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STMA in Action

MAFMO Sports field design and construction seminar a huge success

The 2000 Sports Field Design & Construction Seminar of the MAFMO Chapter was held on Friday, Aug. 4, 2000, in Annapolis, Md. The well-attended seminar covered broad areas of field design and construction, offering insight on many of the various facets that must be considered when preparing for such a project.

The seminar was opened with remarks from Craig J. Zucker, Legislative Director in the Maryland House of Delegates. Don Campbell of French & Associates spoke to the group about field design from the architectural and engineering perspective. Dr. Andrew McNitt of Penn State University spoke about soils and drainage from the agronomic view. Dr. Kevin Mathias of the University of Maryland talked about the playability standpoint of turf selection. Tim Cleary with TORO addressed the group on irrigation issues. Jerry McGovern of Musco Lighting spoke about safety and playability of lighting. The seminar sessions wrapped up with a presentation by Mike Riley of Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission on the fundamentals for successful projects with project management.

Vendors were able to show their wares during breaks and the buffet luncheon held at the Radisson Hotel in Annapolis.

Chapter News

Mark your calendars now for STMA's 12th Annual Conference and Exhibition, "Upward and Onward," to be held Jan. 17 to 21, 2001, at the Tampa Marriott Waterside and the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Fla.



Mid-Atlantic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO): Join the MAFMO Chapter for a Down to Earth Seminar...Out at the Yard on Oct. 17, 2000, at Camden Yards.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the Seminar hours running from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The featured speaker is Al Capitos, the new groundskeeper at Oriole Park. Other speakers include: Arnold Bruns, turfgrass agronomist and former director of golf maintenance at Pinehurst who is now with Tru-Gro/Eagle's Choice; Steve LeGros, director of field operations at Hershey Sports Complex; and Kevin Yeiser, physical plant operations director for Lebanon Valley College. Topics include: baseball and softball infield management, integrated pest management, soil problems and issues, soccer field management and general ballfield construction.

For information on the MAFMO Chapter or pending activities, contact the Hotline: (410) 290-5652.

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter will meet on Oct. 17 at the University of Miami. Speakers include: Tim Moore, ballfield coordinator for the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission on Baseball Infields ("Build Them for Optimum Playability and Easy Maintenance"); Steve Trusty, executive director of STMA ("Professionalism for Sports Turf Managers"); John Rowland, consultant ("Fertility Requirements of GN1 Bermudagrass at the University of Miami"); and Kevin Hardy, University of Florida ("The Baseball Maintenance Program at the University of Miami"). Also on the chapter's calendar are: the Turf Rodeo at Delray Beach on Nov. 1, 2000, and an Equipment Demonstration Day on Dec. 5, 2000, at the City of Parkland. For information on the Florida Chapter or pending activities, contact: John Mascaro at (954) 341-3115.

Tennessee Valley: TVSTMA will hold a Field Day on Oct. 19 at Pringles Park, home of the West Tenn Diamond Jaxx at Jackson, Tenn. Bill Marbet and Rob Bodi will address Infields and Irrigation Problems. On November 5, the chapter, in conjunction with the Tennessee Recreation and Park Association, will tour the Bell South Park Baseball facility in Chattanooga, the Findlay Football Stadium, the Jack Frost Softball Stadium and the Girls Preparatory School track and field facilities. For information on the TVSTMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc. at (931) 380-0023 or (800) 837-8062.

Southern California: The Southern California Chapter's First Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Twin Oaks Golf Course in San Marcos on Oct. 25, 2000. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with a Shotgun Start at 12:30 p.m. For more information on this event, contact Ron Kirkpatrick at (858) 453-1755 or Scott Martinez at (760) 802-6476. The SO-CAL Chapter will meet on Nov. 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Filippi's at 9969 Mira Mesa Blvd. in San Diego.

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NEW MEMBER SWEEPSTAKES!!

All New Members Joining Between October 1st and December 1, 2000, will be eligible for a drawing for a free registration to the STMA 12th Annual Conference & Exhibition, January 17-21, 2001, Tampa, Florida

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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: educational opportunities; support for sports turf research; facilities tours; a national awards program; certification program; STMA website: www.sportsturfmanager.com; access to the STMA National Conference & Exhibition; complimentary subscriptions to our *Sports Turf Manager* Newsletter and sportsTURF Magazine; and MUCH more!

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800/323-3875, 712/366-2669, fax: 712/366-9119 or e-mail: SportsTMgr@aol.com

"Promoting Better and Safer Sports Turf Areas"

Chapter News

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Also on the SO-CAL schedule is an educational program at Mira Costa College from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 7. A pesticide presentation will be included in the program. CEUs will be awarded. For information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact: Ron Kirkpatrick at (858) 438-1755.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO): Oct. 31, 2000, is the deadline for applications for the "KAFMO Field of Distinction" and nominations for the "KAFMO Person of the Year."

The 5th Annual KAFMO Athletic Field Conference will be held in Grantville, Pa., on Feb. 9, 2001. The event will feature Boyd Montgomery of the Sylvania (Ohio) Recreation Department, along with seminars by KAFMO members, the annual awards ceremony, and vendor exhibits. 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.

Northern California: The Nor-Cal Chapter will be holding their annual Fall Continuing Education Seminar on Nov. 13 in Santa Cruz at a facility associated with the

University of California-Santa Cruz. Details are yet to be finalized, but the event will take place on a Monday (the 13th) to allow participants to combine the meeting with a weekend family outing on the beautiful Santa Cruz beaches. Dennis Suit, sports turf manager at San Jose State University, is chair for the event. For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter or pending events, contact Janet Gift at 530/758-4200.

Colorado: The Colorado Chapter will again participate in the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association Conference and Trade Show which will be held Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 at the Denver Convention Center. For information on the Colorado Chapter or upcoming activities, log on to the Chapter's Web site: www.cstma.org or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline: (303) 346-8954.

North Texas: The North Texas Chapter will meet on Dec. 2, 2000, in conjunction with the Texas Turfgrass Association Conference in San Antonio. More details will be announced soon. For information on the North Texas 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 to check out the Web site.

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Ohio (formerly GLSTMA): The Ohio Chapter will participate in the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on Dec. 4-7, 2000. The OSTMA's annual meeting and awards breakfast will be held on Dec. 5 in conjunction with the Conference. For information on the OSTMA Chapter or upcoming events, 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 to visit the chapter's Web site.

Arizona: The Arizona Chapter will meet in Yuma on Dec. 5, 2000. For more information on this event contact Larry Munoz, City of Yuma Parks and Recreation at 520/329-2824. For information on the chapter or 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.

Minnesota: The Minnesota Chapter will again participate in the Minnesota Turf & Grounds Conference and Trade Show. Dates are Dec. 6-8, 2000. Several Conference sessions will focus on sports turf management. For information on the Minnesota Chapter or other upcoming events, contact: Ron Werner at (507) 634-1176.

Iowa: The chapter will participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show to be held from Jan. 29-31, 2001, at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines, Iowa. A special sports turf track will again be offered. For information on the Iowa Chapter or upcoming activities, contact: Lori Westrum at The Turf Office at (515) 232-8222 (phone) or (515) 232-8228 (fax) or e-mail: Lori@iowaturfgrass.org.

Gateway: For information on upcoming events or on the chapter, contact: Mark Jennings at (314) 983-5345 or Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, at: (314) 977-2956.

Indiana: STMA - For information on the Indiana Chapter or pending activities, contact: Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at (219) 356-8424.

Michigan: For information on the chapter or other pending events, contact: Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at (616) 738-6974 or click on your computer to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's new Web site.

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

Wisconsin: For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter or pending events, contact: Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates, Inc. at (715) 341-2633.

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

Chapters On The Grow

Kansas City, 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.

Nebraska: For information on the forming chapter or upcoming events, contact: Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at (308) 385-5426.

South Texas: A chapter is developing in South Texas. For information on the newly forming chapter or upcoming events, contact: Tom McAfee, Nelson Wollfe Municipal Stadium, San Antonio, at (210) 207-3754.




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. Interested? 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.

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.

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Surviving special events

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objectives, you can then create the outline of what type of field you need for use. These objectives will be ongoing as the plan develops, and may include the following:

- * What are the access points onto the field?
- * What is the best turf and subsoil for the venue?
- * Determine length of event season then subtract potential event dates. Is this enough time for maintenance?
- * Will I need to use field covering, and if so, what are the dimensions of potential field setups?

Maintenance and Operations

Based on the field size and location you should break down the facility in "tasks" that will allow you to create standard operating procedures. These procedures allow you to schedule maintenance at the facility utilizing a format that separates event maintenance from routine maintenance.

After completing the maintenance needs as they relate to total headcount, you will be simultaneously creating a list of equipment to keep the facility managed at a certain level. The budget outline can then be determined and calculated to establish capital equipment needs.

By following these simple procedures and suggestions you will be able to start your quest for a new facility that will withstand the pressures of players' and owners' use requirements. Through the development your role is to keep the "reality" in place during the design. The design of a facility is one of the last issues of concern outside of building it and using it. The above general steps will in turn assist you with developing the specifications that best suit your needs.

As our industry grows and expands into other venues responsible for growing grass or managing fields we will be on a path that will allow us to adapt to our future. As we adapt to change in

use of our facilities we are only making them better in the long run.

If you are short on funds for renovations and improvements, a great way to protect your field is through the use of special floor coverings developed for turf, such as Forum Floor, Portafloor, terraplast and Sportcourts. These can be rented or purchased, and each provides various levels of turf protection for the special event.

The last and most important issue in handling the dreaded special event is attitude. Approach management in a positive way and explain your concerns through positive dialog. There are numerous ways to keep your field safe if you keep an open mind and concentrate on a solution on how to make it work.

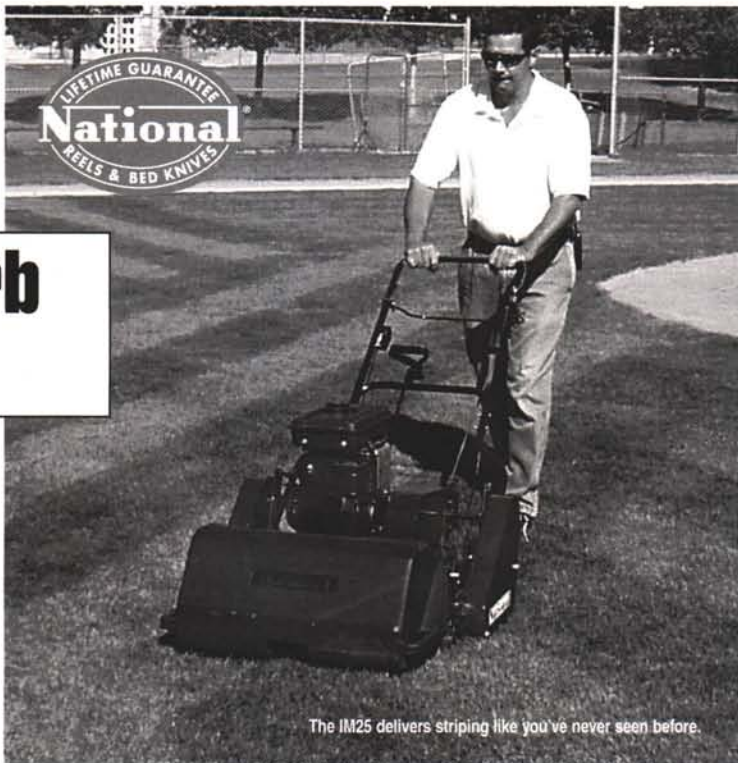
L. Murray Cook is president-elect of the STMA and serves as President of Ballpark Services, LLC.



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The key to success...

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The pendulum is swinging. Some institutions and recreation boards are creating safety committees of peers to help solve this 21st Century dilemma of not having sufficient quality turf for the young men and women to play on. Some colleges, high schools and recreation boards have set aside funding for annual capital monies to be spent on equipment, which aids in turf protection and re-establishment. I take my groundskeeping hat off to those groups.

Capsular Analysis

More and more attention has been directed to athletes (men and women, boys and girls) on all levels. Part of that explosion has been the creation of intensified effort on the part of the maintenance staff.

More effort needs to be directed to the fact that turf is a growing plant and takes a certain amount of care to continue to grow properly.

What do you know of that can be baked, frozen, trampled, starved, overfed, dehydrated, saturated, compacted, cut too short, not cut at all, sliced, probed, smothered, painted and kicked, but still survive? It's athletic turf. But it can't take too much of any of those conditions without some help from the institution and their coaches.

Causes for poor turf

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Improper fertilization and liming: Too little fertilizer, inadequate lime and poor timing of fertilizer applications are the causes of many turf problems. You should always have your soil tested to determine the fertilizer and lime needs.

Lack of water: Most athletic fields and recreation areas are at the mercy of the weather to provide water. Supplemental irrigation, especially during the summer months, often makes the difference between dense, high quality turf and sparse, clumpy cover.

Poor judgement as to the time to use the field: This is especially true of practice sessions on a wet, soggy field. Scheduled events, however, often must proceed regardless of the condition of the playing field. The most important factor is the soil condition. Soils will "puddle" and lose their physical structure if disturbed while wet. This packs the surface and prevents normal air, water and nutrient movement.

For more information on Lesco or the "Athletic Field Turf Maintenance Handbook," contact Lesco: 20005 Lake Rd., Rocky River, OH 44116-1545; 800-321-5325.

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.

Corrections

In last month's editorial, Mike San Filippo incorrectly listed Steve Erickson's position with the Pittsburgh Pirates as head groundskeeper. Erickson's position in Pittsburgh is supervisor of field maintenance (assistant groundskeeper). The head groundskeeper for the Pirates' new stadium is Luke Yoder.

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Q&A

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dressing sand can be applied before deep coring with a vertidrain.

On native soils I typically use straight sand since it is effective, easy and inexpensive. Aggressive coring will help mix the sand with the native soil. The most effective modification (greatest change in physical properties with the least amount of added sand) has been obtained from sands in the very coarse to coarse size range. Select a uniform coarse sand (80 percent of the particles between 1.0 and 0.5 mm and 95 percent between 2.0 and 0.5 mm) to maximize large pore space when modifying native soil fields high in silt and clay. Other beneficial materials such as city compost or inorganic amendments (Turface, Axis, Zeopro, etc.) can simply be topdressed and incorporated into the profile with coring and dragging.

The best time to smooth out the bumps and depressions in the field is at the end of a playing season when the grass is worn and some of the soil may be exposed. Slow dragging with a leveling bar or drag will cut the topdressing off of the high areas and deposit it in the low areas. Combine this with seeding and the repeated process over a three-year period will result in a much smoother field.

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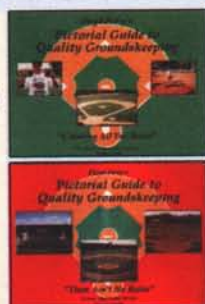
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Creeping Bentgrass presents a difficult management problem throughout the summer season. This complex dilemma is

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field care. These videos also make great teaching tools for new, part-time & temporary field assistants. Features settings of hitting pads; chalking batters box; chalking fair line; sinking multiple pitching; rubbers; sinking multiple bases; breaking up hard clay; surfaces; water removal in clay; areas; edging the running track. VIDEO 40 minutes. 4067 \$49.95



The ABC's Grounds Maintenance: Volume II Baseball Fields,

by Ground Maintenance Services,

A videotape training series for Baseball groundskeepers. Computer graphics and detailed explanations provide unique insight and understanding of athletic field care.

These videos also make great teaching tools for new, part-time & temporary field assistants. Features setting/rebuilding; homeplate area; rebuilding pitchers mound; sodding dugout walkways; application of crushed; brick; rounding infield crescent; complete infield; repair of turf; fertilizing & overseeding, patterns; reducing infield lips; removal of dew from grass; water removal in clay areas; edging the running track. VIDEO 55 Minutes. 4068 \$49.95



The ABC's Grounds Maintenance: Volume III Soccer/Football Field Refurbishment,

by Grounds Maintenance Service,

A videotape training series for Soccer/football groundskeepers. Computer graphics and detailed explanations provide unique insight and understanding of athletic field care. These videos also make great teaching tools for new, part-time & temporary field assistants. Features setting/rebuilding; homeplate area; rebuilding pitchers mound; sodding dugout walkways; application of crushed; brick; rounding infield crescent; complete infield; repair of turf; fertilizing & overseeding, patterns; reducing infield lips; removal of dew from grass; water removal in clay areas; edging the running track. VIDEO 55 Minutes. 4069 \$49.95

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