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## PROGRAM

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2000

### Cover Story

#### 14 STMA National Convention Preview

Get a head start for Tampa with a full list of speakers and exhibitors for the January convention.

### Main Events

#### 8 Field of the Year

Stocker Stadium of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, Earns STMA 1999 Football Field of the Year Honors.

#### 12 Winter Turf Protection for Athletic Fields

Dave, Rulli, along with turf managers from across the country, discuss ways to protect fields for the winter season.

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View of the skyline of Tampa, Fla., site of the 2001 STMA National Convention. Courtesy Tampa Convention and Visitors Association

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**Terry Porch**  
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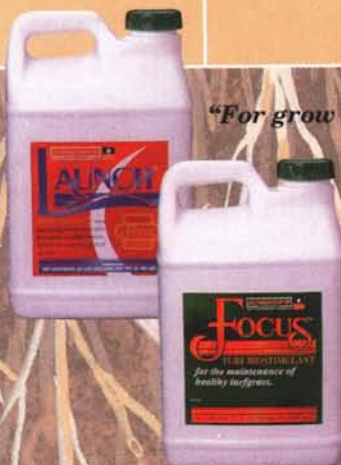
*"Due to stadium construction, portions of our field were sodded only a week before the opening game. I applied Launch® and the sod was knit down and playable. The massive root development I get with Launch enables me to maintain my entire bluegrass field at 1.25 inches mowing height. I haven't had to use a lot of fungicide, and it really gets hot down here in the stadium."*

**Trevor Vance**  
Kansas City Royals

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## STMA Matters

As the autumn days get shorter and cooler, and the leaves change hue and fall from the trees, we are reminded of two impending events: winter, and the STMA National Convention.

It seems like only a few months ago that I attended the conference in St. Louis, where I got to meet several of you for the first time. I hope all of you reading this will be able to attend, because, as a source for contacts, advice, fun and friendship, the National Convention is unbeatable.

To get a taste of what to expect in January, we've devoted a large portion of this issue to the speakers and exhibitors attendees will be able to meet, talk with and learn from at the show. Use this issue as a resource to find which booths you must visit, and which speakers and workshops you must attend.

Thanks to all the exhibitors and speakers for supplying information. A special thank you to Ross Kurcab, who gave me a chuckle when he supplied this quote on why the conference is so important: "I go to the STMA Conference because Steve Trusty is not only funny, but also sexy."

All joking aside, Ross added the following: "Let's face it, this is a tough profession. Few outside the industry understand what it takes, and what we put into it. But when I'm at the STMA Conference, I'm with family. I've made lifelong friends who can sit down with me, have a cold one, and really understand."

Well said, Ross.

### Sports Turf Managers Association Announces Formation of SAFE

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) announced the formation of the Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE). This Foundation is being formed as a 501(c)(3) corporation for the purposes as outlined in the SAFE Mission Statement: "To support sports field specific research, educational programs and environmental concerns to promote user safety."

"The STMA Strategic Planning initiative identified the need for sports specific research as one of our top priorities," said STMA President Richard T. Moffitt. "I speak on behalf of the Association to note the formation of this Foundation as another positive step forward in our continued focus on helping increase the level of professionalism throughout the sports turf industry."

For information on SAFE, please contact Trusty by phone at (800)323-3875.

Michael SanFilippo  
(847) 882-1942

## Tip of the Month

### Efficiency - The Buzzword for the 21st Century

by Floyd Perry

As I travel across our country and visit various athletic centers, it always amazes me how some park centers, recreation complexes, stadium venues seem to always have the big events annually played on their respective fields. But after talking to the teams, coaches and administrators, the same pattern is evident—efficiency of task and dedicated working crews.

What sets these particular maintenance departments apart from others is sometimes measured in the smallest of detail:

**Easy, convenient means to move and manage your equipment.** Groundskeepers today are creating an arsenal of quality tools and equipment that can perform a multitude of tasks. There is nothing worse than beginning a maintenance repair puzzle and finding you left some key equipment pieces at the shop.

**Create and develop tools that do multiple tasks.** All groundskeepers strive to do the best they can with what they have," but why not move a step beyond that philosophy in the future? Why not attempt to make tools that can do various tasks, under various conditions with a reduction in time? Groundskeepers and maintenance personnel are extremely handy at making things for specific jobs. Rather than creating an extensive wish list, why not attempt to make something that performs for you?



## Calendar of Events 2000

### October 4-5

Southern California Turfgrass Council's (SCTC) Turfgrass Landscape and Equipment Expo, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, CA. Contact SCTC: (800) 500-SCTC (7282)/(818) 764-5016; fax (818) 764-3363; expo@turf council.org. Web site: www.turfcouncil.org.

### October 6-7

Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association's inaugural Emerald Expo, Stadium Exhibition Center, Seattle, WA. Contact Julie Ellenhorn or Susan Solomon: (877) GREEN55/(425) 865-9709; emeraldexpo@jps.net. Web site: www.emeraldexpo.com.

### November 4-7

Green Industry Expo, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN. Contact Sims Moore: (770) 973-2019.

### November 14-16

Turf and Grounds Exposition, OnCenter, Syracuse, NY. Contact New York State Turfgrass Association: (800) 873-8873/(518) 783-1229.

### December 1-3

China Golf, Irrigation, Landscape, Turf, Sports Grounds (GILTS) 2000, Guangzhou International Exhibition & Conference Centre, Guangzhou, China. Contact Allison Hadlow: (+61 8) 9322 3222; fax (+61 8) 9321 6461; gwg@golfworldgroup.com.au. Web site: www.golfworldgroup.com.au.

### December 4-7

Ohio Turfgrass Conference & Show, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH. Contact Kevin Thompson: (888) 683-3445; fax (740) 452-2552; kthompson@offinger.com. Web site: www.ohioturfgrass.org.

## STMA Message

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## What's So Great?

What's so great about the STMA Annual Conference? A friend just asked me that question. It's hard to explain to someone out of our industry why a bunch of people want to get together and talk about grass and dirt and all the other factors that make up athletic fields.

But you wouldn't be reading this if you weren't one of us. So here's the short list of what IS so great about our conference.

**Networking:** It's my favorite way to learn. You get together with others who understand all the little quirks of field care and talk about those things. Maybe you throw out a problem you're struggling with and ask the others how they'd handle it. Maybe you're considering a new piece of equipment and you want to hear how it has performed for others. There are hundreds of reasons networking works. And there's no better place for networking than our annual conference.

**Education:** The STMA educational sessions are second to none. The general sessions are packed with great speakers. You'll join two all time great sportsmen—Lee Roy Selmon and Bucky Dent—in the Thursday morning opening session. You'll not only hear their perspectives on athletic fields, you'll also have the opportunity to ask them questions during the panel discussion that wraps up the morning session. On Saturday morning, you'll hear the perspective from across the pond from John Souter, turfgrass consultant from Scotland, and Eddie Seaward, Head Groundsman for The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club Wimbledon. Then there are the quadruple break-out sessions to focus on areas of special interest; the workshops for a deeper look at some key areas of sports turf management and the roundtable discussions where you pick a topic, join that table and spend 40 minutes sharing information and ideas.

**Trade Show:** It's the best place to interact with industry focused suppliers. Here, sports turf products and services aren't just part of the trade show, they ARE the trade show.

**Tours:** See the Super Bowl game and practice fields on Wednesday. Tour Baseball Spring Training Facilities or check out Busch Gardens, Ybor City and the Aquarium on Sunday.

**Tampa:** What could be better than the warm sun and blue skies of Tampa, especially in January when snow is falling in so many other locations? Join me at STMA's 12 Annual Conference & Exhibition, Jan. 17-21, 2001, in Tampa. Then you can tell everyone what IS so great about it.

**Rich Moffitt**  
STMA President  
(314) 977-2956



# FIELD OF THE YEAR



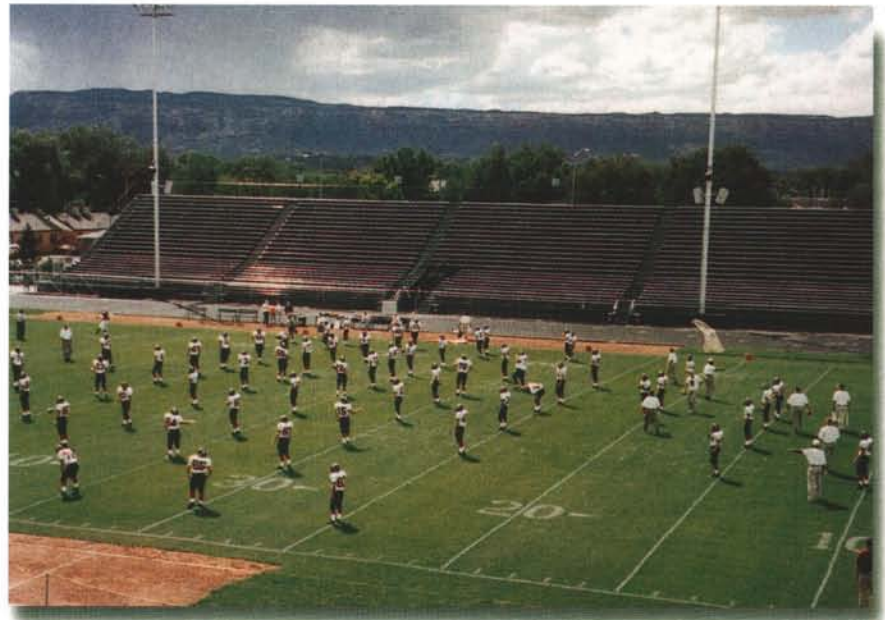
## Stocker Stadium of the City of Grand Junction, Colo., Earns STMA 1999 Football Field of the Year Honors

by Bob Tracinski

While "It's a circus around here," may be an expression sports turf managers use to describe a hectic schedule, when Ron Felt says it, he really means it. Early each June, the Shrine Club Circus takes over the football field of the City of Grand Junction, Colo., Stocker Stadium.

Felt, sports maintenance supervisor for the city, says, "Football offensive linemen are big these days and do a tremendous amount of damage to a field. Imagine what five elephants can do. The Shrine Club Circus brings in its complete three-ring extravaganza, including five elephants, horses, lions, and tigers; the clowns and their little cars, a motorcycle act and much more. Spectators can ride on the elephants and horses and have their picture taken with a bear—all on the field.

"The Circus moves in at midnight on a Thursday night to set up for four



The groundscrew at Stocker Stadium is diligent in their efforts to provide the best possible playing surface. Courtesy: City of Grand Junction

performances—two on Friday and two on Saturday. They start tear down

immediately after the last performance and move out that night. We don't cover the field, but we do use Portafloor to protect the track from the semi-trucks that drive onto the field. We also mark our irrigation lines with chalk to warn the circus workers to avoid them when they take the big axles off the vehicles and pound them three feet into the ground to serve as the anchor stakes for the rigging."

The circus is just one of a packed season of events which put Stocker Stadium to the test. Tackling them successfully while providing superior playing conditions to its athletic field users earned Stocker Stadium the STMA 1999 Football Field of the Year honors in the Parks and Recreation Division.

### Busy schedule

Felt says, "Our football season traditionally begins in late August. We're



Former STMA President Steve Guise (right), presents the STMA Field of the Year Award to Ron Felt, sports maintenance supervisor for Grand Junction, Colo. Courtesy: STMA



# The Maintenance Program



## Late Winter/Early Spring Field Cover

Center of field remains under turf blanket with soil temperatures monitored every other day. When temperatures stay consistent at 41 degrees F, the cover is removed in the morning and put back in the evening.

Following one week of this process, the cover will be removed for the season.

## Spring Start Up

Take soil tests throughout field. Send to consultant for analysis and recommen-

dations of fertilization requirements

Maintain turf at off-season height of 2-1/2 inches with 60-inch rotary mower

Check irrigation system for proper operation and make necessary repairs

Activate irrigation system approximate-

the home field for four area high schools and RMAC member Mesa State College. We can count on at least one and possibly two high school teams making the playoffs in November. We may host the championship game on Thanksgiving weekend, depending on which schools make the finals. If the college team goes into the playoffs, our season could last into December.

"Football packs the schedule. The first weekend of October, one of our local teams had its Homecoming on Friday night. Then we hosted the Colorado West Band Competition from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Saturday with each one of the 20 bands performing on field. Another high school game kicked off about an hour after the bands moved out. This year, our busiest football weekend falls at the end of October. The three middle school Super Bowls are Oct. 25, with the sixth graders playing at 4:00 p.m., the lightweights at 6 and the heavyweights at 8. That's followed by three high school games, one on Friday night, one Saturday afternoon and one Saturday night. Over 40 football games will be played on our field before the season winds down."

The field has little time for winter rest before the next round of activities. Track and field programs start in mid-February, using the football field and the eight-lane quarter mile track for practices and for local, regional and preliminary state track meets. Sixteen meets will be completed by the first week of May.

Just one week later, the graduations begin. Stocker Stadium hosts the graduation commencement ceremonies for the approximately 200 graduates at both of the area high schools and the 300 to 400 graduates



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## The Maintenance Program

ly mid-March, irrigate as needed

### Spring

Fertilize if soil tests warrant with ammonium sulphate at rate of 1/2 lb. N per 1,000 square feet

Shatter tine aerate

### Post-Circus Field Repair

Monitor for disease activity

Increase irrigation

Core aerate with 1/2-inch tines in 2 different directions, remove cores

Apply high calcium lime at rate of 25 lb. per 1,000 square feet to reduce soluble salts and chloride levels, irrigate following application

Apply 20-5-20 slow release fertilizer at rate of 1/2 lb. N per 1,000 square feet

### Pre-Football Preparation

Resod any heavily damaged turf areas

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- Sep. 12 Eugene, OR
- Sep. 19 Redding, CA
- Sep. 26 Santa Rosa, CA
- Oct. 3 Sacramento, CA
- Oct. 10 Pleasonton, CA
- Oct. 17 San Jose, CA
- Oct. 24 Fresno, CA
- Oct. 31 Bakersfield, CA
- Nov. 7 Los Angeles, CA
- Nov. 14 Los Angeles, CA
- Nov. 29 San Diego, CA
- Dec. 5 Phoenix, AZ
- Dec. 12 Tucson, AZ

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Stadium staff prepared the field for its first football game just 93 days after sodding was completed. Courtesy: Grand Junction

of Mesa State College. The band, the stage and the folding chairs for the graduates are placed directly on the turf. The schools set up the stage and all the folding chairs the day before the event and do their practice runs, with the ceremonies and tear down on the following day.

A week or so after the high school commencements, the real three-ring circus moves in. At the end of June, Stocker Stadium hosts the Statewide Special Olympics track and field events.

Felt says, "All throughout the active spring period we attempt to limit compaction by keeping the field as dry as possible prior to the event, using irrigation only as necessary to alleviate turf stress. Our much-needed break runs from the first of July until football begins in August. It's our only window for extensive turf and facility maintenance."

Stocker Stadium originally was used as a football field in 1918 for Grand Junction High School. The native soil field was renovated and the east stands constructed in 1949. The west stands were added in 1957, raising the seating capacity to 5,100. The playing surface was renovated in 1977. A Musco lighting systems replaced the old system in 1983. The

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