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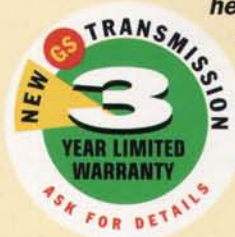
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VOLUME THIRTEEN, NUMBER TWO

FEBRUARY 1997

MAIN EVENTS

12 Constructing Fields for Peak Performance

Three sports turf specialists look at the ins and outs of multi-use fields. To succeed, those fields must be properly designed, constructed, maintained and respected.

16 Stretching the Budget

Doing more with less is a fact of life for the sports turf manager. No matter what your facility or how extensive the area under your control, there will always be a need to stretch the budget. STMA Treasurer Rich Moffitt shows how it can be accomplished while still maintaining quality turf.

20 Mower Selection Guide

Certified Director of School Facilities Angelo Ranieri shares the fruits of his many years experience selecting mowers for his school district. He has found that the process comprises six important elements.

LINE-UP

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On the Cover:

To ensure peak performance, workers install a heating system during the construction of the field at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium. Photo by and courtesy of: Jim Puhalla, Sportscape International.



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Perry's Perspective

One of the prerogatives of being *sportsTURF's* Manager of the Year is an opportunity to editorialize in "The Front Office." Never lacking for ideas, Floyd Perry, this year's Manager of the Year, came up with the following irony about the turf adults play on and what they afford their children.

Where's the Greens Committee?

At every private golf course, there's a group of playing members who take on the task of making decisions about the conditions of the turf, especially on greens. Most of the data that leads to changes and repairs generally comes from members that play the course and have complaints about the surface, usually after missed putts.

Golf is a game where no one falls, is tackled, slides or sprints upon the surface. Golfers just strike or roll a ball.

Isn't it interesting that many of those same men and women have children playing on some of the worst athletic turf and ignore the well being of their children's knees, elbows and ankles? Are those parents thinking that no one will get hurt on a wet, slippery, unplayable field? Are they thinking that the turf will just bounce back on its own for the next game, practice or sport?

I wonder what the golf pro and greens committee would do if golf carts and foot traffic ruined the playing surface of the course for the next week, month or season!

A common reason for the disparity between golf turf and children's athletic fields is that, at private golf courses, greens committees are formed because members pay dues. But don't those same dues-paying members pay local taxes, and shouldn't they take enough of an interest in their children's athletic turf to direct some of those funds?

It would make a difference. In 1996, one local school board asked me to evaluate all of their high schools' football game and practice facilities. Of the fourteen high schools, two were excellent, seven were good, three were fair, and two were unplayable. The nine that were excellent or good had improved the turf's quality by spending booster club monies over the school board's minimum funding. The five fields with below average turf and uneven surfaces spent their extra funds in other areas and didn't place stock in the suggestions of those who cared about the turf.

Where is the greens committee for high schools and recreation fields? They are sitting in the stands paying taxes and witnessing their sons and daughters playing on uneven, non-turfed surfaces. When is that greens committee going to react to this kind of abuse? Maybe never or maybe after a crippling injury to one of the playing members, their children.

What do you know that can be baked, frozen, trampled, starved, overfed, dehydrated, saturated, compacted, cut too short, not cut at all, sliced, probed, smothered, painted and kicked, but still survive? It's athletic turf. But it can't take too much of any of those conditions without some help from a greens committee.

February

11-12 "The First Step to Behavior-Based Safety™," two-day training seminar for training in behavioral methods for accident prevention. Charlotte, NC. Contact: Behavioral Science Technology, Inc. Phone: (800) 548-5781 or (805) 646-0166. Fax: (805) 646-0328. E-mail: bstojai@bscitech.com. Web site: www.bscitech.com.

18-20 Landscape Personnel Management and Technical Education Winter Seminar, sponsored by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. Lisle, IL. Contact: Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. Phone: (630) 932-8443.

19-20 "The First Step to Behavior-Based Safety™," a seminar for training in behavioral methods for accident prevention. Dallas, TX. Contact: Behavioral Science Technology, Inc. Phone: (800) 548-5781 or (805) 646-0166. Fax: (805) 646-0328. E-mail: bstojai@bscitech.com. Web site: www.bscitech.com.

24-25 Turf and Grounds Exposition II. Holiday Inn, Suffern, NY. Contact: NYSTA. Phone: (800) 873-8873 or (518) 783-1229. Fax: (518) 783-1258.

25-26 Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School. Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL. Contact: Ron Cornwell. Phone: (618) 692-9434. Fax: (618) 692-9808.

25-27 Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference and Trade Show. Monroeville, PA. Contact: Pennsylvania Turf Conference. Phone: (814) 863-3475. Fax: (814) 863-3479.

25-28 Twenty-eighth Annual International Erosion Control Association Conference and Trade Exposition. Nashville, TN. Contact: International Erosion Control Association. Phone: (970) 879-3010. Fax: (970) 879-8563. E-mail, ecinfo@ieca.org. Web site: <http://www.ieca.org>.

26-28 National Truck Equipment Association's SUPERSHOW VIII. Commercial Truck and Equipment Exposition. Charlotte, NC. Contact: Joan Christophersen. Phone: (800) 441-6832 or (810) 489-7090. Fax: (810) 489-8590.

March

3 "The Microbiology of Turfgrass Soils," an educational seminar cohosted by the Alabama Golf Course Superintendents Association and the GCSAA. Birmingham, AL. Phone: (800) 472-7878.

3 "Irrigation System Operation and Principles of Design," an educational seminar cohosted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of South Dakota and the GCSAA. Sioux Falls, SD. Phone: (800) 472-7878.

4 "Personal Stress Management," an educational seminar cohosted by the North Michigan Turf Managers Association and the GCSAA. Gaylord, MI. Phone: (800) 472-7878.

4 North Carolina State University and the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina sponsor the second annual Turfgrass Conference. Asheville, NC. Contact: Turfgrass Council of North Carolina. Phone: (910) 695-1333. Mail: P.O. Box 289, Southern Pines, NC 28388.

4-5 "The First Step to Behavior-Based Safety™," two-day training seminar for training in behavioral methods for accident prevention. Houston, TX. Contact: Behavioral Science Technology, Inc. Phone: (800) 548-5781 or (805) 646-0166. Fax: (805) 646-0328. E-mail: bstojai@bscitech.com. Web site: www.bscitech.com.

5 "Calibration and Safety of Pesticide Application Equipment," an educational seminar cohosted by the Main Golf Course Superintendents Association and the GCSAA. Rockport, ME. Phone: (800) 472-7878.

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

STMA MESSAGE



Looking Back and Moving Forward

By Mike Schiller

STMA's 8th Annual Conference & Exhibition in Colorado Springs has come — and gone — and there are some special people to be thanked — especially: Mary Owen, program chair, for putting together such excellent sessions; and Dr. Eugene Mayer, exhibits chair, for pulling together our most successful exhibit ever.

I extend many thanks to all of our speakers and round-table discussion leaders. It's through the efforts of those willing and able to share their knowledge, expertise and ideas that we raise our level of professionalism. I also extend thanks to all the exhibitors who devoted their time and efforts to helping us see and find out more about the products and services that help us do our jobs better.

I also thank the people of the Colorado Chapter. Over this past year, we have had the opportunity to work with Chapter President and Conference Chair Dave Rulli, with Ross Kurcab and Abby McNeal on the Educational program, with Mitch Hovet on Exhibits, with Ken Norkosky on Hospitality, and with Chapter Executive Secretary Troy Smith. These key people deserve a round of applause for all their efforts.

Then, at the conference, we had the opportunity to meet and mingle with many more Colorado Chapter members. We especially appreciate those who arranged and hosted the excellent tours in Colorado Springs and in Denver. What a beautiful

area to live and work in! We also appreciate those who helped with the on-site details that make a conference function. On behalf of the board and all the attendees and exhibitors, I want publicly to extend a big thank-you to the Colorado Chapter for all its hard work and for being such an excellent host.

An excellent time was had by all. If you were there or if you missed this one, now is the time to start making plans to attend STMA's 9th Annual Conference in Orlando, FL, January 14 to 18, 1998. We're going to Disney World!

I want to thank everyone for his or her support this past year. It's been a successful year for STMA. I want to thank all of our board members for their time and dedication, and I thank all the members for their vote of confidence in allowing us the opportunity to continue to serve you in 1997.

STMA continues to grow, but we still need your help. We're always open to your suggestions on what we can do to continue to improve. Just contact me, any of your board members or anyone at headquarters. If there is a committee that you have an interest in, please contact that committee chairperson, Steve Trusty or me — we'll get you involved. We can only continue to grow and prosper if we have hard working individuals dedicating some time to the association. Become an active participant — you'll meet great people and get more out of being a member.

Bigger, Better in Yuma

By Larry R. Munoz

The City of Yuma/STMA Fourth Annual Sports Turf and Equipment Show, held on Friday, December 6, 1996, in Yuma, AZ, at Desert Sun Stadium, was our biggest and best ever. Over 200 participants gathered for the event, coming not only from Yuma and the surrounding area, but also from across the state. A record-breaking total of 28 vendors set up displays of turf and maintenance equipment, irrigation supplies, fertilizers and soil amendments, safety equipment, and other turf-related products.

Three outstanding guest speakers were on the program. Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale, gave an excellent slide presentation on infield maintenance featuring procedures on dragging, watering and maintaining that essential level edge from the turf to the skinned areas. He also focused on the types of equipment needed to handle infield maintenance procedures.

Dr. Dave Kopec, turfgrass specialist from the University of Arizona, gave an in-depth presentation on fertilization, mowing and turfgrass maintenance.

Dr. Chip Howard from TurfScience Inc. gave an excellent slide presentation on golf course maintenance featuring both general maintenance procedures and the overseeding process.

Outside demonstrations were added to the program for the first time this year. Jason Jarrett and Tony Ramos from the City of Yuma demonstrated pitching mound maintenance with special attention on getting the proper slope on the mound. They also demonstrated methods of edging the base paths. Craig Magdaleno and Jose Ortiz from the City of Yuma demonstrated batters box maintenance, with an extra focus on the proper steps in adding clay to the batters boxes and in front of the pitching rubbers. Dan Brower, certified arborist from Terra Verde, put on a very good demonstration on tree selection, tree trimming and general tree maintenance. Jake Pryde from Yuma Sprinkler and Bob Schottke from Hunter Industries gave an excellent program on irrigation and precipitation and provided attendees



Jason Jarrett demonstrates techniques of infield maintenance. Photos courtesy: Larry R. Munoz.

with handouts on their presentation.

Following lunch — a Mexican buffet that gave vendors and attendees an opportunity for conversation and networking — the participants moved to the exhibits that were set up on the three practice fields and the patio area. Vendors were on hand to demonstrate products and answer questions. Many of the exhibitors also provided participants with the opportunity for hands-on sessions with the equipment and supplies.

Response to the Kick-Off Golf Tournament was great. It was added to the program for the first time this year and will become a regular feature. Eight foursomes played in the tournament at Desert Hills Golf Course. A scramble format was used. The course was in excellent condition,



A record-breaking total of 28 vendors set up displays of turf equipment and related products.

and the new clubhouse won rave reviews.

On the winning team, from Horizon Turf Inc., were Greg Lewis, Larry Robinson, Bobby Johnston and Dale Lovell. They shot an outstanding round of 65. Coming in second, with a team score of 67, were Ron Ramirez and Joel Hubbard from Yuma Parks and Recreation, Mike Zozoza from the City of Yuma Fire Department, and Joe Robinson from the City of Yuma Public Works Department. Tim Meyers from Yavapia Sports Surfaces won closest to the pin, while the longest drive was won by Mike Zozoza.

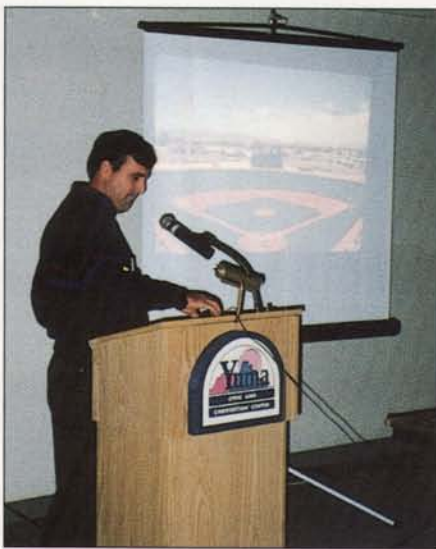
Special thanks go to our speakers, demonstration leaders and exhibitors; and to the City of Yuma Parks and Recreation athletic field crew, the Baseball Complex crew, and the Desert Hills Golf Course crew, especially staff members Don King and Phil Swinford; and to Anna, Sandy, Diana, and especially Erica from the Parks office staff for making this an outstanding event.

Make plans now to attend our Fifth Annual Sports Turf and Equipment Show on December 6, 1997.

Larry R. Munoz is park supervisor for City of Yuma Parks and Recreation.

STMA Chapter News

Colorado Chapter: The Colorado Chapter extends a big *thank you* to all those who attended STMA's 8th



Bill Murphy gives a slide presentation featuring procedures on dragging, watering and maintaining a level edge from turf to skinned areas.

Annual Conference and Exhibition in Colorado Springs. We appreciated the opportunity to "show off" some of our prime sports venues and our beautiful section of the country and the chance to get to know so many sports turf managers from other areas. We're issuing an open invitation to all to come back and see us again.

The Colorado Chapter has elected its 1997 Board. Returning as president for a second term is Dave Rulli, assistant stadium manager with Jeffco Schools. Vice president is Abby McNeal, Pleasant View Fields; and commercial officer is Mitch Hovet, United Horticultural Supply. The Board of Directors for 1997 includes John Kasza, City of Westminster Parks; Jeff Henke, City of Fort Collins Parks; Ken Norkosky, City of Aurora Parks; Troy Smith, Denver Broncos; and Kim Rice, Foothills Parks and Recreation.

The entire chapter expresses thanks to its "retiring" executive secretary, Troy Smith, for his dedication and service — and welcomes the new executive secretary, Bobbi Smith.

After pitching in to host National, the new board is focusing on plans for future 1997 events.

For information on the Colorado Chapter and upcoming events, call the 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/FAX: (303) 438-9645.

Iowa STMA: Plans are in the works for an exciting and event-filled 1997 for the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association. For more information on the Iowa Chapter or upcoming

activities, contact Lori Westrum at The Turf Office at (515) 232-8222 (phone) or (515) 232-8228 (fax).

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter is planning the event schedule for 1997. For information on upcoming activities or the Florida Chapter, contact John Mascaro (954) 938-7477.

Southern California Chapter: The Southern California Chapter of STMA has elected its 1997 officers. Returning as president is Chris Bunnell. Vice president is Dave Ashman; commercial vice president is Dave Renner; secretary is Bruce Boman, and treasurer is Bob Womack. Special events for the year are in the planning stages.

For information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

Minnesota Chapter: The Minnesota Chapter of STMA is in the process of planning the event schedule for 1997.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter or upcoming activities, contact Brian Deyak at (320) 255-7223.

Midwest Chapter: The Midwest Chapter of STMA is putting together the 1997 schedule of events.

For information on the Midwest Chapter or pending events, call The Chapter Hotline (847) 439-4727.

STMA Chapters on the Grow

Great Plains STMA: The Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association has two seminars in the works. The first will be held on February 13th at Rockhurst College in Kansas City. The second will be held on February 20th at the old High School Building in Goddard, Kansas. Each of the day-long Seminars will cover essentially the same format and topics with many of the same speakers participating in both Seminars. Key speakers include Mark Schimming, Mark Altman of Altman & Altman Consulting, and Steve Keeley of Kansas State University.

For information on these meetings, the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association, or other pending events, contact Mark Schimming at (316) 729-5839.

Arizona: For information on the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona or upcoming events, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954. □

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