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STMA revamps website

Bigger! Better! More interactive! Log on to www.sportsturfmanager.com to check out the Sports Turf Managers Association’s newly revamped website.

Connect directly to STMA Officers and Board of Directors via email, or post a question on “Ask the Expert.” Browse through the coming events of STMA’s 23 chapters and make connections with your local contact.

Scan the latest details of the upcoming 13th Annual Conference & Exhibition to be held January 16-20, in Las Vegas.

Learn about the Certified Sports Field Manager program and see what it would take for you to achieve the CSFM status.

For association information, call 810-229-9405 or the website store, www.astm.org.

Kurtz named outstanding alum

Dr. Kent Kurtz, honorary STMA life member and former Sportsturf “Manager of the Year,” recently was named Outstanding Alumnus at the 50th annual All Ag Banquet of the College of Agriculture at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL.

Kurtz has been a faculty member since 1969 in the Horticulture/Plant and Soil Science Department at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. His accomplishments in turfgrass management include consulting on Wrigley Field, Anaheim Stadium, Dodger Stadium, Sun Devil Stadium at Arizona State, as well as preparation for six Rose Bowls, two FreedomBowls, two Fiesta Bowls, one Sugar Bowl, and two MLB All-Star contests.

His most impressive contribution to the industry however may be his implementing and guiding the nationally recognized turfgrass management curriculum at Cal Poly.

“I enjoy teaching students the basics of horticulture and plant and soil science, then molding them with the upper division courses,” says Dr. Kurtz. “When they’re finished with their classes and senior projects, I like to help them take their places in the turfgrass industry.”

ITODA elects new officers

The Independent Turf & Ornamental Distributors Association has elected Don Naumann of Sierra Pacific Turf Supply, Campbell, CA, president of the national, non-profit organization.

Naumann was elected at the Registry Resort here during the fall meeting of ITODA, which was formed in 1990 to foster the trade, commerce, and interest of those engaged in the business of servicing and marketing turf and ornamental products. Naumann founded Sierra Pacific Turf Supply 19 years ago and distributes products for the golf, landscape, and viticulture industries.

He heads a new slate of officers, including vice president Chris Petersen of Tom Irwin, Inc., Natick, MA, and treasurer Brian Fehr of The Terre Co., Clifton, NJ.

ITODA members also elected six Directors at Large: Jim Harris, Ghas C. Hart Seed Co., Wethersfield, CT; Mike Fisher, Fisher & Son, Inc., Malvern, PA; Steve Dickinson, Supreme Turf Products, Eureka, MO; John Wiley, Turf Supply Co., Eagan, MN; Rick Grant, Griffin LLC, Noblesville, IN; and Jim Turner, Simplot, Bradenton, FL.

For association information, call 810-229-9405 or email ITODAoffic@aol.com.

Murray Cook manages World Cup baseball diamonds

USA Baseball recently won the silver medal in the 16-team round robin World Cup tournament held in Taiwan. STMA board member Murray Cook provided preliminary and ongoing field operations and management of the four stadiums used in the flurry of rapidly played (so it is still possible!) international games. Team USA used professional players for the first time in the competition, which has been played in locations around the globe since 1918.

Cook, president of SPORTSTurf Services, a division of The Brickman Group, Ltd., said, “We started on the field improvements at each facility about a week before the tournament began. The fields were in poor condition but we were able to locate all the materials needed on Taiwan, so we had safe, professional playing conditions.”

Cook’s staff for the event included Budgie Clark, Joe Skrabak, and Chad Ohren, as well as fellow STMA board member Tim Moore from Montgomery County Parks in Maryland, and Steve Nunez from Southwest Texas State University.

Miguel Ortin, executive director of the International Baseball Federation, said, “It is important to understand that many of the teams had pro players competing for their home countries besides the US. We had no complaints about field conditions whatsoever. The pitchers considered the mounds to be as good if not better than the mounds they threw from in the States.”

SPORTSTurf Services provides Major League Baseball with support toward improving field and stadium conditions around the world, including the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and the 2004 Games in Athens, Greece.

Repairing skinned areas


Sections specific to baseball and softball fields can be applied to any natural playing surface where ball movement and player contact are factors, says ASTM. Field maintenance managers, infield mix manufacturers, soil amendment manufacturers, field designers and builders, sports field managers, and university faculty developed the guide.

ASTM standards are available by calling 610-832-9585 or the website store, www.astm.org.
CYGNET TURF salutes all the overworked, under-appreciated professional groundskeepers including park, city, and municipal workers that have made such a difference in the appearance and safety of all our ballfields throughout the country; from the little leagues to the major leagues, from the local soccer fields to the state-of-the-art Columbus Crew Stadium, from the Pop Warner football fields to the N.F.L. stadiums. **GREAT JOB, GUYS!!!**

We would particularly like to thank some of the groundskeepers and staffs that we have had the privilege of working with this past year:

- Roger Bossard  
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- Heather Nabozny  
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- Mark Clay  
- Jim Duggan  
- Michael "Spin" Martin  
- Vince Patterozzi  
- Chris Powell  
- Keith Van Der Leest  
- Al Johnson  
- Ken Mrock  
- Dale Wysocki  
- Tim Keene  
- Tracey Jones  
- Joe Zelinko  
- Rob Montgomery  
- Darian Dailey  

And to all the many groundscrew workers, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with and beside you, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

**Sports Turf Managers Association**

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Circle 133 on Inquiry Card
Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter will participate in the Florida Turfgrass Association Regional Seminar to be held January 22, 2002, in Lake Worth, Florida.

For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: The Iowa Chapter will participate in the 68th Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show to be held January 28-30, 2002, at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines, Iowa. The Sports Turf Workshop is scheduled for 8:30 am to 4:00 pm on January 28. On the program are: Mike Andresen, CSFM, presenting "Budget & Record Keeping; Kevin Vos, CSFM, on Reducing Soccer Field Wear; Ted Thorn, Julie Smith, Ken Hanawalt, and Dr. Dave Miner presenting Construction Case Studies, and Dr. Tony Koski presenting Soil Testing & Interpretation and Tips for Healthy Roots. The Tuesday afternoon Sports Turf session includes: Dr. Joe Vargas on Disease Management and Thatch Control; Bob Campbell, CSFM, with a Show and Tell presentation and the ISTMA Annual Meeting. The Wednesday morning Sports Turf Session includes: Bob Campbell, CSFM, presenting Survival Tips for Groundskeepers; Nick Gow on Low Budget Renovation; and representatives from KCCI-TV8 on Living with Mother Nature.

For information on the Iowa Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Lori@iowaturfgrass.org.

Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA): The MAFMO Chapter will participate in the Maryland Turfgrass 2002 Conference and Trade Show to be held January 29-30, 2002, at the Baltimore Convention Center in downtown Baltimore, Maryland.

For information on the MAFMO Chapter, or pending activities, call the Hotline at 410-290-5652.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): The Sixth Annual KAFMO/PRPS Athletic Field Conference will be held from 8:00 am to 3:45 pm on February 15, 2002 in Granville, PA.

Educational sessions include: "Professionalism and Certification for the Sports Turf Managers," presented by STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty; "Brownfield to Greenfield Sports Complex," by Greg Petry, Executive Director of the Winkeagen Illinois Park District; "The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP)," by Kevin Morris, NTEP Executive Director; "Comprehensive Risk Management for Parks, Recreation and Sports Fields," by Greg Petry; and "Cultural Approaches to Disease Control," by Dr. Mike Fidanza Penn State University.

For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212, or e-mail to: kafo@ad.com.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): OSTMA has awarded its scholarships for 2001. The recipients are: John Torres, Owens Community College student – the $500 Profile Products/OSTMA Education Scholarship; Matt Grosjean, Owens Community College student – the $500 OSTMA Educational Scholarship; Todd Rinehart, Ohio State University student – the $500 OSTMA Educational Scholarship; and Aaron Weiskittel, Grounds Supervisor at Sylvania Recreation Corporation – the $500 OSTMA National Conference Scholarship. The Chapter extends congratulations to all these scholarship recipients.

For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 740-452-4541 or Boyd Montgomery at 419-883-1982; or visit the chapter’s website at www.ogstma.org.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: For information on the chapter, or other upcoming events, contact Bill Murphy, Recreation and Facilities Manager, City of Scottsdale Park, at e-mail: bnmurphy@ci.scottdaleaz.us or tel. 480-312-7954.

Southern California Chapter: For information on the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, call Ron Kirkpatrick at 858-453-1755.

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the NorCal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet.github at 530-758-4200.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter’s website—www.CSTMA.org—or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Gateway Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, at 314-977-2956.

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

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): For information on the Chapter or other pending events, call Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at 616-738-6974, or visit the website at www.mistma.org.

Midwest Chapter STMA: For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter's website—http://ncstma.org/, or call The Minnesota Chapter STMA: For information on the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Ron Unger, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Kasson, at tel. 507-634-4165 or e-mail: ParkNRRec@CityofKasson.com.

MOKAN Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the MOKAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Trevor Vance at 816-504-4271; Gary Custis at 816-460-6215; or Jody Gill at 913-239-4121.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at 308-385-5426.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jim Gavigan, Lesco, at 732-248-8979; or call Eleanor Murfitt, at 908-236-9118; e-mail to SFM@NFLAPHER/® netscape.net.

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

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, call Kayla McAlaster at 972-234-6589 or Rennon Apon at 972-647-3393, or visit the website at www.nstima.org.

South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the South Texas Chapter, or upcoming events, call Tom McAfee, Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium, San Antonio, at 210-207-3754, or Pat Seariat at 254-718-4421.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Virginia Chapter, or upcoming events, contact: Chapter Vice President, Randy Buchanan, County of Henrico Recreation and Parks, via e-mail: buc0600@co.henrico.va.us or at tel. 804-261-8213.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter, or other pending events, call Richard Miller at 608-736-1150.

Chapters On The Grow

Las Vegas: With the STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition headed for Las Vegas January 16-20, 2002, plans for the formation of a Las Vegas Chapter also are moving forward. For more information on the developing chapter, please contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: rns@hcvca.com or at tel. 702-386-7140.

New York: A chapter is forming in Central New York. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the National Soccer Hall of Fame. Contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: Kevin@wpe.com or at tel. 607-452-2955.
KAFMO outing nets more than $500 for scholarships

BY DAN DOUGLAS

The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO) chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association held its 1st Annual Scholarship Fundraising Golf Outing at the Overlook Golf Course in Lancaster, October 22, 2001. Thirty-seven golfers participated in the event that raised money for the KAFMO scholarship fund. Hole sponsorships and raffle prizes were donated by more than 20 companies.

The sloping fairway of hole number one featured a large KAFMO logo painted by Chris Lessig of the Manheim Township Parks and Recreation Department. The highlight of the day was a hole-in-one by Steve LeGros of Hershey Sports and Entertainment. LeGros partnered with Webb Cook, Leroy Hurst, and Dan Douglas to win the scramble tournament. Food, drink, raffle prizes, and socializing followed the round of golf.

KAFMO would like to thank the vendors who supplied the hole sponsorships and raffle prizes and all of the golfers who played in the outing. The money raised from the day of fun will help support a sports turf student in Pennsylvania.

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We apologize for the typographical error in Northwestern University's ad for the Agronomist. It should have read, "Department of Athletics and Recreation"
Scheduling irrigation

What is the best way to schedule our irrigation cycles? I am at a new municipal park and athletic facility with bermudagrass (Tifway) that was grown-in the last few months. We currently water each field each night to replace daily ET losses. Our fields tend to be a little on the wet side. For the most part, we can only run the in-ground system at night. Since our run times are pretty short, we can get all the fields watered before our crew arrives in the morning.

With a grow-in, turf is often watered much more than once the turf is established and has a more mature root system. Irrigating with frequent light watering on mature turf is generally not recommended. This method never allows the soil profile to be wetted to any depth, encouraging shallow root growth. With proper irrigation scheduling, turf health will not be limited by water stress from droughts and the waste of water and energy used in pumping will be minimized.

While ET is an oft-used method for irrigation scheduling, it does have its flaws. Most ET information is based on a model that predicts water use since actual on-site measurement is often impossible. These methods generally make an assumption that climatic data used is directly correlated to how the turf responds under those conditions. I understand that these methods (models) are better for long-term prediction but have some limitations for the short-term. Soil moisture status has also been used to determine soil moisture depletion.

Wilting point

During irrigation, water is distributed in the soil by gravity and capillary forces until it begins to drain downward. At this time, soil moisture in the root zone may be considered to be in storage, depleted primarily by ET. This upper limit of water storage is called "field capacity." If water in the soil is not replenished as it is removed, the plant will eventually show water stress and begin to wilt. This low limit of soil water has been defined as the permanent wilting point. The difference between field capacity and permanent wilting point is available soil water. This available soil water is what allows you to stretch your irrigation interval, depending upon ET rate. Soil type has a significant influence on available water capacity. There are actually water budget methods to calculate available soil water with ET losses and irrigation/rain additions. Allowable depletions of 1/2 to 2/3 of the available soil water are commonly used to schedule irrigations.

Because irrigation's objective is to maintain a favorable water status for turf health, the plants themselves are the best indicators of the need for it. Moisture-stressed grass appears blue-green or grayish-green in cooler, recuperates slowly (>1 minute) after walking or driving across it, or wilts continuously. This is because a plant rolls its leaves and wilts to conserve moisture. Often certain areas or patches of turfgrass tend to wilt before others due to poor irrigation distribution, to poorly developed root structure, or to a localized dry spot from a soil influence. It is good that you are irrigating at night when efficiencies can be maximized.

Since you are already using an ET-based method, I would suggest that you also include some plant-based observations into your scheduling so that you can increase your irrigation interval. By lengthening the interval between irrigations, you are maximizing the root systems. Plants tend to have continued root growth relative to shoot growth during periods of water stress. This results in an increase in the root-to-shoot ratio and is an important mechanism for avoiding drought stress. You can increase this interval by understanding a little more about your soil-water storage.

But I don’t think elaborate calculations are necessary to determine when to water. Just a basic understanding of the available water and some careful observations can be used very effectively. After a thorough watering, monitor your fields for “hot spots” or general drought stress. Using your ET information and experience, you should be able to determine how much water is available in your soil. Therefore you can predict with ET when your plants will begin to show signs of stress and require an irrigation cycle. Depending upon sunlight, relative humidity, temperature, wind, rainfall, and available soil moisture, you may need irrigation after one day, or you may be able to go months. You will generally not need to water every day. I also suggest that you replace a less than the total ET loss when you irrigate, especially if rain is in the forecast.

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Have Questions?

Send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email glm@ufl.edu. Or, send them to Dave Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011, or email dminer@iastate.edu.

Q&A

By Dr. Grady Miller, Environmental Horticulture Dept., University of Florida
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