

Association cooperation in New England

Nick Caggiano, park superintendent for the City of Nashua, NH, and vice president of the New England Sports Turf Managers Association (NESTMA), said more than 150 attendees benefited from NESTMA's aligning with the New England Parks Association (NEPA) to present the 2005 Northern New England NEPA Turf Show last June. "Since most of our members live in the lower half of New England most of the training is available there, and it's tough for some members to get to those meetings.

"We hope it will become an annual premier training opportunities for turf managers in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine," said Caggiano. "We pooled our resources and membership lists so we'd be inviting anyone who cares for athletic fields. Getting together to discuss common problems is valuable."

NESTMA president David Pinsonneault, public grounds supervisor for the Town of Lexington, MA, is also a member of NEPA. "We've always moved our field days and workshops around the region, and after NEPA had an event the previous year, we wanted NESTMA to tie in to lend our expertise, bring the sports turf element into the ed programs.

"NEPA was good to work with and I think that good partnership will continue in the future," Pinsonneault said.

The group also toured the Double A Portland Sea Dogs' stadium, and met with vendors at a small trade show.

"Marcia Noyes from NEPA had the idea and it was really her program," said Caggiano, who also is a member of the parks association. "It took lots of planning, and Marcia, Lance Tibbetts (STMA Board member from Maine), and Matt Tobin of Pioneer Manufacturing deserve a lot of the credit for pulling it off."

NESTMA became an official chapter of STMA last winter. "We have more than 200 members so the arrangement will benefit both organizations," he said.

The event was held in Portland, Maine at the Portland Expo, with sessions held at Fitzpatrick Stadium, Hadlock Baseball Field and Deering Oaks Park. Despite the cold and damp weather, more than 100 attendees and 28 vendors made their way to the workshop. Turf managers traveled from as far as Nantucket, MA and Hartford, VT. The event also featured delegates from MIT and Boston College.



Marcia Noyes of Yarmouth Community Services, said, "It was very exciting to work on this unique training opportunity with both the NEPA and NESTMA organizations collaborating efforts to provide a positive training experience for the participants in this region."

Matt Tobin added, "We hope to be able to move forward in the future with other collaborative efforts." The planning committee for this event was led by Noyes and featured Tobin, John Barry, Nick Caggiano, Cindy Hazelton, Rick Perruzzi, Joel St. Pierre, and Lance Tibbetts.

Some of the sessions at the Turf Show included multi-purpose grass field diagnosis, rehabilitation and post care; Baseball Field mound building, batter's box maintenance, infields and edging; painting Super Bowl logos on natural grass; painting, paint removal, disinfecting and grooming artificial turf; athletic field lighting design and maintenance; and AA Baseball League Q & A.

At the Multi-purpose Grass Field Diagnosis session, John Mascaro, President of Turf-Tec International, presented a step by step guide to growing healthy athletic turf. John spoke about soil sample analysis, soil compaction analysis, aeration programs, infiltration reading, determining soil moisture percentages and mapping athletic fields for soil moisture. For more information on the topics discussed in John Mascaro's session, visit the Turf-Tec International web site at www.turf-tec.com.

Lance Tibbetts of Windham High School and June Boston of the Boston Company held a session on Multi-purpose field rehabilitation. Their session includ-



ed the following topics: budget constraints, seed vs. sod, equipment to be used, proper aeration techniques, overseeding, topdressing fertility need for renovations, and how to drag, seed and topdress. For more information on this session and the other sessions, contact a member of the planning committee to be directed to the session facilitators. **ST**

Brett Simmons contributed to this article.

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Due to heavy use, the Lincoln Street fields in Lexington, MA were in disrepair despite the well intentioned care of the maintenance staff. With the town's expanding population and increasing participation in recreation programs, the fields had reached a state beyond repair. Countered with the loss of other Town fields to school construction projects, a large-scale renovation project for this multipurpose, three-field complex became a necessity.

One challenge the renovation team faced was location of the fields. Because the project is located on the site of a former capped landfill, it was necessary to mitigate any potential settlement problems by carefully detailing the field profile and specifying non-traditional construction techniques. This included special site preparation techniques featuring deep dynamic compaction and a combination of static and vibratory rolling as well as the inclusion of a special heavy-duty woven geotextile base to mitigate subsurface settlement.

The team of geotechnical and civil engineers led by Geller Sport determined that infilled synthetic turf would be the best option in order to alleviate the stresses placed on the fields due to foot traffic. The newly renovated project, with a price tag of \$3.4 million, includes a new and expanded parking lot to accommodate 232 cars, a tot lot and picnic area, and a fitness and nature trail through adjacent meadows and wetlands. The existing topsoil of the original fields was stripped and reused to create spectator and planting mounds to screen the fields from neighboring residential properties as well as to prevent unwanted vehicles from driving on the synthetic turf. **ST**

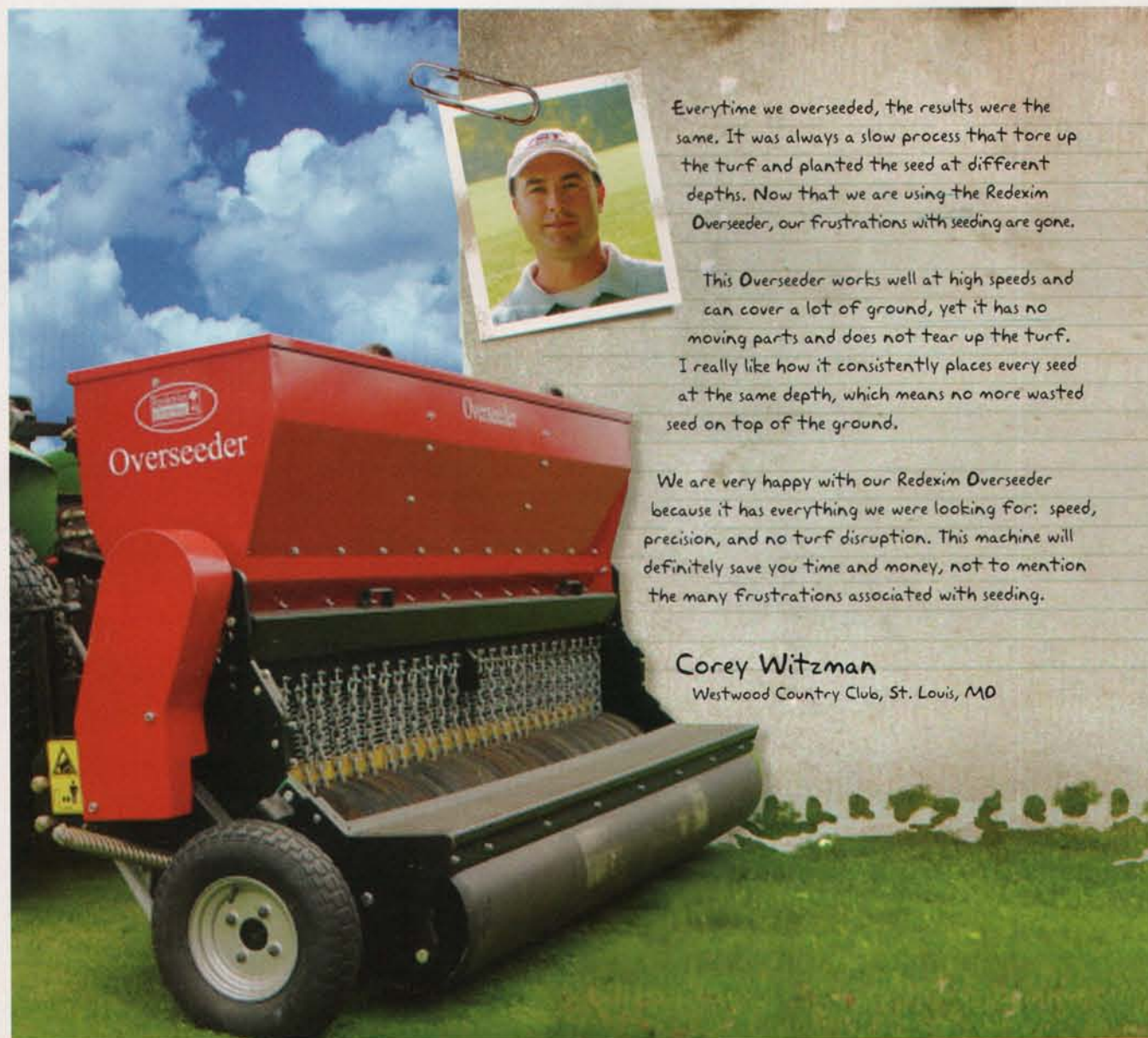




POLYTOUGH STENCILS

Ralph Newman, president of Newstripe, Inc. recently announced that 1/8-in. PolyTough stencils now carry a lifetime warranty. PolyTough stencils are designed to keep athletic fields and parking lots clearly and attractively marked. They are precision cut and lay flat so you will always get crisp, accurate markings. Letters, numbers, handicap symbols and arrows are kept in stock for immediate shipment. Plus, your company logo, school mascot or special wording can be custom cut to your specifications.

Newstripe, Inc./800-624-6706
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Corey Witzman
Westwood Country Club, St. Louis, MO

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Matchsaver can cover a field with a waterproof tarp in 15 minutes, says the English manufacturer, beginning with the push of a button. Product is used by famous soccer clubs like Chelsea in London, Italy's Juventus, and Olympiakos in Greece. Chelsea's facilities manager, Chris Gleeson, says, "The speed and reliability of the system allows us to control the pitch conditions during heavy rain to within 30 minutes of kickoff. It only takes 15 minutes to take out and roll back."

Matchsaver/413-567-7921
For information, circle 054 or
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BROYHILL'S VACMATE

Broyhill's VacMate has a spring arm mounted suction hose that makes it ideal for cleanup in stadiums, parks & recreation, school districts, municipalities, residential, and commercial areas. The unit is a dedicated attachment to the TerraSport utility vehicle and has a high velocity fan driven by Honda 18-hp gas engine, with no refuse traveling through the impeller. The 8-in. suction hose is assisted by an electric power lift.

Broyhill/800-228-1003, x34
For information, circle 056 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5064-056>

SHINDAIWA EB240S

Fast and flexible, the EB240S is often quicker than a backpack from truck to task. Also a great choice when the operator is responsible for a number of small jobs rather than cleaning a large area. Features include lightweight, glass-filled nylon impeller; quick throttle response, fast acceleration (7900 maximum rpm) and light overall weight at only 9.2 pounds (w/o tubes).
Shindaiwa/800-521-7733
For information, circle 058 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5064-058>



JOHN DEERE BACKPACK BLOWER

The BP65LE backpack blower features a heavy-duty 64.7-cc John Deere M-Series low emission engine. This model features 190-mph air velocity and 630-cfm air volume at the end of the tube. Comfortable, padded backpack harness absorbs vibration for all-day comfort, and fully adjustable straps fit every size. Air jet pulls air over the user's back for cooler, more comfortable operation.

John Deere/800-537-8233
For information, circle 057 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5064-057>

FINN'S BARK BLOWER

The FINN Bark Blower has been known to expand outside of the mulching realm. A number of customers have found other ways to put the machine to work, such as applying compost, overseeding sports fields, applying salt to icy areas in the winter or even delivering topsoil to a rooftop garden six stories high.

The Bark Blower is available in sizes ranging from 6.5 cubic feet to 22 cubic yard capacities, providing a model tailored to any contractors' workload.

FINN Corporation/513-874-2818
For information, circle 059 or
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Little Wonder/215-357-5110
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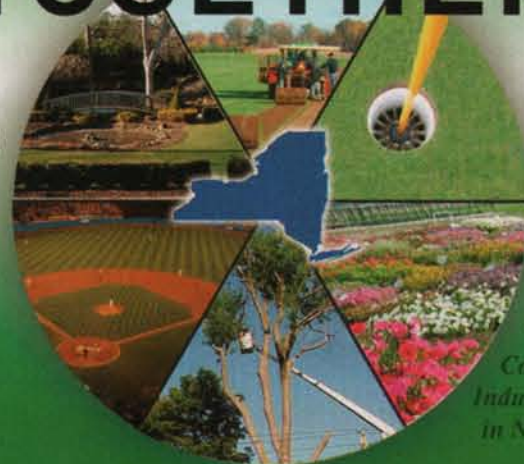
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