

### First Things First

Soil test for pH, soluble salts, and in some areas water pH

You can't feed your new baby properly until the doctor gives you a correct formula to use, and the same is true with turf. At least once a year you should get a soil test. State this in your bid and supply the report when the test is completed to the school for their records.

Attempt to feed the sport turf controlled quantities of slow release nutrients rather than seeking immediate short term results—establish a balanced diet for your growing turf on a day-to-day, week-in and week-out basis. Make sure your fertilizer is a complete product with macronutrients in a slow—release shell to reduce your grass clippings and maintain a consistent appearance. You wouldn't feed your child 15 days of nutrients and then starve him for the rest of the month.

Issue a monthly results work calendar with each invoice.

*Oxygen and water*—you must open up the soil to aid in the continuation of quality root growth and added root strength, just as the doctor does to jump start your child at delivery.

Aeration of any nature is good—and the deeper the better in some cases—you want your turf to get good oxygen exchange. Core plugs, solid tine, spike, shatter and water injection are all forms of aeration. The time of year and playing practice schedules dictate the kind of implement to use.

Change the soil profile by using additional soil additives—sand, Turface or topsoil. Top dressing needs to be considered at least once a year, budget permitting. Not only does top dressing assist with microbial activity and water infiltration, but it also aids in maintaining a smooth playing surface.

Regulate irrigation so the turf roots receive required amounts of water; too much water can be hazardous, and weather conditions need to be monitored with water gauges and moisture sensors. ■

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 has also produced three videos: *The ABC's of Grounds Maintenance: Vol. 1, Softball; Vol. 2, Baseball; and Vol. 3, Soccer/Football Field Refurbishment.* He travels throughout the United States conducting workshops for men and women who maintain athletic fields. For more information about Perry's tips or other field maintenance questions, call: (800) 227-9381, or e-mail grounds@digital.net.

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**Be sure to read next  
month's column for part  
two of Floyd's article**

# STMA in Action

Early on the morning of May 9, a crowd of approximately 50 gathered at the Appleton Nienhaus Sports Complex. The attraction was the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association Spring Chapter Meeting. Conversation flowed as early arrivers sipped coffee and munched donuts near the registration area.

President Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler Corporation, officially opened the meeting at 8 a.m. with a welcome and an overview of the day's events. Dr. John Stier, University of Wisconsin, a strong supporter of STMA and the chapter, was next on the program. Steve Trusty, STMA executive director, provided an update on the association and its services for members and chapters. He also gave an overview of the Certified Sports Field Manager program, including the process of preparing the supporting materials to qualify to take the exam. Both speakers allowed time for a question and answer session at the end of their presentation.

The group moved to the field for the demonstration portion of the program. Bill Findlay, head groundskeeper for

the St. Louis Cardinals, shared his expertise in infield maintenance, including showing and discussing techniques for the pitchers mound maintenance. Dave Cygan of Pro's Choice (a Gold Level Chapter Sponsor) also demonstrated and discussed infield maintenance techniques, including methods of drying a wet field to allow play. These up-close demonstration sessions allowed an easy exchange of questions and answers between the attendees and demonstrators. This is always a plus in such areas as infield maintenance where the science of sports turf management blends with the art of grooming varying clay-sand-amendment mixtures to the precise conditions to best support play.

Following the demonstrations, the group traveled to the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers Stadium for lunch. Rich Riggs and Jesse Mulman, groundskeepers for the Timber Rattlers, addressed attendees during this segment of the meeting. The group then observed as Mulman and the Timber Rattlers grounds crew worked through their standard pre-game field preparation.

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## Chapter News

**Iowa:** The Iowa/Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Chapter Challenge will be in Des Moines, Iowa, with the Golf Challenge on July 14 and the Softball Challenge on July 15. For information on the Iowa Chapter or upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum at The Turf Office at (515) 232-8222 (phone), (515) 232-8228 (fax) or e-mail: [Lori@iowasturfgrass.org](mailto:Lori@iowasturfgrass.org).

**Minnesota:** The Iowa/Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Chapter Challenge will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, with the Golf Challenge on July 14 and the Softball Challenge on July 15. The Minnesota Chapter's annual Tour on Wheels will be held on July 26. Already on the agenda are a stop at St. Olaf College to check out the new softball field and closing the event by attending the evening St. Paul Saints game. For information on the Minnesota Chapter or upcoming events, contact Ron Werner at (507) 634-1176.

**Michigan:** MiSTMA and GLSTMA (now renamed the Ohio STMA Chapter) will hold a joint Tour on Wheels on July 18. Sites will include the new Comerica Park, two high school locations with Birmingham Public Schools, and winding up the tour by catching the game between Detroit and Cincinnati. For information on the chapter or pending events, contact Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at (616) 738-6974 or click on your computer to [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org) to visit the chapter's NEW Web site.

**Ohio (formerly GLSTMA):** The Ohio Chapter and MiSTMA will hold a joint Tour on Wheels on July 18. Sites will include the new Comerica Park and two high school locations with Birmingham Public Schools. Attendees will end the day by catching the game between the Detroit Tigers and Cincinnati Reds. The Ohio Chapter will participate in two August events: the Ohio State University Extension Day at Owens Community College on August 2, and the Ohio Turf Foundation Research Day at the OTF Research Center in Columbus on August 9. OSTMA will hold its third annual fall field day at the intramural complex at Ohio State University. REMINDER: The deadline for OSTMA field of the year awards and scholarship applications is October 1. For information on the OSTMA Chapter, contact: Joe Zelinko at (800) 897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery at (419) 885-1982 extension 50, or click on your computer to [www.glstma.org](http://www.glstma.org) to visit the chapter's Web site.

**Florida:** The Florida Chapter will meet on July 18 in the town of Lantana. The Education theme is Overseeding Sports Fields and Maintaining High Wear Athletic Field Areas. A tour of Lantana's athletic fields will be included in the program. The chapter also will have a booth at the Florida Turfgrass Association meeting on August 15 and 16. For information on the Florida Chapter or pending activities, contact John Mascaro at (954) 341-3115.

**Southern California:** The SO-CAL Chapter will meet on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Filippi's at 9969 Mira Mesa Blvd. in San Diego. The Chapter will meet at Qualcomm Stadium on July 18 at 2 p.m.. Events will include a tour of the field and stadium facilities. Attendees will attend the baseball game as a group. For information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact The Chapter Hotline: (1-888) 578-STMA (toll free in Southern California).

**Colorado:** The chapter is planning its second annual Seminar on Wheels. Also in the planning stage is an August 3 Football Seminar at Folsom Field on the University of Colorado campus. For information on the Colorado Chapter or upcoming activities, log on to the Chapter's Web site: [www.cstma.org](http://www.cstma.org), or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline: (303) 346-8954.

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## Chapter News

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**Wisconsin:** The chapter will join with the Wisconsin Turf Association to host a field day at the O. J. Noer Center on August 8. For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter or pending events, contact Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates, Inc. at (715) 341-2633.

**Northern California:** The next Northern California Chapter event is the annual Fall Seminar, "The Greatest Show on Turf." It will be held on August 8 at the San Jose Municipal Stadium. Scheduled activities include sports field maintenance demonstrations, vendor exhibits and attendance at the ball game between the San Jose Giants and the Stockton Ports. For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter or pending events, contact Janet Gift at (530) 758-4200.

**KAFMO:** The chapter will help sponsor a Summer Field Day on August 16 at the Brandywine Picnic Park in Pocopson, Penn. The theme is Everything for Athletic Fields. Events will include Equipment Demonstrations, Test Plots, Panel Discussions and an all you can eat pig roast. For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212, or via the chapter e-mail address: kafmo@aol.com.

**MAFMO:** The chapter is planning an August Seminar on Sports Field Design and Construction. For information on the MAFMO Chapter or pending activities, contact the Hotline: (410) 290-5652.

**Arizona:** The Arizona Chapter is currently planning July and September meetings. For information on upcoming events, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Park, Recreation and Facilities Manager, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or phone: (480) 312-7954.

**Gateway:** For information on upcoming events or on the chapter, contact Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., at: (314) 977-3228.

**Indiana:** For information on the Indiana Chapter or pending activities, contact Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at (219) 356-8424 or Pat Hickner at (800) 672-4273.

**North Texas:** For information on the chapter or pending activities, contact Rene Asprion, Diamond Pro, at (800) 228-2987 or Dr. James McAfee, Texas A & M University, at (972) 952-9220, or log onto [www.ntstma.org](http://www.ntstma.org) to check out the Web site.

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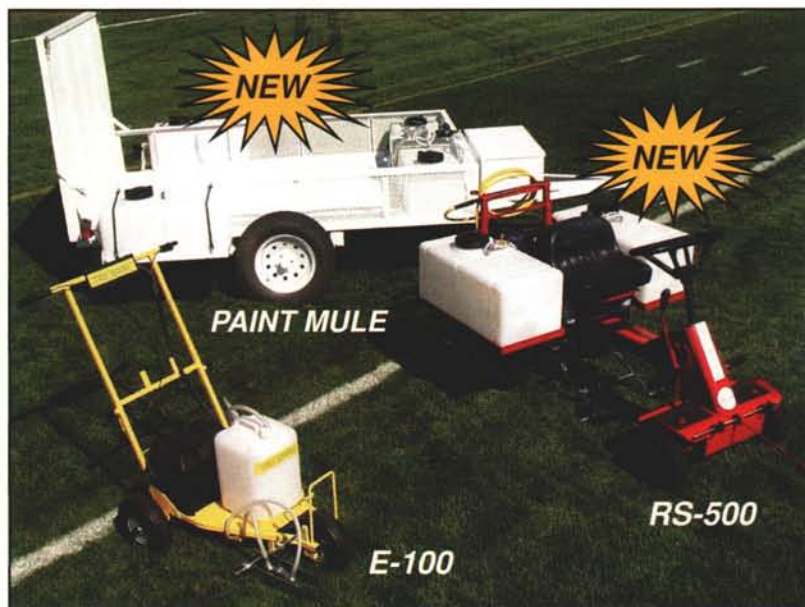
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# Chapter News

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**Tennessee Valley:** For information on the TVSTMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc. at (931) 380-0023 or (800) 837-8062.

**Midwest:** For information on the Midwest Chapter or pending activities, call The Chapter Hotline: (847) 622-3517.

**Mid-South:** For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Robert Bodi at TURF419@aol.com or Jim Calhoun at (901) 755-1305.



Photo courtesy of: STMA

Members of the Wisconsin Chapter gather for a demonstration on how to prepare the infield skinned area for a game.

## Chapters on the Grow

**Nebraska:** A new chapter is taking shape in Nebraska. For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Greg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at (308) 385-5426.

**New York:** A chapter is forming in Central New York. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the National Soccer Hall of Fame. Want more information? Contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, via e-mail at Kevin@wpe.com or by phone at (607) 432-2953.

**Missouri-Kansas:** For information on MO-KAN STMA, the newly forming chapter or on upcoming events, contact: Trevor Vance at (816) 504-4271; Gary Custis at (816) 460-6215; Jay Sutton at (816) 795-8873; or Jody Gill at (913) 681-4121.

**New Jersey:** For information on the forming chapter or upcoming events, contact Jim Gavigan, Lesco, at (732) 248-8979 or Eleanora Murfitt, Director, Township of Clinton Parks & Recreation Department, at (908) 735-5999. ■



## 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 turfgrasses and the art of maintaining sports turf to produce playing fields that are both safe and aesthetically pleasing.

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