

No sports turf manager on site? The SAFE Foundation can make a difference

THE FOUNDATION FOR SAFER ATHLETIC FIELDS for Everyone (SAFE) recognizes that not every field is managed by a qualified professional. Neighborhood fields are particularly challenged because they are often the lowest priority for maintenance, and inexperienced volunteer parent groups may have the responsibility for upkeep. The economy also impacts these fields; maintenance dollars for low profile fields may be the first to be eliminated.

SAFE has developed an industry-wide initiative, *Sports and Recreation Fields-Safety First* to create awareness about the importance of managed sports surfaces. This initiative will fund education, outreach, research and scholarships to advance the safety and sustainability of playing surfaces and help reduce sports field injuries due to the playing surface.

Other organizations acknowledge that the playing conditions of fields and recreation areas are critical to the safety of athletes:

- The National Athletic Trainers Association has identified the need to check the playing area before practice or a game. They recommend checking regularly for debris, rocks, water and other hazards and removing these hazards before play.
- SAFE Kids, USA, the non-profit organization that promotes injury prevention for kids, cite properly maintained recreation areas for children enrolled in organized sports through schools and community clubs, as a proven intervention strategy for injury prevention.
- In a position statement by the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, the team physician is charged with assessing environmental concerns and playing conditions.
- The Institute for Preventative Sports Medicine states that players competing on a potholed schoolyard surface often suffer ankle injuries, indicating that the safety of playing surfaces is key.



• The Alliance to Address Youth Safety has as one of its four Calls to Action: to ensure sports equipment and fields are checked for safety and best conditions.

These are important assertions by major organizations. What is missing is the “how” to make athletic fields and recreation areas safer. This is where SAFE can make a difference.

The initiative “Sports and Recreation Fields-Safety First” begins with a 5-year fundraising campaign with a goal of \$1 million. SAFE introduced this fundraising effort to its membership in January. Called the “Grass Roots Campaign” so that members and chapters can show their ground level support, SAFE is seeking \$100 from members over 5 years (\$20 per year) and \$1,000 from corporations over 5 years (\$200 per year). Donors who pay their total 5-year amount in one lump sum, or donate \$100 or more will be recognized as a member of our Foundation Club. Foundation Club members receive a commemorative lapel pin.

STMA offers an ACH option for members to spread the payment out over 12 months and have it automatically deducted from a checking account.

As funds are raised, SAFE will be pursuing partnerships with community and industry organizations to collaborative develop its programs that will directly benefit communities. One element of its plan is to conduct an assessment to profile communities at-risk for poorly maintained sports fields. SAFE, with STMA, will engage its chapter network and its committees to help develop Best Management Practices for these at-risk fields.

For more information on how SAFE is impacting the profession or to donate, go to www.STMA.org and click on the SAFE Tab. ■

Start now! STMA Field of the Year application ready

NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME to begin preparing your 2012 STMA Field of the Year Application. The program requires photos from throughout the year and completion of the STMA PCI four times, so it is important to begin working on those items as soon as you can.

Submitting an entry to the Field of the Year Awards program is now entirely electronic. Applicants are required to fill out the writable form, which is located at www.STMA.org under the Professionalism Tab/Awards, and submit it electronically. Photos are also required to be created in a PowerPoint presentation. The PowerPoint can be submitted through our online Dropbox account (preferred) or applicants can send a CD or jump drive to STMA headquarters. These materials must be received at STMA headquarters no later than October 15, 2012.

The Awards Committee implemented the change to an electronic process to allow for remote judging of applications, to provide a fair process for all applicants regardless of the budget spent on the packaging of the submittal, and to focus on the field management practices.

By applying for the STMA Field of the Year Awards, members gain recognition from their employers and community. Community athletic facilities are a point of local pride, and by applying for this program, and showcasing your expertise in the process, you can draw media attention and gain respect throughout the community for the hard work you, your crew and volunteers undertake making your field look and play its best.

Each Field of the Year Award winner is presented with a special plaque at the STMA Awards Banquet, held each year at the STMA Conference and Exhibition. This year, the Awards Banquet will be the evening of January 18, 2013 in Daytona Beach, FL. In addition to the plaque, each STMA Field of the Year winner will receive free conference registration, three nights of lodging at the conference hotel, STMA signature apparel, and a feature article in the official publication of STMA, *SportsTurf Magazine*. These awards are generously supported by STMA's official awards sponsors Carolina Green Corp., Covermaster, Inc., Hunter Industries and World Class Athletic Surfaces. ■

Access to MSU's Turfgrass Information File is major member benefit

NEXT TIME YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION ON MANAGING TURFGRASS,

try using your membership benefit, Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information File (TGIF). TGIF provides access to all published materials reporting on aspects of turfgrass and its maintenance. As of April 2012, there were more than 200,000 records in TGIF, with a gradually increasing percentage of content linked to full-text sources. About 12,000 new records are added every year, with more than 49% including full-text or linking to full-text.

The ultimate goals of TGIF are to: 1) identify all available print or online materials reporting on turfgrass and its maintenance; 2) to provide access to records representing each item; and 3) to provide a direct link to the full-text or actual content of each item, when possible. Materials indexed in the TGIF database include articles from peer reviewed publications, technical reports and conference proceedings, trade and professional publications, local professional newsletters, and popular magazines as well as monographs, theses and dissertations, fact sheets and brochures, software, and web documents. TGIF indexes materials from government, college/university, professional organization, and private publishers. Coverage emphasizes English-language materials but does include coverage of non-English languages.

Literature in TGIF is broken into categories or LEVELS. The LEVELS allow users to search for information based on the type of publication. For example, if a researcher is looking for information on dollar spot, he/she may limit the search to Refereed journals. If a practitioner is searching for information on mole crickets, but only those published in trade or professional magazines, the search can be limited to trade and professional resources. If doing a basic search, the level will appear on the results page of the search. In the Guided Search or Power Search, the LEVEL can be chosen to narrow the search.

Refereed materials are clearly the most important from a research perspective. They have passed through the process of peer review and revision, with traditional academic rigor.

Report materials are not refereed, but

are research, often qualified as "preliminary" or "incomplete."

Professional sources are those generally produced by Not-For-Profit corporations as communicative media for membership.

Proceedings are usually from a specific conference, and can include individual articles which might show up in any of the other categories, except refereed. The Proceedings literature is very unpredictable, uneven, and sometimes frustrating, but it is an important category in the whole of the literature, particularly from 1950-1990.

Trade sources are generally commercial magazines, and are distributed widely within the industry.

Newsletters are just that, mostly GCSAA affiliate productions. The "newsletters" vary tremendously in their availability, size, and "usefulness" from the perspective of TGIF.

Popular publications are those intended for a general public readership, outside the professional arena (if you think these are not important to your job, we think you are mistaken!). In addition, there are

Miscellaneous sources which complete the literature.

Steps to use the database successfully: Log in as an STMA member, click on the TGIF tab, and then follow the instructions on how to access it. After accepting the Conditions and Terms of Use, you are redirected to the Basic Search page.

BASIC SEARCH

Enter keywords for your topic into the search field. Instead of using a question or common language, type the most important words such as white grub control. Type phrases, such as "brown patch," without quotation marks. Typing only part of the search word may produce better results as truncation happens automatically. For example, typing "fertili" will automatically find fertilizer, fertilization, fertilisation, fertility, etc.

When searching for two or more topics, put semicolons between them. For example, if "winterkill; cold tolerance" is typed, TGIF will retrieve everything about winterkill OR cold tolerance.

The drop-down list below the search box allows the limiting of a search to an industry sector. The sectors are: Breeding

and Genetics, Golf Courses, Landscape, Lawn Care, Parks and Grounds, Roadsides, Seed, Sod, Sports Turf, and Utility Turf.

To search the underlying full-text of items (not just the TGIF record contents), check the "Dig Deeper" box.

GUIDED SEARCH

To search using Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT), press the Guided Search button. In the first box, type in a key word or phrase. By leaving the drop box as "Anywhere," the phrase will be searched anywhere in the TGIF record. To limit to the title, author, keyword, language, etc. field, use the drop-down menu.

The Browse Index can be used if unsure of a word. Click on Browse Index. In the box, type in the unsure word and click on Search Index. A list of the words near it will appear. Check the one(s) to use for searching and click on the paste button to the left. The terms will be added to the search and the session will return to the search page.

It is possible to search on multiple topics/words by using the three "Search for" boxes using AND, OR, or NOT by selecting from the drop box.

Additionally, limits by publication type, industry sector, years, or kinds of items can be selected using the drop down boxes. Not limiting allows for all formats, years, sectors, and item types to be searched. It is also possible to limit the search to: USGA® publications; full-text materials; or to exclude abstract only records.

POWER SEARCH

This interface is intended for more experienced searchers. In this search window, full Boolean and proximity operators, wildcards, nesting (the use of parentheses), field limiters, etc. are able to be used. A complete reference guide to using Power Search is at <http://tic.msu.edu/power.html>.

TGIF is free for STMA non-commercial members and is designed to be flexible for all users, from those accessing for the first-time to the more sophisticated researchers/users. TGIF provides quick access to published and electronic resources for users throughout the world. Be sure to take advantage of the extensive and valuable collection of resources pertaining to successful turfgrass management that TGIF has to offer. ■

STMA Commercial members: plan now to enter your innovation

TWO YEARS AGO, STMA introduced a new awards program for commercial members: the STMA Award for Commercial Innovation. Three exhibitors were presented with the award in its first year and earlier this year, G2 TurfTools, Inc., received the Innovative Award in Long Beach.

You should start thinking about what products, services, and/or equipment your company can enter. Although the entry form just takes minutes to fill out electronically, the judging panel seeks links to videos, photos, marketing brochures, or other promotional material to help them understand the innovation.

The purpose of the award is to recognize those exhibiting commercial companies that are introducing products, equipment or services that improve the profession—either by enhancing the effectiveness of the sports turf manager or making playing surfaces safer and more playable for athletes.

In addition to being innovative, as described above, and an exhibitor at the 2013 STMA conference, the product, serv-

ice or equipment being submitted must be introduced for sale between the close of the STMA show in January of this year through the close of the upcoming Daytona Beach show. The winners also must agree to display the product submitted during the 2013 trade show.

When creating the program, the original task group asked, “What is innovative?” and then came up with a list of words describing a winning product, piece of equipment or service. Since then, these terms have been refined through judging the past 2 years’ worth of entries. What has been found is that winning products, services or pieces of equipment:

- Are creative.
- Are cutting edge.
- Have never been seen.
- Make the task easier or more productive.
- Improve quality.
- Improve efficiency.
- Protect the environment.
- Save time and resources.

According to the Chair, Dale Getz, CSFM,

CSE, “These qualities are descriptive, but this list is by no means comprehensive.” Getz credits the original with developing a program that has dual benefits. “Those companies that are presented with the Innovative Award receive excellent recognition and bragging rights, and STMA also benefits by being the award presenter and by being the venue where the innovation was introduced.”

The STMA Awards Committee judges the entries and will announce the 2013 winners at the annual trade show with an all-hall announcement and booth signage. Winners of the award may use the special STMA logo when promoting the winning innovation for as long as they wish. In addition, STMA will promote the winners through press releases, magazine coverage, and during the STMA Awards Banquet.

The application is due October 1 and is available on the STMA website. For more information or to enter your companies’ innovation, log on to www.STMA.org. ■

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Featured Chapter: Georgia STMA -

www.gstma.org gastma07@gmail.com
The Georgia Chapter announces its Fall Field Day on Tues., Oct. 9, 2012 at Georgia Tech University. For information, contact David Presnell at david.presnell@gcstk12.net.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:

Chris Walsh cwalsh@scottsdaleaz.gov

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:

www.cstma.org.

Florida #1 Chapter (South): 305-235-5101

(Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran CTomSell@aol.com

Florida #2 Chapter (North): 850-580-4026,

John Mascaro, john@turf-tec.com

Florida #3 Chapter (Central): 407-518-2347,

Scott Grace, scott@sundome.org

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers

Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:

www.gstma.org.

Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf

Managers Association: www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: www.ILSTMA.org.

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Man-

agers Association: www.imstma.org.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:

www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:

www.kystma.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org.

(KAFMO/STMA): www.kafmo.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association

(MiSTMA): www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers As-

sociation: www.mpstma.org

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:

www.mokanstma.com.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:

sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu

New England STMA (NESTMA):

www.nestma.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jer-

sey: www.sfmanj.org.

Sports Turf Managers of New York:

www.stmony.org.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA:

www.ncsportsturf.org.

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association

(OSTMA): www.ostma.org.

Oklahoma Chapter STMA:

405-744-5729; Contact: Dr. Justin Moss

Oregon STMA Chapter:

www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org
oregonstma@gmail.com

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Asso-

ciation: www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter:

www.socalstma.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA:

www.scstma.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Associ-

ation (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:

www.txstma.org

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:

www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:

www.wstma.org.

Chapter Sponsors

