



# **SportsTurf** marks 25 years of serving readers and advertisers

We aren't big on self-promotion here at *SportsTurf*, but we do not want to ignore the fact that this issue marks 25 years since the magazine was first published, in September 1985. Over the years, like any business venture, we have been fortunate to survive market ups and downs, new owners, publishers and editors, and all the changes Father Time presents. Thank you to all of our readers, our advertisers, and especially to the members and staff of the Sports Turf Managers Association for your continued support and contributions to our efforts.-Eric Schroder, Editor

First editorial celebrates sports turf "having its day"  
Reprinted here in full is Editor Bruce Shank's column in  
the first issue of this magazine:

## **"The sportsTURF Advisors: These Men Knew All Along Sports Turf Would Have Its Day"**

**A**THLETIC FIELD MANAGERS have been defending public and private turf from a remote outpost for many years, while golf course superintendents and lawn care operators have received most of the attention. They have been provided with low budgets, outdated weaponry, and little consideration by the rest of the industry.

Now that the world has discovered the importance of their outpost, we have also discovered a few agronomists who never forgot them, never stopped developing new weapons for them, and helped these legionnaires make do with technology designed for other types of war.

Six of these wise men sit on the editorial advisory board of sportsTURF magazine.

Fred Grau is the dean of the advisory board. He was the first extension turf specialist in the U.S. in 1938 serving golf course greenskeepers, park superintendents, and sod growers in Pennsylvania.

Fred worked with Burton Musser, a research agronomist at Pennsylvania State University, whose work in turf breeding and maintenance would put him in a turf hall of fame if there was such an honor. Fred's accomplishments would fill three pages single-spaced if we had room.

They include the development of Penngift crown vetch for highway erosion control, the co-development of the turf aerifier for West Point Products (later purchased by Hahn), directorship of the United States Golf Association Green Section from 1948 to 1953, early promotion of ureaformaldehyde nitrogen for turf, and most recently the development of the Sports Turf Research and Education Committee of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation, a nonprofit organization for turf. In his eighties, Fred never lets up. I'll never forget Bill Daniel's retirement dinner at the Midwest Turf Conference last March at Purdue University. In one room sat the Who's Who of turf, all former students of Bill during his 30 plus years of teaching agronomy.

If his name sounds familiar, it may be because he is the co-developer of the Prescription Athletic Turf (PAT) system, probably the best known natural turf design on the market. It would be hard to find a sod grower, golf superintendent, or athletic field manager in the Midwest who is not aware of Bill Daniel. He helped start the Midwest Turf Foundation, the Midwest

Sod Producers Association, and the Sports Turf Managers Association. His turf curricula at Purdue were copied by many other state universities.

Henry Indyk, professor of soils and crops at Rutgers University, has also developed a national

reputation for his work in sports turf and sod production. He is part of the Rutgers's turf brain trust which includes turf breeder Dr. Reed Funk and weed scientist Dr. Ralph Engle. Henry is a person who doesn't stand for sloppy construction or maintenance. His attention to detail made him the best candidate for executive director of the American Sod Producers Association when it was new and the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation for more than 20 years. That same trait propels him energetically into the area of safer sports turf. He will outline his views of basic field requirements in the November issue of sportsTURF.

Roy Goss, extension agronomist for Washington State University in Puyallup, has been helping natural turf survive overuse and too much rain since 1958. Roy has authored some of the best extension publications available on sports field construction and maintenance. He has also been the architect for more than 15 golf courses in Washington and Vancouver, Canada. One of the courses he designed is listed as one of the top 75 public courses in the U.S. by *Golf Digest*.

Another leader in writing publications for sports turf is Bill Knoop from Texas A&M University's Dallas campus. He joins the sportsTURF board to represent southern sports turf. Bill works closely with the Texas Rangers baseball club and will host a sports turf conference at Ranger Stadium this coming spring with the help of field manager Jim Anglea. sportsTURF magazine is proud to sponsor this important event.

Finally, everyone in California knows him as Vic ... Gibeault, that is. Vic Gibeault too is part of a brain trust. The California extension service has been blessed with the

likes of John Madisen, Bill Davis, Vic Youngner, Kent Kurtz, and Gibeault. Vic is closely involved with some major developments in sports turf. He is a close observer of sod grown on sand for resodding sand-based

sports fields, combinations of warm and cool season grasses, and fertigation. Vic is a leader in educating sports turf managers in Southern California on proper field construction and care. His research emphasis is

important to sports turf technology as it enters a new growth phase.

These six innovative veterans of sports turf provide a strong foundation of guidance for this magazine. ■

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# Where were you in 1985?

## **GREG PETRY,** Waukegan (IL) Park District

I was working for the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District as the Coordinator of Park Services. Our big project was sodding 10 acres of athletic fields and keeping them alive during the summer/fall drought. Those were the days; working out in the field with the guys and seeing a project come to fruition!

## **HEATHER NABOZNY,** Detroit Tigers

In 1985 I was a sophomore a Milford High School in Michigan. I had tall hair and wore too much makeup. I was the captain of the downhill ski racing team and had a thoroughbred horse that I showed equestrian.

I remember that year I took great pride in mowing my parents property on a 1939 Ford tractor with a PTO-driven flail mower attached to the back.

## **STEVE COCKERHAM,** University of California, Riverside

I was Superintendent of Agricultural Operations at the University of California, Riverside, full-time and well into my own turfgrass research program for my academic appointment. In that year, we finished the first phase of the turfgrass research facility at UCR. I had just been through the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles as consultant for the LA Memorial Coliseum and the Rose Bowl. George Toma had been working with me on the Rose Bowl as the soccer venue.

"Turfgrass Water Conservation" was published in 1985. Dr. Victor Gibeault and I had edited the papers of a 1983 Symposium that we organized and conducted, which was sponsored by the (then) American Sod Producer's Association. The book became

one of the most frequently cited publications in our industry for many years. I attended the International Turfgrass Society Meetings in France and gave a paper on water use in turf. At that meeting I met researchers from England and, in discussions with them the idea for the design of a sports turf traffic simulator was born. The Brinkman Traffic Simulator was built that fall. I gave some papers at various meetings and had some publications. All in all, I recall it being a busy year.

As a note, I continue consulting with the LA Memorial Coliseum and, this year, celebrate my 28th year with that facility.

## **KIM HECK,** CEO of STMA

In 1985, I was hired by McCaw Communications and placed on the team that brought cellular technology to the Kansas City market. My job was marketing and advertising. McCaw was heavily into acquiring communications companies as its growth strategy, and I traveled when necessary to the acquisitions to help integrate the marketing plans. Travel was often on the corporate jet! I had just had my first child and was still figuring out the "new mom" stuff and work/life balance.

## **DR. DAVE MINNER,** Iowa State

In 1985 I was in my second year as a faculty member at the University of Missouri. It seems like yesterday and I can still probably locate every head we placed ourselves in the new irrigation system at the research facility, with lots of good information generously donated by the turfgrass industry. Things haven't changed much; this industry and its professional organizations

have grown, but they have never lost the desire to share information.

I was a newly elected STMA board member in 1985 and most of our meetings were in Chicago. I was fortunate to serve on board at the same time as the late Harry Gill. Harry taught me a lesson about how to communicate with sports turf managers and it has certainly influenced how I listen and react to a group of professionals who are really the true experts.

At my first board meeting as the representative for academics I wanted to show my superior knowledge, so I was describing something and used the scientific name for two grasses and followed it up the term "verdure." (Look it up if you don't know it, I learned my lesson once.) When I was done with my scientific pontification, Harry looked at the group and said, "I don't have a clue to what he just said but what we really need is someone to help us find answers to the problems we can't solve and also a way to get advice to the little guy" (his way of saying we should share our information with smaller organizations that didn't yet have a dedicated groundskeeper).

Well, I took off my tie, along with my cap and gown, and it has been a wonderfully rewarding 25 years of learning and teaching and listening and doing with the sports turf industry. Thanks Harry, for setting the kid on a straight and better path.

## **ABBY MCNEAL,** CSFM, Wake Forest University

1985—the time when big hair, preppy clothes, parachute pants and being a high school freshman at Queen Anne's County (MD) High School were all that I knew. I was actually destroying grass as a member of

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