

## STMA in San Antonio: association's offerings taking shape for 2014 Conference

**AS REFERENCED IN A RECENT STMA NEWS ONLINE ARTICLE,** STMA's 2014 conference will be held in one of the country's most vibrant up-and-coming cultural centers: San Antonio, TX. Home to the historic Alamo and world-renowned River Walk, this unique community offers a wealth of sights and sounds for all to enjoy. The Grand Hyatt Hotel, the conference host hotel, is connected to the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center (site of the education and trade show) and STMA has negotiated a special \$165 room rate for attendees. More conference details can be found at [stma.org](http://stma.org), so don't forget to register and keep checking back for more updates!

A stop in San Antonio would not be complete without a visit to the world-famous River Walk, which opened a new 1.3 mile extension since STMA was there in 2007. In 2010, *Travel + Leisure* magazine named it one of "America's Coolest River Walks" saying, "This granddaddy of river walks charms with 4 miles of cypress-lined cobble-and-flagstone paths along both sides of the narrow San Antonio River. Locals and visitors cool off on the horseshoe-shaped loop downtown, meandering past trendy shops and stopping at hot spots like Boudro's for guacamole prepared table-side." A number of varied shopping and cultural events abound; the downtown area surrounds the convention center and the Alamo is directly adjacent.

And, with STMA's Call for Presentations behind us—and having reached a record number of submissions in the process—the content for 2014's conference in San Antonio is rapidly coming into focus. As with the 2013 conference in Daytona Beach, 11 distinct educational tracks will be highlighted with a good number of sessions supporting each. These tracks include **turfgrass management, pest control, water/drainage/irrigation, design/construction/renovation, synthetic fields, facility management, baseball/softball, professional development, environmental issues/sustainability, research, technology, and international sports/facility management.**

To give you a hint of the topics to be featured in San Antonio, we're highlighting just a few of the sessions to illustrate the depth and breadth of what's in store for attendees during STMA's 25th Annual Conference & Exhibition!

### **"Evaluation and Preparation of Fields for Heavy Use"**

**Presenters: Dr. Grady Miller**

Description: Working with schools and Park & Recreation units, I continually see overused fields. The questions are almost always, 1) what are the most important practices? 2) What can I do when

they start to wear? 3) How much use can my field take? I've developed a presentation and handout material to help them answer these issues.

Objectives:

1. After seeing examples, attendees should have a better understanding of problems they may face with high use fields.

2. Attendees should have a better understanding of how to access their field conditions.

3. Attendees will be given informational tools they can use to find answers in field management.

**Title: "What Are Your Weeds Telling You?"**

**Presenter(s): Jim Brosnan, PhD & Gerald Henry, PhD**

Description:

Weeds are often indicative of other agronomic problems within warm- and cool-season athletic fields including issues pertaining to soil compaction and nutrient management that can reduce field safety and playability. This presentation will not only teach attendees the importance of indicator weeds (i.e., weeds that indicate an agronomic issue) within a field, but also emphasize the integration of cultural and chemical practices for weed management programs on athletic fields. Attendees will learn why implementing these weed management programs is a critical step towards maximizing athletic field safety and playability. Programs presented will be based on research findings surrounding the use of cultural practices such as aeration and fertilization as well as the use of both old and new herbicide technologies available to athletic field managers. Particular emphasis will be placed on annual bluegrass control given its importance to both warm- and cool-season athletic field managers at all levels of play.

Objectives:

After attending this presentation, attendees will:

1. Be able to identify indicator weeds of warm- and cool-season athletic fields

2. Understand agronomic problems associated with the presence of indicator weeds in their turf

3. Learn how to build integrated weed management programs using both cultural and chemical practices

4. Understand the importance of controlling weeds with these programs for the purpose of maximizing athletic field safety and playability

5. Be aware of new technologies for managing weeds of warm- and cool-season turf athletic fields; particularly annual bluegrass

On Wednesday during the conference, STMA will be featuring a full day track dedicated to pest control so people can receive their pesticide recertification credits. One of the featured sessions in

the pest track:

**Title: Advanced Turf Disease Management: Maximizing Pesticide Applications to Improve Product Performance**

**Presenter(s): Mike Fidanza, PhD**

Description:

I would be willing to deliver this presentation as a follow-up to my Post-Conference 'turf disease' seminar from the 2013 STMA Conference. This could be an 'Advanced Turf Disease' post-conference seminar. In this presentation, I would focus on product application delivery (i.e., spray nozzle selection, water volume, many other factors) to improve fungicide and other plant protection/plant health product applications to sports turf.

Objectives:

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

1. Properly select nozzle type and size for improving pesticide applications to sports turf

2. Select the best water-carrier volume to maximize pesticide performance

3. Understand the importance of fungicide selection and mode of activity to improve/maximize pesticide performance.

On Thursday during the conference, there will be three courses dedicated to student advancement in the industry. There are also two "STMA" courses with one dedicated to the CSFM exam and one dedicated to FOY winners.

Friday morning will feature a number of workshops, one of which is detailed below:

**Title: "Turfgrass Mathematics 101: The calculations every turf manager should know"**

**Presenter: Barry Stewart, PhD**

Description:

Many athletic field managers are unsure of their math skills. This workshop will cover common calculations that athletic field managers need to know how to do in the course of their jobs. Determination of area, applicator calibration, and product per area calculations will be highlighted. There are several apps for smart phones for these calculations and with the widespread availability of broadband internet and WiFi connectivity these are now even useful in the field, but without a knowledge base of what numbers to expect these apps can be problematic if they are relied on too heavily.

Objectives:

1. After attending this session the participant will be able to determine how much product to apply to a given area.

2. After attending this session the participant will be able to calibrate wet and dry applicators.

3. After attending this session the participants will become familiar with Smartphone apps that help solve these problems but have a working knowledge of the mathematics behind the Apps to know if the App is giving you garbage.

Also on Friday, there will be four innovative sessions featured on the trade show floor that will focus on emerging technology in the industry. ■

# STMA.org provides many resources

**THE STMA WEBSITE**, [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org), has numerous educational resources available to members and non-members.

## Public

Access to various educational resources is available to anyone under the Knowledge Center tab on the STMA website. Even if you are not an STMA member, you can access valuable information that will assist in the safety and playability of your athletic surfaces. Topics available in the Knowledge Center include:

- Conference Education – access the educational materials presented at our Annual Conference and Exhibition for the past 3 years. Materials include PowerPoint presentations, notes, handouts, and relevant articles.
- Turfgrasses – resources that help you manage both cool and warm season turfgrasses successfully
  - Construction/Renovation – provides tips on how to construct, reconstruct, renovate, and maintain your sports fields and facilities
  - Health & Safety – resources that promote safe practices in the workplace ranging from back injury prevention, to chemical safety, to motor vehicle safety.
  - Recordkeeping – everything you need to maintain detailed records for your shop, grounds, equipment, and staff. This includes field maintenance resources, equipment records, budget resources, and employee records.
  - Environmental Stewardship – resources that address environmental stewardship for athletic facilities and athletic fields. This includes Integrate Pest Management (IPM) and organic management practices. Water conservation resources are also provided.
  - Cultural Practices – access information on fertilization, irrigation, and drainage.
  - Sports Field Dimensions – receive step by step instructions on how to accurately measure and paint all of your athletic fields
  - Multimedia – here you can access education sessions that were recorded at the 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 annual conferences. In addition, STMA- and University- produced podcasts and webinars cover various turfgrass management topics including fertilization, heat stress, cold temperature injury, and more.
  - Turfgrass Insects, Weeds, and Diseases – contains information for identifying and controlling turfgrass pests
  - Synthetic Fields – resources include research articles and publications that cover benefits, drawbacks, and management of synthetic turf fields

- Guías en Español – a page dedicated to Spanish speaking sports turf managers, which allows access to field management bulletins translated to Spanish.

- University Turf Sites & Turfgrass Faculty and University Publications - links to information, research, and people from higher education institutions across the country.

## Members Only

Much of the information on the Members Only side mirrors the public side. However, STMA members are allowed access to in-depth research and technical bulletins. Resources can be accessed by logging in as an STMA member and accessing any of the categories under the Knowledge Center.

- Construction/Renovation – in addition to what is available to the public, information on constructing field slope and proper rootzone, as well as selecting the correct turfgrass is available.
- Cultural Practices – information on fertilization includes an analysis of plant responses

to nutrient applications and bulletins that address soil tests, nitrogen sources, and fertilizer calibration. Information on irrigation provides sports turf managers further explanation about rootzones, water tables, and irrigation systems. Information on drainage includes drainage systems and dealing with flooding events.

- Environmental Stewardship – resources include various ways to implement environmental initiatives at your facility including recycling, water efficiency, stormwater management, transportation, lighting, and more. Initiatives for athletic fields include turfgrass species selection, cultural practices, and integrated pest management. Water conservation resources are also available including STMA bulletins on “Field Management During a Drought” and “Effective Water Use”.

- Health and Safety – Athlete safety is a priority for sports turf managers. Therefore, STMA provides resources to help members understand how to maintain safe playing surfaces. Bulletins such as “Thatch Management” and “Strategies for Managing Heavily-Used Fields”

## Construction & Renovation Bulletins

Check out the following technical bulletins available to members only to assist with construction and renovation processes:

- 8 Steps to an Easy Field Facelift
- Football Practice Techniques that Help Minimize Field Wear
- Strategies for Managing Heavily-Used Fields
- Thatch Management
- Sprigging Bermudagrass
- Understanding Soil Tests
- Flooding on Sports Fields
- Snow Removal
- Football/Soccer Safety and Maintenance Checklist
- Baseball/Softball Safety and Maintenance Checklist
- The STMA Collection of ASTM Standards for Athletic Fields
- A Guide to Synthetic and Natural Turfgrass for Sports Fields - Selection, Construction and Maintenance Considerations
- Advisory Bulletin 1: Determining the Right Sports Field for Your Athletes
- Advisory Bulletin 2: Suggested Equipment List
- Advisory Bulletin 3: In-House; Architect-Bid-Contractor; Design-Build; Owner's Representative... What works best for building your sports field?
- Advisory Bulletin 4: The Fundamentals of Project Management
- Advisory Bulletin 5: 'Lessons Learned': Peer Advice on the Management of Synthetic Sports Fields
- Natural Grass Athletic Fields for High Schools
- Natural Grass Athletic Fields for High Schools PowerPoint
- Defending Your "Turf" - Play Offense

are available in addition to field safety and maintenance checklists.

- Multimedia – members can access the Mound Building and Home Plate Maintenance and Infield Maintenance Instructional videos.

- Professional Development - If you are looking for a job, resources that help you write a cover letter and resume and ace an interview are available. If already employed, bulletins on communication, leadership, and workplace issues are also available.

- Synthetic Fields – In addition to what is available on the public side, members can access additional advisory bulletins that give recommendations for equipment, project management, and more.

- Turfgrasses – more in-depth information is available for sports turf managers to determine which type of turfgrass will best meet the needs of athletes and perform the best on the field.

- STMA Educational Bulletins – STMA members can access bulletins that cover a wide range of turfgrass management topics including seasonal field maintenance calendars for cool season, warm season, and transition zone regions, field management, environmental stewardship, safety, synthetic fields, professional development, construction and renovation, and business practices. ■

## SAFE Foundation expands Board

**THE FOUNDATION FOR SAFER ATHLETIC FIELDS FOR EVERYONE (SAFE)**, STMA's Charity, has expanded its Board to 12 people. In 2012, SAFE had nine board members. "The expanded board adds new depth of experience to better help us pursue our key goals this year," said Chairman of the Board of Trustees Cathy Bradley. "Our focus in 2013 is to increase community outreach efforts as well as to continue to pursue our fundraising goals."

Past fundraising efforts include the events held in conjunction with the STMA conference, such as the auctions, raffles, casino night and a golf tournament. For the first time, SAFE is developing an interactive community educational component. "Providing maintenance staff, coaches, volunteers and parent groups with education on how to care for their field is a very important component of ensuring player safety," said Bradley. The educational outreach is planned for the San Antonio area around the STMA national conference in January.

In addition to Chairman Bradley, who is also the Executive Director of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, SAFE Officers include:

Vice-Chair Allen Johnson, CSFM, Fields Manager, Green Bay Packers

Secretary Steve Wightman, Retired Sports Turf Manager

Treasurer Doug Schattinger, President, Pioneer Manufacturing

Trustees

Jon Butler, Executive Director, Pop Warner Little Scholars

Ken Curry, Vice President, Covermaster, Inc. David B. Houseknecht, Sr. VP of Administration/CFO, Little League International

Debra Kneeshaw, Lead Park Technician, City of Portland Parks & Recreation

Gil Landry, Jr., Ph.D., Professor/Turfgrass Management, University of Georgia-Griffin Campus

Chad Price, CSFM, CFB, President, Carolina Green Corp.

Paula Sliefert, Sr. Marketing Manager, The Toro Company

Jay Warnick, CSFM, Athletic Fields Manager, University of Portland

The SAFE Executive Director is also the CEO of STMA, Kim Heck. ■

## STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:** [www.azstma.org](http://www.azstma.org)

**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

**Florida #2 Chapter (North):** 850-580-4026, John Mascaro, [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:** <http://imstma.blogspot.com/>

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

**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.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.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.socalstma.com](http://www.socalstma.com).

**South Carolina Chapter of STMA:** [www.sc-stma.org](http://www.sc-stma.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:** [www.wstma.org](http://www.wstma.org).

### Chapter Sponsors

