

THE EXTRA POINT

STMA NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Sports turf should be thought of as a field of play. Wherever turf is used for play there is sports turf. STMA is an organization of folks who manage such fields of play.

The sports turf which first comes to mind is usually stadiums, but a soccer field in the park is just as much a sports field as is a golf course, driving range, a city softball field or a school

playground.

It is an accepted fact that as the baby boomer generation grew up in relative affluence during the '60s and '70s and now the '80s, there has been a significant increase in interest and participation in outdoor activities. Sports have received much of this focus. Not only have the maturing boomer adults played softball, touch football and golf, they have put their offspring into youth soccer, Little League baseball, and Pop Warner football. The resulting demand on fields of play has been tremendous.

As we enter the '90s, there is every reason to expect that these demands will continue to increase. The babies of the original boomers are growing up and passing on a tradition of sports to their children. This third generation is about to be thrust into action on the fields of play. Sports turf will be the "heart of America" in the next decade, providing the pump for the life blood of our population.

The management of high use recreational turf is very different from traditional turfgrass care. This makes sports turf management a true speciality within the turfgrass industry.

Sports turf managers will have to be tough, knowledgeable, and poised to be successful in the 1990s. They will have to withstand the pressures of deadlines, egocentric and litigious participants, poorly-informed administrators, and the fickle nature of plants and weather. Few careers will be as challenging or worthwhile.

Sports turf management will be where the action is, and STMA will be leading the way.

"Sports Turf: Heart of America" is the theme of the 1990 STMA Annual Conference and Show. All sports turf managers and aspiring sports turf managers owe it to

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Don't forget the DURSBAN* or pests will have a picnic.

themselves and their facilities to be in Houston next January.

Stephen T. Cockerham, President

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM PACKED WITH VALUABLE INFORMATION

The program for the 1990 STMA Annual Conference and Trade Show has been finalized and includes a wide range of topics, from the mechanics of seeding to budget writing. Those who attend the conference in Houston, TX, January 19-21, will fill more than one notebook with valuable information. The theme of the conference is "Sports Turf: Heart of America in the 1990s."

The conference opens Friday, January 19 at 9:30 a.m. with a keynote address by Dr. James Watson, vice president and chief agronomist for The Toro Company, Minneapolis, MN. Watson, whose experience ranges from being a turf consultant for the National Football League to determining the need for specialized products for the sports turf industry, will document the industry's growing importance.

The general session will continue with speeches on two critical issues. Dr. James Beard of Texas A&M will address the topic of "Handling the Use and Play Intensity on Sports Turf." Dr. Henry Indyk of Rutgers University will follow with his remarks, "Who Is Passing the Bucks?" The morning ends with the annual STMA business meeting.

The afternoon offers two concurrent, information-packed sessions. Both sessions will cover six topics in 30-minute segments.

Dr. Gil Landry of the University of Georgia kicks off the first session with a discussion of soils. Indyk follows with his recommendations for nutrition of sports turfgrasses. Cal Poly Pomona's Mark Hodnick will then describe his experiences with water management and automation. Compaction relief is the next subject, addressed by Dr. A. J. Powell of the University of Kentucky. Turfgrass breeder Dr. William Meyer of Turf Seed, Inc., will then present his advice on what to look for when buying seed. The session concludes with a discussion on the mechanics of seeding.

The other concurrent session begins with international turf expert John Souter of Scotland speaking on the use of sand in new construction. Dr. Kent Kurtz expands the subject of sand with his address on its use for existing fields.

Beard then describes results of field construction using mesh elements. Scheduling maintenance around events will be the topic of Steve Wightman of Jack Murphy/San Diego Stadium. STMA President Stephen Cockerham will report on his research on traffic tolerance of cool season grasses at the University of California, Riverside. David Frey, property manager for Stadium Corporation in Cleveland, OH, will keep turf managers alert with his speech on crisis sports turf management.

The trade show opens Friday evening with a reception on the exhibit floor. It will continue the following morning with both inside and outside exhibits and demonstrations. Show hours on Saturday are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A Texas Style Barbeque lunch will be provided at noon. The trade show closes on Saturday afternoon.

Early risers can take advantage of a workshop on Saturday morning. It focuses mainly on the needs and special problems of managing sports turf at parks and universities. Jim Long of the College of Holy Cross and Twyla Hansen of Nebraska Wesleyan University will share their

experiences on university campuses. Roger Mellendorf of Green River (NE) Parks and Recreation Department and Mike Schiller with Glenview (IL) Parks Department will do the same for parks-related problems.

Saturday night will feature the annual STMA awards banquet, during which STMA scholarships and the Baseball Diamond of the Year Award will be presented.

Two more workshops will be offered Sunday morning before showgoers head home. Harry Gill of Milwaukee County Stadium and Irv Clark, with the City of North Platte, NE, will hold a budget writing workshop. Kurtz concludes the conference with a workshop entitled "New Ideas in Tackling Old Problems."

"You don't have to be a member of STMA or from Texas to take advantage of this excellent program," explains Cockerham. "It is a tremendous educational opportunity for all turfgrass managers."

TIME TO ENTER 1989 BASEBALL DIAMOND CONTEST

Start taking pictures and preparing your entries for the 1989 Baseball Diamond of the Year Award. This is the fourth year for the awards, which recognize efforts in promoting excellence in the management and appearance of baseball diamonds.

The contest is co-sponsored by the STMA, Beam Clay/Partac, and sportsTURF magazine. Entries will be judged by a carefully selected panel of judges. They will select a winner in each of three categories: professional diamonds; college and university diamonds; and diamonds at schools, parks, and municipal sports complexes. Locate the entry form in this issue for the contest and start preparing your entry.

This year special attention has been given to selection of the judges. They are all Major League head groundskeepers: Harry Gill of the Milwaukee Brewers, Pete Flynn from the New York Mets, Jim Anglea of the Texas Rangers and Steve Wightman with the San Diego Padres. They will base their decision completely on the information and illustrations you provide.

The awards will be presented at a special banquet held during the 1990 STMA Annual Conference and Trade Show, in Houston, TX. The deadline for entries is October 31, 1989. So get your camera out and start taking pictures now!

CATCH THE ACTION

Mark your calendar!

June 21 - Midwest Sports Turf Institute
Harper College, Palatine, IL.

September 26 - Northeastern Sports Turf Institute
College of Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

**January 19-21, 1990 -
Annual Conference and Trade Show**
Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel, Houston, TX.



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