

## KAFMO's involvement with Little League

**OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS** the Pennsylvania Chapter of STMA, officially the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO), comes together at the end of summer as millions from around the world turn their eyes to South Williamsport, PA. Kids from all over the world play the game of baseball in hopes of playing in the Little League World Series. Sixteen teams of players 11 and 12 years old descend on the Little League complex in Lycoming County, PA in hopes of being crowned the only true sports "World" Champion.

The Little League World Series has become a grand event. Television coverage of every game played during the series on the ABC/ESPN family of networks has turned up the exposure that the event has seen. In 2012 the television ratings were high with millions watching and attending. It is estimated that the event injects \$20 million dollars into the economy of Lycoming County.

With the players, coaches, managers and umpires on the field, announcers, scorekeepers, security, ushers, cameramen and television production crews in place everything is set to "Play Ball!" But wait, what about the field, is it ready? Is it safe for play? Will it look good on television? That portion of the series is left to members of KAFMO.

"The chapter has been honored to assist Little League Baseball with field preparation for 15 years," says Jeffrey T. Fowler, Penn State Cooperative Extension Turfgrass educator and Board member for the KAFMO chapter (and national STMA). "We arrive before the series begins, we level the playing surface, edge the fields, resod any areas that are worn from summer play, all in preparation for the games that will be played and televised during the 10 days of the series.

"Our number one goal is providing a safe playing surface for the kids to play on," says Fowler. Fowler is quick to credit Seth Whitehill, groundskeeper at the complex, for his hard work and dedication throughout the year. "Seth does a great job year round preparing the fields for the Series; he applies fertilizer, sprays and mows throughout the year when there are no television cameras around to see everything that is going on." Seth graduated from Penn State in 2008 with his bachelors d in Turfgrass Science.

"We have approximately 40 volunteers that are a part of the grounds crew. These volunteers are members of STMA or one of its chapters. People take vacation time from their own work schedules and leave family at home to come to the series to assist with field preparations. Some stay for the entire time (2 weeks), others help out for a few days," Fowler says. "The crew that we assemble for the Little League World Series is second to none; not only do they have the fields at the forefront of their minds, but their professionalism is [supreme]. Having people realize that there is more to having a safe field than putting down lines and mowing grass is also a goal of our group.

"Every night we remove the lines, groom and water the infield, broom the edges of the grass, repair clay in the home plate circle and on the pitcher's mound, and we tarp those areas as well; we groom the warning track and have the field ready for the next day."

Thirty four televised games in 10 days take their toll of the fields in South Williamsport in mid-August. Yet every year the grounds crew manages to battle through whatever is thrown their way to pull off one of the greatest youth sporting events in the world. The grounds crew is proud of what they are able to help out with during the series. Many of the crew members have been attending for 15 years or more. Some have been bring their own children with them to help out. According to Fowler, "That is the next generation of sports turf managers; I tell kids all the time, the fastest way to the major leagues is with a rake in your hand."

## STMA recognizes and thanks its 25 & 30 year members

**STMA salutes its long-time members** for their dedication and commitment to the association and the profession of sports turf management. They have supported STMA through the years in many ways beyond paying annual membership dues. These highly involved members have attended and presented at our conferences, participated in leadership roles in the association, and served as volunteers on committees and in their individual chapters. Their efforts have guided STMA to being a strong and vibrant association of professionals. Thank you!

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Turfscience, Inc.  
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### **Paul C. Zwaska**

Technical Sales Support  
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### **David D. Minner, Ph.D.**

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Ames, IA

## Marketplace

### Committee Corner

**STMA HAS 23 COMMITTEES** and will be recognizing the work of two committees each month in the magazine. Last month featured the Conference Education and Environmental Committees. The International and Awards Committees are featured this month.

#### STMA International Committee

This Committee began as a Task Group in 2010 and became a full committee one year later. Its primary purpose is to position STMA as a global leader in sports facility management and as the go-to resource for those who work internationally in the industry. One way it gains recognition is by sharing association and technical information with those in the sports turf profession in other countries. The committee has reached out to international sports organizations to introduce STMA. It has developed a network of contacts in academia and in the commercial sector who work internationally and who will promote the association when traveling abroad. Much of the efforts have been centered on developing appropriate technical resources, and trans-

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## STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

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[arizonastma@gmail.com](mailto:arizonastma@gmail.com)

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.cstma.org](http://www.cstma.org).

**Florida #1 Chapter (South):** 305-235-5101  
(Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran [CTomSell@aol.com](mailto:CTomSell@aol.com)

**Florida #2 Chapter (North):** 850-580-4026, John Mascaró, [john@turf-tec.com](mailto:john@turf-tec.com)

**Florida #3 Chapter (Central):** 407-518-2347, Scott Grace, [scott@sundome.org](mailto:scott@sundome.org)

**Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.gatewaystma.org](http://www.gatewaystma.org).

**Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.gstma.org](http://www.gstma.org).

**Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.stmalabasin.com](http://www.stmalabasin.com).

**Illinois Chapter STMA:** [www.ILSTMA.org](http://www.ILSTMA.org).

**Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.imstma.org](http://www.imstma.org).

**Indiana -FORMING - Contact** Clayton Dame, [Claytondame@hotmail.com](mailto:Claytondame@hotmail.com) or Brian Bornino, [bornino@purdue.edu](mailto:bornino@purdue.edu)

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org).

**Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.kystma.org](http://www.kystma.org).

**Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA):** [www.kafmo.org](http://www.kafmo.org).

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org).

**Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.mpstma.org](http://www.mpstma.org)

**MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.mokanstma.com](http://www.mokanstma.com).

**Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu)

**New England STMA (NESTMA):** [www.nestma.org](http://www.nestma.org).

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** [www.sfmnj.org](http://www.sfmnj.org).

**Sports Turf Managers of New York:**  
[www.stmony.org](http://www.stmony.org).

**North Carolina Chapter of STMA:**  
[www.ncsportsturf.org](http://www.ncsportsturf.org).

**Northern California STMA:** [www.norcalstma.org](http://www.norcalstma.org).

**Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):**  
[www.ostma.org](http://www.ostma.org).

**Oklahoma Chapter STMA:** 405-744-5729;  
Contact: Dr. Justin Moss [okstma@gmail.com](mailto:okstma@gmail.com)

**Oregon STMA Chapter:**  
[www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org](http://www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org)  
[oregonstma@gmail.com](mailto:oregonstma@gmail.com)

**Ozarks STMA:** [www.ozarksstma.org](http://www.ozarksstma.org).

**Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.pnwstma.org](http://www.pnwstma.org).

**Southern California Chapter:**  
[www.socialstma.com](http://www.socialstma.com).

**South Carolina Chapter of STMA:**  
[www.scstma.org](http://www.scstma.org).

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** [www.tvstma.com](http://www.tvstma.com).

**Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.txstma.org](http://www.txstma.org)

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org).

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
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lating them to Spanish. Another outcome of its work is the development of an International Affiliate Organization (IAO) designation, which is awarded to already existing international organizations that have a focus on sports turf.

STMA has designated three organizations as an IAO: The Sports Turf Association (Canada), the Institute of Groundsmanship (UK) and the ABGE (Brazil). The committee will be directing its efforts to creating additional educational resources and gaining representation for STMA presenters at international conferences in 2013 and beyond. In addition to members residing in the US, the Committee has representation from members in the Netherlands, the UK, Israel, Canada and Chile.

Committee Members: Chair - Abby McNeal, CSFM; Rene Asprion; Tab Buckner; Murray Cook; Ken Curry; Paul Gillen; Simon Gumbrell; Roberto Gurgel; Johnathan Knight, CSFM; Ian

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**STMA Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee judges three programs including the Field of the Year, Minor League Baseball Sports Turf Manager of the Year, and the Innovative awards programs. It also develops strategies to enhance these awards programs. For the Field of the Year, the Committee may present awards to five field types: Baseball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Sporting Grounds. For each field type, awards may be given in three categories: Professional, College and University, and Schools and Parks. For Minor League Baseball, it awards in four categories, Triple A, Double A, Class A and Short

Season or Rookie. The Innovative Awards program is for commercial exhibitors, and there is not a set number of awards given each year. Last year the Committee re-developed the Field of the Year program to an entirely online process for submittals and judging, and this year it further refined that process. The members of this committee spend a minimum of 15 hours reviewing applications over a 3-week period. The committee is currently discussing the creation of a new "Volunteer of the Year" award.

Committee Members: Chair - Allen Johnson, CSFM; Patrick Coakley, CSFM; Brad Garrison; Stephen Horne; Joe Kovolyan, CSFM; Alec Kowalewski; Sarah Martin, CSFM; Ben Polimer; Mike Schiller, CSFM; George Trivett, CSFM and Charlie Vestal. Staff Liaison: Kim Heck ■