

Election time!

A ballot on the proposed changes to STMA's bylaws will be sent next month to all voting members of STMA. Please take the time to review the ballot and vote to approve the work of the Membership and Bylaws Committees.

Bylaws are a very important tool that govern the association's business. They are used as a procedural manual to define the qualifications for membership, who is entitled to vote, how meetings are called, how board members are elected, their responsibilities, and much more.

Associations that represent thriving industries need to examine their bylaws on a regular basis to make certain they keep pace with the needs of the industry. The STMA Membership Committee has been studying industry and STMA membership trends. They observed that there are multiple sports turf managers in varying capacities at sports facilities, yet only a small percentage of those facilities have multiple members. The committee developed a classification in the proposed Bylaws that makes it easy for these members to join. Pending membership approval of the Bylaws, the Board has set these dues at a lower rate to encourage multiple members from the same facility to join.


The Membership Committee also analyzed the partnerships STMA has developed with employer groups. They considered the National Interscholastic Athletic Association of Administrators (NIAAA) and realized that STMA could offer so much more as that association's Educational Partner. They see an opportunity for STMA to provide more information and education to high school athletic directors. Thus, they created an Affiliate classification that allows this group to join and learn from STMA, but not vote or hold office, and the Board has set the dues at less than half the cost of a professional membership. Again, this is subject to membership approval.

To review the proposed Bylaws in its entirety, go to the Members Only area of the STMA web site, www.sportsturfmanager.org, and click on Bylaws.

Enclosed with the Bylaws revisions, will be the proposed Slate of Candidates for the STMA annual election of the Board of Directors. Please review the slate and cast your vote. All ballots are due at STMA headquarters by midnight December 22. The results of the election and bylaws changes will be announced at the STMA Annual Meeting, Friday, January 18, in San Antonio, at the STMA Conference and Exhibition.

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Membership Renewal Time!

October 1 marked the beginning of our Membership renewal process. You can renew 3 ways:

- 1) On-line (www.sportsturfmanager.org)
- 2) Mail (STMA, 805 New Hampshire, Ste. E, Lawrence, KS 66044)
- 3) Fax (785-843-2977)

A renewal invoice will be mailed to you in November, but you can also easily renew with your conference registration form. As always, you can write one check for your conference registration, national dues, and local chapter dues.

STMA will be raising its dues slightly for the student and sports turf manager categories. These categories have not had an increase in more than 4 years and during that time benefits have been enhanced and the cost of doing business has increased. However, the primary reason for the dues increase is to provide more programs and services to you, our members. From the STMA membership survey conducted earlier this year, STMA learned that members want more education and informa-

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tion to help them do their jobs better. In 2007, look for more technical and practical information in an easy-to-access format on-line. For students, dues will increase from \$20 to \$25, and sports turf managers will pay \$110, up from \$95. Commercial dues will remain unchanged at \$295 and commercial associate dues at \$75. Dues for academia and researchers will stay the same at \$95. ■

John Mascaro's Photo Quiz



If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Suite 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of SportsTurf magazine.

Answer: from page 16

The brown hard area is actually the top of a large chunk of concrete that somehow and miraculously made it through the rototilling and laser grading process and is near a hash mark directly on an athletic field playing surface. This concrete chunk first showed up as a small brown circle in October 2005 during fall football practice and as the players wore off the grass in this particular area with repetitive work, it became a bald dome as the concrete slowly revealed itself. The athletic field was built in August of 2004 with native soils that were once part of a golf course. The initial field contractor for rough grading was a typical soils excavation contractor hired by the building construction contractor, then UNT bid out the laser grading and sod work to sports field contractors to finish the work. The inset photo shows the size of the concrete chunk and since this part of the country was in severe drought conditions last year, one may assume the fields clay base shrank, pushing or floating the concrete chunk to the surface.

Photo submitted by Lanse Fullinwider, MCPTM, Grounds Manager, University of North Texas in Denton. ■