

Featured Conference Speakers - WOW!

Okay. So maybe Disco Demolition Night didn't go exactly as planned. At least he tried. In fact, Mike Veeck has made a career of trying what other people wouldn't dare. Who else would hire a dog for the Miami Miracle and a pig (or series of pigs) for the St. Paul Saints to deliver baseballs to the home plate umpire, or mimes to perform instant replays between innings?

Mike Veeck makes dreams come true. What makes him special is how he does it. Mike has made a career of understanding that people need to laugh. As part owner of six baseball teams and a consultant with two, he has served to put fun back into baseball. The Veeck family practically invented the concept



Mike Veeck

of "fan-friendly" with such ideas as Bat Day and post-game fireworks. They knew that, if you want to find out what fans want, you have to listen to them. If you want to make them laugh, you have to use your imagination. It is with the belief that anything is possible and no idea is too silly that his teams routinely set attendance records.

Mike has proven that his ideas are not specific only to baseball, acting as an advertising professional, popular speaker, founder of the Veeck Promotional Seminar, all-around idea man, and devoted father. He's brought his wisdom and humor to groups like 3M, Major League Baseball and NASCAR. He's appeared on such TV shows as 60 Minutes, ESPN's SportsCenter and ABC's Nightline. He'll share the same vision with attendees in his presentation, "Thinking Beyond the Ballpark."

An internationally recognized performance expert, MiMi Paris, Ph.D., provides strategy consulting, executive coaching and speaking services. Attendees at her speaking sessions develop, recommend and believe in their own courses of action. Results are natural and internally motivated rather than externally imposed. Attendees job-related concerns are identi-

fied, their credibility confirmed, and they look good while exceeding their goals and expanding their outcomes. MiMi has built a track record of successfully managing performance associated with rapid organizational change. She provides practical, simple solutions for complex problems.



MiMi Paris, Ph.D.

People who practice martial arts are constantly astounded by how the benefits overlap into other areas of their lives. In her two-hour, interactive presentation, "Fourth Degree Black Belt - for Life!" MiMi will demonstrate how lessons learned in the dojo are a metaphor for life success. For example, in karate, students practice "this move, next move," making a move as a plan for the move that follows. The same principle needs to be practiced in life. You want to make your current move for a future move/benefit. It is strategizing for your own success. The point is to PLAN for your own success, not just have life "happen to" you. Other key points include, but are not limited to, energy-management, confidence, focus (not concentration), recovery and follow through. Participants will gain an understanding of how the concepts in karate apply to all areas of life success. In addition, they will immediately increase their confidence by learning a few simple self-defense techniques.

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SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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President's Message

"Tis the Season"

by Murray Cook

It's time to be thankful and generous. We have a lot to be thankful for and sometimes we need to stop and think about it, especially during this time of year when everyone is preparing for the holidays. It was a great year for our association, especially considering the lagging economy. Personally, I am thankful for the law enforcement agencies in Maryland that captured the sniper in our state. Fields were shut down and all sporting activities were discontinued. It was very close to home and sometimes we forget how fortunate we are until the problems in the world affect us personally.

Now the generous part! By now everyone that receives this magazine should have registered for the STMA 14th Annual Conference in San Antonio. If you haven't - it's not too late! But space is filling up very quickly - so get it in gear and call Headquarters for a packet of information. Or, for immediate access, just go to the website: www.sportsturfmanager.com for a preview of the Conference. You can even register online if you prefer.

We have some great educational sessions lined up and some exciting optional events including two different tours of several wonderful facilities, a tour of area attractions, and the Textron sponsored SAFE Golf Tournament at The Quarry.

A highlight of this year's optional events is the Major League Baseball sports turf managers field seminar. MLB sports turf managers will be stationed around the field providing information and demonstrations on topics ranging from turf management to infield maintenance. The best part is this super seminar only costs 50 bucks and - here comes the generous part - every dollar goes back to the Association. (So if you would like to pay more for this session, we can make special arrangements!)

In this issue you also will see Minor League Baseball's Sports Turf Manager of the Year selections. The awards will be



Murray Cook

presented to these individuals at the Baseball Winter Meetings in Nashville on December 15th. The presentation takes place in front of all the owners and executives from Major League and Minor League teams - a great place for our profession and our professionals to be recognized.

We had a wonderful response for the awards program this year. Many worthy individuals were nominated for the Founders Awards and we had a record number of entries - all outstanding - for our Field of the Year Awards. I wish we could give an award to everyone!

At this writing, the SAFE Scholarship judging team was working their way through another record number of applications. So many excellent applicants makes a great statement for the future of our industry.

There are too many people to thank in this column for a great job in moving our association forward during 2002, however, I'd like to name a few. The Trustys, and our Headquarters Staff, as always going beyond the call of duty to get the information to everyone continue to amaze me. The past and current board of directors whom I thank personally for your support in my inaugural year as the Prez. And finally I say thank you to each of you who have been involved nationally and in your local chapters sharing information and contributing to our growth.

It was a good year and I can foresee that 2003 is going to be even better. May God bless each of you and your families during the holiday season!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I'll see yawl in Texas!

Athletic Field Soil is a Key to Avoiding Injuries

Henry Indyk, Ph.D., GSI Consultants/Turfcon

Consider athletic field soil conditions from two major perspectives; the best possible growth situation for the turf, and the basis for player safety.

For optimum turf growth, soil conditions must be suitable from both chemical and physical standpoints.

Chemical conditions include pH, nutrient status, level of salt concentration and contaminants.

Physical conditions include soil texture, infiltration and percolation, drainage, and susceptibility to compaction. From the standpoint of safety, add field grade and contour, evenness or levelness, existence of depressions, and undesirable debris.

Assessing conditions - Know what's wrong before you take any action. Soil conditions must be assessed to analyze existing situations properly. This must be done by someone with knowledge and background in soils, someone who knows what to look for and how to judge conditions accurately.

A great deal can be determined by visual observation during a site visit: physical conditions including soil texture, drainage, levelness, contour, grade, depressions, percentage of debris and existing turf conditions (density, evenness and vigor). Even hardness can be determined to some degree, though for best accuracy, a physical measurement of hardness can be taken with an impact machine.

The site visit includes soil sampling for a laboratory quantitative assessment of chemical and physical characteristics. Take soil samples from each area with variations. From 10 to 20 samples should be taken. Gather them with a soil sample tool to a depth of at least six inches.

Combine and thoroughly mix the collected samples in a clean container. By testing the samples together, rather than testing each sample individually, results will reveal a composite of the entire field.

Send air-dried samples to a qualified, reputable laboratory for chemical testing and physical analysis.

Chemical testing should include levels for soil acidity (pH) and the major nutrients of phosphorus and potassium, plus calcium and magnesium. If the field is in an area where micronutrients are normally deficient, test for these also.

Physical analysis should include mechanical analysis for sand, silt and clay proportions. This will help predict the ability of the soil to infiltrate and percolate water, its drainage characteristics, water-holding capacity, and its compaction susceptibility. Information gained from this analysis can be fortified with other laboratory determinations, such as sand fractionation, bulk density and percolation rate.

Combines visual assessment and lab test results provide useful information on the existing status of the field.

Corrective procedures - It's vital to know what

the soil profile conditions should be for the growth and support of a dense, vigorous and healthy natural turf sports playing surface in order to determine what needs to be done to get there.

Corrections in the chemical area will be based on the results of the laboratory analysis and are generally issued in prescription form by the lab. For example, use v amount of x material to alter the y level by z amount.

The proper pH levels for favorable turf-grass growth range between 6.0 and 7.0 with 6.5 being ideal. High pH - alkaline conditions require acidifying; low pH - acid conditions must be neutralized. Sulphur compounds correct alkaline conditions; lime corrects acidity. The farther pH levels range from the ideal, the harder it will be to correct pH conditions for the proper establishment and maintenance of turfgrasses.

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Chapter Events



Congratulations go to the Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association - STMA's newly affiliated Chapter. For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Tom Nielsen at TNielsen@batsbaseball.com or Aaron Boggs at AVBoggs@netscape.net.

Midwest Chapter STMA:

The Midwest Chapter will again participate in the North Central Turf Expo to be held in December. An expanded two day Irrigation Workshop will be held February 11 and 12 at Chevy Chase Golf Club in Wheeling, Illinois. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter's website-<http://mcstma.org>--or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:

The New Jersey Chapter will again partner with the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo to present a special sports turf specific educational track. The Expo will be held December 10 - 12, 2002, at the Trump Taj Mahal Resort & Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Sports Turf Track Topics will include: "Successes in Athletic Field Improvements;" "Developing an IPM Program for Athletic Fields;" "Athletic Field Problems and Their Solutions in the UK;" "Mowing Management as it Affects Turf Quality;" "Recognition of Performance - The Sports Turf Managers Association Certification Program and The STMA Survey Update;" "Expectations of Athletic Fields from the Perspective of the Coach, Engineer/Architect, Administration, Sports Field Manager, and Contractor Services;" and "Keeping Up To Date on Pesticide Regulations."

The ten day Athletic Field Management School will be held at Rutgers University January 6 - 10 and January 27 - 31, 2003. Register through the website: www.cook.rutgers.edu/~ocpe or call 732-932-9271.

For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Fred Castenschild at 908-722-9830

or email to mkc@blast.net; or call Eleanora Murfitt, at 908-236-9118; e-mail to HQ@sfmanj.org

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:

The Chapter will have a booth at the Turfgrass and Landscape Institute (SCTC) to be held on December 11 at Buena Park.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, call Steve Dugas, California State University - Fullerton, at 714-278-3929 or email sdugas@fullerton.edu.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):

The OSTMA Chapter will hold its fifth annual meeting and award breakfast on December 11 in conjunction with the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation annual Conference and Trade Show at the Columbus Convention Center. The Conference dates are December 9 - 12. For information on the Conference, call 888-683-3444. 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.ostma.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):

The Michigan Chapter will hold its Annual Meeting at the Columbus Convention Center on December 11th. Breakfast will be served. The Chapter also will hold a special sports turf track in conjunction with the Michigan Turfgrass Conference to be held January 20-23, 2003, at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing, MI.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, University of Michigan, at fouty@umich.edu, or go to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's new website.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:

Join the Georgia Chapter on Monday, December 16, for a Super Event sponsored by Pennington Seed. It will be held at their facility in Madison, Georgia, beginning at 2:00 PM

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How Do You Do...?

The question: How Do You "Put Your Fields to Bed" So They "Wake Up" Happy in the Spring?

Answered by Jay Warnick, CSFM; Seattle Seahawks (WA)

After a season of wear and compaction, our first priority in putting the field to bed is getting oxygen to the root zone. We accomplish this by core aerating at 3"x 5" spacing with fl" tines at a depth of 3" in one direction and 6"x 6" spacing with fl" tines at a 10" depth in the other direction. We remove as much of the core material as possible and allow the holes to remain open until spring top-dressing. We have noticed that by doing this our incidence of the slime mold diseases decreases. It is also important that we provide an easy channel for the constant rainfall to make its way through the organic buildup which has accumulated through the season.

After aerification we address any grade problems and divot fill (it seems easier to spot these areas while the canopy is on the thin side). Next, we aggressively rake in bluegrass seed in areas that have received the most abuse. Spring germination rates are not always great, but anything we do get gives us a jump on the early Spring practices.

Finally we make any irrigation adjustments and repairs so the system will be ready to go when Spring football approaches.

Answered by Dave Rulli, Jeffco Stadium, Lakewood, CO

Typically our high school football season ends mid to late November. We host 30 regular season games over a ten week period, plus play-off games in November. When the season ends, we core aerate the field in two directions to relieve compaction from the season. Then we apply ammonium sulfate at a rate of one pound of nitrogen per 1000 ft. The fertilizer application of ammonium sulfate promotes early green-up as well as available nutrients in early Spring for growth. Dormant seeding at a rate of 3 pounds per 1000 ft. with a blend of Kentucky Bluegrass is the next step in the process.

After seeding is complete, we topdress the field about 1/2" which fills in any depressions and helps reestablish our grade on the field. Topdressing also protects our dormant seeding process. Then we use a broom to drag the sand into the field going both directions. If needed, the field receives its final watering before going into winter. The final step is to cover the field with gro-covers and pray for a successful winter growing season!

Answered by Leo Goertz, Texas A & M University

Putting a bermudagrass field in the south to bed for the winter is like putting a two year old to bed. You don't know how long it will sleep or when it will wake up. At Texas A & M we have two different situations. Our sand-based fields can go dormant and turn green two or three different times over the course of the winter. Native soil fields will go dormant and stay dormant till spring warmup. Fields that are overseeded are verticut and aerified before they are seeded. Fields that are not overseeded are mowed all the way up till they turn brown. Two areas of concern with all of our fields is soil moisture and fertility. We make sure that the soils remain moist during the winter to prevent

winter kill. If the winter is dry, we do weekly light irrigation. As for fertility, we monitor tissue tests up till early November to make sure that there is plenty of nitrogen and potassium in the plant for spring green up. If needed we will lightly fertilize in late November, with a 2-1-2 ratio and no more than 3/8 pound per thousand square feet.

Answered by Randy Buchanan, Henrico County (VA) Parks & Rec.

We use our cultural practices to put our turf to sleep so it wakes up happy in the spring.

Fertility & cultivation practices allow the turfgrass to harden off for the winter. We prepare our Bermudagrass for dormancy by giving it a Potash application before it goes dormant and not over stimulating the Bermudagrass while trying to kick our Ryegrass into gear. We terminate our cultivation practices 6-8 weeks prior our overseeding date which is 4-6 weeks before our first killing frost date. We let our Bermudagrass wake in the spring and then do our first Bermuda fertilization two weeks after green up. We use turf blankets on Bermuda sod less than one year old and on special, high profile fields. We also use soil samples to balance our soils and utilize fertilizer as a source of organic nutrition.



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DOC'S DUGOUT - An Inning From Our Past

By Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

John Souter - A True Friend, Colleague & Sports Turf Professional

The Early Years

John Souter was born and raised in the little village of Bannockburn on the outskirts of Stirling, Scotland. This area is steeped in history as Bannockburn was the site of the famous battle in which William Wallace and his men defeated England and this was made into the recent movie, "Brave Heart". Nearby Stirling Castle, high above Stirling and the surrounding area, was the home of "Mary, Queen of Scots". Growing up in Bannockburn, under modest means along with his mother and father and his sister, Norma, young John attended Stirling High School and did all the things young boys do, including rugby. While in school he had no inkling that someday he would be called by many of his friends, professionals and colleagues, the "Wizard of Turf". In the 1950's and 60's this was a title reserved for aspiring soccer players, like his own father, Johnny Souter, who played professionally for Dumbarton and Hibs. But more than likely the impressions and images of poor sports fields that he saw through his father and later when he played on such fields himself remained dormant in his mind until much later in his life. But the passion and talent for solving sports turf problems was latent during these early years, since other things occupied his mind like rugby, girls and school. After high school, John went to the West of Scotland College of Agriculture where he completed a diploma in horticulture. John always wanted to be a gardener when he was a young lad. He used to get up at 5:30 AM and spend an hour in his greenhouse before he went to school.

His father's sudden death in 1963 brought him back to Bannockburn where he found a job to financially assist his family. He went to work for Scottish Agricultural Industries, a division of Imperial Chemical Industries, as a technical fertilizer representative and became the first turf representative in Britain. According to John, "we advised people on bowling greens, golf courses and soccer fields and I began to see problems of drainage where there had been bad specifications. Six months later there would be just as much muck on the surface as before."

John began to investigate and formulate solutions to the soil problems he observed on the sports fields and bowling greens he encountered in his travels around Scotland. In 1967, at the age of 27, he formed his own company, Souter of Stirling and worked from a small shed on the side of his family's house in Bannockburn. John started his company with only \$400. The early work was mainly dedicated to lawn care and maintenance and renovation of bowling greens. For this early work he purchased two pieces of equipment - a sod cutter and a vertical mower to de-thatch lawns. Soon his first job with a soccer pitch (field) came along. He was employed to lay and re-level the turf in the goal areas at Hampden Park, the stadium for the Scottish National team. This

was his start and the opportunity he needed to launch his successful career in sports turf. Once he out-grew his shed, he and his first employee moved the business to an old brewery in Stirling where the rain came through the roof and the office was protected by an umbrella. Finally, in 1971, he moved to the Springkerse industrial estate which was the home of Souter of Stirling until John retired in 2000. From this point on it was upward and onward for John Souter and Souter of Stirling.



Souter recipient of the Harry C. Gill Memorial Award

The Later Years

John branched out his business to include a myriad of horticultural specialties that included golf courses, sports fields, bowling greens, racetracks, and polo fields. He was one of the premier sports field contractors in the United Kingdom and also specialized in sports turf maintenance. In addition, he founded a consultancy arm of the company called Grass Technology. Souter of Stirling also offered design services to golf course and sports field clients. He had a composting company and was the founder of a soil laboratory. With all these services Souter of Stirling could offer almost every facet of turfgrass construction and management to his clients in Scotland and other clients in England, Ireland, Portugal, France, Spain, and Malta among others.

Contributions to Sports Turf

John has never backed down from a problem or a challenge. He has been a forerunner and an innovator in his many years as a sports turf contractor and manager. He has the gift and ability to combine theory with practical experience, knowledge and current ideas. He has made numerous contributions to the field of sports turf.

1. Sand/Slit Drainage Systems

John was the first practitioner to install sand/slit drainage systems in Britain. His first installation was at Hampden Park in Glasgow and this was followed by installations in Aberdeen, Dundee, and Liverpool. Many more stadiums in the UK have benefited from John's knowledge and expertise with sand/slitting technology.

2. Soil Heating

John mastered soil-warming technology and was the first to install soil heating in soccer fields in Britain. This technique maintains a uniform temperature in the turf root-zone and

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Chapter Events

continued from page 4

with tours of their operations. This will be followed by a cook out and educational sessions beginning at 5:00 PM. The evening's grand event will be a special presentation by George Toma, the Marquis de Sod.

For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Lori Turek at 770-509-3663 or gastma@earthlink.net.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:

The Nebraska Chapter will hold their annual meeting in conjunction with the Nebraska Turfgrass Meeting to be held January 6-8, 2003, at the Holiday Inn Central, Omaha, Nebraska.

For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Loren Humphrey at: 402-461-2324 or email to lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:

The Chapter will participate in the Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape Expo to be held at the Madison Marriott, Middleton, January 6 - 8, 2003.

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

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:

The VSTMA will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2003, at the Richmond Marriott, during the Virginia Turfgrass Council Annual Conference.

For information on the Virginia Chapter, or other upcoming events, contact: Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority via e-mail: Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov or at 703-324-8590.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:

The Iowa Chapter also will participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show to be held January 27 - 29, 2003, in Des Moines. The Sports Turf Workshop, January 27, will be held at the Marriott Hotel. The program includes: Lynda Wightman - Hunter Industries; Mike Mulvihill - Tri State Companies; Mike Burt, John Netwal and Gary Peterson; Luke Yoder - Pittsburgh Pirates; Nick Gow and Kevin Fitzpatrick - Hunziker Sports Complex; and Rob Schulte - Cedar Rapids Kernels; Mike Andresen, CSFM - Iowa State University; and Sean Crain - City of Ankeny. January 28 and 29 will be held at the Polk County Convention Complex. The January 28 General Session will include: Scholarships and Awards, New Products Showcase, Legislative Update, and Keynote Speaker - Dr. Bree Hayes. The ISTMA Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Presentation will be held from 3:00 to 4:00 PM. Sessions on January 29 will include: Jeff Wendel - Iowa Turfgrass Institute; Rodney St. John - Iowa State University; Dave Ditzler - Grinnell College and Todd Loecke - Syngenta; and an afternoon Continuing Pesticide Instructional Course for Categories 3O, 3T, 3OT, 5, 6 & 10.

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

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA):

The Seventh Annual KAFMO/STMA Athletic field Conference will be held in Grantsville, PA, on February 21, 2003.

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

Florida Chapter # 1:

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

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):

For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062 or visit the chapter's website: www.tvstma.org.

Southern California Chapter:

For information on the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, call Steve Wightman at 619-641-3106.

continued on page 12

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Athletic Field Soil is a Key to Avoiding Injuries

continued from page 3

Lab prescriptions also spell out the amount and type of corrective materials to be applied according to specific nutrient deficiency levels.

In spite of pH and nutrient levels, high salts or other contaminants can affect turf growth. Contaminants may be due to misapplication of chemicals, or the result of leaks or spills. Excess salts may also come from contaminants. They may build up in coastal regions when areas are inundated with brackish water during flooding. In the Southwest, natural salt levels may be great enough that salt crusts appear on the soil surface.

Salt concentration is measured easily with a conductivity test. Using water to leach out excess salts can be a long, time-consuming process. The water to be used also must be tested for salt levels. Gypsum can be used to accelerate the leaching process. In some cases where high salt levels exist, it may be necessary to replace existing soils. The new soils must also be tested, before changes are made.

Though a visual assessment gives a qualitative analysis of physical conditions (the sand:silt:clay ratio), it should always be backed up with a laboratory mechanical analysis to establish quantitative proportions. In addition to this mechanical analysis, a sieve analysis, also known as a sand fractionation analysis, should be conducted.

The sieve test separates and grades sand particles by specific sizes: very coarse, coarse, medium, fine and very fine. If the sand component is predominantly in the fine/very fine range, the small particles can fit together so closely that the sand functions more like silt and clay and can restrict the rapid infiltration and percolation of water required for suitable athletic field soils.

Corrective procedures to

improve filtration, percolation rates and compaction resistance require soil modification to change the physical make-up of the soils. To be effective, these modifications must incorporate the right amount of the right quality of sand. The critical factor is testing of the sand for particle size, pH and salt index prior to use. There's no point in bringing in sand that has problems of its own.

Stipulate sand fractions with 90 percent in the coarse range (1.0 mm down to the fine range (0.25 mm). Little - 10 percent or less - of the sand should be in the range above very coarse or below very fine.

Depending on available sand sources, silica sand is preferred to calcareous sand, which normally carries a high pH.

Drainage problems - One can carefully go through all the steps of rebuilding the soil, making sure the soils are chemically and physically on target, grade the field, sod or seed, and have the field look beautiful until the first big rain. Then problems may appear. What happened with all of the expended energy and cost in rebuilding the soil?

Modification of the upper layer of soil, no matter how great the depth, is not the solution to a drainage problem unless the subsoil is such that it allows drainage, which is a rare solution. Essentially, what is above the subsoil; with good physical characteristics that allow percolation and infiltration, is then impeded by the subsoil barrier which causes water to backup.

An internal soil drainage system is needed to correct subsoil drainage problems, allowing the modified field media to function properly.

Rebuilding the soil requires "in depth" homework. Know what you have, where you want to go, and what you need to get there - and test every step of the way.



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DOC'S DUGOUT - An Inning From Our Past

continued from page 7

prevents the turf surface from freezing during inclement weather. He pioneered this technique for the Rangers at Ibrox Stadium in Glasgow. Two boilers heat water, which is then circulated by pumps through miles of pipe, and are placed in the root-zone beneath the turf in the stadium. As the water completes its journey throughout the system it is then re-heated and sent back once again. Other installations by Souter of Stirling include the Celtic Football Club and Hampden Park in Glasgow and the rugby field in Edinburgh, Murrayfield. Many more stadiums and fields in the UK were installed with soil warming by John.

3. Sand Root-Zone Construction of Fields

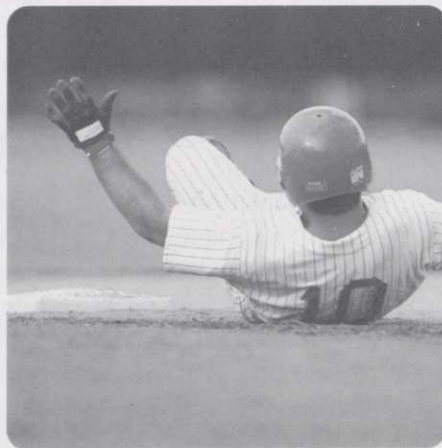
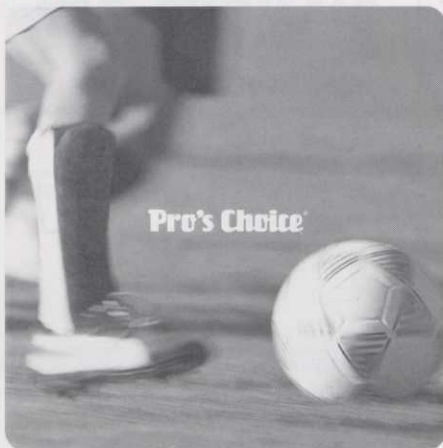
John's company was the first to install all sand root-zones in the UK. He was a close friend of the late Dr. William H. Daniel of Purdue University, where he frequently lectured and discussed sand construction of sports fields. John installed many sand fields in the UK, Europe and the Mediterranean. Probably his most prestigious client has been Manchester United, Old Trafford. He also installed many practice fields for the Manchester United Football Club.

John has been a strong supporter of STMA and its goals and objectives for nearly 20 years. He was named an Honorary Life member of STMA in 1987 along with turf legends Tom Mascaro and Dr. Fred Grau. He was also awarded the Harry C.

Gill Memorial Award in 1998 - this is the STMA's highest honor. John will be in San Antonio in January at the STMA Conference & Show. He has been a speaker at many of the STMA Conferences & Shows. John retired and sold his company in 2000 but continues to do consulting for a number of golf courses and sports fields. He is the founder and chairman of the European Turfgrass Laboratory, the only USDA approved soil laboratory outside the United States. John has been married to his lovely wife, Christine, for over 30 years and they have two children, John who is in the lawn care business and Kirsty, who along with husband Kenny, have a landscape business. John and Christine live in a wee village outside of Stirling where John has a large putting green, beautiful gardens and a greenhouse where he putters around trying to propagate plants. They both play a lot of golf and keep busy travelling back and forth to their American home located on a golf course in Clermont, Florida. I have known this family for more than 20 years and have never met finer people. John is a unique individual, very intelligent, innovative, witty, and one of those rare people some of us are fortunate to meet in our lifetime- a true, loyal friend.

Editors Note: Mayo Kooiman, the artist who designed our STMA logo, passed away from cancer in early October after a lengthy illness. We will miss her and thank her for her contribution to our great organization.

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Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

This is the time of year that things start to slow down for most sports turf managers. Baseball and softball season is over. Football and Soccer is over for some sectors and winding to the finish for others. For your Headquarters Staff, we are gearing up for our busiest time. Conference registrations are coming in. Dues renewal notices are going out for National members. We also handle the dues notices for the majority of our 26 chapters. While it creates extra work for staff, it is a big help to chapters and most importantly, it can make things easier for members. We have heard from many members over the years that it is much easier to get their National and Chapter dues paid if they can be paid on one invoice. If they receive two invoices, the facility frequently takes the first one in, or the smallest one, pays that and then refuses the other one. We like to assist our members whenever we can.

Headquarters is also busy preparing for the Conference. Speakers, Board Members and staff travel and housing arrangements have to be made. Food and beverage arrangements must be finalized. Trade show arrangements are being finalized. Current sponsors are being contacted for renewals. Potential new sponsors are being contacted. The SAFE Foundation is in the midst of its first major fundraiser. Arrangements are being made for the Live and Silent Auctions for SAFE. Scholarship application materials are being reviewed. The recipients will all be contacted and their travel arrangements will be made. Field of the Year winners have been notified. Their travel needs are being arranged. Arrangements for the Awards have to be made. Publicity to local and national media is prepared and sent out. In some cases interviews with home town media has been arranged through Headquarters and your Communications Director or Executive Director provide background and other information for local news stories.

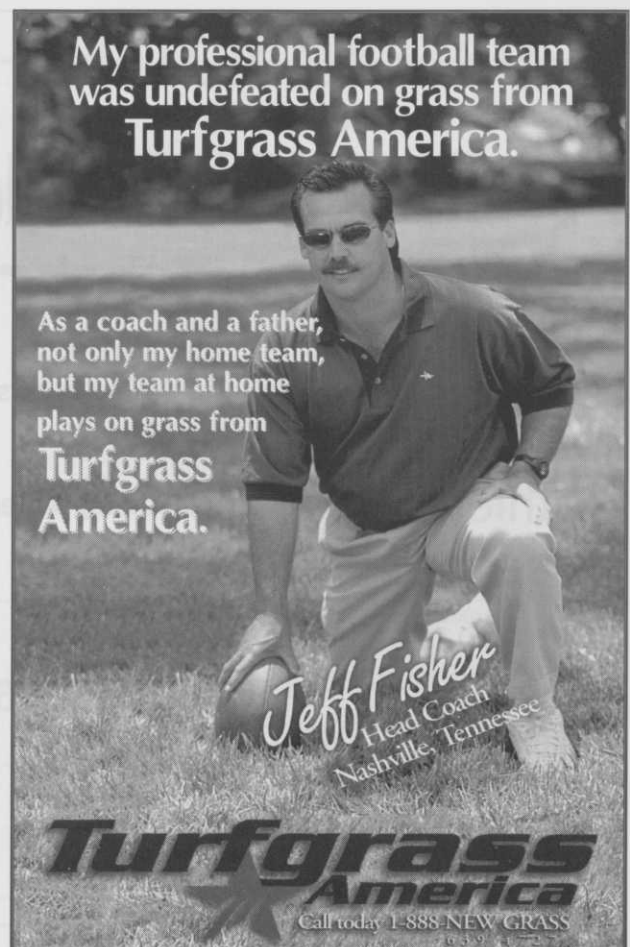
As this is written, there are still some Chapter visits to be completed, Turfgrass Conferences to be spoken to and other Trade Shows to attend.

STMA participates in a number of other shows throughout the year to spread the word about what Sports Turf Managers do and how recognition of their importance can positively impact those we speak to at these shows. We show at the High School Athletic Directors Conference to acquaint ADs with importance of good, safe playing fields and what STMA members can do for them. We have been a part of the Baseball Winter Meetings since 1995. That exposure has led to much greater recognition of the Sports Turf Manager by both Minor League and Major League Baseball. The STMA Sports Turf Manager of the Year Awards for Minor League Baseball, which came about because of contacts made at the Winter Meetings, have raised the recognition of the Sports Turf Manager to a new level. The various Leagues are now recognizing "Sports Turf Managers of the Year" rather than "groundskeepers". Participation at the FFA Career Fair exposes your profession to over 40,000 students, 3,000 advisors and several thousand parents and chaperons.

They are recognizing, in increasing numbers, that yours is a profession that might interest them or at least that what you do is much more than just cutting the grass. STMA has been gaining a greater presence each year for the past several years at the NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association). More and more Park Directors now recognize that there are Professionals that they can hire to maintain their athletic fields. STMA also has a presence at the Green Industry Expo to acquaint Grounds Managers, lawn care operators and landscape professionals with what you do.

While it can be tiring and travel can sometimes be frustrating, it is really a great joy to get around and tell others about this great profession of Sports Turf Management. It is even better when your Headquarters representatives come in contact with members in our travels. You are a great bunch of individuals that have a right to be proud about what you accomplish on a daily basis. We look forward to continuing to tell your story.

We wish you all a most joyous holiday season and hope to see each and every one of you in San Antonio.



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Chapter Events

continued from page 8

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:

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.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:

For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, contact Chris Calcaterra at e-mail: chrisc@peoriaaz.com or 623-412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or 480-312-7956.

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.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:

For information on the Gateway Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College, 314-392-2328 or email krone@mobap.edu.

Indiana Chapter:

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

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

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

Minnesota Chapter STMA:

For information on the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota at 651-638-6075 or e-mail: j-hintz@bethel.edu.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:

For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121, Gary Custis at 816-460-6215, or Mike Green at 913-208-6158 or e-mail to mokanstma@aol.com.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:

For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact in Washington, Jay Warnick at JayW@Seahawks.com or in Oregon, Mike Wagner at MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu.

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:

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

South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:

For information on the South Texas Chapter, or upcoming events, call Craig Potts, Texas A & M University, at 979-458-8841, or e-mail: CPotts@athletics.tamu.edu.

Chapters on the Grow:

Las Vegas: For information on the chapter developing in Las Vegas, contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: rms@lvcva.com or at 702-386-7140.

New York: For information on the chapter forming in Central New York, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: Kevin@wpe.com or at 607-432-2953.

News from Canada

The 2003 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium will be held January 21 - 23, 2003, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Designed for sports turf, golf course, lawn care, sod production and turf management personnel, this Symposium brings together industry professionals sharing a common need for the latest information about the turf industry in Ontario. Join in three days of educational session through concurrent seminars as well as presentations on issues of specific interest to individual sectors of the industry and the two-day trade show of industry suppliers. The 2003 theme is "Turf: The New Reality". For information visit the website: www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS or email Rita Walton at rwalton@open.uoguelph.ca to receive a Symposium brochure and registration form.

Southern Athletic Fields

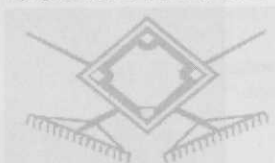
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2002 Field of the Year Awards

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Michael W. Sullenberger, Sports Turf Manager

High School/Parks Baseball Field of the Year

Eagle Park - Arlington Baptist School, Baltimore, Maryland
Andrew Gossel, Head/Athletic Field Maintenance, Boys' Athletic Director, P.E. Teacher

Professional Baseball Field of the Year

Sluggo Field - Home of the Louisville (Kentucky) Bats
Thomas R. Nielsen, Head Sports Turf Manager

High School/Parks Softball Field of the Year

C. Moore Field - Putnam City West High School, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Rick Newville, Coach

College/University Softball Field of the Year

Pioneer Field - Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas
Robert Trevino, Landscape Supervisor

College/University Soccer Field of the Year

Reeves Field - American University, Washington, DC
Nick Gammill, CSFM, Sports Turf Manager

Parks/High School Soccer Field of the Year

Danny Cunniff Park - Park District of Highland Park, Illinois
Ted Baker, CSFM, Superintendent of Parks

College/University Football Field of the Year

Folsom Field - University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado
Jason DePaepe, Athletic Field Manager

High School/Parks Football Field of the Year

Chapman Field - Cumberland Valley School District, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
James L. Koontz, Grounds Supervisor

The Award presentation will take place during the STMA Awards Banquet to be held on January 17, 2003, in San Antonio, Texas, in conjunction with the annual conference.

Entrants must supply information on the design of the facility, the uses of the facility that impact the playing surface, the organization of the maintenance program and innovative solutions used to overcome playing surface problems. Photos of specific areas of the field must be provided to document the playability and appearance of the playing surface.

Each of the five judges on the Awards Committee review the entrants independently, grading them on each aspect of the criteria. The results of the independent input of the five judges determine the winning field.

2002 Sports Turf Managers of the Year

AAA

Mike Boekholder
Indianapolis Indians
Indianapolis, Indiana

AA

Dennis Klein
Round Rock Express
Round Rock, Texas

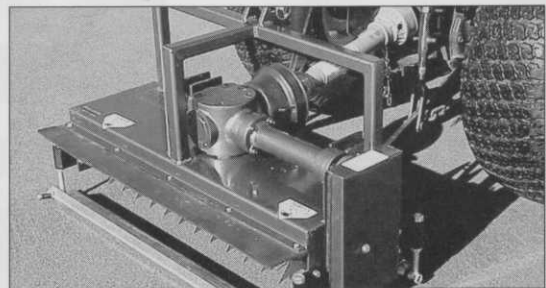
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SAFE Foundation Update

People Solve Social Problems - They Don't Solve Themselves

Have you ever wondered how charitable institutions like the March of Dimes or the Arbor Day Foundation got started? When most of us were growing up, these icons of American philanthropy were already firmly established. Did they just appear one day with the rising sun? The fact is philanthropy doesn't just happen. It begins with a small group of people concerned about a particular societal problem.

March of Dimes Foundation

The March of Dimes, originally the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, was founded in 1938. In the first 17 years, it focused on funding research to develop a vaccine against polio. While researchers worked tirelessly in their labs, volunteers helped polio victims and their families around the country. In 1948, with Foundation funding, Dr. Jonas Salk found a cure and it became a standard fixture among childhood immunizations.

The SAFE Foundation

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

SAFE had its defining moment in May of 1999, when Dr. Jim Watson voiced his concern over the shortage of research specific to sports fields and recommended that an organized effort

be launched to improve the body of knowledge for sports turf management. With that vision, the Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) was born to provide research, educational programs and scholarships geared to sports fields.

STMA Members resoundingly agree with Dr. Watson's assessment. In a 2001 survey of STMA Membership, 94% suggested that STMA pursue more technical research and 98.4% stated that it is important to offer educational programs. The need has been identified and a group of thoughtful, committed people have spoken in favor of the SAFE mission. Now is the time for changing how the world looks at SAFE.

The Past Will Continue

SAFE inherited the STMA Scholarship Program which, since its inception has provided over \$35,000 in tuition assistance and STMA conference expense assistance to over 42 people. The benefits of scholarships have a multiplying effect as time goes by, because those who have received help are giving back to the sports turf family. Many have become educators or professional sports turf managers.

The Future is Ours to Create

You have witnessed the punishment your fields endure and do everything in your control to prepare the fields for play. SAFE would like to make your efforts more productive with solid research on which to base decisions. The research efforts of SAFE were initially based on attendee feedback received by Dr. Tony Koski at the 13th Annual STMA Conference in Las Vegas. Listed below are the top 10 of 26 research topics.

1. Modification of native soil sports turf
2. Annual & Perennial weedy grass management/control
3. Optimal texture for sand based, "manufactured" root zones
4. Use of field covers, tarps to promote establishment, recovery of injured fields
5. Overseeding effects on species composition of sports turf
6. Types of cultivation equipment and frequency of cultivation
7. Use of organic and biostimulant products vs. "commercial" fertilizers
8. Topdressing materials and frequency
9. Use of ceramic and other manufactured amendments
10. Relative cost, safety, and reliability of rubber in-fill systems (compared to grass)

We recognize that turf-related research is being conducted, however, athletic fields are seldom the focus. The activities played on athletic fields are very rigorous and demand a unique body of knowledge to properly establish and maintain the playing surface. SAFE will disseminate the research findings and provide educational resources to the volunteers who help care for sports fields.

SAFE is a charitable organization that relies on contributions from like-minded individuals who believe in safe playing surfaces for all levels of play. To invest in a sports turf revolution, contact Rich King, 800-323-3875 or by email at SAFE@sportsturfmanager.com.



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*—Darryl Dunn
General Manager
Rose Bowl,
home of the Rose Bowl
Pasadena, CA.*

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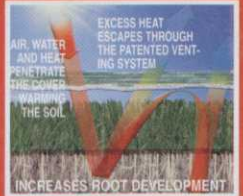
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