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@stommhxcommail.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!

---

**Is it snowing yet?**

---

**RENT A SKID STEER**

National rental chain HSS RentX introduces a new, easy-to-operate skid steer from Kanga, ideal for landscaping. Rent "The Kid" and do everything: digging, planting, trenching, lifting, spreading, cleaning, etc. Hassle-free rental means no maintenance and storage costs. 13hp electric start engine; optional attachments.

HSS RentX/877-711-7368
For information, circle 163 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2080-163

---

**PORTABLE IRRIGATION**

Water-Reel by Kifco will operate unattended, shut off automatically, and require less labor. They can be put on site and be watering in a few minutes because the machines are compact and easy to maneuver. Tow with mower or utility vehicle or move short distances by hand. Designed to work with fresh water sources, the machine does have a filter to ensure clean water enters the system.

Kifco/309-543-4425
For information, circle 168 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2080-168

---

**TRIMMER**

The SRM-260 trimmer features Echo's new Power Boost Tornado technology, providing the power, speed, torque and fuel-efficiency essential for commercial applications. Operators can rely on the durable hard-chromed cylinder, fully caged needle bearings and forged connecting rod of the 25.4cc Tornado engine for power and durability, with low fuel consumption.

Echo/847-540-8400
For information, circle 161 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2080-161

---

**SPORTSTURF** • http://www.greenmediaonline.com