

A Great Day in Stevens Point

Ninety-eight people turned out on a beautiful day in Wisconsin July 22, for the first meeting of the newly forming Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association. Thirty-eight attendees signed the on-site petition to become charter members, increasing the total to 56.

The day started with coffee and donuts, and a brief rundown on how the meeting came about. Rich Riggs, formerly of the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Stevens Point, and now site maintenance consultant for R.H. Rettler & Assoc., introduced those who were instrumental in putting the meeting and chapter together.

Chris Brindley, Riggs' replacement as buildings and grounds supervisor at UW, welcomed the group and talked about some of his responsibilities. Chris had been on the job only two months, but he and his crew were excellent hosts.

Later in the meeting, Chris and his staff provided a training session on each piece of equipment used in campus maintenance. He focused on each machine's use in the sports turf program. The staff also discussed some possible new equipment purchases.

STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty talked to the group about the benefits of chapter and national membership. He discussed ways the local and national organizations work together to benefit all who maintain sports turf.

Trusty explained that by working together, exchanging ideas and information, visiting other people's fields, and relaying positive information to those in control of the purse strings, budgets can be increased. He said, "What you do is very important and worthwhile, you just need help in getting that information out. STMA is assisting in getting that word out through publications and contact with specific and the general news media."

Dr. John Stier, UW-Madison present-

ed a "Sports Turf Research Update." He talked about what was going on in Wisconsin, and introduced international research. He provided information about a number of new products, new processes, and new ideas available to sports turf managers.

Stier asserted, "The field of sports turf management is expanding rapidly. Interest continues to grow. Sports turf managers need to continue to work together to make the strides in their profession that the golf course superintendents have made in theirs."

After a very satisfying lunch, the group split in two. One half went over to the game field to hear Rich Riggs talk about how the school worked with the Jacksonville Jaguars to build its first training facilities. He went through the ongoing maintenance program, and spoke about field use. Chris Brindley took the other half of the group for equipment discussions. The groups switched to complete the afternoon.

Michael Mayer, director of maintenance & operations for Lodi Schools, summed up the feelings of many of the attendees by stating that it was a very worthwhile day. He added, "I picked up a number of ideas that I'm going to put into practice right away, and [I'll] bring more of my people to future meetings."

Chapter news

KAFMO Chapter: The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization is planning an Oct. 13 Field Day at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, PA. Don Follett, head groundskeeper of the Washington Redskins' home field, Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, will demonstrate football field layout and logo placement. The program will include field layout demonstrations for soccer and lacrosse, tips on late-fall field repairs, a tour of the turf plots, a Products on Parade demonstration by industry suppliers, and a trade show.

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

Southern California Chapter:

The Southern California Chapter will hold a Football-Soccer Seminar at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, CA, Nov. 5.

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

Great Lakes Chapter: GLSTMA will hold its annual Dinner and Awards Banquet 6:30 pm, Nov. 5 at Baldwin-Wallace College.

The next GLSTMA Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Oct. 27.

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

Iowa Chapter: ISTMA encourages members to take part in the professional seminar, "Dealing with Jerks," presented by Patt Schwab, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Nov. 10 at Willow Creek Golf Club in West Des Moines.

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

Florida Chapter #1: The chapter will meet Nov. 17 at the City of Parkland Parks and Recreation Department. The Rain Bird sponsored event will cover irrigation, and will include a tour of the completed field construction project which the chapter viewed in progress last year.

For more information, contact John Mascaro: (954) 938-7477.

Nor-Cal Chapter: The Northern California Chapter's Fall Seminar will be held Nov. 18 at the Simpkins Center, San Jose State University Stadium, San Jose. Morning sessions will include a presentation by Rich Genoff, sports turf manager for the San Francisco 49ers. Afternoon activities will move to the field for demonstrations and a lawn mower competition.

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

Minnesota Chapter: As part of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation, the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association will participate in

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NEW MEMBER SWEEPSTAKES!!

All New Members Joining Between October 1st and December 1, 1998, will be eligible for a drawing for a free registration to the STMA 10th Annual Conference & Exhibition, January 13-17, 1999, Mesa, Arizona.

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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 turfgrasses 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 & Exhibition; our *Sports Turf Manager* Newsletter; and MUCH more!

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other schools, research, Ext. agents, teaching | \$85 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Commercial (US or International) | \$195 |
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For more information, contact STMA Headquarters at
 800/323-3875, 712/366-2669, fax: 712/366-9119 or e-mail: TrustyTips@aol.com

"Promoting Better and Safer Sports Turf Areas"

the 1998 Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference and Trade Show Dec. 9-11 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

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

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

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

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

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

Midwest Chapter: The Midwest Chapter will again participate in the North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE) Nov. 30-Dec. 3 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL.

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

Chapters on the grow

New Chapter: The North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association is taking shape. Newly elected officers are:

Dr. James McAfee, *President*
Skip Keller, *Vice-President*

Rene Aspiron, *Commercial V.P.*

Sharlotta Connally, *Secretary*

Tom Welch, *Treasurer*

The new Board of Directors includes:

Helen Monroe, *Comm./Publicity*

Mike Reber, *Membership*

Kathy Cassmeyer, *Meetings*

Brian Baker, *Program*

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 29 at the Ballpark in Arlington.

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

Arizona Chapter: STMAAZ will take part in the City of Yuma's 6th annual Sportsturf and Equipment Show, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, Dec. 4 at the Ray Kroc Baseball Complex. Grant Trenbeath, head groundskeeper of the Arizona Diamondbacks, will be the featured speaker. In addition to the Equipment and Products Show, educational sessions and demonstrations will cover irrigation, ballfield maintenance, fertilization, pest identification, and Xeriscape.

The 3rd annual Sportsturf Golf Tournament will be held Dec. 3 at Desert Hills Golf Course. Tee off time is noon.

For information on these two events, contact Larry Munoz, Yuma Parks and Recreation Department: (520) 329-2824.

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 chapter formation continues to move forward. The officer and board member selection process is underway, and meeting plans are in the works.

For information, contact Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer: (219) 356-8424, or Pat Hickner: (800) 672-4273.

Wisconsin Chapter: For information, contact Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates, Inc.: (715) 341-2633.

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. □

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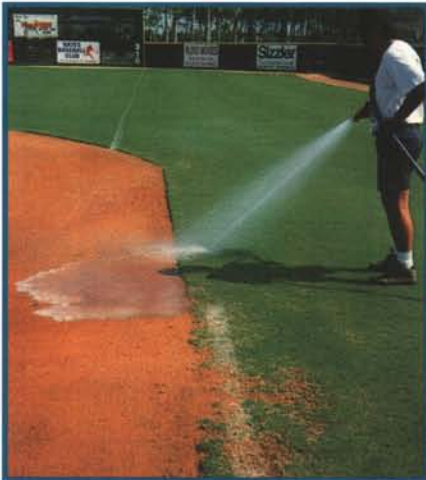
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Tip o' the Month

Continued from pg. 6



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Floyd Perry is author of three books: *The Pictorial Guides to Quality Groundskeeping: I - Covering the Bases; II - There Ain't No Rules; and III - Maintain It Easy, Keep It Safe.* He also produces two videos: *The ABC's of Grounds Maintenance: Vol. 1, Softball;*

and *Vol. 2, Baseball.* For more information, call: (800) 227-9381, or visit his web site: <http://gms.simplenet.com>.


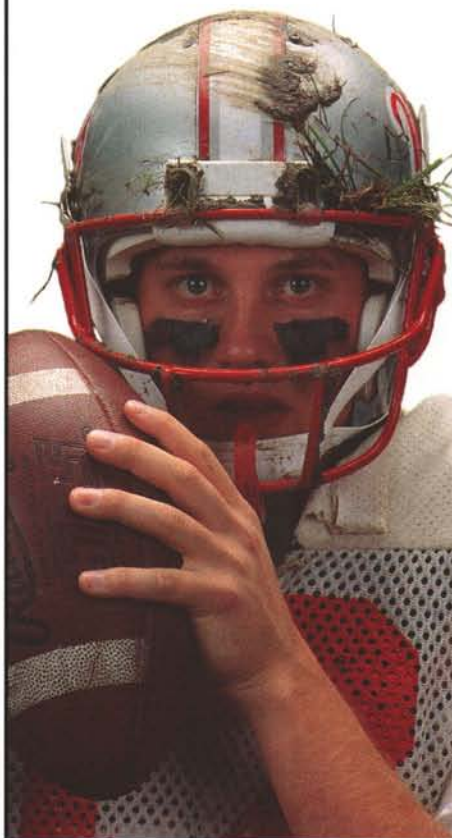
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by Dr. Dave Minner

How many games can our field take before there is too much damage?

—Earl McCulloch
Concordia University
Steward, NE

Many factors must be considered when developing field use schedules: type of sport(s) and traffic, type of grass and field construction, moisture conditions during events, recovery time, and intensity of field maintenance practices.

It's likely that your field experiences more traffic than you realize. Instead of counting games, you should keep a record of all field activity. Classify activity in terms of events that add traffic to the field: games, practices, ceremonies, concerts, band, and whatever else field users throw your way.

Cooperation

As turf experts, we're expected to provide the magic number of games that can be safely played on our fields. However, it's very important that coaches, administrators, and field managers cooperate in scheduling field use. When there's a lawsuit over an injury sustained as a result of poor field conditions, all three decision makers are usually listed.

Administrators need to remember that proper traffic control costs nothing in terms of dollars, and it offers the most effective means of reducing dangerously worn areas on the field. Clearly defined conditions for field use must be in place.

Coaches must help prevent excessive turf wear through wise scheduling of practice activities. As much as possible, the field should be reserved for

games only. Coaches can work with grounds managers to develop improved grass areas specifically for drills that take place off the game and practice fields.

A wise administrator will facilitate a friendship between the coach and the sports turf manager, so that there is give and take when scheduling field use. The field manager should communicate with the coach as frequently as once or twice a week.

Grounds managers must realize that they are caring for multi-use facilities. Every effort should be made to accommodate all groups that participate in field activities. On the flip side, each user group must share responsibility for the condition of the field.

Words of wisdom

The following observations may help you effectively schedule field events:

- Football causes more turf injury than soccer, and both sports injure turf more severely than baseball.

- Using the same field for multiple sports usually leads to very poor conditions for at least one of the sports. Baseball outfields used for football and soccer usually experience poor spring conditions for baseball. Fields scheduled for fall football and spring soccer must be renovated, cored, and seeded in early summer. Summer renovation of cool-season grasses almost always fails.

- A single football game played during excessively wet conditions can completely destroy the center of the field.

The numbers

At the start of each sporting season, you should hope to have 100-percent turf coverage on the entire field. All

grass plants should be at least four months old. Areas of intense traffic should have approximately 0.5 inches of thatch or mat to cushion the surface. Under these conditions, and when excessive moisture is not a problem, you should have the following expectations for a football field:

- Distinct wear patterns will appear after about 10 events, but playing quality should remain high.

- Expect your field to tolerate 25 events before the turf becomes so thin that the underlying soil or sand is exposed.

- Field appearance will be significantly reduced before 25 games have been played, but I expect most of my fields to tolerate a 25-event schedule without compromising playing conditions.

- The protective mat of vegetation will usually wear off between 25 and 50 events. Exposed sand will be very unstable and exposed soil will turn to mud in the rain.

- Beyond 50 activities, you should anticipate severe loss of turf on at least 20,000 square feet of the field. This damage may require in-season repair with two-inch thick-cut sod, or post-season repair with 0.5-inch conventional sod. □

David D. Minner, Ph.D., is an associate professor with the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University. He serves on STMA's Certification Committee. Send your questions to Dave at: ISU, Hort. Dept., Ames, IA 50011; or call: (515) 294-2751, fax: (515) 294-0730, or e-mail: dminner@iastate.edu.

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