction.

Unlike pest problems, nitrogen deficiency or drought stress, soil compaction often exists long before the plant shows symptoms. So developing a preventive diagnostic system can be very helpful. Using something as simple as a soil probe or screwdriver can help deter-

mine the degree and depth of soil compaction.

The rates of soil compaction vary with soil texture, soil moisture when the area is used, and the amount of weight applied. Soils high in silt and clay compact quicker than sandy soils, and wet soils compact faster than dry soils. So field use on wet soils tends to result in more surface damage and greater soil compaction than the same activities on dry soils. Soil compaction from normal use occurs within the top one to three inches of the surface. Compaction deeper in the soil profile may be due to construction, the presence of different soil layers, or the natural density of the subsoil.

Compare aeration options with the degree of compaction, the depth of compaction, weather conditions, turf growth cycles, and field use schedules. Hollow tine aeration is the most common method and, in most cases, the most effective because soil cores are brought to the surface. These cores can then serve as topdressing and be dragged back into the turf. Normal aeration penetrates into the top three or four inches of soil.

Solid spike/tine aerators punch holes into the soil, creating openings without removing soil. Solid tine equipment that causes soil lifting and vibrating can be as effective or more effective than hollow tines.

Deep aeration extends below four-inches and helps improve both surface and deep soil problems. Frequent aeration to the same depth, may cause a layer of compaction at the penetration depth, thus using both shallow and deep aeration may be needed.

Although there are many lengths and diameters of tines available for core aeration, the general size is 1/2-inch in diameter and 3-6 inches long. Fields with serious compaction problems or standing surface water can benefit from deeper aeration by the use of tines up to one inch in diameter and 12 inches long.

All aeration practices will cause some compaction. The question becomes whether the aeration relieves more compaction than it causes. Hollow tines or spoons that remove soil cause less compaction around and below the tine than do solid tines. Normal coring will not increase weed problems after a preemergence herbicide is applied.

No one cultivation option is right for all conditions. Matching the cultivation method to turf growth cycles, weather conditions and field use will mean using

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Sports Turf Topic: Seeding/Overseeding

North, South, East or West, you will probably be doing some type of seeding this fall. You may call it seeding or you may call it overseeding, but the goal is still to get the seed to germinate and then have the young seedling establish and grow. In many situations, this can be a challenge even to the turf professional.

A seed must go through several basic stages to germinate and establish. First, it must absorb moisture from the soil. Moisture to seeds is like a key in a car, it won't start without it. Once moisture enters the seed, it activates several enzymatic reactions which initiates both the development of the young primary root and the seedling. When the young root penetrates the seed coat, it must be kept moist; if this root dies, the seedling can not develop. The seed only develops one primary root.

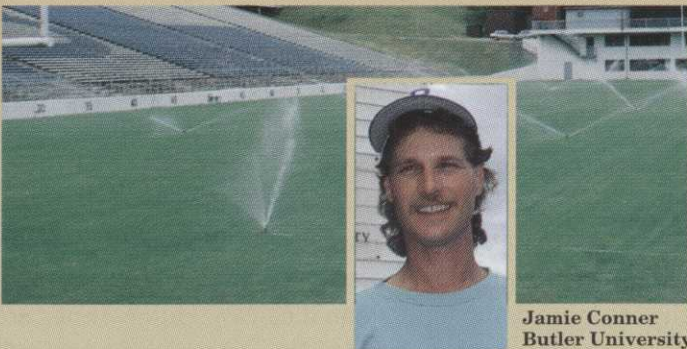
It is critical to apply a seeding fertilizer high in phosphorus to assist establishment. This is due to the inefficiency of the young root to absorb existing phosphorus from the soil. Anything that the turfgrass

manager can do to enhance the development of the root and seedling increases the chance that you will get the plant to establish.

Biostimulants such as Launch® and Focus® have been shown to assist turf establishment in several ways. First, they can reduce the time needed for the germination process. This reduces the chance that the seed will be allowed to dry out and not germinate. Applying biostimulants when seeding increases the vigor of the primary and the secondary or adventitious roots. By enhancing the root system, you enable quicker establishment.

Cytokinins are plant hormones which are extracted from sea kelp and are an important component of biostimulants used for enhancement of germination. Cytokinins control when the seedling will begin tillering which effects density. Biostimulants containing cytokinins therefore enhance the density of seedling turfgrass. Quicker germination combined with faster establishment and density increases the potential of success during the seeding process.

**Condition your turf with Launch® and Focus® Turf Biostimulants.
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Jamie Conner
Butler University

Butler University, Indianapolis, IN uses its football stadium for lacrosse as well as football, making the playing field turf maintenance a challenge. Groundskeeper Jamie Conner core aerates and overseeds the field with pure Kentucky bluegrass to get it ready for the fall football season. "Of course, straight bluegrass is slow starting," says Conner, "but we've had good results pushing it with Launch biostimulant." Conner likes to pre-germinate his seed and adds Launch to the seed primer soak-water, as well as spraying Launch on the soil as seed or sod go down. "Launch has made a noticeable improvement in germination and establishment rates," he reports. "A couple of Launch apps during the football season also seems to perk up the recovery of the grass and help it withstand punishment."

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Is Your Turf Conditioned for the Season?

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different types of cultivation at different times during the year. Often, annual deep cultivation should be combined with a shallow aeration program to achieve the best results.

The length of benefit resulting from each cultivation option must be evaluated. More damage can be tolerated when the benefits of treatment are long lasting. Procedures that bring soil to the surface must be scheduled not to disrupt play.

During the active growing season, most turfgrasses take two weeks to fully recover from the damage and disruption caused by core aeration. Even when the cores are dragged back into the soil and any tufts of thatch or grass are removed, the turf will require a recovery period. Grass roots need time to regenerate and spread deeper into the soil before top growth will reflect the benefits of the process. However, if soil compaction is really limiting growth, it is often necessary to sacrifice short term turf quality for long term field performance.

Most sports fields need a minimum of two cultivations per year. Perhaps the timing should be prior to early seasonal growth and then again prior to stress conditions that limit root growth, such as high temperatures and drought stress. For cool season grasses cultivation in spring and fall is common, while for warm season grasses, generally early spring and mid summer. Hot, dry weather and strong winds can cause the turf bordering aeration holes to dry out. Avoid aeration during those periods or irrigate to compensate for moisture loss.

Obviously, the closer aeration holes are, the more soil compaction should be relieved. Generally, a minimum spacing of aeration holes on 4-inch centers is needed to reduce compaction. Such spacing usually requires two to three passes of an aerator over a field. Some turf managers aerate every two weeks during intensive use and/or they will aerate only high traffic areas frequently.

Spiking and slicing are the penetration of solid metal blades into the soil resulting in channels that allow water and air to reach the root system. This method can also be used to promote lateral growth of bermudagrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and creeping bentgrass and to quicken the drying of constantly wet soil. The benefits of spiking and slicing are usually more short-term than those of hollow tine aeration. Since spiking and slicing blades are available in small sizes, this process can be used often without causing much surface disruption and is thus popular during heavy-use periods.

Soil moisture levels are critical during cultivation. Soil that is too dry is hard to penetrate and cultivation is less effective. Dry soils also put more stress on cultivation equipment. If the soil is too wet, there will be little soil movement in response to cultivation.


Aeration methods that do not produce much vibration, such as spoon type tines, should be used when moisture levels are near field capacity. Aeration methods that do cause lifting and vibration should be used when moisture levels are slightly below field capacity or about 24 hours after rainfall or irrigation.

Generally, the longer aeration holes remain open to the surface, the longer lasting the benefit. Once a hole is sealed, even if only at the surface, the benefits of air and water movement are significantly, if not totally, eliminated. Topdressing with sand helps keep the holes open. If topdressing is not practical, more frequent cultivation will be needed to overcome surface sealing.

Since significant root growth occurs at lower temperatures than leaf growth, fields that are heavily used going into winter probably should be core-aerated after use, unless winter desiccation is a common problem. Core aeration will improve the water/air relationship during this period and result in healthier turf the following year.

As with all sports turf maintenance practices, constant monitoring is necessary to evaluate the success of the program throughout the year and from year to year. Because quantifying aeration results is difficult, detailed record keeping will be needed. Record the type and timing of aeration procedures. Since wet soils compact more quickly than dry ones, note irrigation and rainfall in relation to field use. Also keep records of daily temperature ranges, the frequency of games and practices on each field and the times they take place, fertilization schedules, overseeding and topdressing procedures, and any other pertinent activities.

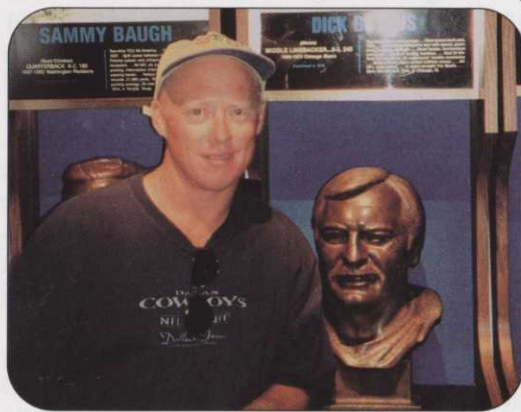
Note the effect of procedures on turf vigor, including any reductions in irrigation, fertilization, weed, insect, and disease control. Justifying budgets is generally more effective when accompanied by documentation.

Cultivation practices are as important as fertilization, weed control or any other cultural practice. Develop a cultivation program that meets field needs and the budget, but remember that even the best-prepared plans must be modified at times. Know what options are available and be flexible enough to adjust the plan to meet changing conditions and turf needs. 

Raffle Ticket Wins Dave Ditzler Experience of a Lifetime!

Dave Ditzler, Turf & Irrigation Specialist for Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, held the winning ticket in the first SAFE Foundation Drawing, and found himself enjoying a once in a lifetime experience. Ditzler and his wife, Tami, were awarded an expense-paid trip to Canton, Ohio, to join in the Pro Football Hall of Fame's 2001 Enshrinement Weekend celebration.

Highlights of the trip included attending the Saturday night practice sessions between the St. Louis Rams and Miami Dolphins, a visit to the Hall of Fame on Sunday, where they ran into Jackie Slater, an offensive lineman who played for 20 years with the Los Angeles Rams, and was one of the "Magnificent Seven" 2001 Hall of Fame inductees. Ditzler



Hanging out with heros at the NFL Hall of Fame

Dave's fivesome was Jim Houston, a 12-year player with the Cleveland Browns - a first round draft pick in 1960.

Meeting George Toma at the pre-game Tailgate Party was the icing on the cake for Ditzler. ".... George let



Up close and personal at the practice sessions

me pick his brain for an hour and a half. I was even scribbling notes on napkins." As well as getting some great shots of Dave and George, Tami managed to get her picture taken with HOF inductee, Lynn Swann, the legendary wide receiver. Watching the Hall of Fame Game and all the pre-game and half-time activities was a great way to wrap up the trip.

Now that's what I'd call a great return on a \$5 investment. Proceeds from this SAFE fund raising event will support sport turf related scholarships and research.



Fleet-footed Dave at the NFL Experience

Special Note: We were wrapping this issue of the newsletter when the tragic Attack on America occurred. Since that time, we have made, and received, numerous phone calls from STMA members in the United States. We know that sports fields are being used as triage centers to treat survivors, and we heard from one member who was heading to New York to volunteer. We sincerely hope and pray that none of you were directly affected by this horrific act. We thought that you might like to know that our overseas members are thinking of us too.

"Dear friends, I closely together feel for you in these 'black hours' for all the people who we loved the freedom. An affectionate greeting." **Daniel Sposito, STMA member # 3597, Argentina**

"Dear American friends, Over the years participating in STMA and GCSAA activities and conferences, I've come to appreciate the American people's friendliness and openness, as well as your generosity in the way you welcomed me in your various groups and in many cases offered your friendship.

Even if this is done a little clumsily, I wish to offer my sincere condolences to you and yours for the terrible losses your country has suffered and the unspeakable crime that was committed against you.

Please be assured that all of us, in Quebec and the rest of Canada, stand by you in this dark hour." **Francois Hebert, Lanco Amenegament, STMA member # 739**

STMA Founder George Toma Named NFL Pioneer Award Winner



George Toma

To pro football fans, the induction of the "Magnificent Seven" into the Pro Football Hall of Fame was an historic event. To STMA members, it was that "and then some." George Toma, one of STMA's Founders and Playing Field Consultant for the National Football League, also was honored.

Jim Steeg, Vice-President of Special Events for the NFL, presented Toma with the Daniel F. Reeves Pioneer Award during the first formal event of the Enshrinement Weekend celebration, the August 3rd Mayor's Breakfast.

The Award is named for the late Daniel F. Reeves, former owner of the Los Angeles Rams and a pioneer in the NFL, to "honor an individual whose innovative ideas have contributed to the game of professional football." It has been awarded only four times since 1972.

Hall of Fame announcement notes from the presentation state, "Toma, considered a master at his trade, is sports preeminent groundskeeper. His innovations, expert

care and preservation of pro football's championship fields, including all 35 Super Bowls, has earned him widespread recognition and acclaim. It is a reputation he has earned over a career that spans nearly 60 years."

Toma's first groundskeeping job was at the Class A Eastern League home of the Wilkes-Barre Barons in Pennsylvania. Emil Bossard, the legendary Cleveland Indians groundskeeper, was Toma's first mentor. He served in the Army during the Korean war, then returned to sports turf management, moving through the ranks of several minor league teams. In 1957, he accepted a position with the Kansas City Athletics. When the Athletics moved to Oakland, Toma remained in Kansas City, soon becoming the head groundskeeper for the Kansas City Royals. He was hired in 1963 to provide his expert services for the Kansas City Chiefs. His first direct connection with the NFL came with field preparations for the first Super Bowl. Toma has since demonstrated his field expertise on baseball, football and soccer venues around the world.

In 1981, he lent his expertise to the formation of the STMA. He remains active and has referred a number of members over the years.

Congratulations, George, on a job well done "and then some."



Professional Development: Effective Time Management

Time can be the most difficult aspect of the management program. Unlike other resources at the disposal of the sports turf manager, time is fixed - predetermined and unchanging.

You can add to your staff by selective hiring, by the intelligent integration of interns, or by recruiting and training volunteers. You can improve your efficiency, and that of your staff, through education and training. You can increase your equipment resources through a combination of purchase and leasing programs, through shared purchasing, through short-term rentals, or through borrowing. You can add to natural precipitation by irrigation. You can increase your turf density by overseeding. You can even add to your usable field space by such practices as "creating" a soccer field in the outfield of an existing softball or baseball field.

But you can't increase your time resources. There are 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, 24 hours in a day, 365 days in a year - no more; no less. The better you manage the time resource the more effi-

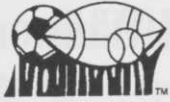
cient and effective your overall program will become.

The Big Picture

The first step in managing your program's time resource is determining how much you have to allocate. You can't "spend" all 24 of those hours on work, at least, not most of the time. So determine, realistically, how much of your time and how much of each staff member's time is available to allocate per day, per week, per month and per sport season.

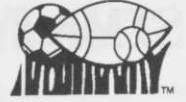
To do this, you can use a calendar and a pen or pencil; develop a simple grid using paper and pencil or *continued on page 14*

NEW Referral Program can earn you STMA Bucks!
Beginning October 1st - for a two year period - every time your name is listed in the "referred by" line of a membership application, you will receive a coupon worth \$10 towards the purchase of STMA merchandise, reference materials, Conference Registration or your own membership dues.
Help YOUR association GROW and reward yourself as well!



Sports Turf Happenings

Chapter Events



Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:

Scottsdale Stadium is the site for Mel Lanford's Ace of Diamonds Tour Groundskeeping Clinic on October 4. The program will focus on infields and grounds maintenance.

The Chapter will participate with the City of Yuma Parks and Recreation to present the 9th Annual Sports Turf Field Day and Equipment Show on December 7, 2001. The day's activities include presentations by guest speakers, seminars and the opportunity to view vendor displays. The 6th Annual "Sports Turf" Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2001, the day prior to the show. For more information on these events, contact Larry Munoz, City of Yuma Parks and Recreation, at e-mail: Larry.Munoz@CI.Yuma.az.us or tel. 520-329-2824.

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

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:

The Iowa Chapter will hold a Baseball/Soccer Workshop and Vendor Show at Upper Iowa University in Fayette on October 9. Topics include: "Putting Your Field To Bed for the Season," presented by Dr. Dave Minner of ISU; "Fertility and Soil Sampling," by Gary Peterson; "Field Painting," by Kevin Vos, CSFM, of the Muscatine Soccer Complex; "Aerification & Topdressing," by Bryan Wood of Commercial Turf & Tractor; and "Homemade Tools," by Ken Hanawalt of Rockwell-Swaledale Schools.

For information on the Iowa Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Lori@iowaturfgrass.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:

Wisconsin Chapter members will participate in the

Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA) Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tourney at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva on October 10. WSTMA will participate in the Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO to be held at the Marriott, Madison West, January 8 to 10, 2002.

For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter, or other pending events, call Richard Miller at 608-756-1150.

Minnesota Chapter STMA:

The Minnesota Chapter will be having a Fall Workshop at Bielenberg Sports Center in Woodbury, Minnesota on October 11th.

For information on this event, the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Ron Unger, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Kasson, at tel. 507-634-4165 or e-mail: ParkNRec@CityofKasson.com.

Florida Chapter #1:

The Florida Chapter is planning an Irrigation Seminar at Holiday Park in Ft. Lauderdale on October 16. The Chapter will again take part in the annual Turf Rodeo. This year's event will be held at Deerfield Beach on November 7. A meeting in the Village of Pinecrest is scheduled for December 5.

For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:

The Nebraska Chapter is planning a meeting on October 17 at Haymarket Park in Lincoln, Nebraska, the new home of the University of Nebraska Huskers Baseball Team and the Northern League Saltdogs.

For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at 308-385-5426.

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Alfred C. Williams
Chicago Park District
Chicago, IL

Bret Baird
Denver Broncos Football
Englewood, CO

Glenn Cappelmann
St. Helena Island, SC

Creative Turf Solutions, Inc.
Bill Harper
Sarasota, FL

Robert Epperson
BREC
Baton Rouge, LA

Charlie L. Goens
Bowie Baysox
Bowie, MD

David Kelterborn
Sports Turf Management, LLC
Woodstock, GA

Paul Manubay
R.C. Peoples Inc.
Bear, DE

Milliken Turf Products
Chris Byrd
Spartanburg, SC

Kebirn Rush
University of Dallas
Irving, TX

Jeffrey C. Taylor
Boca Pointe Country Club
Coconut Creek, FL

Tim Vanini
Grad Student/Michigan State Univ.
E. Lansing, MI

Ryan Williams
City of London Parks Operations
London, ON

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE!

Joe Ferdig, a former student member, now holds the position of Horticulture Instructor for Front Range Community College, Westminster, CO. Phone number for Joe is 303/404-5514.

Eric Holland, former Athletic Fields Manager for Georgia Tech, is now with Sports Turf Management, LLC, Woodstock, GA. You can reach Eric by phone at: 770/928-1580.

Doug Nicholson, former Turf & Grounds Superintendent with the Hall County (GA) Parks & Leisure Dept. has taken the position of Turf & Grounds Manager for the Allen Creek Soccer Complex. Doug's new phone number is 678/450-6503.

Bret Prather, former Sports Turf & Grounds Manager for War Memorial Stadium, is now Grounds Manager for the Little Rock (AR) School District. Bret's new phone number is 501/570-4020

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST CERTIFIED SPORTS FIELD MANAGER:

KEVIN VOS, CSFM, CITY OF MUSCATINE PARKS & REC.

If you, or anyone you know has changed positions, give us call so we can help get the word out!

Chapter Events

continued from page 8

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA):

KAFMO will hold their Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Outing on Monday, October 22, 2001, beginning at 12 noon at the Overlook Golf Course in Manheim, PA.

For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter, the golf outing or other upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:

The MO-KAN Chapter is planning a Sports Facilities Tour for October 24. Details will be announced soon.

For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Trevor Vance at 816-504-4271; Gary Custis at 816-460-6215; or Jody Gill at 913-239-4121.

Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA):

The MAFMO Chapter will hold its 2001 Design and Construction Seminar from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm on October 25 at the Radisson Hotel Annapolis in Annapolis, MD. On the program are: Don Campbell, French & Associates, speaking on Field Design; Dan Shalloo, Musco Lighting, speaking on Lights; Tim Cleary, Turf Equipment & Supply Company, on Irrigation; Murray Cook, Brickman SPORTsturf Services, on Fixtures/Amenities; Dr. Dave Minner, Iowa State University, on Soil/Grading; and Larry French, French & Associates, on Storm Water Management related to the Clean Air & Water Act.

For information on the MAFMO Chapter, or pending activities, call the Hotline at 410-290-5652.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:

The Colorado Chapter is planning a Fall Turf Day at the new Invesco Field at Mile High. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website--www.CSTMA.org--or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.

Midwest Chapter STMA:

Upcoming events for the Midwest Chapter include a Fall workshop at the Lincolnshire Sports Complex in October, and the annual North Central Turf Expo at Pheasant Run Resort in December in conjunction with the Illinois Turf Foundation and the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association.

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

South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:

The South Texas Chapter is planning an event for

early October. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, call Tom McAfee, Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium, San Antonio, at 210-207-3754.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):

The Tennessee Valley Chapter is planning an October workshop. Details on that event will be announced soon. TVSTMA is sponsoring a Tour on Wheels in conjunction with the Tennessee Parks and Recreation Association Meeting in Memphis on November 4 - 6. The Tour of Memphis area sites will include the Liberty Bowl, AutoZone Park, and the Germantown Parks and Recreation athletic facilities. The chapter also is holding a joint event in conjunction with the Kentucky Turfgrass Council in Bowling Green, Kentucky, on November 5 - 8.

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

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DOC'S DUGOUT - An Inning From Our Past

By Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

Remembering Fred - Pioneering Ideas

I returned recently from College Park, Maryland, where I found more treasures from the home of the late Dr. Fred Grau in the way of papers, documents and pictures. The achievements mentioned in these papers have made a great impact on us today in the sports turf industry.

Sterilization of Top-dressing

Marshall Farnham, Philadelphia Country Club conceived the idea of mixing his screened sandy loam topdressing (full of weed seeds) with a complete fertilizer and sewage, moistening the material as it was put in the pile. Within a day or two sufficient heat was generated in the pile so that all seeds, insects and disease organisms were killed. Temperatures in the pile reached 170 degrees, well above pasteurization. This process is used today to sterilize composted products derived from tree bark and solid wastes from the manufacture of paper. This is working with nature.

Matted and Grainy Turf

In 1935, a golf course near Ridgeway, Pennsylvania, had greens that were badly matted and grainy. Since the vertical mower would not be invented for another 11 or 12 years, there was no equipment available to relieve the condition. Fred Grau asked the greenskeeper to get 2 heavy, stiff, stable brooms. They fastened them securely together and arranged the handle so that one man could pull the dual broom across the green. The stiff bristles raised the grain so that the greens mowers could remove a large part of the matted grass. It was crude, but it worked.

Grass and Weed Removal Implements

Joseph Valentine of the Merion Golf Club fastened spring-loaded steel teeth to a frame that was bolted to fairway mower units. The teeth were adjustable and gently lifted the runners of crabgrass, stems of goosegrass and fluffy bentgrass so the mowers would cut them off. It was a pioneering idea but never made it to the manufacturing stage.



Dr. Fred Grau

At the Hershey Country Club, Jim Morrison did something about the crabgrass in his fairways. Coulters were put in place of the teeth in a rotary hoe with the back row out of alignment with the front row. The sharp coulters cut the prostrate stems of all the plants. A large chain link fence drag was pulled over the turf to loosen the cut stems, which were

chopped to bits by the mowers.

Morrison had another pioneering idea. A piece of carpet was attached to the front section of a steel doormat drag used to work in topdressing on greens. Small stones, gravel and debris bounced up and were collected on the carpet. The mat was overturned off the green and the debris was collected.

Jim Hamner at the Memphis Country Club altered a
continued on page 13

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Your Board Meeting Report

On July 27 and 28, 2001, your Board of Directors met in San Diego, California. This location was chosen to allow the Board to check out proposed facilities since San Diego was the top contender among potential Conference sites for the STMA 2004 Conference. The Board voted to accept the San Diego location and meeting site contingent on successful contract negotiations. Since then, Executive Director Steve Trusty has negotiated with the facility and finalized contract details. STMA will hold its 2004 Conference at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego on January 21 to 25.

The Board approved the minutes of the April 6 - 7, 2001, Board Meeting, the Financial Reports for the period ending June 30, 2001, and the Check Disbursement Listing. The Budget for the 2002 Conference also was reviewed and approved.

The 2002 Conference Education Committee presented the draft of the proposed program for Board

review. The fourth annual Chapter Officers Training Session will be held at the Riviera Hotel & Casino from 1:00 to 6:00 PM on Tuesday, January 15th, in conjunction with the Conference. A proctored setting for the CSFM Exam also will be provided at the Riviera on Sunday morning, January 20th, for those pre-qualified for this testing. (See page 1 of this issue for further Conference details.)

Several proposals from the Membership Committee were reviewed and discussed by the Board. A major initiative approved by the Board was the membership referral program. (See page 7 for details.) The kickoff of this program is tied to the October first start date of the end of the year membership promotion. The Board reviewed the 2002 dues structure and approved retaining the current membership rates throughout 2002. The Board also approved the Committee's recommendations on updating the membership brochure. That work is in process.

The Marketing Committee presented to the Board several requests for approval to move forward with specific initiatives. This approval was granted, with the Committee directed to present the work completed for approval at the next Board meeting.

Another major issue was Board review and approval of the sponsorship of the Minor League Baseball Sports Turf Manager of the Year Awards as presented by the Awards Committee. See details of this in the Headquarters Report.

The Board also reviewed and approved the nomination procedures for STMA officers and board members as presented by the Nominations Committee. This put into written form the procedures and timelines STMA had been using for several years. The call for nominations to the STMA membership was issued in the July/August issue of this newsletter with September 15 the deadline.

Among other key items addressed by the Board were the status reports presented by the Chapter Relations Committee, Certification Committee, Technical Standards Committee, Survey Committee and Website Committee. The Board also reviewed and discussed the results of the Executive Director and Management Firm evaluations completed prior to the Board Meeting.


Finance and Audit Committee Chair, Bob Campbell, CSFM, requested all Committee Chairs to present their budget requests for 2002 by the end of August, 2001, in preparation for the Finance and Audit Committee scheduled for September 12, 2001.

The next Board Meeting will be held October 12 - 13, 2001, at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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DOC'S DUGOUT

continued from page 11

cultipacker by replacing the packers with sharpened steel gin saw blades. These successfully cut the stems of Dallisgrass which reel mowers would not cut. It was a great idea and it worked.

Grau was sitting on his lawn in College Park, Maryland one hot July day with his sharp knife in hand. He idly drew the knife blade across the flat stems of goosegrass plentifully growing in the lawn. By drawing the sharp knife across the lawn in two directions, then rubbing the surface with his hand, the goosegrass plant virtually disappeared, leaving only a stub and a small crown. This discovery was related to the Mascaro brothers with whom Grau was working at the time (West Point Products). Shortly thereafter the verticut was born, utilizing the sharp knife principle applied through spinning knife blades. This pioneering idea has revolutionized turfgrass maintenance.

Cultivating the Soil

Another great idea was that of cultivating the soil under the turf with minimum disturbance to the use of the turf. This pioneering concept had been in the making a long time. It blossomed on Grau's desk at Beltsville, Maryland (USGA, USDA) when Charles Hollowell, county agent in Philadelphia, and the Mascaro brothers (Tom & Tony) from West Point, Pennsylvania, visited him. As he recalled, they had in their minds to build something for turf - perhaps a leaf baler.

However, compacted soil was on Grau's mind,

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Editors Note: In the certification article in the July/August issue of the newsletter, Dale Getz's job titles were omitted. Dale was previously the Athletic Facilities Manager for the University of Notre Dame. He currently serves as Grounds Mgmt. Sales Manager/Commercial Products Division for The Toro Company. I apologize to Dale and to anyone else who may have been inconvenienced by this omission. SW

and, as a result, they went home with some crude sketches of a device to cultivate or aerate soils without destroying the sod. At this meeting the basic design of the first aerifier was hammered out and the Mascaros went back to their shop in West Point and started to build the first machine. Everyone today is aware of the tremendous impact of soil cultivation on turf as most sports turf managers have an aerifier to relieve the compaction on their sports fields.

Dr. Grau was born in Nebraska in 1902 and passed away at College Park, Maryland, in 1990. He was extension agronomist at Penn State from 1935-1945, Director of the USGA Green Section from 1945-1953, consulting agronomist for West Point Products from 1953-1956, agronomist for Nitroform Agricultural Products 1956-1960 and agronomist for Hercules, Inc. until 1965. He was a man of vision and his accomplishments will forever be remembered and appreciated. He was made an Honorary Member of STMA in 1987 along with Tom Mascaro.



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Professional Development: Effective Time Management

continued from page 7

an erasable board and markers; or use a purchased printed or computerized time management/organizer system such as Franklin Planner or Day-Timer.

List each individual within the program and the total number of hours you can "spend" for each of them each day during a one-week period. Next determine the "must do" tasks to be completed for each day within that week. Then fit each individual's time onto the planner by workable blocks, such as 15 to 30 minutes. Obviously, you'll need to match the skill level of the individual to the task that must be done. Delete time from the total available per individual as you transfer it to the planner. Continue this process for the year

Time the Techniques

In many cases, you'll already have key parts of your program precisely timed. For example, you know how many staff members it takes to handle the pre-game set up of the baseball field within the time available. Each individual has specific assignments and knows

what to do, when to do it, and what tools to use. Many of you have put a stopwatch to this, testing various tools and/or various individuals in specific situations to determine the quickest methods and the best combination of people and tools to achieve the desired results.

You're shooting for a similar level of efficiency throughout your time management program, so keep that stopwatch handy. This takes a combination of "thinking out of the box" about how and why you and your staff perform certain procedures and the perseverance to explore other alternatives. Time specific tasks, handled with specific tools, by specific individuals or teams of individuals and keep track of the results for comparison.

Using your current equipment, how long does it take to cover your football field with a core aerator at pre-set spacing with a pre-set coring depth? How long does it take to cover only the areas of heavy

continued on page 18

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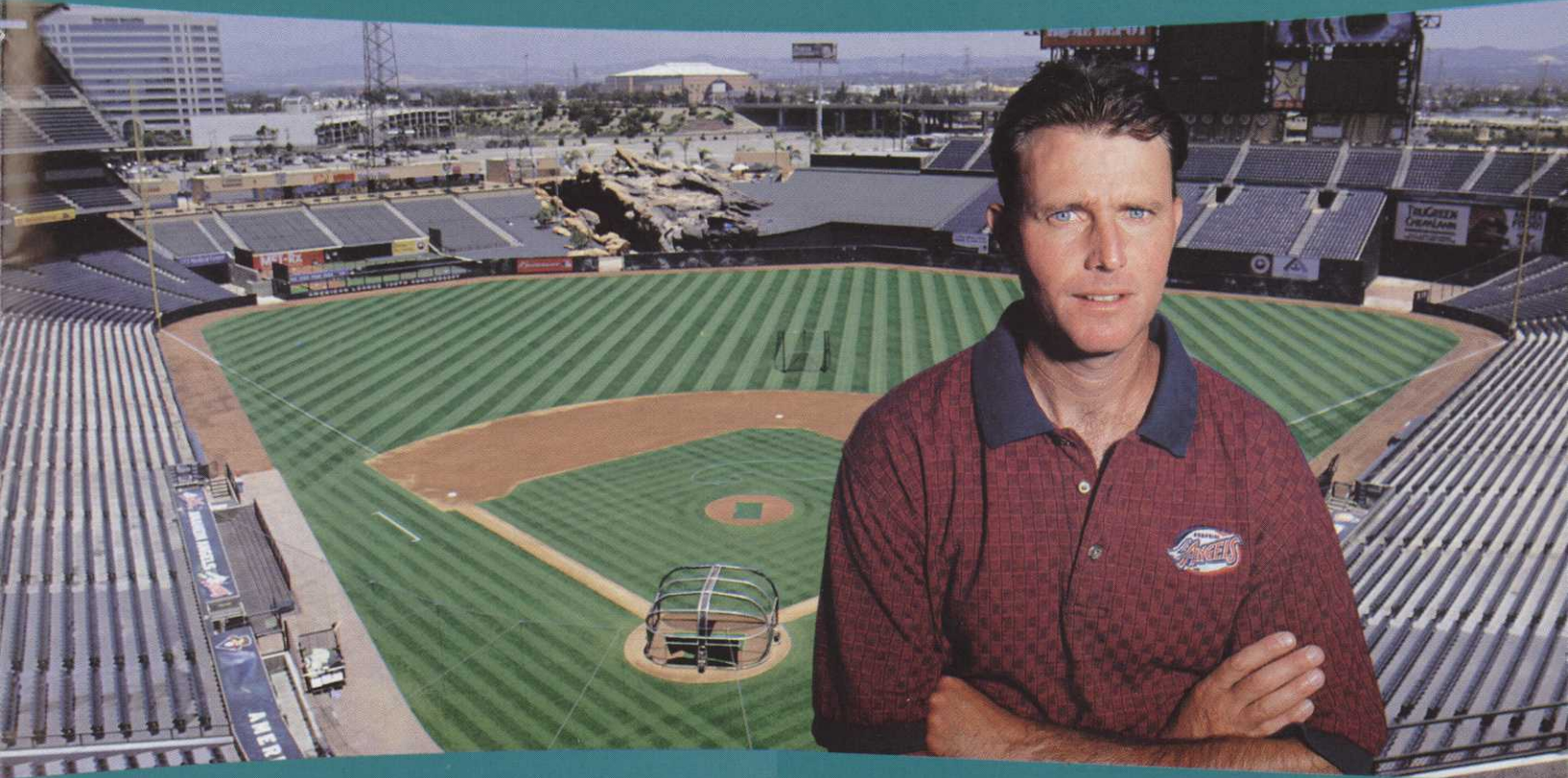


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Field Manager
Edison International Field,
home of the Anaheim Angels
Anaheim, CA.

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We're on a Roll!

continued from page 1

Lined up to share his views on "Developing a Champion," is two-time National Coach of the Year, Dwaine Knight, UNLV Head Golf Coach. Knight has been the driving force behind the tremendous success of Rebel Golf since his arrival in Las Vegas in the fall of 1987. Under his direction, the Rebels have gone from an unranked program that finished 7th in the Big West in 1988 to a perennial national title contender that was national runner-up in 1996 and national champions in 1998.

Knight has earned the Golf Coaches Association of the Year Award, conference Coach of the Year four times and district Coach of the Year three times. He reached the pinnacle of coaching honors during the summer of 1997 when he was chosen as the United States' captain to the inaugural Palmer Cup.

After lunch we'll roll on into our first set of concurrent sessions. Choose from a Basics Track; with such topics as Blue Print Reading, Basic Drainage Concepts and Game Day Preparation; a Technical Track featuring Surfactants and Water Management and the High Tech Details of Invesco Field at Mile

High; Tricks of the Trade with practical tips on baseball, football and soccer; or a Professional Development Track with Attention to Detail, Personal Professionalism and Safety & Liability.

Then it's onto the Cashman Center for the Grand Opening of the Trade Show. Bigger than ever with another great Reception, this will prove to be a terrific opportunity to mix and mingle with the Exhibitors. The SAFE "Live" Auction also will be held in the adjacent Cashman Theater at the end of the Trade Show.

On Friday morning, we head back to the Cashman Center for breakfast, more wonderful education and networking with exhibitors at the Trade Show.

On Friday afternoon, we have our ever popular workshop sessions with such topics as, Mowing and Patterns, Soils - The Basics, Water Quality, Sports Fields: How They Wear and What You Can Do About It, and Irrigation and Water Auditing, to name just a few.

Friday evening is the Annual Awards Banquet, with presentations of the Field of the Year Awards, Founders Awards and the SAFE Scholarships.

Saturday opens with breakfast and more concurrent sessions with the Basics Track featuring Fertilization, and Field Painting; Technical topics include Growing Turf in Low Light Stadium Conditions and How to Buy Sod; Tricks of the Trade features Handling the "Do Everything" Field and Soccer, Soccer, and More Soccer; and the Professional Development Track covers Meeting the Media and Management on a Limited Budget.

On Saturday, we're bringing back Dr. Bree Hayes for an action-packed interactive session. Saturday afternoon's Round-Table Discussions include: Cool-Season Turf Overseeding, Warm-Season Turf Overseeding, Managing Volunteer Groups, Water Quality, and IPM for Sports Turf, among others.

And, we've got Seminar on Wheels Tours rolling around on both Wednesday and Sunday, as well as the SAFE Golf Tournament or a Floyd Perry Seminar on Wednesday, an Area Sights Tour on Sunday, and Networking, Networking, Networking!

If you haven't already made your plans to attend - do it NOW! You don't want to miss this! Complete Conference packets will be mailed soon. If you need more information now, just give us a call at Headquarters.

We hope to see YOU in Las Vegas!



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Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

As usual, since I last communicated to you through this column, much has been happening with STMA.

Your Board met in San Diego the end of July. Among decisions made at that meeting was the site selection for the 2004 Conference. After all the factors that I discussed in the last column were considered, your Board voted to award the 2004 Conference to the Town and Country Resort in San Diego. Plan now to be in San Diego January 21 to 25, 2004. The Super Bowl that year will be February 1 in Houston. The Town and Country is a family owned facility and will allow us to hold the Trade Show and Educational Sessions in close proximity to everyone's sleeping rooms at reasonable rates for a beautiful resort.

Your Board also approved the Membership Referral Program that was introduced with your copy of the Roster. This program rewards those members who make the extra effort to get others involved in STMA. See how many new members you can get and watch your cost of STMA services go down by using your Referral Coupons. Every new member you sign up earns you ten STMA bucks.

Another program approved by the Board was the sponsorship of a Sports Turf Manager of the Year Award for Minor League Baseball. We have agreed to initially sponsor these awards at the next three Baseball Winter Meetings. The Awards, one each for AAA, AA, Full-Season A and Short-Season A/Rookie, will be presented at the Awards Luncheon this year in Boston. This program will put the Sports Turf Manager on the same dais as the top publicity team, the top League President, the top reliever and the top Woman Executive in Minor League Baseball. Sports Turf Managers are definitely becoming better recognized.

I attended the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) Annual Conference in Philadelphia the first part of August. ASAE is to association execs what STMA is to sports turf managers. I met a lot of great people and picked up ideas that I will be sharing with the respective committees. The design and hosting of the new STMA website is a direct result of that meeting.

Your various committees have been working hard to accomplish their projects and goals for the year. They are also working on their budgets for next year in preparation for the Finance and Audit

Committee Meeting in Omaha on September 12. The Finance and Audit Committee does the majority of work on the Annual Budget for presentation to your Board. The Board is scheduled to meet in Las Vegas on October 12 and 13.

If all goes as planned I will have made a presentation on Sports Turf Management at the Annual Conference of the Wyoming Parks and Recreation Association on September 19. STMA is providing two sessions at the National Parks and Recreation Congress in Denver on October 5. We will also have a booth there to inform Parks and Recreation Directors about STMA and what we offer to those in charge of their athletic fields.

STMA will have a booth at the FFA annual get-together in Louisville the end of October. I have attended the conference the last three years as a judge in the Turfgrass Management program. It is really refreshing to see 45,000 outstanding young people. Day in - day out they may not get much press, but with youngsters like this in leadership roles, our country will continue to be all right. What better place than that to plant the seeds for the future of this great industry.

Once again an STMA member has shown us how fortunate we are to be working with such a great group of individuals. We received a call from a member wondering if we had any connections to Make-A-Wish. He explained that his 7 year-old nephew was diagnosed with leukemia in June and was just completing chemotherapy. The nephew had planned to start his football career this fall, but those plans came to a screeching halt. The member wanted to get his brother and son to one NFL game to cheer him up. I called the member in the boy's area and explained the situation. I was told, "no problem, I have two tickets to each game that I haven't allocated, just let me know which game they can attend." Thanks (*), you've made a little boy and his dad happy for at least a little while and the uncle is even more appreciative of his connections with STMA.

Until next issue, may you touch someone in a way that lets them know you care.



**names deleted for confidentiality reasons*

Professional Development: Effective Time Management

continued from page 14

wear on that field? What is the time comparison between coring the entire field in one direction and coring the heavy wear areas in two directions? Which method of "spending" your time produces the best results?

Using your current methods of baseball field "lip" control, how long does it take to complete your post-game clean-up? Can you trim the time involved and achieve the same results by switching to a different method, i.e. using brooms or a blower if you're currently raking? Do you "save" or "spend" time in your overall post-game time scheme if you assign fewer or more people to this task? Do a different set of tasks fit better with lip clean-up detail than the ones currently assigned? How is your overall time affected if you switch the assignment of lip clean-up to a different individual or group of individuals?

Use the same stopwatch and method-switching procedures to compare the time "spent" on all your maintenance practices, such as mowing, topdressing,

overseeding, fertilization, mound and batters box repair, infield skinned area preparation, setting the bases, line and logo painting, dugout clean-up, weed control around fence lines, etc.

Make It Work for You

Completing all this comparison could take an entire season, but the results will be well worth the effort. You may discover a few, or many, changes that can help save you time. You may discover you've already developed an extremely efficient time management program and there is little you can do to improve your operating efficiency with your current tools and equipment and staffing levels. Either way, it strengthens your management position by providing you with solid data to support your maintenance program.

The next step is to look at your overall situation. If, as is the case with so many sports facilities, you are facing greater time demands, either through added use of your existing fields or through the development of new fields at your facility, the data you have developed will be very helpful in determining what you'll need to make that work.

And you can put the data to work for you. Using your data, you can demonstrate to your supervisors and budgeting entities that you've analyzed your program and fine-tuned it to accomplish the maximum in efficiency and results. You can then use your data to show how many additional labor hours you'll need to "spend" to facilitate the maintenance necessary for newly constructed fields and/or for additional use of existing fields.

Since you can't increase the number of hours in a day, you will need to "find the time" to handle the added workload through other avenues. Your data can support the request for additional full-time or part-time staff members, or for the establishment of a trained volunteer workforce. Your data can support the request for upgraded equipment to perform specific procedures more quickly and efficiently. Your data can support the request for greater control over field user groups and the allocation of field space and on-field time in order to keep fields in better condition and reduce time-consuming renovation procedures.

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Chapter Events

continued from page 10

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):

The OSTMA 4th Annual meeting and awards breakfast will be held at the Columbus Convention Center from 7:30 am to 8:30 am on December 5th in conjunction with the December 3 - 6, 2001, Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference. Featured will be a special Sports Turf Track and vendor displays with products for the sports turf manager.

For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 740-452-4541 or Boyd Montgomery at 419-885-1982; or visit the chapter's website at www.glstma.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:

The New Jersey Chapter will be conducting athletic field educational courses in conjunction with the New Jersey Turfgrass Association Annual EXPO in Atlantic City, December 11 to 13, 2001. The day-long athletic field sessions will be presented on December 13.

For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jim Gavigan, Lesco, at 732-248-8979; or call Eleanora Murfitt, Director, Township of Clinton Parks & Recreation Department, at 908-735-5999.

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:

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

Southern California Chapter:

For information on the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, call Ron Kirkpatrick at 858-453-1755.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:

For information on the Gateway Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, at 314-977-2956.

Indiana Chapter:

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

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):

For information on the Chapter or pending events, call Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at 616-738-6974, or go to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's new website.

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:

For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, call Kayla McAfee at 972-234-6584 or Rene Asprion at 972-647-3393, or visit the website at www.ntstma.org.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:

For information on the Virginia Chapter, or upcoming

events, contact: Chapter Vice President, Randy Buchanan, County of Henrico Recreation and Parks, via e-mail: buc06@co.henrico.va.us or at tel. 804-261-8213.

Mid-South Chapter STMA:

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

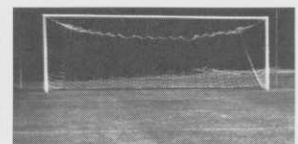
Chapters On The Grow

Las Vegas: With the STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition headed for Las Vegas January 16-20, 2002, plans for the formation of a Las Vegas Chapter also are moving forward. For more information on the developing chapter, please contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: rms@lvcvva.com or at tel. 702-386-7140.

New York: A chapter is forming in Central New York. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the National Soccer Hall of Fame. For more information, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: Kevin@wpe.com or at tel. 607-432-2953.

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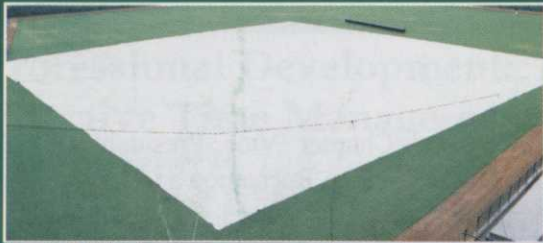
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