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1375 ROLLING HILLS LOOP, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503

PHONE: (800) 323-3875 E-MAIL: SportsTMgr⊕aol.com

WEB SITE: http://www.aip.com/STMA

EDITORIAL TEAM
EDITOR STEVEN BERENS 847-427-3005
(sberens@mail.aip.com)
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR ROB BENES
(rbenes@mail.aip.com)
CALENDAR EDITOR STEVE NOE
(snoe@mail.aip.com)

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### THE FRONT OFFICE



### **Accidents Happen**

always welcome reader feedback. I rely on your calls, letters, and e-mail messages to bring me up to speed on the industry's most

I recently received an e-mail message from a Canadian reader who wanted to draw attention to facility liability. Stan Szwajkowski writes:

We all need to do a better job at communicating liability issues, whether it's up here in Canada, or in the U.S.A. The latest one that I've heard about is the injury to a football player on a high school site.

It is common practice where I'm from to utilize the football post as soccer nets. Most multi-use posts have tabs or rings welded to the top bar, and the support posts

to tie the soccer nets to.

A football player, after scoring a touchdown, jumped up and attempted to slamdunk the football over the up-rights on the goal posts. The palm of his hand caught on one of the rings or tabs used to tie down the soccer nets. The result was that he tore off the palm of his hand.

This resulted in a large settlement through the courts. Please advise your readers of this concern. After inspecting our schools and parks, I've found more than 10

sets of posts with this type of hazard present.

Thanks.

Stan Szwajkowski Supervisor of Sportsfields City of Kitchener Ontario, Canada

General consensus designates safety and playability of sports facilities as the first priority of a sports turf manager. Idealistically, this goal would stem exclusively from a desire to protect the health and well being of field users. But get a couple of lawyers involved and you've got an entirely different scenario.

Apparently, accidents don't happen anymore. The courts seem to have decided that people can no longer be held responsible for their own actions. Somebody else is always to blame, and that somebody is usually the one with the deepest

You have to cover your back these days. Accidents can happen any time, and you never know when you're going to find yourself staring down the barrel of a

pointed finger.

Working in the schools is, by nature, a risky business. Parents trust you to keep their children safe, and you're going to take the heat if something goes wrong.

I'm sure this kid's parents gave him permission to play football, and they probably came to cheer at every game. However, this zeal gets thrown out the window the second their son gets hurt.

It doesn't even matter that the school never intended the goal post be used as a basketball hoop, or that the boy's actions didn't officially have anything to do with the game. A big scar and permanent damage are difficult things to argue against.

Steve Berens, Editor (847) 427-3005

# Month

### **Budget** Approval

by Bob Tracinski

quipment manufacturers are using new technology to design machines that help sports turf managers do their jobs faster, more easily, and more effectively.

The advantages of this equipment may be readily apparent to the sports turf manager, but budgeting entities are often more difficult to convince. Here are some

strategies:

### Explain cost advantages

Calculate the number of labor hours saved per day, week, and month by: adding a ride-on triplex reel mower that delivers a gamequality cut; grooming baseball and softball skinned areas with a field rake; or adding a utility vehicle with multiple attachments.

### · Explain effects on the overall program

A faster mower can cover a greater area in less time. More work can be done without increasing staffing levels.

With a field rake, the existing crew can prep a greater number of

fields for weekend play.

The utility vehicle will free a truck from on-site people or matemovement. It can equipped for spraying or snow removal, or for cross-department use as an emergency medical transportation unit.

Bob Tracinski is business communications manager for John Deere in Raleigh, NC. He is public relations co-chair for the national STMA.



January 4-February 19

UMass Winter School for Turf Managers. Contact Trudie Goodchild: (413) 545-2484, or Mary Owen: (508) 892-0382.

January 5-7

Eastern Pennsylvania Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA. Contact Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council: (814) 863-3475, or fax: (814) 863-3479.

January 7

New York State Turfgrass Association's (NYSTA) Northeast Regional Conference, Albany, NY. Contact NYSTA: (800) 873-8873 or (518) 783-1229.

January 12-15

The 37th annual North Carolina Turfgrass Conference and Show. Charlotte Convention Center. Charlotte, NC. Contact Marsha Richardson: (910) 695-1333, or fax: (910) 695-1222.

January 13-17

Sports Turf Managers Association's (STMA) 10th annual Conference & Exhibition, Mesa, AZ. Contact STMA: (800) 323-3875 or (712) 366-2669.

January 13-March 17

Turfgrass Pests, Palm Desert, CA, Wednesdays. 6-9 pm Contact University of California Riverside Extension, Natural Sciences Department: (909) 787-5804, or fax: (909) 787-7374.

January 14-16

The Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL. Contact Mid-Am: 1000 N. Rand Road, Ste. 214, Wauconda, IL 60084; (847) 526-2010, or fax: (847) 526-3993.

### STMA MESSAGE





# **Protecting** Assets

s STMA grows stronger, larger, and more successful, we accumulate new assets. The most important of these is the large number of new members.

The strength of any association is its members. In a complex industry such as ours, the accumulated knowledge and expertise

of a group's membership is a resource of unlimited value.

Any sports turf manager who has ever connected with a peer to seek ideas - and I think that includes all of us - understands the importance of this resource. Our organization's growth over the past two years has created terrific opportunities, and has increased the need to protect our newly acquired assets.

We rely on the expertise and commitment of Executive Director Steve Trusty and his supportive staff. Steve's staff has doubled over the past year

to expand the services STMA offers its increasing membership.

Regionally, chapter development is also growing. Much thanks goes to our Gold Level chapter sponsors, Novartis and John Deere; and to our Silver Level chapter sponsors, Alpine Services, Hunter Industries, and The Scotts Company. Their support has allowed STMA to step up its mission to provide development services to our chapters, to help the chapters share information, and to provide regional support to assist and educate our members.

As sports turf managers, we constantly protect our assets. As we start another winter season, turf protection and equipment maintenance are often

the focus of the day.

Giving good employees opportunities to grow professionally is just as important as taking advantage of today's new techniques, materials, and technologies for protecting your turf and equipment assets. As your employees advance their knowledge and skills they are better able to provide safer and more playable surfaces.

Most sports turf management budgets put labor expenses at the top of the list of expenditures. Obviously, your fields benefit from increased effectiveness and efficiency from each member of your staff. Your overall budget benefits as well. Your investment in yourself and your people will reward your

program many times over.

Review the programs offered by local, regional, and national conferences this winter, and protect your assets by arranging opportunities for your staff to take advantage of educational programs. They'll fine-tune their existing

knowledge and learn new procedures to improve your fields.

Don't miss a prime educational and networking opportunity: our 10th annual Sports Turf Managers Association Conference and Exhibition in Mesa, AZ, January 13 - 17, 1999. The best in the industry meet at this conference to share ideas and experiences, and to view the trade show extravaganza. Get your registration in now. Make your hotel reservations, and lock in those prime air fares.

See YOU there!

Stephen Guise, STMA President (714) 704-0403

# STMA in Action

he KAFMO Chapter joined Delaware Valley College for a field day at James Work Stadium October 13. Forty-nine KAFMO members, 14 vendors, and students in the DVC Turfgrass Management program turned out for the event in Doylestown, PA, on a beautiful fall day.

After a welcome from KAFMO President Dan Douglas, Keith Evans of Lebanon Valley College Grounds Department gave a presentation on field layout. Evans covered steps to lay out soccer, field hockey, and football fields for practices and games. He involved the audience in the discussion and answered many questions.

Washington Redskins'
Don Follett came all the
way from Jack Kent Cooke
Stadium to demonstrate
logo and field painting techniques. He also provided
information on ways of making and obtaining stencils.

Follett showed how quickly a logo job can be done. He had the complete outline for the Redskins logo painted on a corner of the practice field in a matter of minutes. It might take a non-practiced individual a little longer, but the principles are the same.

STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty reported on the National STMA and the Certified Sports Turf Manager program over

lunch. The vendors then introduced their products and services in a show and tell session.

The afternoon continued with a session on late-season goal mouth repair by Jim Welshans, Dauphin County Extension. A tour of the Delaware Valley College turf research plots and a session on turf identification led by Dr. Douglas Linde, Assistant Professor of Agronomy and Environmental Science, wrapped up the day's activities.

This program was some distance from KAFMO's core membership, so attendance was lower than usual. But attendees felt that the day was very **KAFMO**& Delaware Valley College Team-Up

educational and informative, and the distance traveled was worth the effort.

### Chapter news

Mid-South Chapter: The chapter will hold a field day at Memphis University School in Memphis Dec. 16. Registration opens at 8:15 am, and educational sessions begin at 8:30 am.

Afternoon events will include on-



Don Follett demonstrates logo techniques. Courtesy: STMA

field demonstrations on re-doing a grass infield and building a pitching mound.

Plans are also moving forward for a January field day. The date and location will be announced soon.

For information, contact Chip Houmes: (901) 377-5081, Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305 or Robert Bodi: (901) 383-2414.

Iowa Chapter: ISTMA will again participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference Jan. 25-27 at the Des Moines Convention Center. Special sports turf educational sessions will be held 8:30 am-4 pm Jan. 25, 1:30 pm-3 pm Jan. 26, and 8 am-11:45 am Jan. 27.

Keynote speaker Gerry Sweda of Sweda Training will speak at 10:15 am Jan. 26 on the topic: "How could a job that felt so good in the past, feel so bad today?" A two-hour "Continuing Pesticide Instructional Course" begins at 1:30 pm Jan. 27.

ISTMA will hold its annual meeting 3-4 pm Jan. 26.

For information, contact Lori Westrum at the Turf Office: (515) 232-8222, or fax: (515) 232-8228.

KAFMO Chapter:
KAFMO members are encouraged to attend the
Pennsylvania Turfgrass
Council's Eastern PA Turf
Conference and Trade Show.
Four hours of athletic field
related seminars and four
hours of trade show are scheduled Jan. 7.

Feb. 19 KAFMO/STMA will sponsor an athletic field conference in Grantville, PA, featuring seminars and vendor displays. Presentation topics will include: drainage, liability, sprayer calibration, low-budget turf care, innovative establishment systems, and more.

Mar. 23 KAFMO/STMA is co-sponsoring the Northwestern Pennsylvania Athletic Field, Turf, and Ornamental Conference in

Meadville, PA. Contact Jeff Fowler for details on this event: (814) 437-7607.

For general information, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club: (610) 375-8469, ext. 212

Great Lakes Chapter: GLSTMA has elected its 1999 board:

Boyd Montgomery, Sylvania Recreation President

Joe Zelinko, Athletic Field Services Immediate Past President

Duane Smith, Baldwin Wallace College President Elect

Dave Conover, Conover Supply Company  $Commercial\ V.P.$ 

Karen Zelinko, Athletic Field Services Secretary Allen Weirauch, Liberty Center Schools Treasurer

The board will serve Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1999.

For information, contact Joe Zelinko: (800) 897-9714, or Boyd Montgomery: (419) 885-1982.

MAFMO Chapter: For information, contact the hotline: (410) 290-5652.

Florida Chapter #1: For information, contact John Mascaro: (954) 341-3115.

Northern California Chapter: For information, contact Sal Genito, UC Davis: (530) 752-1691.

Southern California Chapter: For information, contact the chapter hotline: (888) 578-STMA.

Midwest Chapter: For information, call the chapter hotline: (847) 622-3517.

Minnesota Chapter: For information, contact Connie Rudolph: (612) 646-1679.

Colorado Chapter: For information, call the 24-hour CSTMA chapter hotline/fax: (303) 438-9645.

Michigan Chapter: For information, contact Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools: (616) 395-2364.

### Chapters on the grow

North Texas Chapter: For information, contact Rene Asprion, Diamond Pro: (800) 228-2987, or Tom Welch, CSM, Central Garden and Pet: (800) 788-9581.

Arizona Chapter: STMAAZ will take an active part in the STMA 10th annual Conference Exposition Jan. 13-17 at the Sheraton Mesa hotel in Mesa, AZ.

Area sports turf facilities will be featured in the Seminar on Wheels tours Jan. 13 and 17. Trade Show hours are 4:30-8 pm Jan. 14, and 10:30 am-2 pm Jan. 15. Other events include general and break-out educational sessions, interactive roundtable discussions, and the annual awards banquet. For information on the conference, contact STMA Headquarters: (800) 323-3875.

For general information, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 994-7954, or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 786-2728.

Indiana Chapter: The newly forming chapter has officially elected officers:

Ron Clites President

Don Rowley President Elect Terry Updike Commercial V.P. Pat Hickner Secretary Jim Dayhuff Treasurer The board will meet in December to set the activity agenda for 1999.

For information, contact Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer: (219) 3568424, or Pat Hickner; (800) 672-4273.

Wisconsin Chapter: For information, contact Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates, Inc.: (715) 341-

Nevada Chapter: For information, contact Ibsen Dow: (702) 649-1551, or Alan Paulson, Clark County School District: (702) 799-8724.

Great Plains Chapter: For information, contact Mark Schimming, City of Wichita: (316) 337-9123.

### Q: What do all of these teams have in common?

Oakland A's Arizona Diamondbacks University of Texas Longhorns San Diego Chargers University of Southern California Trojans California Angels Arizona State University Sun Devils San Francisco 49'ers San Diego State University Aztecs San Francisco Giants San Diego Padres

Los Angeles Dodgers Oakland Raiders Arizona Cardinals

A: They are at "HOME" on West Coast Turf!



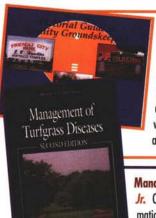
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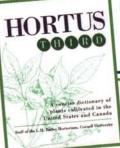


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tiple bases and pitching plates; dragging equipment and patterns; base line options; unique complex ideas; dugout design; batting cage and hitting station; layout; water removal and much more. Unique field ideas from across the country. 4023 \$37.00

### Management of Turfgrass Diseases, Joseph M. Vargas,

Jr. Completely revised and updated to provide the latest information on maintaining a healthy turf and identifying turf diseases. covers cultural, genetic, biological and chemical approaches to turf management and provides practical solutions to everyday problems. Fungal, bacterial and viral diseases; black layer disease; and diseases caused by nematodes are addressed for all major grasses. Tips on irrigation, fertilization, and grass culture w. 72 full-page photos and more than 100 figures. 320 pgs. 4016 \$67.00



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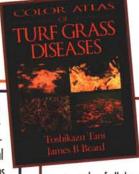
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tographs of all the major turfgrass diseases that occur on both warm and cool season grasses and is international in scope. The standard color guide to disease diagnosis and pathogen identification for golf course superintendents and turfgrass practitioners. Maps are included to assist in disease identification by providing geographical locations where each disease/pathogen is likely to occur. It also provides color photos of step-bystep guidance on diagnostic techniques for laboratory analysis which can be used by practitioners. 140 pages. 4005 \$79.95

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