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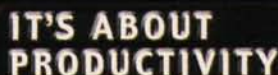
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VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2000

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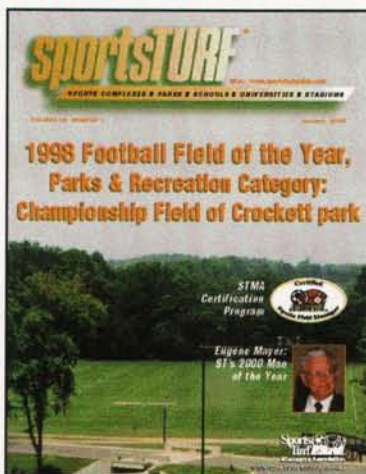
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Championship Field of Crockett Park, Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department, Brentwood, TN.

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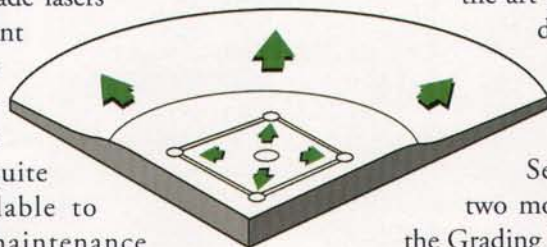
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Ready, Set, Go!

Well I'm off and running into the 21st Century and am still trying to think of few good New Year resolutions that I just know I'll be breaking in a few short weeks; and will probably have completely forgotten about by Spring Training. Why do we put ourselves through this mind-boggling process each year when we know we won't follow

through?

Here's a challenge to all you loyal *sportsTURF* readers. I dare you to send me your New Year's resolutions. Let me publish them in an upcoming issue, and we'll see if you can stick to what you promised by year's end.

Send them to me, Rob Benes, 2101 S. Arlington Heights Rd, #150, Arlington Heights, IL 60005-4142. You can even e-mail them to me at rbenes@mail.aip.com (how easier can it be). I know, give them to me at the STMA conference in St. Louis—I'll be there.

Now be creative. Don't send me the old stand-bys like "lose weight," "exercise more," or "stop smoking." You know right now that you'll break those resolutions by the end of the day!

I'm looking forward to what you have to promise (and then probably break).

Rob Benes

Rob Benes
Editorial Director

Letter to the Editor

Dear S.E.C. Sports Turf Member:

I hope that all is well in everyone's homeland. I would like to express a special thank you to Jeff Kershaw, Harvey Crenshaw, and Louisiana State University for hosting our annual meeting during the summer of 1999. It was a great meeting, and thanks guys. I know we are all getting busy with football and wish to all a successful season.

Gary Morris of Ole Miss is the president for this next year, and Jeff Kershaw is the president-elect for 2000-2001. I think we all look forward to next year's meeting in Knoxville. I hope that those of you that were unable to attend [the 1999 summer meeting] will be able to attend next year. You all were missed. Again, thanks, Jeff and Harvey, for a great meeting and best wishes in the 1999-2000 grass seasons to all of you.

Sincerely,

Bart Prather, Sports Turf Manager, Mississippi State University

Thanks Ellen!

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Ellen Norton for all of her hard work on *sportsTURF*'s 2000 Product Source Book published last month. Ellen did an outstanding job in sending out update forms, verifying the information, calling clients, working with the freelance typist (thanks, Sue Bav-v-v-v-vone), and proofing the final pages. In fact, Ellen worked on five other directories in 1999. Hey, Ellen, Landscape and Irrigation's directory is scheduled for May. Wanna help? Come on, I know you want to. Thanks again.

Rob

So long friend: Bob Earley

A friend and past colleague of mine passed away last month after a short illness: Bob Earley. Some of you may have known him. Bob was very involved in the green industry. I had many laughs with Bob in the office and at our local watering hole, and was his golf cart partner on more than one occasion. My prayers are with his family. Bye, Bob.

Tip of the Month

Marking the Fair Line

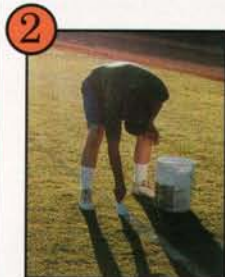
by Floyd Perry

Q: Is there a proper way to mark a fair line on the outfield turf?

A: YES, whichever way works for you! Here are four examples.



Two-inch form board.



Four-inch paint brush with Primo added to paint.



Four in Roller with Primo added to paint.



Canned aerosol paint with easy push applicator.

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>.



2000

January 12-16

Sports Turf Managers Association's (STMA) 11th annual Conference & Exhibition, St. Louis, MO. Contact STMA: (800) 323-3875 or (712) 366-2669.

January 17-20

70th annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Holiday Inn South-Hotel and Convention Center, Lansing, MI. Contact Kay Patrick: (517) 321-1660.

January 17-February 4

Professional Golf Turf Management School, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact Keith Wilson: (732) 932-9271, ext. 617.

January 19

South Carolina Landscape & Turfgrass Association's (SCLTA) annual conference, Jamil Temple, Columbia, SC. Contact SCLTA: (803) 738-2021.

January 20

Rutgers University continuing education course: "Successful ID and Control of Turfgrass Diseases," New Brunswick, NJ. Contact Kurt Martens: (732) 932-8451.

January 27

Northeastern Pennsylvania Turf School & Trade Show, The Woodlands Inn & Resort, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Contact Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council (PTC): (814) 863-3475.

February 8-12

Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) Midwinter Conference & Expo: "Turfgrass Sod Production for the New Millennium," Adam's Mark Hotel, San Antonio, TX. Feb. 8: Inaugural Al Gardner Memorial Golf Outing, The Quarry Golf Club, San Antonio, TX. Contact Tom Ford, TPI: (800) 405-TURF (8873) or (847) 705-9898.

STMA MESSAGE

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You're The Greatest

This is my last message to you as STMA President, which leads to reflection. I'm pleased with the progress we've made during the two years I've served, and I'm excited about the opportunities on the horizon. It's been a wonderful experience; one that reinforces what I've known for a long time: sports turf managers are the greatest.

It's nearly time again to announce our scholarship recipients and the individuals and fields and the company chosen to receive the 1999 STMA Awards. That also leads to reflection on the past year's success stories and on the more distant past that includes the highs and lows of our young organization.

Our Awards Committee, directed by their Chair, Tim Moore, spent many long hours in November hard at work analyzing the numerous entries, applications, and nominations. Every year the list of entrants and nominees grows. Because of that, two five-judge subcommittees were established this year: one for the Scholarship and Founders Awards and one for the Field of the Year Awards.

Scholarship offerings now include two-year programs, four-year undergraduate programs, and graduate programs. More Universities are starting sports turf related curriculum and are sending their students to the STMA for scholarship opportunities as well as for future internships and full-time positions.

We take our Awards program very seriously. It takes many hours for our dedicated committee members to sift through, consider, and evaluate the information provided. The individual assessments of each judge are sent to STMA Headquarters, the results tabulated and the final selections confirmed by a conference call among all the committee members. The points awarded independently by each judge are kept in complete confidence, known only to our Executive Director, Awards Coordinator, and Committee Chair. The Scholarship recipients and Field of the Year Award Winners are notified prior to the Conference. The Founders Award recipients and the Outstanding Commercial Affiliate may not learn of the honor until the announcement at the Awards Banquet.

Last year, Tim introduced a striking computerized presentation highlighting the Field of the Year winners, the scholarship recipients, and the Founders Award recipients. That format will be repeated this year. It's exciting to see the honorees and top fields in each category showcased on the screen.

In October, your Executive Officers and Board of Directors met in Knoxville, TN. We spent two days reviewing everything from the year 2000 budget to the conference details. While there, we had the opportunity to visit the University of Tennessee's Neyland Stadium, gather some of their maintenance program details, and inspect the latest in turf cover technology. It never fails, I learn something new every time I set foot on an STMA member's field. Thanks to Bob Campbell, Director of Facilities for the University of Tennessee and STMA Category II Board member, I left the field with a better understanding of ways to extend turf color and growth and provide player stability on overseeded bermudagrass fields.

That's what STMA is all about - learning, sharing, and growing together. In this, too, you're the greatest!

Stephen Guise, STMA President
(714) 704-0403

Program Harmony at Championship Field of Crockett Park Key to STMA's 1998 Football Field of the Year Award

Championship Field
Crockett Parks,
Brentwood, TN, Parks &
Recreation 1998 Football
Field of the Year.

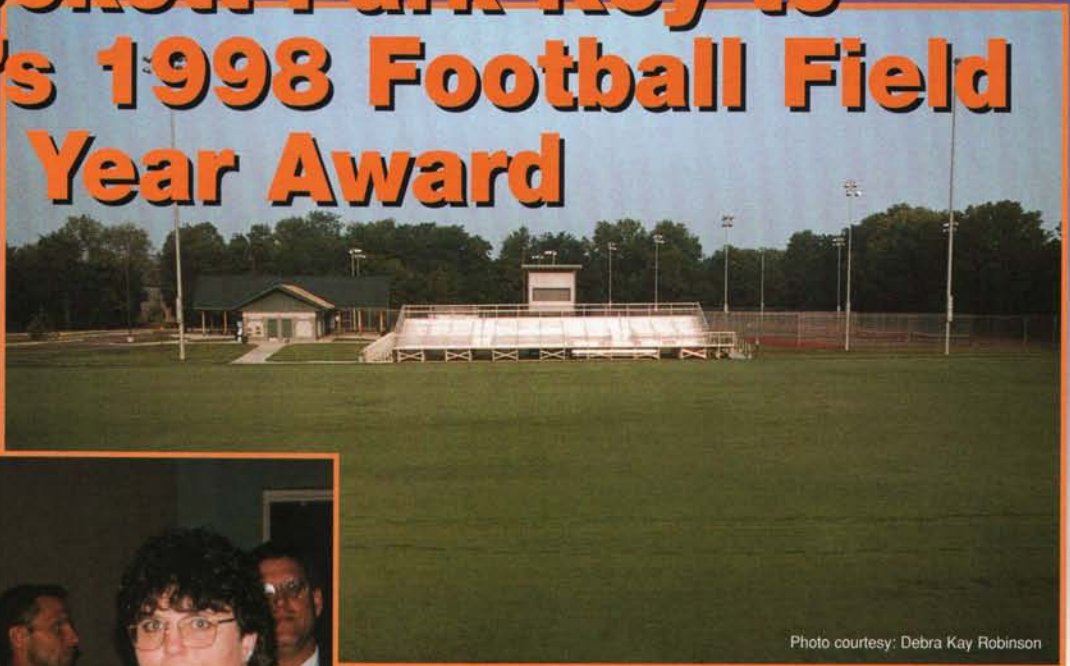


Photo courtesy: Debra Kay Robinson



Photo courtesy: Debra Kay Robinson

Steve Guise, STMA President (L), presents Debra Kay Robinson, Director of Parks and Recreation, Brentwood, TN, Parks & Recreation 1998 Football Field of the Year Award.

By Bob Tracinski

Harmony is a big issue with Debra Robinson, Brentwood, TN's Director of Parks and Recreation. It's that harmony within the field maintenance program, the staff interaction, and the community at large that earned Championship Field of Crockett Park STMA's 1998 Football Field of the Year honors in the Parks and Recreation Category.

The History, the Present, & the Future

Championship Field is only one of 25 athletic fields in this 150 acre, \$8 mil-

lion park, but it is widely considered the best football field in the area. The multi-purpose field was constructed in 1992 during Phase I of Crockett Park. The estimated cost of the project was \$2.5 million, with the Championship Field costing \$175,000.

"The construction included state-of-the-art Musco lighting and a Toro irrigation system that is part of the MIR 500 system," Robinson said. "This enables us to customize irrigation applications, including a schedule for water flow by either time or quantity, to irrigate to the rate of evaporation. It also gives us the ability to operate auxiliary controls such as lighting."

Championship Field has very shallow native soil fields, most with only three to four inches of workable soil.

"We usually hit hard pan at three-and-half inches. The soil is a very hard, red clay. In 1997, Championship Field was renovated to alleviate drainage and compaction problems,

which had developed due to the extensive, year-round use. Ten to 15 truckloads of 70 percent sand - 30 percent topsoil - were added creating just enough slope to promote drainage. Pea gravel was used in selected spots to help excess moisture channel upwards." Robinson explained. "The south end zone was raised as needed: up to 12 inches in some areas. A French drain was installed along the east side line and along the south end zone to channel water to our drainage basin. This renovation, coupled with an aggressive topdressing program using fine grade sand, has maximized field drainage. Much of this \$20,000 project was completed in house by our Grounds Specialists."

Robinson oversees a parks maintenance staff of nine covering approximately 400 acres of land and the park facilities. Seventy-five acres of Crockett Park are developed; the remainder is open meadow and forested area. The complex includes six multi-purpose fields, seven tennis courts, eight ball diamonds located within two fourplexes, a covered shelter, approximately two miles of bike trail, an amphitheater that provides

lawn seating for 3,000, one-and-a-half acres of community playground, and a historical house and log cabin that are rented for weddings, meetings, and other special events.

Another large city facility, Granny White Park, includes three ball diamonds and one multi-purpose field. An additional five or six fields are slotted for development within the community in the next two years.

"Brentwood is an affluent, upscale community and a forward thinking one. Our new fields will be the result of developer donation. The concept is just part of a community evaluation process (master plan) that involved thousands of local residents. The Brentwood 2000 plan evolved from the first community evaluation that rewards developers who donate a percentage of green space within the development. This gives us the credence and credibility to meet with the developers during the planning stages of each project to determine the best use of that green space. The Brentwood 2020 plan continues to promote the donation process. It's a win-win-win situation," Robinson commented.

The Parks and Recreation Department has cooperative agreements with the local middle school, the Brentwood Blaze Football, the Brentwood Soccer Club, and the local YMCA as major field users.

In 1996, Robinson presented a Wimbledon-like concept to the state and received an \$85,000 grant that enabled the purchase of tubular bleachers with a seating capacity of 710 for Championship Field.

"Our concept for Crockett Park was a Wimbledon-like setting with a cluster of tennis courts and athletic fields featuring Championship courts and lighted fields," she explained.

"Through the cooperative agreements, we've gained a flagpole and a press box/crows nest. The Coca Cola Company also donated a scoreboard for that field. That small corner of Crockett Park features the finished Championship Field, paved access that is fully ADA compliant, paved walkways/bikeways fronting the fields and an abutting concessions /restroom facility with an open air shelter and meeting room," Robinson continued.

Playing Time

This outstanding facility is fully scheduled during seven months of the year. The Brentwood Blaze program consists of 12 teams and more than

300 players. They use the field approximately 30 hours per week from August 1 through November 1. The field serves as home field to the middle school during the same period. The middle school also uses the field for two weeks of spring drills adding about 10 hours of use per week. The field also hosts a full spring season of youth soccer matches and tournaments. The Nashville Metro's, the local

Professional Soccer Organization, uses the facility on many occasions. It all adds up to more than 500 hours of on-field activity per year.

"We have two closed periods for Championship Field: November 15 to March 1, and the month of July. That month serves as a recovery period between Spring and Fall use. The turf is 419 Bermudagrass. It is maintained at a one-inch height from Spring until



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November, then raised to one-and-a-quarter inch to protect the crowns from football's wear and tear," Robinson explained.

The Drought of 1999

The drought of 1999 challenged the program harmony.

"We had just sprigged our fields to promote density when the city imposed water restrictions. We had a complete

ban for weeks. Then, in early August we could irrigate only for short cycles within a 12-hour period. Baseball, soccer, and football were all running full schedules, so we irrigated each field for a 20-minute cycle, giving each one a taste of water for turf survival.

"When the restrictions were lifted, we overseeded with perennial ryegrass to promote density and help preserve the Bermudagrass. The results

were good. We'll oversee the lighted fields again next year. The natural open field areas we use for additional practice sites are cool-season turf. It went dormant during the worst of the drought, but snapped back well. It's also likely we'll use cool-season turf on the new fields.

"The Championship Field came through the drought better than the other fields, including the field adja-

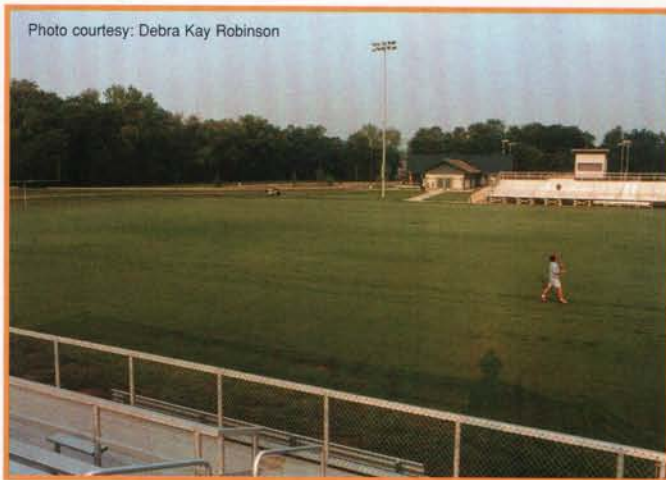


Photo courtesy: Debra Kay Robinson



Photo courtesy: Debra Kay Robinson

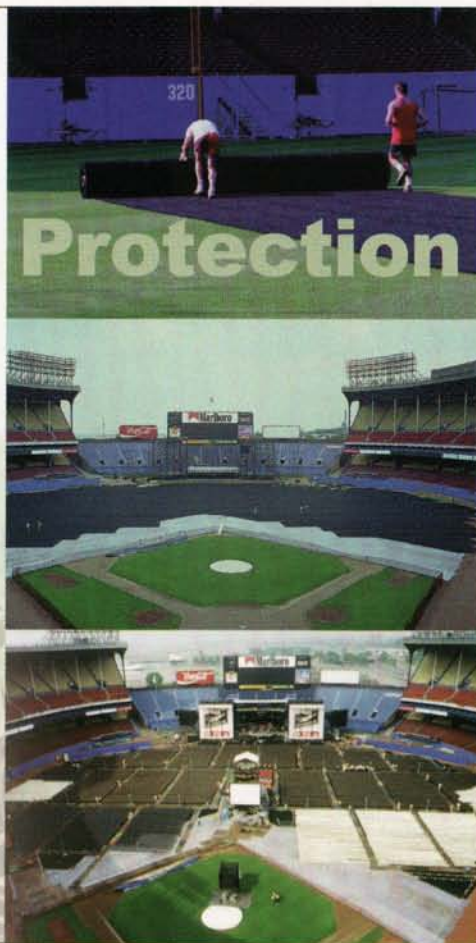
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