



Is it snowing yet?

Have you ever noticed that any large undertaking starts with a small group of concerned individuals that band together? An excellent "real life" example of this is the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association Chapter. This year chapter members, led by Mike McDonald, CSFM, will gather to improve the condition of one of America's ballfields. Snowflakes fall.

Last month we detailed Dr. Andrew McNitt's research at Penn State on infilled synthetic turf systems. That project, endorsed by the SAFE Foundation, will provide much needed guidance on the performance of infilled systems in varying conditions. More snowflakes fall.

The SAFE Foundation has established a review committee to assess what projects to endorse. In fact, we have recently endorsed a second project, "Athletic Field Establishment," led by Pam Sherratt at Ohio State. While we would prefer to invest financially in sportsturf research, we can offer our stamp of approval. More snowflakes.

As snowflakes continue to fall, we will be able to form a snowball. Once that snowball begins to roll downhill, watch out!

It may be a year or two before SAFE is an established leader in sportsturf research and education. When we "arrive" on the "research and education scene," we will be able to determine what problems need solutions. SAFE was founded to be a clearinghouse for finding solutions to these problems.

The SAFE Foundation encourages any effort, small or large, that improves ballfield conditions. Service projects like those of the Minnesota STMA Chapter are wonderful. At the same time, it would be nice to have large efforts like research projects that impact thousands of fields. These larger projects require the coordinated efforts and finances of many individuals. The SAFE Foundation will continue fund-raising efforts that will enable large projects geared toward sportsturf specific research and education. We believe that research and education initiatives will have the greatest impact on America's ballfields.

As a collective group of concerned professionals, our impact is directly related to the impact each of us makes as individuals. Snowflakes in June lead to snowballs in August. As nonsensical as snow in summer may sound, the SAFE Foundation is forecasting a few more snowflakes.

Contact Mike McDonald, CSFM (mcdon015@umn.edu) of the Minnesota STMA Chapter for more information on their service projects. They are accepting support through donated materials & equipment.

Contact Rich King (Rich@st.omhcoxmail.com) for information on making contributions to or receiving research endorsements from the SAFE Foundation.

Want to help us start a Sports Field revolution?

Contact Rich King or Steve Trusty at
800-323-3875 for more information on how
you can make sports fields SAFE!

Around the Grounds



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