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MANAGEMENT

November 2014

# SportsTurf

## STMA'S 26<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

JANUARY 13-16, 2015, DENVER

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### On the cover:

The Sports Turf Managers Association's 26th Annual Conference and Exhibition will be held in Denver January 13-16, 2015. For information on how to register or exhibit, please see [www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org) or call 800-323-3875.



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## From the Sidelines

**Eric Schroder**  
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# It could be you

**O**ver the years in November issue columns I have encouraged readers to become members of STMA or at least attend their annual conference; few things can more quickly make you a better turf manager. This year I provide a great example of why—here's some advice on crisis communications recently sent to STMA members from the gentleman across the page, STMA President David Pinsonneault:

"Perhaps you will never be faced with responding to a crisis. But, if you ever have an athlete get injured during play, an employee who gets hurt on the job, a disgruntled employee, a weather related disaster, or an environmental incident, you just might find yourself in the spotlight and under scrutiny.

"As a manager of people, you may have to deal with an employee's death or illness, a sudden change in top management, or employee issues of sexual harassment. Each one of these can constitute a crisis. You must be prepared for that decisive moment when your response can lead the crisis to better or to worse. An initial negative perception is nearly impossible to reverse.

"You are judged within the first 30 seconds of speaking if you and the information you are providing is trusted. Appearing empathetic and caring are the most importance characteristics you can exhibit to show "trustworthiness." Your audience will also assess your competence, your honesty and your commitment. Your goal as a communicator is to demonstrate these attributes.

"It is important to recognize that the media is usually more interested in covering opposing viewpoints and that bad news and conflict are more newsworthy. Most reporters are working under a tight deadline, have limited scientific and technical knowledge and can be a bit cynical. When preparing to talk with the media, address the principal underlying concern of the audience/questioner/listener while keeping your responses short and concise.

### INTERVIEWS

- Take control early by educating the reporter and correcting misunderstandings.
- Clarify the questions.
- Prepare two to three main messages.
- Give facts: who, what, when, where, but don't give how and why.
- Express your concern. Safety is always the top priority.
- Avoid jargon and do not use humor.
- Frame your answers in the positive.
- Tell how fast you responded, how much has been done and what you will do about it in the future.
- Thank or give appreciation to any assistance.
- Avoid words with negative connotations such as lethal, risky, deaths, maimed, toxic.
- Do not repeat the "charges" or any negatives words, such as no, not, never.
- Be conscious of your body language. Do not place your hands in a "fig leaf" in front or in back of you, but keep your hands/palms open and above the waist. Avoid touching your face, clasping or clenching your hands and pointing your fingers.

### REMEMBER THESE PHRASES

"You want to give a sense of more to come, which will help to establish your trustworthiness.  
'What I can tell you is ...'  
'So far, what we know is ...'  
'So far, what we have done is ...'  
'What we are planning to do next is ...'  
'We will be able to tell you more when ...'  
'I'll be glad to talk with you again after we conduct ...'

Source: *Susan Santos, Ph.D., FOCUS GROUP, Medford, MA*

For more information on crisis plans and crisis communication, visit these web sites.  
<http://www3.niu.edu/newsplace/crisis.html>  
<http://www.lsu.edu/pa/crisis.html>  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/pres-office/crisis.htm>  
<http://www.topstory.ca/crisis.html> ■

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# President's Message

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## Giving thanks

**N**ovember is a time to wind down for some of us. Although we will be hosting the high school Thanksgiving Day game this year, we are full into budget prep for next year, we are wrapping up a couple of field projects and so on, but the cold weather is here, and we are slowing down. Most of us can catch our breath and reflect on the year we just had. We can look back and remember the things we have and should be thankful for in our work and personal life. I know each day that I wake up and look down at the turf is a good day, and I'm thankful for that. A little thanks goes a long way.

Everyone can think of a crew member who goes about their job in a quiet manner, and day after day rakes, or picks up trash, or mows and is a real team player. They may not make a big splash or work at 100 miles per hour, but their steady completion of tasks makes our jobs easier and contributes to the overall success of our programs. When was the last time we just said "thanks" to them? Thanks for showing up every day ready to work (not always easy in a union setting). Thanks for doing those mundane tasks that we build on to produce high quality fields. When was the last time you

thanked a crew member for being honest with you, either in what can or cannot be done, or whether something will or will not work. Sometimes we just take things, and people, for granted.

I know that when I look at our profession I need to thank all of you members (commercial, academics, students and field managers) who bring passion and commitment to ensure safe, playable fields for all user groups to enjoy. I need to thank your Board of Directors and headquarters staff for their commitment to the organization for your benefit. I need to remember that all of the things I accomplish are not mine alone, but others in small or large ways have helped me achieve success. They need to be acknowledged and thanked.

Let's be thankful for where we are, and give back to the industry by renewing our memberships, donating to SAFE, and making it out to Denver for Conference. It is our hope that we provide you the resources, networking opportunities and support that increase your value and make you thankful for being a member of your national association. So enjoy Thanksgiving, and be prepared for winter. Be thankful that spring is always in the future. Thanks again for being part of a great association. ■



## STMA's 26<sup>th</sup> Conference & Exhibition: Denver 2015

Denver is one of America's most eclectic, exciting cities. Founded in the mid-1850's by gold prospectors who hoped to strike it rich, similar to those lucky few in California only nine short years earlier, this "...log city of 150 dwellings, not three-fourths completed nor two-thirds inhabited, nor one-third fit to be" (as described by newspaper editor and politician Horace Greeley) nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains quickly grew to become the bustling metropolis we know today.

Denver's unique neighborhoods feature a cuisine, attraction, or interest for every taste. And it has the distinct honor of

being one of the highest major cities in the United States: its elevation is 5,280 feet – exactly one mile – above sea level. Courtesy of the Denver Convention and Visitor's Bureau, here are some top tips on thriving during your stay in the Mile-High City!

High Altitude Tips courtesy of [denver.org](http://denver.org)

Denver really is exactly one mile high.

Don't let anything you hear about the mile-high altitude scare you. The air is just thinner and dryer. In fact, many people with respiratory problems move to Denver for the benefits of the dry air. Just follow these simple tips and you will very likely not even notice the difference.

### DRINK WATER

Before your trip to Denver, and while you are here, drinking plenty of water is the number one way to help your body adjust easily to our higher altitude. The low humidity in Colorado keeps the air dry, like the desert, so you need about twice as much water here as you would drink at home.

### MONITOR YOUR ALCOHOL INTAKE

In Denver's rarified air, golf balls go ten percent farther... and so do cocktails. Alcoholic drinks pack more of a wallop than at sea level. It is recommended that you go easy on the alcohol in the moun-

tains and in Denver, as its effects will feel stronger here.

### EAT FOODS HIGH IN POTASSIUM

Foods such as broccoli, bananas, avocado, cantaloupe, celery, greens, bran, chocolate, granola, dates, dried fruit, potatoes and tomatoes will help you replenish electrolytes by balancing salt intake.

### WATCH YOUR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The effects of exercise are more intense here. If you normally run 10 miles a day at home, you might try 6 miles in Denver.

### PACK FOR SUN

With less water vapor in the air at this altitude, the sky really is bluer in Colorado. But there's 25 percent less protection from the sun, so sunscreen is a must. Denver receives over 300 days of sunshine each year (more than San Diego or Miami). Bring sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm... even in winter.

### DRESS IN LAYERS

Two days before your trip to Denver, check the weather and use this information to pack appropriately. Because Denver is closer to the sun, it can feel much warmer than the actual temperature during the daytime, but then become very chilly after sundown, particularly in the Spring and Fall. It is best to layer your clothing.

### ENJOY YOURSELF!

For the past 26 conferences and exhibitions, STMA has provided attendees with a best-in-class experience through innovative educational sessions, networking opportunities, hands on tours of sports facilities and a singular focus on advancing the sports turf industry as a whole. As the premier not-for-profit, professional association for the men and women who manage sports fields worldwide, the association is excited at the opportunity Denver provides to show how our dedicated members have moved this organization to where it is now, and to share our board's vision for the next 26 years (and beyond).

We hope to see you in Denver, Jan. 13-16, 2015, for STMA's 26th Annual Conference & Exhibition!

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrate STMA's 26th conference and exhibition in Denver with all the exceptional educational sessions, networking, and trade show innovations from the industry's premier sports field association. Nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, Denver is one of America's most unique travel destinations with a myriad of neighborhoods that feature a cuisine, attraction, or interest for every taste.

### OPENING GENERAL SESSION

**Wednesday, Jan. 13, 8 - 9:30 am**

Introductory Remarks – STMA President David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP

New to the Opening General Session will be four 20-minute presentations exploring technological and innovative advances in the turfgrass industry. Presentations and speakers include:

■ The Emergence of the Natural and Synthetic Hybrid System

*Speakers: James Graff - Graff's Turf Farms, Inc.; Jason Berning - AstroTurf; John Sorochan, Ph.D. - University of Tennessee*

■ Yup, There's an App for That

*Speaker: Barry Stewart, Ph.D. - Mississippi State University*

■ Is Frazee Mowing Right for Your Field?

*Speaker: Chris Hilmes - Redexim Turf Products*

■ Winterkill 2013-2014

*Speaker: Cale A. Bigelow, Ph.D. - Purdue University*

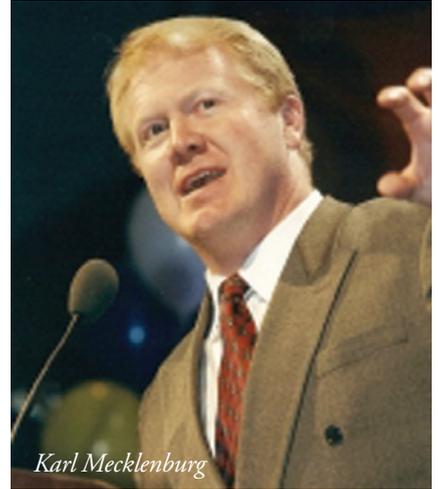
## Keynote Address

### Karl Mecklenburg

#### "Six Keys to Success"

Former Denver Broncos Captain and All-Pro Linebacker Karl Mecklenburg rose from being a college walk-on and a twelfth round draft pick to a pro career that included six Pro Bowl and three Super Bowl appearances. Considered the NFL's most versatile player, Karl played all seven defensive front positions. Broncos coaches wanted him at the point of attack and would move him throughout the game. There were many games where Mecklenburg played all seven positions in the course of a single game.

In 2001, Karl was inducted into the



Denver Broncos Ring of Fame and the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.

Karl is a member of the National Speakers Association. He enjoys speaking to a variety of groups, and his story is both humorous and inspirational. The lessons life in the NFL taught him about teamwork, courage, dedication, desire, honesty and forgiveness, and goal setting are his

*Information and photo courtesy of Karl Mecklenburg*

### STMA Academy

**Tues., Jan. 13, 2:30 - 5 pm**

Attend high-level education, pre-conference, at no additional cost.

### SAFE Foundation Night of Bowling NEW!

**Tues., Jan. 13, 6 - 9 pm,  
Denver Athletic Club**

Continuous shuttle provided.

Enjoy Bowling, Food & Beverages! Sign up with your chapter members or other friends and bowl as teams, or just join in and bowl as an individual.

### STMA Networking Sessions

**Wed., Jan. 14, 5:15 - 6:15 pm**

Meet with your peers during this formalized networking session. Each category of membership meets separately to share issues and practical solutions.

### STMA Welcome Reception & Casino Night

**Wed., Jan. 14, 7 - 10 pm**

A must-attend networking event! Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages. For

those who wish to gamble, there is a separate area for Casino Night, which benefits The SAFE Foundation.

### *STMA Reception, Live Auction and Awards Banquet*

**Fri., Jan. 16, 6:30 – 10 pm**

Bid on top-of-the-line equipment, technology and autographed items at bargain prices at The SAFE Foundation's Live Auction! A reception will also precede STMA's Annual Awards Banquet. Join your fellow attendees to enjoy excellent food and beverages while also helping to honor the association's award winners. RSVP required. Coat and tie preferred.

### **SUPPORT SAFE**

#### **SAFE - Participate and Donate!**

Help STMA's charity, The SAFE Foundation, raise money for scholarships, grants and educational outreach.

*There are 5 events!*

# SAFE

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields

### *1. SAFE Night of Bowling – Replaces the Golf Outing*

**Tues., Jan. 13, 6 - 9 pm, Denver Athletic Club**

Enjoy Bowling, Food & Beverages! Sign up with fellow chapter members or other friends and bowl as teams, or just join in and bowl as an individual. SAFE has a night of fun planned with games, and raffles with complimentary food and beverages. Forty dollars of the fee goes directly to support SAFE; the remaining \$35 to fund the event. Pre-registration is required.

### *2. SAFE Casino Night - Set within the Welcome Reception, Hyatt Hotel Wed., Jan. 14, 8 - 10 pm, Hyatt Hotel*

Gamble for a good cause! At this fee-based

event, everyone who cashes out is eligible to win prizes! As always, there is no charge to attend the Welcome Reception – only a fee to play that directly benefits SAFE.

### *3. Silent Auction - On the Trade Show floor*

**Thurs., Jan. 15, 1:30 - 6 pm and Fri., Jan. 16, 10 am -12:30 pm**

Take home some great merchandise, memorabilia and products!

### *4. Live Auction - at the Awards Banquet Reception, Hyatt Hotel*

**Fri., Jan. 16, 6:45 - 7:15 pm**

Bid on top-of-the-line equipment, technology and autographed items at bargain prices!

### *5. Raffles – Drawing at the beginning of the Awards Banquet, Hyatt Hotel*

**Fri., Jan. 16, 7 pm**

Buy raffle tickets throughout the conference for a chance to win exciting items. (Do not need to be present to win).

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## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

### Tues., Jan. 13

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 6:30 - 8:30 am    | Continental Breakfast  |
| 6:30 am - 6:30 pm | Registration Open  |
| 7 am - 5 pm       | Full Day Seminar on Wheels   |
| 2:30 - 5 pm       | STMA Academy: 400+ level education (included in full conference price) |
| 3:30 - 7:30 pm    | STMA Certification Exam  |
| 6 - 9 pm SAFE     | Night of Entertainment   |

### Wed., Jan. 14

|                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 7 - 8 am        | Continental Breakfast            |
| 7 am - 6:30 pm  | Registration Open                |
| 8 - 9:30 am     | Opening General Session          |
| 9:45 am - 12 pm | Conference Education             |
| 12 - 2 pm       | Break                            |
| 12 - 2 pm       | Women's Forum Lunch              |
| 2 - 5 pm        | Conference Education             |
| 5:15 - 6:15 pm  | Conference Networking Sessions   |
| 6:30 - 7 pm     | First-Timers Reception           |
| 7 - 10 pm       | Welcome Reception & Casino Night |

### Thurs., Jan. 15

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 6:45 - 7:45 am  | Certification Breakfast                     |
| 7 - 8 am        | Continental Breakfast                       |
| 7 am - 6 pm     | Registration Open                           |
| 8 am - 10:45 am | Conference Education & Student Track        |
| 11 am - 1:15 pm | Annual Meeting & Lunch, Keynote Address     |
| 1:30 - 6 pm     | SAFE Silent Auction on the trade show floor |
| 1:30 - 6:30 pm  | STMA Exhibition and Reception               |
| 2 - 4:30 pm     | Student Challenge NEW TIME!                 |
| 2 - 6:00 pm     | Committee meetings on the trade show floor  |

### Fri., Jan. 16

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 7 - 8 am         | Continental Breakfast                           |
| 7 - 8 am         | Past President's Breakfast                      |
| 7 am - 12 pm     | Registration Open                               |
| 8 - 10 am        | Conference Education                            |
| 10 am - 12:30 pm | Silent Auction on the trade show floor          |
| 10 am - 1 pm     | Exhibition Open with Lunch, Innovative Sessions |
| 12 - 1 pm        | Student Luncheon                                |
| 1 - 5 pm         | Half Day Seminar on Wheels                      |
| 1:30 - 3 pm      | Conference Education                            |
| 3 - 5 pm         | Chapter Officers Training (COTS) NEW TIME!      |
| 6:30 - 10 pm     | STMA Reception, Live Auction and Awards Banquet |

### Sat., Jan. 17

|              |                         |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| 8 am - 12 pm | STMA Certification Exam |
| 8 am - 1 pm  | ASBA Certification Exam |

### Registration Hours

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Tues., Jan. 13  | 6:30 am - 6:30 pm |
| Wed., Jan. 14   | 7 am - 6:30 pm    |
| Thurs., Jan. 15 | 7 am - 6 pm       |
| Fri., Jan. 16   | 7 am - 12 pm      |

### Exposition Hours

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Thurs., Jan. 15 | 1:30 - 6:30 pm (Dessert at 1:30 pm; Reception at 5 pm) |
| Fri., Jan. 16   | 10 am - 1 pm (Lunch at 11:45 am)                       |



## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Students are welcome and encouraged to attend all conference events, including the student-only activities.

### Student Networking Session

**Wed., Jan. 14, 5:15 - 6:15 pm**

### Student Educational Track - Earn Exam Points by Attending!

**Thurs., Jan. 15, 8 - 10:45 am (See conference learning sessions)**

■ The Student Challenge Exam Demystified  
*STMA Student Challenge Committee Members*

■ The Journey and Daily Life of an MLB Groundskeeper  
*Derek Hurlburt - Pittsburgh Pirates*

■ Internships: How to Attract Interns and How to Land an Internship  
*Doug Linde, Ph.D. - Delaware Valley College*

See the conference education sessions for more information on these and other educational opportunities. Students are encouraged to attend the Student Educational Track to earn additional points on the Student Challenge Exam.

### STMA Student Challenge NEW TIME!

**Thurs., Jan. 15, 2 - 4:30 pm**

Participants receive FREE conference registration by competing in the Challenge. Undergraduates from two- and four-year institutions are eligible to compete in teams of up to four people. Graduate students are not eligible. Win \$4000 for your school! Preregistration is required and can only be completed online at stma.org.

### Student Luncheon

**Fri., Jan. 16, 12 - 1 pm**

Network with CSFMs and other industry professionals during the luncheon provided on the trade show floor. The winners of the Student Challenge will be announced following the lunch.

## FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION JUST \$375

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- Receptions and Awards Banquet



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STMA and SAFE greatly appreciate the support and commitment of our conference sponsors. Please take a moment and thank these companies in the exhibition!



### **AGRONOMIC**

**Tues., Jan. 13**

**2:30 - 5 pm**

STMA 400 - The Nuts and Bolts of Applied Nutrient Management  
*Bryan G. Hopkins, Ph.D., James Gish, CSFM, and Jessica Buss*

**2:30 - 5 pm**

STMA 401 - Turf and Weedy Grass ID  
*Tony Koski, Ph.D. and Alison O'Connor, Ph.D.*

**2:30 - 5 pm**

STMA 403 - Soils 210  
*Barry Stewart, Ph.D.*

**Wed., Jan. 14**

**9:45 - 10:45 am**

STMA 105 - How Soil Profiles and Layering Can Impact Turf and Playability  
*Doug Linde, Ph.D.*

**11 am - 12 pm**

STMA 109 - Functionality of Bermudagrass in the North  
*Pamela J. Sherratt*

**11 am - 12 pm**

STMA 112 - Turf Management Practices on High Use/High Wear Sports Fields  
*Keith Winter*

**2 - 3:15 pm**

STMA 117 - Who's your Mother? Bermudagrass Selections and Cultivars for Sports Fields  
*Beth Guertal, Ph.D.*

**3:30 - 5 pm**

STMA 122 - Sports Turf Management in the Transition Zone  
*Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D. and Cale A. Bigelow, Ph.D.*

**Thurs. Jan. 15**

**8 - 9:15 am**

STMA 201 - Innovation in Action  
*Ryan Bjorn*

**9:30 - 10:45 am**

STMA 210 - Understanding, Assessing, and Managing Shade Stress Problems  
*John Sorochan, Ph.D.*

**Fri., Jan. 16**

**1:30 - 3 pm**

STMA 309 - Winterkill  
2013-2014 In Review: Causes and Recovery  
*Cale A. Bigelow, Ph.D., Michelle DaCosta, Ph.D., Jason Henderson, Ph.D., Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D., Pamela J. Sherratt, and Barry Stewart, Ph.D.*

### **PEST CONTROL**

**Tues., Jan. 13**

**2:30 - 5 pm**

STMA 402 - Bermudagrass Culture and Disease Management in the Upper Transition Zone  
*Lee Miller, Ph.D. and Brad S. Fresenburg, Ph.D.*

**Wed., Jan. 14**

**9:45 - 10:45 am**

STMA 106 - Insect Management for Early Career Sports Turf Managers  
*David Shetlar, Ph.D.*

**11 am - 12 pm**

STMA 111 - Resisting the Resistance: Preventing and Managing Herbicide Resistant Weeds  
*Jay McCurdy, Ph.D.*

**3:30 - 5 pm**

STMA 124 - Advanced Weed Control for Athletic Field Turf  
*Gerald Henry, Ph.D. and Jared A. Hoyle, Ph.D.*

### **WATER**

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**Tues., Jan. 13**

**2:30 - 5 pm**

STMA 404 - ET, Irrigation Efficiency, Water Management, and Conservation  
*Brent Mecham*

**Wed., Jan. 14**

**2 - 3:15 pm**

STMA 114 - Soil Water Repellency and Wetting Agent: Introduction and Newest Updates  
*Xi Xiong, Ph.D. and Mica McMillan*

**3:30 - 5 pm**

STMA 120 - Improving Water Efficiency: Take the Million Gallon Challenge!  
*Brad Jakubowski*

## **CEUs AND PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION CREDITS**

Many organizations recognize the caliber of STMA education and are awarding CEUs! CEUs will be available through ASBA, GCSAA, IA, NIAAA, NRPA, PGMS, and PLANET. Pesticide Recertification credits will only be available for Colorado.

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**Fri., Jan. 16**  
**10 am**

STMA 304 - Using Soil Moisture Meters to Make More Informed Irrigation Decisions  
*Shane Conroy*

**11 am**

STMA 306 - Surfactant Effects on a Municipal Sports Field  
*Alexander Duffly*

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Wed., Jan. 14**

**9:45 - 10:45 am**

STMA 101 - Successful Employee Documentation: From Hire to Fire  
*Carole Daily*

**11 am - 12 pm**

STMA 107 - The CSFM Process Demystified  
*Tim VanLoo, CSFM*

**3:30 - 5 pm**

STMA 119 - Find the Best  
H. Dann Harris  
*Thurs., Jan. 15*

**8 - 9:45 am**

STMA 204 - Motivate the Best  
*H. Dann Harris*

**9:30 - 10:45 am**

STMA 207 - K-12 Turf Manager Wanted - Do you have what it takes?  
*Rich Watson*

**9:30 - 10:45 am**

STMA 211 - Balancing Work and Family  
*Lisa Goatley and James Michael Goatley, Jr., Ph.D.*

**Special Professional Development Sessions Dedicated To Students and Sports Turf Managers:**

**Thurs., Jan. 15**

**8:35 - 9:35 am**

STMA 212 - The Journey and Daily Life of an MLB Groundskeeper  
*Derek Hurlburt*

**9:45 - 10:45 am**

STMA 213 - Internships: How to Attract

Interns and How to Land an Internship  
*Doug Linde, Ph.D.*

**SYNTHETIC**

**Wed., Jan. 14**

**9:45 - 10:45 am**

STMA 102 - Synthetic Turf: No Maintenance Required?  
*Troy Carson*

**2 - 3:15 pm**

STMA 116 - Your Synthetic Turf Field From Conception to Grave  
*Michael Tarantino, CSFM and Jim Cornelius, CSFM*

**Thurs., Jan 15**

**8 - 9:15 am**

STMA 203 - Performance of Bermudagrass vs. Synthetic Turf: What Does the Research Say?  
*Adam Thoms*

**Fri., Jan. 16**

**1:30 - 3 pm**

STMA 308 - Unique Applications in Synthetic Turf: A Panel Discussion  
*Darian Daily, Eric Fasbender, CSFM, Don Follett, Abby McNeal, CSFM, Andrew S. McNitt, Ph.D., and Adam Thoms*

**FACILITY MANAGEMENT**

**Wed., Jan. 14**

**9:45 - 10:45 am**

STMA 103 - Three Keys to Managing High Traffic Turf - The National Mall  
*Michael Stachowicz*

**2 - 3:15 pm**

STMA 113 - Lightning - What We Do (and Don't) Know  
*Troy M. Kimmel, Jr.*

**2 - 3:15 pm**

STMA 115 - Introduction to the New Health Care Laws  
*To Be Announced*

**2 - 4:30 pm**

STMA 118 - Cultural Practices & Guidelines for Low Budget Athletic Fields  
*Brad S. Fresenburg, Ph.D.*

**Thurs., Jan. 15**

**8 - 9:15 am**

STMA 200 - What I've Learned...19 Seasons

in Professional Baseball  
*Larry DiVito*

**8 - 9:15 am**

STMA 202 - Groundskeeping in Professional Soccer, Managing Turf/Expectations in the MLS  
*Weston Appelfeller, CSFM*

**9:30 - 10:45 am**

STMA 208 - How to Successfully Execute More Special Events on Your Field  
*Luke Yoder*

**9:30 - 10:45 am**

STMA 209 - Maintenance Schedules for Soccer - Is there such a thing?  
*Philip Michael Sharples*

**Fri., Jan. 16**

**8 - 10 am**

STMA 300 - MLB Panel  
*Larry DiVito, Derek Hurlburt, Stephen Lord, John Turnour, and Luke Yoder*

**8 - 10 am**

STMA 301 - MLS Panel  
*Weston Appelfeller, CSFM, Ryan Bjorn, Phil McQuade, Allen Reed, CSFM, Philip Michael Sharples, and Kevin White*

**8 - 10 am**

STMA 302 - NFL Panel  
*Darian Daily, Chris Ecton, Don Follett, Allen Johnson, CSFM, Tony Leonard, Andrew S. McNitt, Ph.D., and Jay Warnick, CSFM*

**8 - 10 am**

STMA 303 - Beyond the Big 3 - Managing Facilities for the "Other" Sports  
*Matt Anderson, CSFM and Tim VanLoo, CSFM*

**CONSTRUCTION**

**Wed., Jan. 14**

**9:45 - 10:45 am**

STMA 104 - Managing Surface Conversions for NFL and MLS in a Multi-Use Stadium  
*Patrick Maguire*

**3:30 - 5 pm**

STMA 123 - In-Season Field Renovations and Conversions  
*Steve Bush, CSFM, CFB and Derek York*

**Fri., Jan. 16**

**10:30 am**

STMA 305 - 2 Hour Infield Renovation

*Mike Hebrard*

## **INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS**

**Wed., Jan. 14**

**8 - 9:30 am**

STMA 100 - Opening General Session

The Emergence of the Natural and Synthetic Hybrid System

*James Graff, Jason Berning, and John Sorochan, Ph.D.*

Yup, There's an App for That

*Barry Stewart, Ph.D.*

Is Frazee Mowing Right for Your Field?

*Chris Hilmes*

Winterkill 2013-2014

*Cale A. Bigelow, Ph.D.*

**11 am - 12 pm**

STMA 108 - Social Media: Building Content,

Increasing Engagement

*Glenn Gray*

**11 am - 12 pm**

STMA 110 - New Trends and

Technology in Sports Turf

*Representatives from STMA*

*Commercial Companies*

**Thurs., Jan. 15**

**8 - 9:15 am**

STMA 205 - Advancing Turfgrass Knowledge Through Science: The 'Grass Roots' Initiative and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program

*Geoffrey Rinehart*

**Fri., Jan. 16**

**11:30 am**

STMA 307 - Using Insight Tools to Drive Decision Making Technology

*Bruce Jump and Aaron Johnsen*

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

**Wed., Jan. 14**



**3:30 - 5 pm**

STMA 121 - Best Management Practices for

Pesticide-Free, Cool Season Athletic Fields

*Jason Henderson, Ph.D. and Victoria Wallace*

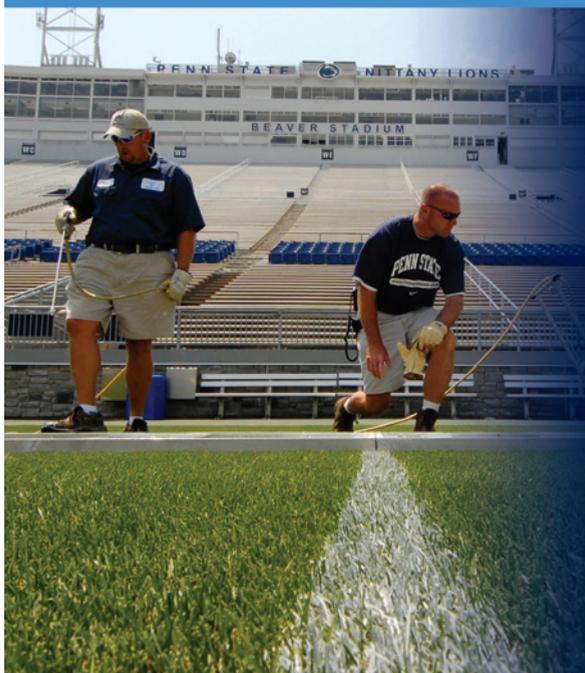
**Thurs., Jan. 15**

**9:30 - 10:45 am**

STMA 206 - Reducing Your Inputs

*TJ Brewer, CSFM*

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## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Seminar on Wheels Tour

**Tues., Jan. 13 Full day tour, 7 am - 5 pm**

*University of Colorado –  
Boulder // Boulder*

■ Tour will include Folsom Field, Dal Ward Athletic Center, the Football Practice Fields, and Bubble.

■ Folsom Field, home of the Colorado Buffaloes football team, has hosted a variety of other sporting events, including an NCAA women's lacrosse game and club men's lacrosse games.

■ Built in 1924. Dal Ward Athletic Center opened in 1991, in the north end zone of Folsom. Natural grass system was installed in 1999.

*J5 Equestrian // Littleton*

■ Tour of the 15 acre Columbine Equestrian Center includes two indoor

arenas, one outdoor arena, stables, corrals, and boarding facilities.

■ Tour of The Polo Reserve polo fields includes two full size 10-acre fields, one 3-acre practice field, half mile exercise track and maintenance facilities. The fields are Kentucky Bluegrass and Perennial Ryegrass mowed at  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and are played at least twice weekly during the growing season.

*Infinity Park // Glendale*

■ Construction on Infinity Park began in March of 2007 and was completed on Sept 7, 2007. First game was played Sept 8, 2007.

■ Rugby is the main sport played on the pitch. In addition, a number of community events and parties are hosted at the location.

■ Tour will include a look at two fields:

the main pitch in the stadium as well as a synthetic playing surface.

■ Glendale will be the home to the World Rugby Hall of Fame. Rugby is the second most popular sport in the world and played in 126 different countries.

*Lakewood Memorial Field // Lakewood*

■ Maintained by Jeffco Schools Athletic Department.

■ Built in 1973. Renovated in 1999 and again in 2014.

■ Sports played: high school boys/girls soccer and college men's/women's soccer.

■ First Xtragrass field in the United States. Installation took place June 2014 (83,000 sq/ ft).

■ Xtragrass is a synthetically reinforced natural grass playing surface.

■ Hosted 60+ soccer games between late August 2014 – late October 2014.

■ Field grown in with a mixture of RPR and HGT.

*Sports Authority Field  
at Mile High // Denver*

■ Sports Authority Field at Mile High, previously known as Invesco Field at Mile High, opened in September 2001 and is the home facility for the Denver Broncos NFL team. The facility also hosts lacrosse, soccer, concerts, special events, and college football games.

■ Sports Authority Field seats 76,125 and was the third largest facility in the NFL in 2013.

■ The field is comprised of 88,000 sq. ft. of perennial rye grass cut at  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

■ Approximately 20-21 miles of heat pipe on 9" centers helps regulate temperature. The field features a hydronic soil heat system that is 10" deep.

■ A 8,800 square foot big screen is the centerpiece of a \$30 million dollar upgrade.

*Seminar on Wheels Tour*

**Fri., Jan. 16 Half day tour, 1 - 5 pm**

Dicks Sporting Goods Park // Commerce City

■ Dick's Sporting Goods Park field com-

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# John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

*Can you identify this sports turf problem?*

**Problem:** Circular area of brown turf  
**Turfgrass area:** Football Field  
**Location:** Massachusetts  
**Grass Variety:** Ryegrass Bluegrass Mix

**Answer to John Mascaro's Photo Quiz on Page 23**



Background illustration courtesy of istockphoto.com

## Industry's Fastest Drainage System



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— Seth Thibodeaux  
Head Baseball Coach



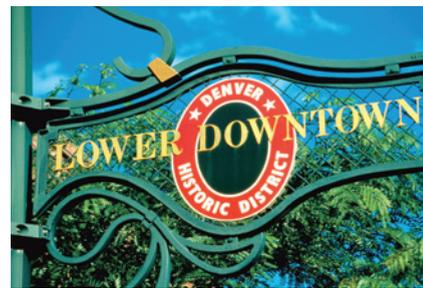
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plex consists of 24 full-size, fully-lit sports fields, including 22 natural grass and 2 synthetic turf fields.

- Home to the professional soccer team the Colorado Rapids, one of Major League Soccer's (MLS) ten charter clubs.

- DSG Park hosts several camps, clinics, national tournaments and international events throughout the year. The complex also serves as the home of the Colorado Rapids Soccer Academy and the Arsenal Center of Excellence.

- The stadium seats approximately 18,000 people and opened in 2007.

- DSG Park's field is comprised of Kentucky Bluegrass

### *Coors Field // Denver*

- Coors Field is the home field of Major League Baseball's Colorado Rockies.

- Named for the Coors Brewing Company, which purchased the naming rights to the park prior to its completion in 1995.

- The Rockies played their first two

seasons, 1993 and 1994, in Mile High Stadium before moving to Coors Field.

- Coors Field is the first major league park with an underground heating system.

- First baseball-only National League Park since Dodger Stadium was built in 1962

### *CSFM Testing*

**Tues., Jan. 13, 3:30 - 7:30 pm & Sat., Jan. 17, 8 am - 12 pm**

Pre-qualification and pre-registration by Dec. 15 is required for those who wish to take the exam. If you test on Tuesday and do not pass all of the sections, you may be able to retest on those sections on Saturday. To find out if you qualify for the certification program, call STMA at 800-323-3875.

### *ASBA Testing*

**Sat., Jan. 17, 8 am - 1 pm**

The American Sports Builders Association (ASBA) offers three certifications for field builders and will be conducting these tests

during the STMA conference. To find out if you qualify to test, go to sportsbuilders.org or contact ASBA, ph. 866-501-2722. The deadline to apply to test is Dec. 15. Those testing must register for the STMA conference, purchasing a one-day package at a minimum.

### *Chapter Officers Training (COTS) - NEW TIME!*

**Fri., Jan. 16, 3 - 5 pm**

Chapter board members are invited to a networking reception and training session. Hear ideas on chapter growth and sustainability.

### *Women's Forum Lunch*

**Wed., Jan. 14, 12 - 2 pm**

Pre-Registration Required - See Registration Form

Celebrating its eighth year, all women at the conference are invited to participate



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## LIST OF EXHIBITORS

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|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p><b>ADS, Inc.</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>125</b></span><br/> <b>Hilliard OH</b><br/>                     Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., the largest manufacturer of HDPE drainage pipe, provides solutions for residential projects to highway drainage. With a product line that includes AdvanEDGE®, ADS PolyFlex™ and Nyloplast® products look no further than ADS for the best in golf course drainage solutions all designed to ensure maximum playability after the storm.<br/> <a href="http://www.ads-pipe.com">www.ads-pipe.com</a></p> | <p><b>Aer-Flo, Inc.</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>124</b></span><br/> <b>Bradenton FL</b><br/>                     Aer-Flo, Inc. manufactures unique sports covers, including patented Wind Weighted® Baseball Tarps and Bench Zone™ Sideline Turf Protectors.<br/> <a href="http://www.aerflo.com">www.aerflo.com</a></p> | <p><b>AerWay By SAF-HOLLAND</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>735</b></span><br/> <b>Surrey BC</b><br/>                     AerWay is an innovative world leader in the manufacture of soil aeration equipment for agriculture, golf courses, sports fields, orchards and vineyards. Safety, durability, economical operation and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources are all hallmarks of AerWay-The Original.<br/> <a href="http://www.aerway.com">www.aerway.com</a></p> | <p><b>American SportWorks</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>112</b></span><br/> <b>Fort Wayne IN</b><br/>                     American SportWorks, with over a million vehicles sold to date, is the largest manufacturer of Utility Vehicles sold through the lifestyle markets. From heavy duty commercial jobs to basic homeowner applications, our UTVs are built for work, versatility and enjoyment, with a price point that makes the dream a reality.<br/> <a href="http://www.amsportworks.com">www.amsportworks.com</a></p> | <p><b>Aquasmart Enterprises Global</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>400</b></span><br/> <b>Waterville OH</b><br/>                     Aquasmart is a premiere water retention product holding 12 times its weight in water.<br/> <a href="http://www.aquasmartglobal.com">www.aquasmartglobal.com</a></p> | <p><b>Aquatrols</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>219</b></span><br/> <b>Paulsboro NJ</b><br/>                     Products that help to improve and maintain your root zone environment.<br/> <a href="http://www.aquatrols.com">www.aquatrols.com</a></p> | <p><b>AstroTurf</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>231</b></span><br/> <b>Dalton GA</b><br/>                     The innovator of the synthetic turf industry, since 1965. Vertically integrated in manufacturing, construction, installation and service.<br/> <a href="http://www.astroturfusa.com">www.astroturfusa.com</a></p> | <p><b>AgSource Harris Laboratories</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>1131</b></span><br/> <b>Lincoln NE</b><br/>                     AgSource Harris Laboratories is the oldest and most experienced independent soil, plant tissue and water testing laboratory, providing a full- range of turf testing services. AgSource Harris Laboratories has been conducting testing services for all 50 states and 38 foreign countries since 1958.<br/> <a href="http://www.harrislabs.agsource.com">www.harrislabs.agsource.com</a></p> | <p><b>Bannerman LTD</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>510</b></span><br/> <b>Rexdale Ontario Canada</b><br/>                     Aeration equipment, large turf rollers, topdressing machines, infield groomers, wet and dry liners, overseeding equipment and turf combs.<br/> <a href="http://www.sportsturfmagic.com">www.sportsturfmagic.com</a></p> | <p><b>Barenbrug USA</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>511</b></span><br/> <b>Tangent OR</b><br/>                     Barenbrug's innovative programs of research and turfgrass development are designed to provide varieties that afford the highest level of sports turf performance. Our RPR Regenerating Perennial Ryegrass and HGT Brand of wear tolerant Kentucky bluegrasses are recent top innovations in sports turf performance.<br/> <a href="http://www.barusa.com">www.barusa.com</a></p> | <p><b>Bayer Crop Science</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>907</b></span><br/> <b>Research Triangle Park NC</b><br/>                     Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the fields of health care, agriculture and high-tech materials. This year the company is celebrating 150 years of Bayer – consistent with its mission "Bayer: Science For A Better Life". In the area of sports turf management, Bayer CropScience has a broad portfolio of products to control weeds, disease, nematodes, and turf damaging insects.<br/> <a href="http://www.backedbybayer.com">www.backedbybayer.com</a></p> | <p><b>Beacon Athletics</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>505</b></span><br/> <b>Middleton WI</b><br/>                     Supplies soil amendments, field maintenance equipment, custom netting, padding, windscreens and more.<br/> <a href="http://www.beaconathletics.com">www.beaconathletics.com</a></p> | <p><b>Broce Manufacturing</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>1117</b></span><br/> <b>Norman OK</b><br/>                     The Broce Turf Boss is the first sweeper built specifically for the synthetic turf industry. We have been making sweepers for over 50 years.<br/> <a href="http://www.broceturfboss.com">www.broceturfboss.com</a></p> | <p><b>Buffalo Turbine</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>306</b></span><br/> <b>Springville NY</b><br/>                     Since 1945, Buffalo Turbine has used "Turbine Technology" with our vast number of blowers and sprayers.<br/> <a href="http://www.buffaloturbine.com">www.buffaloturbine.com</a></p> | <p><b>Burnside Services, Inc</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>815</b></span><br/> <b>Navasota TX</b><br/>                     We are a family owned and operated athletic field construction company built on integrity, productivity and quality. We have specialized in all types of high quality field construction for over twenty years.<br/> <a href="http://www.burnside-services.com">www.burnside-services.com</a></p> | <p><b>Bush Turf</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>1009</b></span><br/> <b>Milan IL</b><br/>                     Bush Turf provides three dimensional field construction, renovation and design.<br/> <a href="http://www.bushturf.com">www.bushturf.com</a></p> | <p><b>C &amp; H Baseball, Inc.</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>1023</b></span><br/> <b>Bradenton FL</b><br/>                     C &amp; H Baseball is the industry's leader in new stadium construction netting and field equipment. Supplying and installing field wall padding, wind-screen, barrier nets, batting tunnels and artificial turf. We have successfully become a "one-stop" shop for all of your stadium needs.<br/> <a href="http://www.chbaseball.com">www.chbaseball.com</a></p> |
| <p><b>All-American Sports Material</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>107</b></span><br/> <b>Milliken CO</b><br/>                     All-American Sports Material is your preferred supplier for sports field materials, golf course sands, premium topsoils and pathway products. We are dedicated to producing the very best quality and providing the absolute best service for your projects.<br/> <a href="http://www.allamericansportsmaterial.com">www.allamericansportsmaterial.com</a></p>   | <p><b>Allett USA</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>100</b></span><br/> <b>Aiken SC</b><br/>                     Allett mowers manufacturer high quality mowing &amp; maintenance systems for level surfaces are important.<br/> <a href="http://www.allett.co.uk/">http://www.allett.co.uk/</a></p>                            |   |  |   |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |  |  |

# John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

Answers from page 19

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

This newly constructed athletic field was specified for a sandy soil rootzone mixture to be installed; however the subcontractor installed a landscape loam material instead. The field began to experience drainage and compaction issues so the school called in a sports turf specialty contractor to do a custom drainage project with a vibratory deep sand injection machine to incorporate 2.0 mm sand into the sports field's soil profile in addition to topdressing and aerifying the playing surface. The field had been surveyed by the local utility company for any buried utility, gas, or water lines before the sand injection and certified "Dig Safe." However while aerating the sidelines of the field, the operator noticed a circular, very hard brown spot. Knowing about previous items that

were buried in the field, the operator cut through a section of the new sod and discovered this manhole cover that apparently had been sodded over during construction. This wasn't the only item found and fortunately no one was injured when the sand injection machine cut through a buried high voltage electrical box, barely missing the wires. The area had been marked for buried items but the markings were 10 feet away from the actual box. During the renovation, the crew also discovered large stones 2-3 inches below the surface that merely stopped the tractor in its place.

*Photo submitted by Ryan McGillivray who is employed by Sports Turf Specialties, Inc., in Wrentham, MA.*



If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 call (850) 580-4026 or email to [john@turf-tec.com](mailto:john@turf-tec.com). If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of SportsTurf magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.



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[www.cgcfields.com](http://www.cgcfields.com)

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**CoverSports USA 310**

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[www.coversports.com](http://www.coversports.com)

**Dakota Peat & Equipment 534**

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[www.dakotapeat.com](http://www.dakotapeat.com)

**Desso Sports Systems 537**

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**Diamond Pro 601**

**Arlington TX**

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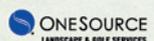


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## University of Maryland

### Dr. J. Kevin Mathias reports:

As the winning 4-year school at the 2014 STMA Student Challenge, the University of Maryland is using the \$4,000 award from SAFE to enhance student instruction for the lab component of a course titled "Surveying and GPS Applications in Agriculture."

Currently the University of Maryland offers a 2-year academic certificate and a baccalaureate program in Turfgrass Management. The two-year program added a Sports Turf Management option in 2009. The major emphasis of the 2014 SAFE award was to further enhance field labs for assessing field hardness and field moisture conditions on athletic fields using GPS and GIS technology. In order to accomplish this, we purchased an additional Field Scout penetrometer and soil moisture meter that will be used to assess intramural field conditions on the University of Maryland campus.

One of the major goals of this course is to expose students to different instruments that can assess field conditions and then tie these devices to GPS units. GIS software is then used to allow a visual display of data that

provides important insight for field management decisions. For example based on student field studies on several of the intramural fields this past year a geo-spatial map was developed which showed excessive field compaction at the 4-inch depth.

Based on this lab activity field manager Alex Steinman, Sports Turf Manager for Intramural Fields, used this information to schedule a sub-soil aeration using a Verti-Quake unit. Alex commented that the GPS-GIS data logging and visual data display of this student lab exercise allowed him to make an informed decision on the type of aeration equipment needed to solve their sub-surface compaction problem.

As an educator it is extremely rewarding to see how new technology is introduced to students in various course work at the University of Maryland and then implemented within the workplace. The commitment of SAFE to promote safe, playable, and sustainable athletic fields by awarding such grants has enhanced our sports turf educational program at the University of Maryland over the past 2 years and we are extremely thankful for this support.

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# Uncertain times FOR PUBLIC RESEARCH

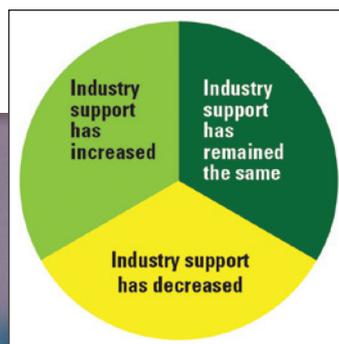
Given the applied nature of turfgrass research, the private sector will have to shoulder more of the responsibility for keeping universities focused on turfgrass

**"Publish or perish" is the long-standing mantra in academia.** This statement has long served as the motivator for most university professors to keep their productivity up or find themselves looking elsewhere for employment. Not stated in that quip are the necessary ingredients to generate those publications. Today the game has changed and "grants, graduate students and publications" are the measures of success in colleges and universities. But, not just any will suffice—the source of the grant funding, the ultimate placement of the graduate student and the "quality" of the journals in which articles are published are now the metrics used to evaluate professors.

## BIG GRANTS REQUIRED

Grants with high rates of indirect costs (IDC) are preferred, often demanded, by university administrators. Federal grants are preferred (and expected at some universities) because their IDC rates can be as high as 50%. This means that if a researcher submits a federal grant for \$250,000 through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), for example, only \$125,000 is actually available to the scientist to conduct the research. The other \$125,000 remains with university administrators and is used to

bridge the shortfall between state allocations to the university and the cost of doing business. The costs result from shared services, such as physical plant operation and maintenance, utility costs, sponsored projects administration, and depreciation or use allowance for buildings and equipment.



The problem for turfgrass scientists is that most turfgrass research is "applied," meaning that the science has practical application, such as determining production inputs for sod production. Conversely, "basic" science focuses on gaining knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of a system (i.e., gaining an understanding of how genes code for a particular protein).

Generally, applied research does not qualify for state or federal competitive research grants, making it almost impossible for turfgrass scientists to obtain large, high IDC-generating grants. Additionally, turfgrass is not considered "food or fiber," further moving it down the scale of importance in the eyes of those reviewing grant proposals. An exception in recent years is the USDA-NIFA Specialty Crop Research Initiative where turf is specifically referenced in the request for proposals. Research on turfgrass breeding and sod production systems using municipal biosolids has been funded recently through this grant program.

Applied sciences generally are funded by state commodity groups and industry associations, many of which are incorporated as not-for-profit [501(c)3] associations. These groups historically have disallowed paying IDC to universities, but



▲ Bryan Unruh, associate director of the University of Florida's West Florida Research and Education Center, surveyed turfgrass faculty from across the United States for perspectives on what some call a "brain drain" from traditional turfgrass teaching, research and Extension programs.

some are adapting. For example, The Lawn Institute allows IDC (rate not stated), but prohibits paying university faculty salaries.

Similarly, the recent United States Golf Association (USGA) request for proposals states, "Overhead and administrative costs shall be held to an absolute minimum, but will not exceed 16 percent. The USGA will not support overhead or administrative costs for grants of \$10,000 or less." Other industry groups have yet to adapt. The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, does not allow IDC.

Each university has its own policy on what it will or will not accept. At the University of Florida, central administration "charges" the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station 11 percent for *all* grants, meaning that any grant with IDC less than 11% actually costs the experiment station. These costs are taken from the IDC pool, which essentially means that funding entities that agree to IDC are covering for those who will not pay the IDC. These are real dollars with real accounting principles applied; it's not just a money trail seen on paper.

### FACULTIES REPORT REDUCTION IN UNIVERSITY SUPPORT

While grants are increasingly difficult to obtain, a concurrent reduction in support from universities is also being felt. In a recent survey of turfgrass faculty from across the United States conducted as part of preparing for this article, 63% of respondents indicated that their institution's financial support had decreased in the past five years while 19% indicated their support had remained the same. More than 81% of respondents indicated a reduction in operating dollars and three out of four turfgrass professors have seen cuts to their technical support staff funding. Two-thirds also reported that their travel budgets were reduced.

### NOT ALL SCIENCE JOURNALS COUNT

Scientific journals are now judged and given an "impact factor," which is a measure of the relative importance of a journal. Journals with large circulation generally have higher impact factors than those where turfgrass scientists publish their applied research results.

## Unfortunately, very few academic positions have become available in recent years, and the number of students vying for those positions is high.

*Applied Turfgrass Science*, a science journal for turfgrass practitioners, does not even have an impact factor. This has caused some scientists to avoid publishing in that outlet. Journals with low impact factors are viewed negatively and turfgrass scientists are discouraged from publishing in them. Turfgrass producers ultimately miss out by not receiving high quality, practical information generated from scientific research studies.

### DIFFICULTY FUNDING GRAD PROGRAMS

A third area of concern involves the placement of graduate students following completion of their degrees. Graduate student placement is being scrutinized by some

university administrators wanting to see other universities hiring their students.

Unfortunately, very few academic positions have become available in recent years, and the number of students vying for those positions is high. Additionally, many universities no longer provide tuition waivers or graduate assistantships. Consequently, university researchers must secure grants to cover the full cost of their graduate students. These costs range from \$80,000 for a Master of Science student to nearly \$200,000 for a PhD student.

Considering the fact that most commodity groups and industry associations cap their grants at \$5,000 to \$30,000, it is increasingly difficult to fund graduate student education in today's academic environment.



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### CHANGE IN DIRECTION

The changing climate in academia is causing some university professors to consider other options for employment. Wishing to remain within academia, some turfgrass faculty have abandoned their “turf roots,” and are working in areas where funding opportunities are greater (e.g., research in bioenergy crops). This allows them to obtain the high IDC-generating grants to fund their programs. Other university faculty have found that administrative positions provide salary enhancement and the opportunity to no longer worry about having to “publish or perish.”

The previously mentioned survey revealed that nearly one-half of university professors have considered career opportunities beyond academia. Reasons given for considering such a move generally relate to higher salaries paid to those outside of academia (many university faculty are state employees and have not seen salary increases in several years due to the economic downturn); the constant push to chase elusive grant dollars; low morale within academic institutions; and a desire for new challenges. Couple these departures with normal faculty attrition, due to retirements, etc., and today there are fewer turfgrass faculty than in prior years. All of these faculty departures from traditional turfgrass teaching, research and Extension programs have led to what some are calling a “brain drain” in academia.

Eric Miltner was not necessarily looking to leave Washington State University (WSU). However, he was becoming increasingly frustrated with WSU’s shift away from the applied sciences to more basic sciences. Now an agronomist with Agrium Advanced Technologies, Miltner shared that “he has the opportunity to use his skills to move the science one step closer to the end-user, the turfgrass manager.”

Similarly, Rob Golembiewski left the N.B. and Jacqueline Giustina Professorship in Turfgrass Management, an endowed position at Oregon State University, when he was afforded an opportunity with Bayer CropScience. The big draw to Bayer was the opportunity to remain an educator in the turfgrass industry and be closer to his siblings when he relocated to Columbus, OH. Golembiewski stated that, “Working for Bayer gives me the opportunity to teach and educate turf managers” (just as he did at Oregon State) but from a different perspective.

Not all academic faculty departures lead to the “brain drain.” An excellent example is the void created when Lane Tredway who, after 10 years in academia, wanted new career challenges. He left North Carolina State University (NCSU) for Syngenta. “Due to the strong university-industry relationship in North Carolina, the university recognized the importance of the [turf pathology] program, maintained the two full-time staff members in place and quickly filled the faculty position with a very capable young scientist, Jim Kerns. As a result, the program has not missed a beat and has continued to provide valuable support to the industry,” Tredway said.

But, the NCSU example is not the norm. Vacated faculty positions often lay dormant, sometimes for years, as administrators gobble up salary savings or divert those dollars toward filling positions from industry partners who are shouting louder than others and making their needs known.

### IMPACT OF INDUSTRY PARTNERS

University administrators look to those industry partners that “put their money where their mouth is” by providing valuable research dollars or making generous donations, and those faculty position requests move to the top. When an industry fails to provide support, their voice is diminished,” Tredway noted. “Universities want to hire faculty that will create economic impact by bringing in big federal grants, creating marketable intellectual property or directly supporting a major industry. The industry must be prepared to document its direct economic impact to justify a faculty position to support it.”

Frank Wong experienced some significant frustrations concerning funding and the direction of the turfgrass program at the University of California, Riverside (UC, Riverside). Much of that frustration came from the economic implosion that California faced starting in 2008. Ultimately, Wong’s decision to leave UC, Riverside was for personal reasons. He and his wife (who has a PhD in Plant Biology) had agreed they would go wherever both could get good jobs and start their family. They ended up having nice opportunities on the East Coast; his wife at the US EPA, and he with Bayer CropScience.

When waking up every day to go to work at a job that no longer brings joy and fulfillment, it is time for a change. Otherwise, bitterness and weariness creeps in which leads to difficult and troubling times both personally and professionally.

### YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

In the survey of turfgrass faculty, the following question was asked, “Has your state’s turfgrass industry support of your program increased, decreased or remained the same in the past 5 years?” The responses were roughly equal: about one-third felt support had increased; one-third said support has remained the same; and one-third stated their industry’s support had decreased.

Given the applied nature of turfgrass research, the private sector will have to shoulder more of the responsibility for keeping universities focused on turfgrass. Wong said that “a research and Extension program needs something in the ballpark of \$250,000 to \$500,000 a year to fund staff and [graduate] student salaries, equipment and facilities to have a meaningful impact. Multiply that by a pathologist, agronomist, soil scientist, weed scientist, entomologist and a plant breeder, and that will tell you how much support the university needs from the outside to help fund a successful program.”

University turfgrass programs are quickly coming to a crossroad. Will they continue to exist or will they fade away? The answer to this question resides with the turfgrass industry. Will the industry renew its commitment to support academic turfgrass programs by reinvigorating their membership to tackle the funding challenges? Or, will they allow these university programs to fade into obsolescence? ■

*J. Bryan Unruh is professor & associate director, West Florida Research & Education Center, University of Florida.*

This article was reprinted with permission from the July/August issue of Turf News, a publication of Turfgrass Producers International.

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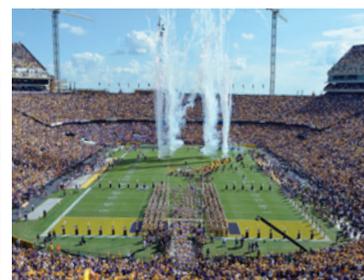
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▼ **Left:** Auburn University creates a VIP gourmet dinner on the field on select Fridays before home games. **Middle:** The field at Oklahoma University's Gaylord Family Memorial Stadium. **Right:** Game time in Baton Rouge.

**H**otty toddy! War Eagle! Roll Tide!

All of these chants are synonymous with college football in the Southeastern Conference (SEC), which is receiving landmark television coverage this fall through a new ESPN agreement.

The SEC Network launched August 14 to a projected 75 million subscribers and provides unparalleled access to an already powerful conference. In total, the channel will air 45 football games, 100 men's basketball games, 60 women's basketball games and others from the SEC's 21 annual sports, totaling more than 1,000 live events.



▶ **Eric Fasbender, CSFM**, Assistant Director for Facilities and Grounds at Louisiana State University.

Does the additional coverage create added pressure for members of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) at SEC schools?

One person who knows exactly what this stress surmounts to is Eric Fasbender, CSFM, Assistant Director for Facilities and Grounds at Louisiana State University (LSU) and STMA member since 2001.

Fasbender and his team are responsible for preparing Tiger Stadium and its 120 yards of Celebration bermudagrass, which is no small feat. Before each home game, the field's end zone, logos and yard line markings are re-painted, along with the "Tiger Eye" at midfield. The LSU turf crew carefully paints the field twice to ensure the colors pop on game day.

The Tiger Eye is crafted with the skill and care of a master artist. It is a complex project accomplished by layering white, purple and gold. Including drying time, the task takes more than 2 hours. Fasbender paints the Tiger Eye every week, noting "it is the only part of the field that we do not use a stencil."

While painting the field tends to garner the most commentary from Tiger fans, Fasbender and his crew are more concerned about the field's playability and safety of the players, coaches and referees. When rain is in the forecast, the field is aerated for ease of drainage and a thin layer of sand is applied to aid in traction for the players. Fasbender even walks the field in his socks Friday afternoons before home games to feel how the natural grass will perform.

For collegiate level turf grass managers, game days are the first priority but college football stadiums have evolved into multi-use facilities. For example, Auburn University hosts several events on the natural grass field at Jordan Hare Stadium. It has been the site for concerts, graduation ceremonies, autograph sessions, movie nights, television commercials and, most recently, Café Jordan Hare.

Café Jordan Hare is a unique fan experience to Auburn. The university creates a VIP gourmet dinner on the field on select Fridays before home games. Setup includes tables, chairs, leather couches, serving lines, bars, grilles and even a jazz band. Eric Kleypas, the Director of Turf and Landscaping for Auburn University Athletics, noted the most challenging part was "ensuring they were able to move all the furniture and food on and off the field without damaging the natural grass."

Eric's turf crew goes the extra mile around home games to give the Auburn fans a more intimate experience with the historic field. It adds work hours and pressure to his job but he enjoys the satisfaction die-hard fans receive with the up-close and personal experience.

But it's not just the SEC that feels the extra pressure of added events and television time. Jeff Salmond, CSFM, Director of Athletic Fields for the University of Oklahoma, has been dealing with the critical eye of television crews for seven years as a member of the Big 12 Conference.

The Big 12 created its own TV network in 2007 with FOX Sports and has approximately 52 million subscribers in North America.

"You're on display for national audiences, for recruits and for fans that come and walk through the stadium," says Salmond,

STMA's current Secretary / Treasurer. "The joy is at the end of the game and seeing how the field has performed."

Salmond and his eight-man staff manage all the University of Oklahoma's athletic fields. The most visible and important work is inside Gaylord Family Memorial Stadium, where the football team competes on Saturdays. In addition to painting the field before every game, the Sooner turf crew monitors the field's hardness, measured on a numeric scale called Gmax.

Gmax is calculated by dropping a weight onto the field and noting how fast it stops after hitting. A higher Gmax equals a quicker stopping rate, which equals a harder surface. The National Football League requires all fields to be below 100 Gmax but the NCAA does not have similar requirements.

Salmond holds his staff to the NFL's standard. In addition to producing a visually-appealing field for millions of TV viewers and game day attendees, Salmond takes pride in the safety and condition for participating players.

In the era of high-definition TVs and endless media coverage, sports turf managers face increasing scrutiny. The goal of providing the safest and best conditioned field possible remains the same. Fasbender, Kleypas and Salmond are just a few of the superior turf managers working on college campuses across the country. ■



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# Tools & Equipment

For more information on these and other products, please visit [www.greenmediaonline.com/productportal](http://www.greenmediaonline.com/productportal).



## Monument: control of winter weeds

Monument herbicide is an excellent choice for post-emergence control of winter annual weeds such as henbit, chickweed, wild garlic, parsley piert, rescuegrass and *Poa annua* in bermudagrass and zoysiagrass sports fields. With both foliar and soil activity, Monument is less temperature-dependent than other herbicides for quicker control of winter weeds. Monument can also be tank-mixed with Barricade herbicide on non-overseeded bermudagrass from mid-October to mid-November for pre- and early post-emergent control of *Poa annua* and rescuegrass. A 5-gram packet of Monument is available for broadcast applications. Five individual 5-gram packets are contained in the 25-gram labeled package, which offer greater value to you when treating areas larger than 2,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. For backpack spot applications, Monument is available in single-dose 0.5-gram packs. Syngenta supports a FIFRA Section 2(ee) recommendation\* for a use rate of 0.5-grams per two gallons of water to treat up to 2,000 ft<sup>2</sup>.

**Syngenta**



## Pro-Tech launches Turf Pushers

Pro-Tech Manufacturing and Distribution, Inc. has introduced its newest product offering, the Turf Pusher, a containment plow that can clear snow from turf sports fields. This new product line will solve the challenges that sports field managers face when trying to clear snow in a safe and effective manner. Highlights: smoothly glides over turf and field covers with minimal disruption to the crumb rubber; sideplates minimize snow spillage and decrease the need for multiple passes; can stack snow resulting in less piles and more surface area cleared; multiple connection types available for small track machines and tractors; no moving parts, which minimizes repairs and maintenance; allows customers to provide year round access to their sports fields and minimizes disruption to scheduled sporting events.

**Pro-Tech Manufacturing & Distribution, Inc**



## GreensGroomer LitterKat now featuring durable vibrators

An innovative manufacturer of synthetic turf grooming equipment has partnered with a pioneer of industrial vibration to improve reliability and reduce maintenance on its turf sweepers. In a move to extend the company's mission of engineering the most functional and durable designs in the turf care industry, GreensGroomer WorldWide specifies a matching pair of Cougar DC-80 12V Vibrators from Martin Engineering on every LitterKat Synthetic Turf Sweeper. Unwanted materials inevitably end up on the field, such as wrappers, grip tape, shoe spikes, leaves, etc. The old style turf required an industrial vacuum to clean it. But the rubber granules in today's surfaces would be easily picked up with a vacuum, and redistribution would be complicated. An effective turf grooming system solves that problem.

**GreensGroomer**



## New tailgate spreader

Engineered to spread free-flowing ice-melting materials with ease, the new TGS 300 Tailgate Spreader from BOSS Snowplow is designed for SUVs and light-duty trucks. The TGS 300 Tailgate Spreader features a 200-pound, 3 cubic-foot capacity. Variable speed control with blast feature and overload protection makes the TGS 300 easy to use. A hard poly cover keeps moisture out. The TGS 300 is powered by a 12-volt electric high-torque motor for consistent performance, reliability and durability. The BOSS line of TGS spreaders also includes the TGS 600, 800 and 1100.

**BOSS Products**

## ASBA publishes *Indoor Sports Surfaces* manual

The American Sports Builders Association has published the 2014 edition of *Indoor Sports Surfaces: An Installation and Maintenance Manual*. The book is written for potential owners and managers of sports facilities, as well as for anyone in the sports construction industry. It includes user-friendly technical information on all aspects of indoor surfaces for various sports, including design, budgeting and planning, site requirements, surface selection, construction, maintenance, repair, amenities and accessories and more. In addition, it includes diagrams, photos, governing bodies and sources for further information.

The new publication includes multiple enhancements, including: Updated technical information taking into consideration the latest developments in the industry; a new chapter on indoor track and field facilities; a new chapter on the use of telescopic and fixed bleacher seating with indoor flooring; expanded information on court markings and diagrams to ensure accurate sizing and placement of lines for sports facilities; lists of various testing organizations.

**American Sports Builders Association**

## Gallery SC specialty herbicide now in liquid formulation

Dow AgroSciences announces Gallery SC specialty herbicide, a new, convenient liquid formulation. Now available in 49 states, the easy-to-use suspension concentrate formula provides excellent plant tolerance and long-lasting preemergence control of more than 95 species of broadleaf weeds. Gallery SC is easy to pour and measure, and the new 2-gallon packaging greatly reduces handling, rinsing and disposal. Applied at a rate of approximately 1 quart per acre, Gallery SC in the 2-gallon jug will cover 8¼ acres using a single container. Gallery SC is available in two convenient package sizes — 1 quart and 2 gallon.

**Dow AgroSciences Turf & Ornamentals**

## New soil surfactant pellets

Underhill International introduces new soil surfactant pellets, Tournament-Ready Plus with Actosol, to help prevent and cure localized dry spots in "hydrophobic soils" at sports fields, parks and other natural turf areas. By improving the infiltration rate, Tournament-Ready Plus with Actosol allows more efficient irrigation coverage and reduces hand-watering. Hydrophobic soils repel water and do not allow it to infiltrate down to the root zones, causing dry patchy areas. The pellets are used to supplement turf that has poor moisture-holding capacity by increasing water absorption onto soil particles. Featuring a blend of natural ingredients and surface-active agents, including humic and fulvic acid and micronutrients, Tournament-Ready Plus with Actosol modulates water movement laterally and vertically into the soil profile for up to 14 weeks after treatment.

**Underhill**



## New topdresser from TurfTime Equipment

TurfTime Equipment's new TT 2430 Advantage topdresser is becoming a contractor and manager favorite for synthetic and natural turf. Designed to spread material faster than competitors, the industry's largest eight paddle spinners distribute material evenly up to 50 feet wide. With two simple adjustments, an operator can drop 6 ft. baseline. The large hopper with sideboard option accommodates 2000 lb bags of infill mix for synthetic fields. These heavy-duty topdressers are built on durable two or four-wheel chassis, and come with several power options.

**TurfTime Equipment**



## Whisker plugs and field line anchors

Here's an effective tool for identification of sports field and boundary intersections using a whisker plug and steel field line anchor. The zinc plated field insert provides a durable permanent location while the 6 inch nylon string marking whisker plug helps to quickly identify the location. The masonry whisker plug can be quickly removed for sports activities or left in place during mowing operations. Installation is quick when using a 1 inch diameter soil auger or bit and inserting the field line anchor 6 inches. The whisker plug is easily inserted into the steel anchor while exposing 3 inches of the marking whisker that is mower safe. Alternatively, the whisker plugs can be buried directly into turf and infield locations by first creating a 3/4 inch pilot hole 3-4 inches in depth, inserting whisker plug, then covering the pilot hole. Trim the whiskers to a desired height using a side cutting tool. Whiskers come in white or orange.

**Tru Mark Athletic Field Markers**



## Turfco's new Torrent Blower gives you better control

Turfco's new patent-pending Torrent Blower delivers high-velocity, high-volume airflow with a new level of control for year-round productivity. Superintendents and grounds managers now have greater command over air speed, air direction, noise management and fuel consumption. Answering the call for more control, Turfco developed a new wireless, handheld controller to adjust blower functions and multiple air-speed settings. The controller allows the operator to dial in the exact nozzle direction for unprecedented precision. Faster nozzle rotation speed dramatically increases productivity, because operators won't need to slow down to wait for the blower at the end of each pass. The controller is also equipped with a unique idle/resume button enabling users to idle down the machine when bystanders are near and quickly resume operation at their original setting when the area is clear.

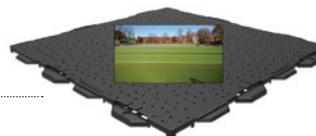
**Turfco Manufacturing**



## Better synthetic turf base

UltraBaseSystems Champion is the result of innovative engineering while listening to the economic demands of an enthusiastic industry. UBS Champion provides scientific approaches the base replacement industry has come to expect from UltraBaseSystems panels. UBS Champion delivers the safety performance expected from a shock pad, the high volume drainage expected from a drain system and the structural superiority of a compacted base, all in one complete package. Measuring the same area as the UBS Standard panel yet weighing 40% less, this .75 inch panel is built for safety, strength and performance and priced to impress. Install UBS Champion for a lifetime or remove it in a day, you never lose your investment with UltraBaseSystems.

**Innovative Base Technologies LLC**



## New Redexim Turf Cutter 610

The new Redexim Turf Cutter 610 is a revolutionary implement that cleanly cuts sod for repairs in lawns, fairways, sports field, and nursery applications. The machine can be used to cut a variety of turf types and to precisely shave the last bit of soil at your work site to prep a clean bed and move existing turf to a new location. The Turf Cutter 610 is a PTO driven machine that can be used with a compact tractor or a Redexim Carrier. The low levels of vibration created by the Turf Cutter cause almost no fatigue to the operator, allowing projects to be completed more quickly and efficiently than the competition. The adjustable angle on the Turf Cutter 610 allows use in all types of grass and the belt drive makes it simple to maintain. The Turf Cutter 610 is an innovative implement which makes a great addition to any turf manager arsenal at an affordable price.

**Redexim North America**



# THE JUNGLE, LOUISA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL,

## Mineral, VA

**Category of Submission:** Schools/Parks Soccer  
**Sports Turf Manager:** Michael Hopkins (now retired)  
**Title:** Turf Grass Science Instructor/Sports Turf Manager  
**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education  
**Experience:** My excavation company has been building sports fields for the past eight years in collaboration with a local turf grass consulting firm. In 2009, I also transitioned from teaching Ag Mechanics to teaching Turf Grass Science at Louisa County High School and as a result, took over management of the athletic fields. I joined the STMA in 2009 as well. I have found that the annual conferences and many of the local field days and events have given me the

information necessary to improve my performance as a sports turf manager. The help that I have received from other members and from the educational workshops has made a huge difference in the quality of our fields and in the instruction that I give to my turf students. In 2011 I won Football Field of the year.

- **Full-time staff:** None
- **Part-time staff:** Advanced Turf Science Class known as "The Jungle Turf Crew"
- **Original construction:** 1995
- **Rootzone:** Native soil
- **Turfgrass variety:** Patriot Bermudagrass
- **Overseed:** We are overseeding this year with 25 lbs. of rye grass per 1000 sq. ft., 1/2 in mid Sept., spot seed high traffic areas in October and seed the rest after football season. I have found that the best

way to incorporate it into the Patriot Bermuda is to run the slicer and or aera-vator over the field first, then dethatch with a tine dethatcher, seed, then run a cultipacker over it to make good seed to soil contact. I have found with Patriot that the mat is so tight and thick it is hard to get good germination without some type of mechanical incorporation. I have also learned to overseed the high traffic areas prior to each game instead of waiting until after the game. By doing this I can use "foot" compaction to achieve good seed to soil contact. With overseeding it is better to be proactive than reactive. That means I need to be seeding about two weeks ahead of when I want the field to look good for a game.

- **Drainage:** Crowned with a 1.5% slope with side drains

### WHY STMA SHOULD CONSIDER YOUR FIELD A WINNER?

I am sure there are other fields across America that are just as deserving as "The Jungle" in quality of turf and looks, but I believe we have some unique aspects to our program that make us stand above the competition.

The first reason we deserve this honor is that even though I oversee the field maintenance and game prep, most of the day to day work is done by the students in my two Turf Science classes. The Advanced Turf Science class has been named the "Jungle Turf Crew" because their main responsibility is the stadium and baseball field, while the first year classes maintain the practice fields and softball field. These students do everything from picking up trash, to running and maintaining the equipment, to laying out and performing all of the painting duties on the field. They go far beyond their normal class responsibilities by working many hours outside of class time on the fields during game weeks.

This has given all of these students, many of whom don't normally excel in school, a real purpose and something to have real pride in at school. Consequently over the years, this has been the deciding factor in many of my students pursuing careers in the turf industry. Two years ago, six of my former students were enrolled at VA Tech in either the two or four year turf program. Two alumni of the Jungle Turf Crew have been active in STMA while they were students at Virginia Tech, competing in the Student Challenge and receiving STMA scholarships. They are both now employed in the turf industry. Being a small public high school, we don't have the luxury of a large budget, so by saving money on labor we are able to focus more on agronomic practices. Plus since we use our athletic fields as labs for our students, we can focus on using and teaching the best practices available.

Please also need consider the situation that we are presently faced with. "The Jungle" has always been known as the place to see

great sports and witness side shows like fire-works, sky divers, a real lion and a fire breathing lion constructed out of metal, just to name a few. It took on a totally new meaning on August 23rd, 2011 when a 5.8 earthquake struck our school causing it to be condemned and subsequently torn down. After sharing the Middle School on alternate days for 4 months, our entire school was shifted to trailers which will be our home until the new school is built. The only structure and area not affected by all of this chaos was our stadium, also known as "The Jungle" (our mascot is a lion). "The Jungle" is now the only place big enough to hold school-wide and community events so our field has become a focal point of school and community pride.

"The Jungle" was a "good" football field when I started as turf manager in 2009 (it was renovated in 2006 with Patriot Bermuda). We took that field during the fall season and made it a "great" field to play on. The Jungle Turf Crew motto was "Going from Good to Great" from 2009 through 2011. Where we have



## Equipment list

- SToro 4500 Reelmaster
- Toro 5500 Reelmaster
- DK 45 Kioti tractor
- Vicon broadcaster spreader
- Tuffline spreader
- 2 push mowers
- pull behind cart
- 60" roller
- 10' cuiltpacker
- 2 52" sweepers
- 4 Graco Field Lazer line painters
- Flat bed trailer
- 48' tooth drag
- 2 Scag rotary mowers
- Powerliner 5000 paint sprayer
- Cub Cadet mower
- John Deere mower
- 4 Workman carts
- Shatter tine aerator
- Core sweeper
- Tine detacher
- Slicer aerator
- 4 Stihl string trimmers
- 2 backback blowers
- Toro sprayer

made an even bigger difference is in the spring season. Before 2009, we didn't oversee or manage the field very intensely in the spring. We have since tried to put as much focus on soccer as football. As seen from the pictures, the Jungle Turf Crew spends a great deal of time before each soccer game striping, painting logos, and attending to all the little details that have made our soccer field as great as our football field.

It is because of these reasons I believe we should be considered for Soccer Field of the Year.

*Editor's note: Following Michael Hopkins' retirement, his teaching position was assumed by Adrian Austin, and she responds to our questions below.*

**SportsTurf:** What channels of communication do you use to reach coaches, administrators, and users of your facility? Any tips for communicating well?

**Austin:** I personally prefer speaking directly with coaches and administrators, but also use email, phone calls and texting for communication. In my particular situation, it can be challenging to make sure everyone is on the same page since I am technically the field manager and have two athletic directors (one for the middle school and one for the high school), two principals (one for the middle school and one for the high school, who is a former LCHS AD) and a very involved assistant superintendent (another former LCHS AD) who I work closely with. I am very lucky to have these former athletic directors, who understand some of the details related to field management, on staff who look out for our program. I try to attend as many sporting events as possible, to support the coaches and team members and keep that feeling of "fam-

ily" alive in our school. I also make it a point to seek out coaches to see if there is anything the Jungle Turf Crew (JTC) can do help with their field needs or they will come to me if they have a request.

**ST:** What are your specific responsibilities? What is your favorite task? Least favorite?

**Austin:** My main job responsibility is teaching at LCHS, specializing in turfgrass, landscaping and floral design. One of my favorite parts of the job is being able to manage and lead the JTC, our student grounds crew, which currently consists of 15 juniors and seniors (12 boys and 3 girls). They do everything from mowing, weedeating, seeding, painting, servicing equipment, trash removal, goal maintenance, game day prep, etc. Nothing makes me happier than sitting in the stadium stands on a Thursday afternoon with the JTC, soaking up all of the hard work and effort put into the field that week for a Friday night game in "The Jungle."

I would have to say my favorite responsibility is a toss up between mowing and painting. My least favorite responsibility is dealing with some of the stress that is associated with the job, mainly due to Mother Nature and when she decides we can and can't work on fields. I tell my students all the time that I don't decide when we work on the fields, Mother Nature does. We check the weather daily and keep an eye out for adverse weather situations and try to plan accordingly.

**ST:** How did you get your start in turf management? What was your first job?

**Austin:** For the past 8 years, I have been an agricultural educator. I earned my BS (Agriculture Extension Education) and my MS (Horticulture with a concentration in Landscape Contracting) from Virginia Tech. During the first 7 years of my career, I had very little experience as a hands on turf manager, teaching Introduction to Turfgrass & Advanced Turfgrass Applications at a different high school. My students and I were limited when it came to what we could actually do on the fields. When I changed school systems and became employed by Louisa County High School in the summer of 2013, my role changed quite a bit. I am still an agricultural educator, but also have a dual role as field manager of the high school and middle school complexes (consisting of seven game and practice fields, all natural grass). I guess you could say, this is my first true sports turf job and I'm loving every minute of it!

**ST:** What changes if any are you considering or implementing for the winning field in 2014?

**Austin:** Louisa County High School has been fortunate to win FOTY for soccer and football. As far as changes, we did fraze mow the stadium this past summer and are seeing tremendous results across the board. We are planning to eventually enter our baseball field for FOTY and we follow a similar management plan on baseball, as we do for football/soccer.

**ST:** How do you see the Sports Turf Manager's job changing in the future?

**Austin:** I feel like the turf industry is ever changing, so managers' jobs follow suit. With the addition of so many synthetic fields these days, managers who maintain those complexes have already had a huge change in their normal turf responsibilities. It is my hope that people pay more attention and appreciate the efforts of turf managers and their crews. ■

*STMA would like to thank Carolina Green, Ewing, Hunter Industries and World Class Athletic Surfaces for their continued support of the Field of the Year Awards Program.*

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## STMA introduces its 2015 slate of candidates

**T**he STMA Nominating Committee introduces the 2015 slate of candidates each year to the membership. The Committee conducted a “call of interest” of the membership this summer, spent September developing the slate, and presented the slate to the STMA Board of Directors at its Fall Board meeting in October.

The election ballot will be distributed electronically to voting members in mid-November, and the voting process will close at midnight December 12. STMA has an SOP in place if there is a tie for any of the offices, although it has never had to implement it.

The outcome of the Secretary/Treasurer race determines STMA’s future president, and that person will ascend unopposed to President-Elect next year. All vacancies will be filled by appointment of the 2015 President.

**Immediate Past:** David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, Town of Lexington, Lexington, MA

**President:** Allen Johnson, CSFM, Green Bay Packers, Green Bay, WI

**President-Elect:** Jeff Salmond, CSFM, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

**Commercial VP:** James Graff, Graff’s Turf, Ft. Morgan, CO

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Jeffrey Fowler, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Franklin, PA, or Timothy Van Loo, CSFM, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

**Professional Facilities:** Phil McQuade, Dicks Sporting Goods Park, Commerce City, CO, or Dan Bergstrom, Houston Astros, Houston, TX

**Higher Education:** Vacant due to Tim Van Loo slated in Secretary/Treasurer; to be appointed by the President

**Schools K-12:** Andrew Gossel, Covenant Christian High School, Indianapolis, IN, or Bobby Behr, CSFM, Ashley Ridge High School, Summerville, SC

**Academic:** Vacant due to J. Fowler slated in Secretary/Treasurer-To be appointed by the President

**Commercial Director:** Doug Schattinger, Pioneer Athletics, Cleveland, OH or Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, Luck Stone Co., Ruckersville, VA

**At-Large (Elected):** Jimmy Simpson, CSFM, Town of Cary, Cary, NC (Parks & Rec) or James Bergdoll, CSFM, Elizabethtown Sports Park, Elizabethtown, KY (Parks & Rec)

**At-Large (Appointed):** To be appointed by the President.

**Parks and Recreation:** Sarah Martin, CSFM, City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ (not up for election)

The Nominating Committee is chaired by the Immediate Past President, James Michael Goatley, Jr., Ph.D. Members of the Committee include Abby McNeal, CSFM, Andrew McNitt, Ph.D., Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed. CSFM, CPRP, Dale Getz, CSFM, Darian Daily, Don Savard, CSFM, Don Scholl, CSFM, Jody Gill, CSFM, Lynda Wightman, Mary Owen, Mike Andresen, CSFM, and Troy Smith, CSFM. ■

By Kenzie Jay

## A Celebration of 20 Years

**A**ccording to the dictionary, a pioneer is best described as a person who is among those who first enter or settle a region, thus opening it for occupation and development by others. As the year comes to an end, the SAFE Foundation wants to celebrate our very own pioneers. These individuals made the plunge 20 years ago to apply for a scholarship that was still fairly new. Little did they know they were helping to pave the way for successful scholarships and growth for years to come.

Earlier this year, we had the opportunity to talk to scholarship recipients celebrating their 10-year anniversary since receiving their SAFE scholarships. The SAFE Foundation, STMA’s charity, is honored to have the opportunity to provide scholarships for individuals aspiring to be in the industry. Since its inception in 2000, the SAFE Foundation

has given more than \$225,000 in scholarships and travel reimbursement to more than 120 students. This month, we’re toasting to those who received their scholarship 20 years ago. We caught up with them to see where they are now, and learn about how the scholarship and their experiences got them there.

### Where are they now?

With 20 years under their belt, these SAFE scholarship recipients know their way around the block, and have some awesome jobs to prove it.

We caught up with Abby McNeal, CSFM, in the midst of moving. A Colorado State University grad, McNeal is making a transition back to the Mountain State. After serving as the director of athletic turf



Abby McNeal, CSFM



Dan Bergstrom, CSFM



John Pridgen

for Wake Forest University in North Carolina for the past 4 ½ years, McNeal now is heading back to her old stomping grounds after accepting a job as assistant director of parks for the City of Denver. McNeal said she has enjoyed the past few years at Wake Forest due to there never being a dull moment.

Dan Bergstrom, CSFM, an Iowa State University grad, is the senior director of major league field operations with the Houston Astros. He claims there are too many things to mention of what he likes most about working the past 11 years with Houston, but says working for Major League Baseball is a very special thing.

Finding his love for the industry through the University of Florida athletic department and golf program and receiving his degree at Lake City Community College, John Pridgen has now gone on to be his own boss. Pridgen is the president and founder of Sportscape Services, Inc., specializing in sports field design and construction supervision in Lacrosse, FL.

### The road to success

Twenty years ago, the sports turf industry had not gained popularity of the masses, just yet. Much like today, the sports turf managers were a tight-knit group who liked to swap information, pick each other's brains and even share horror stories among themselves, just on a smaller scale. With the world as their oyster, the scholars shared with us their journey of how they got to where they are now.

Starting from a young age, McNeal knew she liked working with plants and wanted an outside job. With the help of her college professors, she was steered toward the turfgrass industry. After discovering she was not a big fan of golf, McNeal decided to take a swing at sports turf. McNeal found that internships and the SAFE scholarship helped confirm that sports turf was the right path.

"I did internships in college that helped solidify this is what I wanted to do," says McNeal. "The [STMA] Conference helped solidify that I found my career."

Straight out of college, Bergstrom's first job was with the NFL's Cleveland Browns. Beginning his career with the pros, Bergstrom had plenty of knowledge to transfer to his fellow comrades at his following jobs at the University of Kentucky and a baseball park in Lincoln, NE. Bergstrom is grateful to his previous jobs and opportunities for leading him to a position he has loved now for 11 years.

"I've been really lucky," he notes. "I've had some very interesting jobs."

For Pridgen, the love of the sports turf industry developed through various jobs and internships working on athletic fields. In college, he was promoted to sports turf manager of the football field. After 12 years at that position, Pridgen started his own company and became his own boss. Pridgen's company has seen much success, and has been a part of four Super Bowls and two Quarter Back Challenges for the NFL.

"We've had a lot of opportunities," says Pridgen. "[The company] started originally just doing painting, working with Disney and the NFL. As soon as we got connected to the NFL, we were flying to San Diego for the next Super Bowl to help with the NFL experience."

No matter the path you choose in the sports turf industry, these pioneers claim that the sports turf community is one of the best to work in.

### Conference talk

As some of the first students to ever attend the conference, these recipients discovered how many opportunities the STMA conference has to offer. Seen as a highlight of receiving the scholarship, the opportunity to attend the national STMA Conference provides a huge educational advantage for students. In addition to a financial scholarship, each winner's conference registration is paid for and each receives travel reimbursement for their stay. When talking about the sports turf industry, nothing beats the camaraderie found at the STMA Conference.

"I've attended every conference since 1996. It's like a family reunion," says McNeal. "I truly value and appreciate all the people I know and appreciate seeing them every year."

STMA's Annual Conference & Exhibition allows members to network and share information with other successful members of the sports turf industry. The Conference attendees also participate in educational seminars and hands-on workshops and are able to tour professional, college and municipal athletic facilities.

"The STMA Conference is a one stop shop for our industry," adds Bergstrom. "It's the best show in our industry. Anybody who wants to get into our business, this is the place to start."

### Scholarship

Scholarships are awarded every year to students who have excelled in not only sports turf knowledge, but also within the classroom and among their peers and advisors. SAFE looks into such factors as academic achievement, accumulative grade point average and experience within sports turf management when assessing applications. SAFE recognizes that turf professors and mentors are the lead drivers of students toward our scholarship.

"My turf professor at the time knew of STMA and heard of the scholarship program. [The professor] encouraged me to apply," says McNeal. "At the time, I didn't know what STMA was."

Although STMA was just beginning to make its mark across the country twenty years ago, the recipients found that applying was well

worth it. Pridgen explains that the scholarship application process is easy and the encouragement gained from receiving the scholarship keeps you focused.

“Make sure that this is what you really want to do. Don’t just do it for the money,” he adds. “I like people who are passionate about the industry to get the benefits.”

By awarding scholarships, SAFE hopes to further encourage the academic success of individuals as well as provide positive recognition of their accomplishments. Dan Bergstrom discusses how receiving the scholarship could jump start your future.

“I was recognized by the university. It gave me more positive reinforcement that I was heading down the right path and doing things

well,” says Bergstrom. “It certainly helped mold my future.”

Twenty years later, and we are still glad to hear that our scholarships have made an impact on recipients’ lives. Whether they found their passion for sports turf management through college, scholarships or experience, the SAFE Foundation appreciates all that they have done to keep fields safe for our communities. Not only do we appreciate our courageous pioneers who took the chance at applying for a scholarship twenty years ago, but also to all of our members who graciously support and donate to help us fulfill our mission to enrich communities through championing safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes. ■



## DOC'S DUGOUT

This photo is a tribute to our past and recognizes the commitment of Dr. Kent Kurtz, STMA's Historian, to document our history.

Four STMA members convert Old Milwaukee County Stadium in 1988 for a Green Bay Packers game. L: to R: Harry Gill, David Mellor, Bernie Rupp, and Gary Vanden Berg. The Packers played half of their pre-season and regular season games at Milwaukee County Stadium. In 1960, they signed a 35-year contract with the NFL to play half of their home games in Milwaukee for fan support from the Milwaukee/Chicago area.

## STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

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

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

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**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)

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

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**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)

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T  School, College or University P  Park  
H  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)**

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## Q&A with Dr. Grady Miller

Professor, North Carolina State University

**Questions?** Send them to Grady Miller at North Carolina State University, Box 7620, Raleigh, NC 27695-7620, or email [grady\\_miller@ncsu.edu](mailto:grady_miller@ncsu.edu). Or, send your question to David Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011 or email [dminner@iastate.edu](mailto:dminner@iastate.edu).

# Part-time field?

*So what are field renovation options that we can do ourselves to keep the costs very low?*

— North Carolina

**C**atawba Valley Community College faculty Jimmy Abernathy was asked to address this question for a fall NC-STMA meeting. Jimmy is not just an instructor at a community college. He also operates his own turf care company in addition to taking care of the college's athletic fields. So when Jimmy is not teaching, he can often be found working on campus fields and in the community. Since he practices what he preaches, he was a great resource to answer this question.

We all know there are many different approaches to renovating athletic fields. The extent of a renovation is usually based on a combination of the existing field condition and the availability of funds. Almost every field manager dreams of standing on their troubled field with a pocket full of money as they talk to their certified field builder sitting on an idling bulldozer ready for action. Most wake up from that dream realizing they will be tackling the renovation job in-house with a limited budget.

Whenever the renovation requires that all the existing vegetation be removed and soil pushed around, it is a big job. Big equipment and knowledge on how to use it, combined with chemicals for plant removal plus soil amendments, irrigation, drainage, fertilizer, and new grass can push a renovation budget up into the six figures.

At this NC-STMA Chapter meeting, Jimmy highlighted several low-cost options for long- and short-term renovations using pictures from jobs he has personally com-

pleted. The two least expensive options he presented intrigued me. One of them in particular—"the ryegrass renovation" continued to have me thinking well after the meeting. So I thought I would share renovation concepts he presented with *SportsTurf* readers.

Jimmy mentioned that in his experience a lot of troubled fields are overrun with weeds but still have patches of decent bermudagrass. It may be a common or a hybrid type of bermudagrass, but it is still a surviving strain of bermudagrass. Considering this situation, Jimmy's suggestion was to take inventory of what is growing on the field during the active growing season (grasses, weeds, sedges, etc.) and then formulate a plan of how to get rid of the undesirable weeds. If you are doing this yourself and are not comfortable with pesticide selection or use, then solicit help from a person or company that can work with you.

Once the field has been cleared of weeds, push the existing bermudagrass with increased fertility. With nighttime temperatures in the 60s bermudagrass will spread very quickly. But if the bare ground open areas are large after removing weeds, then targeted seeding, sprigging, plugging, or sodding bermudagrass in some of those areas may be necessary. Something as simple as using a shovel to extract chunks of grass from the sidelines to transplant in the middle of bare areas can be very inexpensive and effective at speeding up total field coverage. This renovation method would benefit fields used in the fall or spring.

If in-ground irrigation is not available then laying pipe on the surface combined with salvaged heads from various sources, may be used to supplement rainfall. Often permission can be granted from the local

municipality to attach this temporary system to a nearby fire hydrant for the grow-in.

The least expensive renovation he described was a "ryegrass renovation." It was the one that really got my attention. This method is designed to provide a quality field for just the springtime of the year (may also have limited benefit for fall use). While this may seem counterproductive, I began to see its significance during his presentation. Most of our K-12 schools and community colleges do not use their fields in the summer. In some cases these fields are not even maintained during these off-months. With summer being the primary growing season for bermudagrass, without some fertilization and routine maintenance, these fields can easily degrade and become a weed patch.

When school starts in the fall, the unruly field is scalped down very low. This is often harsh enough to take care of many of the broadleaf weeds and some of the crabgrass. Then perennial ryegrass seed is spread and established in the stubble. Using irrigation will enhance establishment if the fall is dry. Today's perennial ryegrasses are hardy and make a super attractive playing surface. The remnant weeds and bermudagrass serve to hold the field's soil in place until the ryegrass is up and growing. Then the field is managed intensely as a ryegrass field.

The result is an attractive, playable sports field ready for spring play for the cost of six to twelve bags of seed. It should be stressed that this renovation program will only address the turf covering the field, not any soil-surface imperfections, drainage issues, or low spots. If there are field issues that results in the field not being safe for play, then those should be addressed first. Enjoy your field. ■

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