



# Get Serious.

## Managers Association

Are you ready to get serious about the sports turf industry? Then it's time to become a member of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA).

### Who we Are

STMA is an organization of professionals representing all segments of the sports turf industry. Our members work to combine the science of growing grass and the art of maintaining sports turf to produce playing fields that are both safe and aesthetically pleasing.

### What's in STMA for You

We help you — the sports turf professional — do your job better. Here are the benefits STMA provides its members:

- ◆ An opportunity to share knowledge and expertise for better and safer sports turf areas
- ◆ A resource library of valuable technical information
- ◆ Education through the STMA National Conference and Trade Show, regional institutes and workshops
- ◆ A subscription to *Sports Turf Manager*, the STMA bi-monthly newsletter
- ◆ Facilities tours
- ◆ Support for sports turf research
- ◆ A National Awards Program
- ◆ An Annual Membership Directory to keep you in touch with your peers
- ◆ Scholarships for students with an interest in sports turf technology
- ◆ Participation in STMA Chapter meetings
- ◆ Complimentary subscription to *sportsTURF Magazine*
- ◆ Registration discounts for STMA events

Get serious about your profession. Complete the membership application below and join STMA today!

## Get Serious With STMA

### Application for Membership

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) is an organization of professionals representing all segments of the sports turf industry. Our members work to combine the science of growing grass and the art of maintaining sports turf to produce playing fields that are both safe and aesthetically pleasing.

STMA provides members with a variety of benefits, including: Education through regional institutes and conferences; support for sports turf research; facilities tours; a national awards program; access to the STMA National Conference and Exhibition; complimentary subscriptions to *Sports Turf Manager* and *sportsTURF Magazine*; and much more.

If you're serious about the sports turf industry, then it's time to become a member of STMA. Join today!

#### Member Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Business \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Category (please check one)

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional sports turf facility manager                                  | \$75  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional members from same facility                                      | \$45  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four-year colleges and universities  | \$75  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional members from same facility                                      | \$45  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other schools, parks, ext. agents, municipal                               | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional members from same facility                                      | \$30  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student  | \$20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial affiliate (U.S. or International)                               | \$175 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional members from same company                                       | \$45  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International other than commercial affiliate<br>(must be in U.S. dollars) | \$50  |

**Total amount enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose payment (check or money order) and send to:

Sports Turf Managers Association  
 PO Box 809119  
 Chicago, IL 60680-9119

For more information, contact STMA Headquarters at 312/644-6610

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For more information, call RISE at (202) 872-3860, or write to 1155 15th St. N.W., Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20005.



# sportsTURF

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1993

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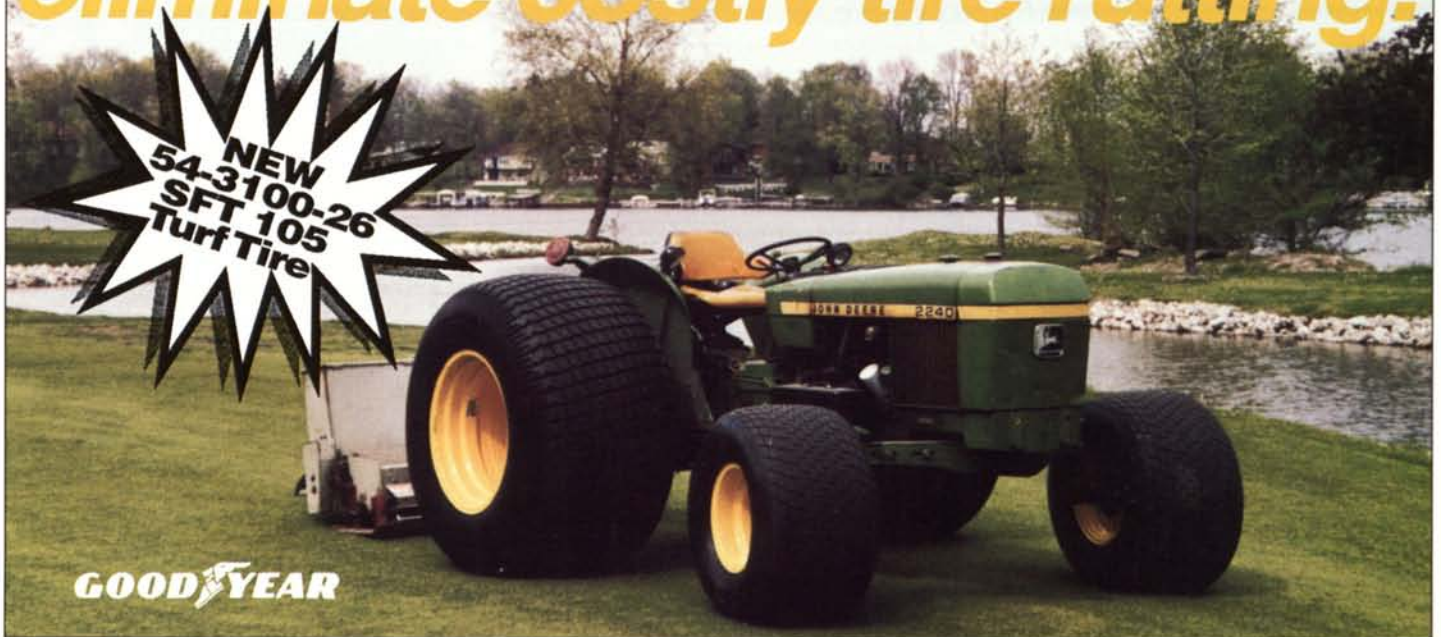
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**CORRECTION:** The cover credit was inadvertently omitted from the August issue of *sportsTurf*. The photo was of Shea Stadium and was provided by Jim Kelsey of @Beam Clay/Partac Peat.

**ON THE COVER:** *Irrigation in action prior to winterizing at Oriole Park at Camden Yards, site of the 1993 STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition. Photo courtesy: Rain Bird.*

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# THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

## Speak Up



**M**y friends who still live in Los Angeles proper refer to my neighborhood, about 35 miles outside of the city, as “Spielberg Land,” a snide and more-than-slightly jealous reference to the idyllic yet bland suburban neighborhood depicted in the movie “E.T.” It’s an easy shot to laugh off — I prefer dogs barking, the laughter of children playing, and tract houses to sirens, occasional gunshots, and endless asphalt.

There are approximately 400 homes in this neighborhood. At the center of the tract is a three-year-old park. The park is not particularly fancy — a few acres of turf dotted with young trees, a colorful play structure, and two backstops for baseball — but it is the neighborhood’s communal hub. On warm summer and fall evenings, it is filled with children on bikes and in strollers, and their parents, dogs leaping to catch frisbees and adolescent boys chasing adolescent girls.

A few months back we received a notice of a possible “cutback in services” from the county. The notice, which credited the potential cutback to state budget shortfalls, the governor, and the state legislature, explained that the park, and several others in the area, might no longer have a maintenance budget by year’s end. The “plan,” we found out at a meeting a week or so later, was to close the park and board it off from the neighborhood with plywood — the enclosed trees and turf would simply be allowed to die.

That was the extent of the county’s “plan,” to simply shut down a community asset and let it deteriorate. That was the best our caring, intelligent, forward-thinking, well-paid elected officials could come up with. Of course, services would resume if the budget dilemma was somehow magically resolved (as if renewed irrigation and maintenance could bring turf and trees back from the dead).

Our neighborhood, and the entire local community, was less-than-thrilled with the county’s plan. One of the printable suggestions that came up at the meeting was for the tract to assume the maintenance costs for the park — an idea that met with little or no resistance from the neighbors within it. Of course, the idea carried its own set of complications. Who would be liable if someone was injured in the park? Would the park, once public, be open only to tract residents, and if it was how would that be monitored? It was an imperfect idea to be sure, but at least it was creative and proactive, in crisp contrast to what the county had proposed.

The other positive development that came out of the meeting was a letter-writing campaign. The county supervisor for the area, the state legislature, and the governor have received letters of protest regarding the plan to close the park, as well as other parks in the area.

At it stands, the fate of the park remains unknown. As I understand it, the powers-that-be are looking for alternatives to closure. I don’t know what they’ll do, but I do know this: Had the neighborhood not spoken up, the park would have died a quiet death behind plywood. And it may still.

This is the current state of much of the nation’s public sports turf, of which parks are a critical segment. If we don’t speak up and fight for these vital community resources, they may be forever lost.

Matthew Trulio

# EVENTS

CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

**6-9** Sports Turf Managers Association fifth annual conference and exhibition. Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Baltimore, MD. Contact: (312) 644-6610.

**15-18** Green Industry Expo '93. Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. Contact: Green Industry Expo Management (404) 973-2019.

**16-18** Penn State Golf Turf Conference. Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, PA. Contact: Peter Landschoot (814) 863-1017.

## DECEMBER

**1-2** Turfgrass and Ornamental Pest Control Workshop. Turfgrass Technology Center, Plymouth, MI. Contact: Jeff Lefton (317) 846-7020.

**1-3** 40th Rocky Mountain Turf Conference & Trade Show. Currigan Hall, Denver, CO. Contact: (303) 688-3440.

**2-3** Arbor Expo. Valley Forge Convention Center, Valley Forge, PA. Contact: Susan Sweitzer (619) 770-4370.

**6-9** Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show. Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH. Contact: John R. Street, extension turfgrass specialist (614) 292-2601.

**7-9** Georgia Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. Georgia International Convention and Trade Center, College Park, GA. Contact: Georgia Turfgrass Association (404) 975-4123.

**14-15** Turfgrass and Ornamental Pest Control Workshop. Turfgrass Technology Center, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Jeff Lefton (317) 846-7020.

**31** Application deadline for Pennsylvania State University’s Two-Year Technical Turfgrass Management Program. University Park, PA. Contact: Turfgrass Management Technical Program, Pennsylvania State University (814) 865-8301.

Send announcements on your events two months in advance to:  
Editor, sportsTURF magazine,  
68-860 Perez Road, Suite J,  
Cathedral City, CA, 92234.  
Fax (619) 770-8019.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gil Landry, Jr.

As the popular TV commercial with Bo Jackson and comedian Dennis Leary says, "I think you hear me knocking." I think opportunity is constantly knocking at your door.



To professional sports turf managers, opportunities can materialize in mysterious ways, like the wrath of Mother Nature and/or the challenge of maintaining multiple-use facilities. These opportunities provide invaluable on-the-job experience.

I believe opportunities constantly pass us by because we do not recognize challenges as opportunities — a chance for us to excel and professionally grow. Guess what — have I got an opportunity for you!

STMA's Fifth Annual Conference and Exhibition is at Oriole Park, Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore



Orioles, November 6-9. Conference Co-chairs Greg Petry and Dr. Henry Indyk have done an excellent job creating a program with professionals such as former Oriole Pitcher Jim Palmer, Orioles Turf Manager Paul Zwaska, the legendary George Toma, Dr. Trey Rogers from Michigan State University and the Silverdome Project, Dr. Don Waddington from Penn State and Tony Burnett from the RFK Stadium just to name a few.

University facility members, maintenance professionals and park district professionals also are on-hand to discuss current industry topics such as transportable turf and integrated pest management.

There are also tours of RFK Stadium, Howard County schools, and park and recreation facilities, Towson State University Campus and Oriole Park. Our host, and the group responsible for a majority of the local arrangements, is

the STMA Chesapeake Chapter, led by Chapter President Art Downing. The chapter is also hosting a special Baltimore Harbor cruise.

Additionally, Awards, Scholarship and Auction Chairman Mike Schiller has collected some great sports memorabilia for a silent auction. If all of this is not enough to entice you, think of all the opportunities you have to visit with fellow professionals who are seeking professional and personal development.

The exhibition includes vendors displaying their products and services right inside Camden Yards. This off-beat setting is an exciting addition to our conference package.

The Fifth Annual Conference and Exhibition promises to be a special event. Respond more effectively to the opportunities surrounding your daily routine — an education awaits you this November in Baltimore. And if you can't attend the conference and exhibition, make a special effort to respond to the knocking of professional development in your area.

## STMA Chapter News

**Chesapeake Chapter: STMA** — The 5th Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition will be held November 6-9 in Baltimore at Oriole Park, Camden Yards. The Chesapeake Chapter welcomes all STMA attendees and pledges to make this the best meeting ever.

As part of this exciting event, an "Evening on the Inner Harbor — Buffet Boat Cruise" will be held. Be sure to sign up soon. It's a great way to see the city while enjoying the company of other STMA members.

For information on the chapter or upcoming activities contact the Chapter Hotline (301) 865-0667.

**The New England Chapter: STMA** — NESTMA will be co-sponsoring a session with the Connecticut Parks and Recreation Association this fall. More details on this event will be announced soon.

For information on activities or the chapter, contact Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System (508) 892-0382.

**Midwest Chapter: STMA** — Programs geared to the sports turf manager will be included among the workshops and clinics offered at the North Central Turfgrass Exposition, November 29 to

December 1, at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL. The overall program is being coordinated by the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. The Midwest Chapter: STMA is one of 10 allied turfgrass organizations co-sponsoring the Exposition.

Successful Practices for Golf, Lawn Care and Sports Turf Management will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on November 29. The program includes "Organic Compounds for Turfgrass Management," by Dr. Michael Agnew, Iowa State University; "What's New in Soil Modification?" by Dr. Peter Landschoot, Pennsylvania State University; "Inclement Weather Use," by Dr. Hank Wilkinson, University of Illinois; and "Integrated Pest Management for Golf and Sports Turf," by James Wilmott III, Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Drainage and Repair Techniques for Sports Turf is scheduled from 8:30 to 11 a.m. on November 30. This program includes "Drainage Systems for New and Existing Athletic Fields," presented by David Heiss, Turf Services/Drainage Technologies; and "Rapid Repair of High Intensity Sports Turf," by Dr. Hank Wilkinson, University of Illinois.

Four sessions of a "Back to Basics" program will be offered as part of a comprehensive educational certification pro-

gram being developed by the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, as well as other informative sessions geared to specific segments of turf industry professionals. The NCTE trade show exhibit hours are 4 to 6:30 p.m. on November 29; 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on November 30; and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 1.

For information on the North Central Turfgrass Exposition contact: Nancy Jones or Jack Lagershausen at the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, One Illinois Center, 111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60601-4298, Phone (312) 616-0800, Fax (312) 616-0223.

For information on the chapter and upcoming activities call the Chapter Hotline (708) 439-4727.

**STMA Florida Chapter #1** — For information on the South Florida Chapter, or for details on this meeting or other chapter activities, contact John Mascaro (305) 938-7477 or Ed Birch (305) 938-0217.

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association** — For information on the Iowa Chapter and its activities, contact Gary Peterson (515) 791-0765.

**Colorado Chapter: STMA** — For information on the chapter or upcoming activities contact Ron Marten, Falcon Colorado School District 49 (719) 495-3601.

By Matthew Trulio

**O**n any given frosty fall evening at Mile High Stadium in Denver, CO, stadium turf manager Tom Lujan may “tuck away” the turf for the night using a turf cover. During a rare June rainstorm this summer, Steve Wightman used a cover to help save an important game for the San Diego Padres. Last November, Scott Gaunky, grounds foreman for Mundelein High in Illinois put down a cover to protect his school’s newly sodded baseball diamond infield for the winter. He removed it in early March and within a month the Mundelein High Mustangs were playing ball.

Used in emergency, short-term, or long-term applications, turf covers and tarps are among the most versatile tools in sports turf management. Although the terms are often used interchangeably, tarps tend to have little or no porosity, which means air, water, and sunlight have a more difficult time reaching the turf. Tarps are generally used for immediate protection, such as keeping baseball diamond infields from becoming marshes during sudden downpours. Once the rain stops and the water is squeegeed off the tarp to the outfield, the game can begin or resume.

Turf covers can also be used to handle harsh weather. However, their greater porosity or permeability makes them well-suited to seeding and overseeding applications — through the “greenhouse effect” they create when placed over newly seeded ground, freshly sodded, seeded, or overseeded turf, they cut establishment time and enhance root growth.

Yet turf covers and tarps are like any other tools — use them improperly and they’ll do more harm than good. Leave a tarp on a field too long on a hot day, for example, and the turf below may burn. Store a tarp sloppily and by the time you get it out in an emergency, it may be too late. The keys to success are proper selection, timing, and handling.

### **Tarp Management at Jack Murphy**

While Southern California’s weather doesn’t often bring tarps onto the field at Jack Murphy Stadium, Wightman and his crew are always ready to go should the need arise. It’s a preparedness habit Wightman got into as turf manager for Mile High Stadium.



**In addition to reducing establishment time in sodded, seeded, and overseeded turf, turf covers can be used to promote early spring green-up. Photo courtesy: Covermaster.**

**Familiarity and practice with tarp and turf cover handling simplifies installation. Photo courtesy: Contech Construction Products, Inc.**



## **Turf Covers and Tarps: SECURITY BLANKETS**

To stay current on tarp handling procedures, the Jack Murphy crew holds tarp practices prior to the Padres’ season opener. These practices generally last four hours and include unrolling the tarp, water removal, and re-rolling the tarp.

To physically move the tarp into place over the infield, they constantly lift the tarp up and down to “pump” air underneath it. Their goal is to get the tarp on the field in approximately one minute, because if it takes much longer the tarp can become too heavy to move. A rain-soaked tarp can be twice as heavy as a dry tarp.

When it comes to tarp selection, says Wightman, weight and color are crucial. “In the southern regions of the country, where you don’t have much snow or ice, a light material of perhaps seven ounces per square yard would be suitable,” he explains. “In the colder regions of the country you might need

something as heavy as 14 ounces per square yard.”

“Remember, the darker the tarp, the hotter it gets underneath,” Wightman says. “With a dark tarp on a hot day, 15 or 20 minutes on the grass may be all it takes to burn the grass.” Wightman adds that leaving tarps on too long “sets up a situation” ideal for turf diseases.

### **Stretching Growth at Mundelein High**

While turf cover use is less than common at the high school level, Gaunky found his 90-x-90-foot Covermaster Evergreen Turf Cover indispensable in getting his sparkling new diamond through the winter. The cover is white and made from a woven polyolefin so that air, water, and sunlight can penetrate it.

“The year we built the field, I didn’t get the sod in the infield down until the middle of November,” he recalls.