

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.

BILLY GOAT WHEEL BLOWERS

A 14-blade nylon fan, large radius housing and venturi intake maximizes the incoming air volume and outgoing air velocity. The nylon fan makes the unit easier to start because of its low inertia. Typically weighing 20+ pounds less than competitive units for the same horsepower, the QB is much easier to push through the grass. The Exhaust Director, a patented Billy Goat design, allows you to direct the exhaust air exactly where you want it. This is particularly useful when blowing up or down slopes, up close to the machine, pushing large leaf piles or when working next to cars and new landscaping.

Billy Goat/816-524-9666
For information, circle 060 or see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5064-060>



Problems with drainage?

Increase Safety, Playability, and Wear Tolerance of Turf with...

QWIKDRAIN SYSTEMS

- Increase aeration and drainage with a narrow slot "trench-'n-fill" system at 20" o.c.
- Minimal surface disruption
- Fast, clean, cost effective operation

For a Certified Contractor Nearest You, Call Toll Free
1-888-567-6872
Division of GreenONE™ Industries
Revolutionizing Golf & Sports Turf Drainage

Circle 162 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/5064-162