

STMA revamps website

Bigger! Better! More interactive! Log on to www.sportsturfmanager.com to check out the Sports Turf Managers Association's newly revamped website.

Connect directly to STMA Officers and Board of Directors via email, or post a question on "Ask the Expert." Browse through the coming events of STMA's 23 chapters and make connections with your local contact.

Scan the latest details of the upcoming 13th Annual Conference & Exhibition to be held January 16-20, in Las Vegas.

Learn about the Certified Sports Field Manager program and see what it would take for you to achieve the CSFM status.

Check out links to publications, research, and more!

For STMA Members to connect with even more sports turf specific interaction, log onto the members only section. If you're not currently a member, go to the STMA Top Five and click on "Join STMA Now" for a special membership offer.

STMA members work to combine the science of growing turfgrasses and the art of maintaining both natural and artificial athletic field materials to provide the best sports surfaces for all levels of play.

For more information, log on to the website or contact STMA Headquarters by phone at (800) 323-3875, or e-mail to: SportsTMgr@aol.com.



Murray Cook manages World Cup baseball diamonds

USA Baseball recently won the silver medal in the 16-team round robin World Cup tournament held in Taiwan. STMA board member Murray Cook provided preliminary and ongoing field operations and management of the four stadiums used in the flurry of rapidly played (so it is still possible!) international games. Team USA used professional players for the first time in the competition, which has been played in locations around the globe since 1938.



Cook, president of SPORTSTurf Services, a division of The Brickman Group, Ltd., said, "We started on the field improvements at each facility about a week before the tournament began. The fields were in poor condition but we were able to locate all the materials needed on Taiwan, so we had safe, professional playing conditions."

Cook's staff for the event included Budgie Clark, Joe Skrabak, and Chad Olsen, as well as fellow STMA board member Tim Moore from Montgomery County Parks in Maryland, and Steve Nunez from Southwest Texas State University.

Miguel Ortin, executive director of the International Baseball Federation, said, "It is important to understand that many of the teams had pro players competing for their home countries besides the US. We had no complaints [about field conditions] whatsoever. The pitchers considered the mounds to be as good if not better than the mounds they threw from in the States."

SPORTSTurf Services provides Major League Baseball with support toward improving field and stadium conditions around the world, including the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and the 2004 Games in Athens, Greece.

Kurtz named outstanding alum

Dr. Kent Kurtz, honorary STMA life member and former *Sportsturf* "Manager of the Year," recently was named Outstanding Alumnus at the 50th annual All Ag Banquet of the College of Agriculture at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL.

Kurtz has been a faculty member since 1969 in the Horticulture/Plant and Soil Science Department at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. His accomplishments in turfgrass management include consulting on Wrigley Field, Anaheim Stadium, Dodger Stadium, Sun Devil Stadium at Arizona State, as well as preparation for six Rose Bowls, two Freedom Bowls, two Fiesta Bowls, one Super Bowl, and two MLB All-Star contests.

His most impressive contribution to the industry however may be his implementing and guiding the nationally recognized turfgrass management curriculum at Cal Poly. "I enjoy teaching students the basics of horticulture and plant and soil science, then molding them with the upper division courses," says Dr. Kurtz. "When they're finished with their classes and senior projects, I like to help them take their places in the turfgrass industry."

ITODA elects new officers

The Independent Turf & Ornamental Distributors Association has elected Don Naumann of Sierra Pacific Turf Supply, Campbell, CA, president of the national, non-profit organization.

Naumann was elected at the Registry Resort here during the fall meeting of ITODA, which was formed in 1990 to foster the trade, commerce, and interest of those engaged in the business of servicing and marketing turf and ornamental products. Naumann founded Sierra Pacific Turf Supply 19 years ago and distributes products for the golf, landscape, and viticulture industries.

He heads a new slate of officers, including vice president Chris Petersen of Tom Irwin, Inc., Natick, MA, and treasurer Brian Feury of The Terre Co., Clifton, NJ.

ITODA members also elected six Directors at Large: Jim Harris, Chas C. Hart Seed Co., Wethersfield, CT; Mike Fisher, Fisher & Son, Inc., Malvern, PA; Steve Dickinson, Supreme Turf Products, Eureka, MO; John Wiley, Turf Supply Co., Eagan, MN; Rick Grant, Griffin LLC, Noblesville, IN; and Jim Turner, Simplot, Bradenton, FL.

For association information, call 810-229-9405 or email ITODAoffice@aol.com.



Winners of the John Deere International Team Golf Championship, from Whitepath Golf Club, Ellijay, GA (l to r): Tony Smith, club manager, Tim Land, club president, Mike Brumby, course superintendent, Lonnie Reece, golf professional, and Dane Harger, distributor rep. Thirty-five teams from around the world participated in 15th annual event, held at Grayhawk Golf Club, Scottsdale, AZ.

Repairing skinned areas

Standard Guide for Construction and Maintenance of Skinned Areas on Sports Fields, published by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), offers advice on repairing natural turfgrass, sand, clay, brick, gravel, or crushed stone. The standard covers repairing ruts, holes, and worn areas.

Sections specific to baseball and softball fields can be applied to any natural playing surface where ball movement and player contact are factors, says ASTM. Field maintenance managers, infield mix manufacturers, soil amendment manufacturers, field designers and builders, sports field managers, and university faculty developed the guide.

ASTM standards are available by calling 610-832-9585 or the website store, www.astm.org.