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STMA is on the Grow!

We currently have 26 affiliated Chapters and more are forming!

Chapter contact and event information is available in this issue and on the website at www.sportsturfmanager.com.

Thanks to continuing contributions from our Chapter Sponsors, Chapter Development Funds are available for use by our Chapters for strengthening the success and education of the chapter and its overall membership.

Also, thanks to the funding of our Chapter Sponsors, Chapter Leaders will again participate in the Chapter Officers Training & Idea Exchange Session (COTS) in conjunction with our Annual Conference & Exhibition. The next session will be held January 20, 2004, from 1:00-6:00 PM, just prior to the 15th Annual STMA Conference & Exhibition in San Diego, California, January 21-25, 2004.

If you would like to start a Chapter in your area or would like information on any of our affiliated chapters, contact:

STMA Headquarters
1027 S. 3rd Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
(800) 323-3875, (712) 322-STMA
or fax to:
(800) 366-0391, (712) 366-9119
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Sports Turf Jam Sessions

The basic goal of the Sports Turf Jam Session is category networking. It's an opportunity to meet others from facilities similar to your own and discuss issues or topics related to your specific area of focus or category.

Jam Sessions will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 PM on Wednesday, January 21, 2004, at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego.

Separate "jam session" rooms will be set up as gathering spots for those:

- * Sports Turf Managers of facilities used by professional athletes
- * Sports Turf Managers of four-year college and university facilities
- * Sports Turf Managers of other school facilities
- * Sports Turf Managers of parks and recreation facilities
- * Individuals working for companies providing products or services to the sports turf industry

- * Students
- * Individuals in teaching, research or extension positions

The Jam Session might be in the form of a panel or round table discussion, feature a guest speaker or individual presentations with questions and answers of the presenter(s).

No matter what the format, this will be a session to look forward to, relax and "chew the fat" with others in positions similar to your own from across the nation, and maybe even from around the world.

Jam Session costs are covered in your Conference registration. There is no additional charge.

COTS

Chapter Officers Training (And Idea Exchange) Session: COTS

This interactive gathering takes place Pre-Conference, from 1:00 to 6:00 PM on Tuesday, January 20, 2004, at the Town and Country Resort.

More Networking!!

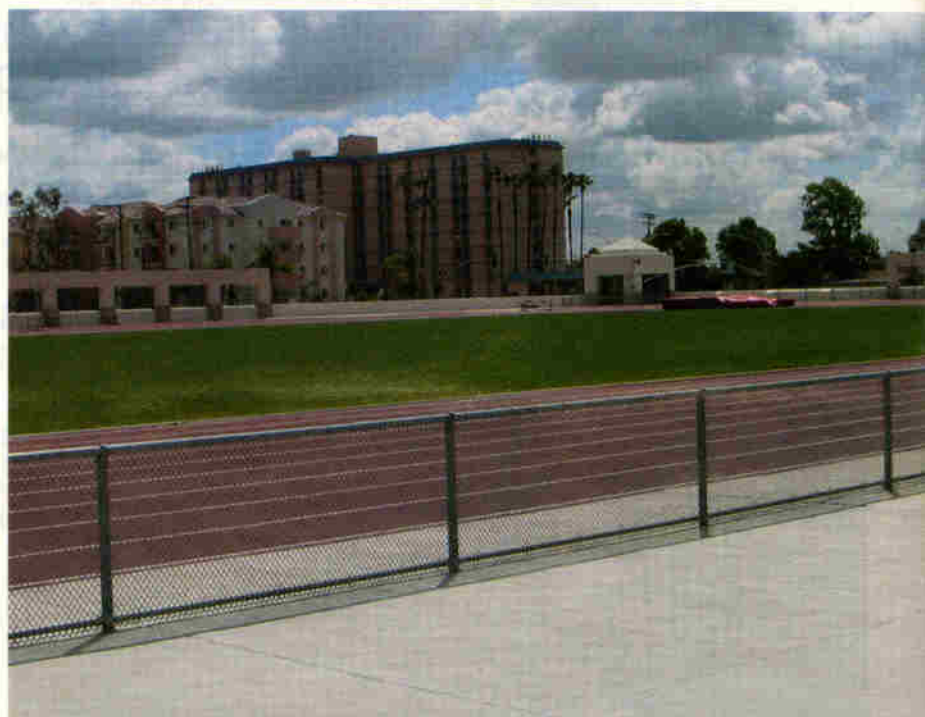
This session is for you if you are an officer or committee chair of a current STMA Affiliated Chapter or if you are part of a group in the process of forming a Chapter.

COTS is a forum for information exchange. You'll meet the leaders of the STMA Chapters from across the nation and share stories of your successes and challenges. You'll pick up ideas and share your ideas with others as well as we all work together to grow.

There is no charge for attending COTS. Costs are covered by the generous support of the STMA Chapter Sponsors: Gold level - John Deere; Silver Level - Alpine Services, Inc, Hunter Industries, Stabilizer Solutions, and Syngenta.

For more information on these great networking opportunities—and the 15th Annual STMA Conference & Exhibition, January 21-25, 2004—visit the website: www.sportsturfmanager.com.

ST



Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association

(OSTMA): The Chapter's Annual Meeting and Awards Breakfast will be held on December 11 in conjunction with the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Annual Conference, December 9-12, at the Columbus Convention Center in Columbus.

For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 888-824-9805 or 419-824-9805 or Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, at 419-885-1982; or visit www.ostma.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

The Chapter will present a Sports Turf Track on December 10-11 of the New Jersey Turfgrass & Landscape Expo, December 9-11, at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort in Atlantic City. Keynote Speaker for the Conference is Mike Veeck. Among the other featured speakers for this event is George Toma, NFL Consultant for Super Bowl Field Preparation. For more information on the Expo, see www.njturfgrass.org.

For other information call 908-730-7770 or Eleanora Murfitt at 908-236-9118; or e-mail to HQ@sfmanj.org.

Minnesota Chapter STMA

The Chapter will participate in the second annual Minnesota Green Expo, January 7-9, 2004, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. For information see www.minnesotagreenexpo.com. For information on the Chapter, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, at 651-638-6075 or e-mail j-hintz@bethel.edu or visit www.mstma.com.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association

The Chapter will meet from 7:30-8:15 AM January 14, in conjunction with the Virginia Turfgrass Council's 44th Annual Turf and Landscape Conference, January 13-15, 2004, at the Richmond Marriott. Daylong classes January 13 include a Turfgrass Management Workshop and a Soils for Sports Turf Workshop. A Sports Turf Track is offered on January 14 and 15. For more information visit www.thevtc.org. For information on the Virginia Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Bob Studholme at Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov or 703-324-8590.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA)

The Chapter will participate in the Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference and Trade Show to be held in Valley Forge January 15, 2004. Speakers include: Dr. Dave Minner, Iowa State; Dr. Elizabeth Guertal, Auburn; Brad Park, Rutgers; and Dr. Andy McNitt, Penn State. For more info see www.paturf.org.

The 8th Annual KAFMO Athletic Field Conference will be held in Grantville February 20, 2004. Speakers include: Bob Campbell, CSFM, University of Tennessee; Dr. Andy McNitt, Penn State; Jim Koontz, Jr., Cumberland Valley School District; Mike Boekholder, Philadelphia Phillies; and Tony Leonard, Philadelphia Eagles.

For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas at 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail kafmo@aol.com.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association

(MiSTMA): The Chapter will participate in the Michigan Turfgrass Conference to be held January 19-22, 2004.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, call 517-712-3407 or email Amy Fouty, University of Michigan at fouty@umich.edu, or go to www.mistma.org.

Florida Chapter # 1: The Chapter will participate in the Florida Turfgrass Association Palm Beach

Regional Seminar to be held at Lake Worth, FL, on January 20, 2004, and the Florida Turfgrass Association Miami Regional Seminar to be held at Pro Player Stadium January 21, 2004. For information on these events check www.ftga.org. For information on the Chapter contact John Mascaro at 954-341-3115 or STMA@Turf-Tec.com.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

The Chapter present a Sports Turf Track during the 70th Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show to be held at the Pok County Convention Complex in Des Moines January 22-28, 2004. For information on the Chapter contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.



Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association

Plans have begun for the KySTMA's Annual Conference to be held in Louisville in late February. More details will be announced soon. For information, contact Tom Nielsen at TNielsen@batsbaseball.com or Aaron Boggs at AVBoggs@netscape.net.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona

For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, contact Chris Calcaterra at e-mail: chrisc@peoriaaz.com or tel. 623-412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or 480-312-7956.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter or pending events, call Steve Dugas, California State University - Fullerton, at 714-278-3929 or email sdugas@fullerton.edu.

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

Southern California Chapter: For information on the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, call Michael Tarantino at 858-679-2526 or MTarantino@powayusd.com.

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly called Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization - MAFMO Chapter STMA): For information on the Chesapeake Chapter, or other pending activities, call the Hotline at 866-818-8873 or email Nick Gammill, CSFM, at ngammill@american.edu.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming

activities, visit www.CSTMA.org or call the Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954, or contact Phil McQuade at 303-237-7188 or pmcquade@jeffco.k12.co.us.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Gateway Chapter or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College, 314-392-2328 or email krone@mobap.edu.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Skip Kirby at 770-928-1580 or email skip@sportsturfmanagement.com

Indiana Chapter: For information on the Indiana Chapter, or pending activities, contact Stan Moscrip, Indiana University, at 812-856-2256 or smoscrip@indiana.edu.

Midwest Chapter STMA: For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, visit <http://mcstma.org/>, or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121 or JGill2@bv229.k12.ks.us.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Loren Humphrey at: 402-461-2324 or email to lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Jay Warnick at JayW@Seahawks.com or Mike Wagner at MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Chapter President, Bob Elliott, Tieco, at 800-239-9547 or Glenn Lucas at 800-837-8062; email to Glenn@tvstma.org, or visit www.tvstma.org.

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, contact Kathy Cassmeyer at 972-603-2869 or Katherine.Cassmeyer@lmco.com, or see www.ntstma.org.

South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Tim Loesch at 210-207-3734 or TLoesch@alamodome.com.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: For more information on the Chapter, or other pending events, contact Chris Brindley at 715-346-3622 or cbrindle@uwsp.edu.

Chapters on the Grow:

South Carolina: Efforts are currently underway in South Carolina to form an STMA Chapter. For more information contact Dr. Trent Hale of Clemson at 843-662-3526 or thale@clemsun.edu or the forming chapter's page on www.sportsturfmanager.com.

New York: For information on the chapter forming in Central New York, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: Kevin@wpe.com or at 607-432-2953.



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president's message (cont'd)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7) "We have some things for you," said my friend as he went to the car and started bringing in the brown grocer's bags and packages. I helped him.

The man and his wife were absolutely speechless. They stood motionless and still a little cautious as they strained to understand what was happening here in this quiet little shack in the far corner of a field.

And then my friend said, "Where are the girls?"

With that, the woman went to the far side of the room and pushed open a make-shift door that was already ajar. "Girls," she said softly, "wake up, girls. Wake up. Santa Claus has been here!"

When the woman moved the lamp, now we could see two tiny figures huddled beneath another quilt in a little crib made of two-by-fours and scrap plywood.

Slowly, two curly heads popped out. There were twin girls about three or four years old. They had kept warm by sleeping in their dresses and long stockings. Now they smiled as they climbed out of the crib and stood up.

My friend had filled the small table with groceries, fruit and bread. He had a dress for the woman, a shirt and work slacks for the man. He

handed candy and toys to the twins, a doll for each of them. And they squealed with delight.

The man and his wife had now recovered from the shock. They were so pleased and happy. And they had questions. Who sent these? And why?

My friend explained they were gifts from the people in town. They were Christmas gifts. The man had explained they had gone to bed totally defeated because they could provide nothing for Christmas.

The curly-headed girls had filled their mouths with candy, and they were tearing into the cardboard boxes that contained their toys. Affectionately they fondled the dolls.

The woman searched for some way to reciprocate. She looked around the room and it was bare. There was nothing to offer. And she said, "Girls, sing 'Silent Night.'"

And those tiny girls stood there in that shack, and with the moonlight shedding beams across their faces, they sang the sweetest rendition of that Christmas hymn I have ever heard.

They all waved from the door as we drove away, heading back to town, and our homes and Christmas. They had given me the most memorable Christmas of my lifetime.

Merry Christmas!

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LOOKING AT YOUR CEC

I am trying to find out more info on CEC's in the soil. What is the ideal CEC when reading a soil analysis report? What is a bad or good CEC reading on a soil sample? What can be done to correct the CEC?

Glynn County Sports Field Manager

A simplistic description of CEC is the ability of that soil to retain and provide nutrients (positively charged nutrients) or its ability to exchange nutrients. A low CEC increases the chances for nutrient deficiencies in nitrogen, potassium, magnesium, manganese, iron, and calcium. It also increases the leaching potential of these important nutrients, making nutrient monitoring more important. CEC also indirectly influence pH of the soil in that a low CEC soil is not as buffered from pH change and a soil with higher CEC.

CEC comes from several sources. Most of it comes from the smallest particles of the soil (i.e. clay particle); the contribution may vary on type (of clay)



and from organic materials. CEC is expressed in units of centimoles (cmol) per kg or milliequivalents (meq.) per 100 grams of dry soil. There is a 1 to 1 relationship between these units. In soil test reports, CEC is normally reported as CEC, Cation Exchange Capacity, or Total Cation Exchange (TEC). Each of these terms has the same meaning and uses the same units.

So, what kind of soil test values can you expect? I am not sure you can really label a CEC value as ideal. The CEC values of sands tend to be low. If the sand (soil) does not have clay or organic matter in it then the CEC can be very low. Sand with 1-2 percent organic matter typically has a CEC in the 1 to 3 range; whereas a sand with 2-4 percent organic matter may have a CEC in the 3 to 5 range. A sandy loam soil may have a CEC of 3 to 10 and a high CEC clay up to about 50. As the percent clay or organic matter in your soil increases, CEC also increases. But just because a CEC is high does not necessarily mean it is good. It takes more than CEC to make a good soil. Clay and organic matter content also have significant influence on water retention and infiltration. Construction of sand-based fields has become popular in the past 20 years due to reduced compaction and rapid infiltration, making high-use fields easier to manage and reducing surface water that could delay play.

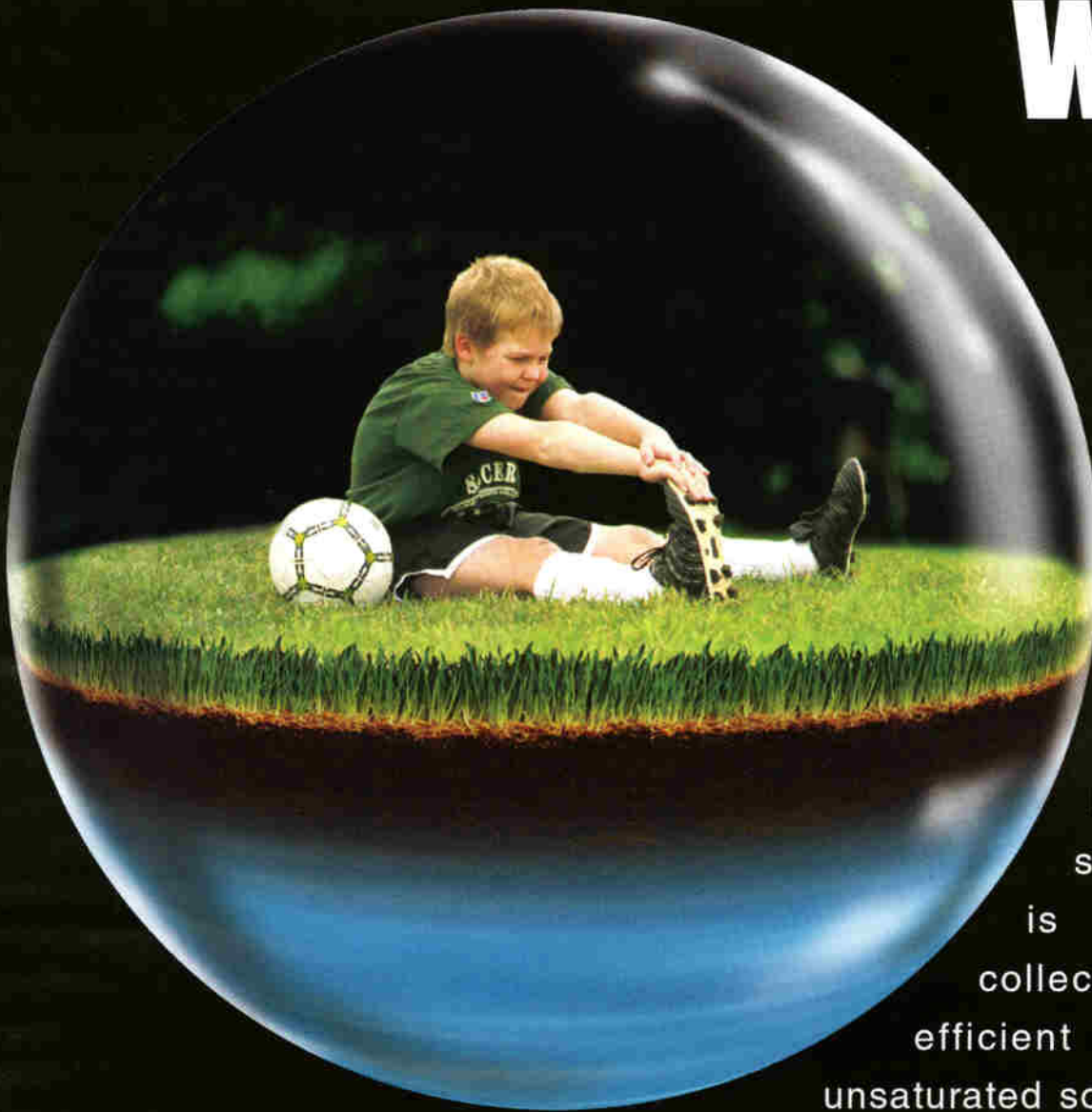
Generally, practices to enhance CEC are considered only when turfgrass soils have a CEC of less than 4. I would not use the word "correct" with CEC. You may adjust CEC . . . but even that is not easy to do. Working through the calculations, one will find that adding 1 percent (by weight) organic matter with a CEC of 150 to a sand with a CEC of 2 would increase the CEC to 3.5. That is a 75 percent increase but 1 percent by weight organic matter is a large volume (8 to 10 percent) of material. This is reasonable to accomplish during construction, but more difficult to incorporate into the soil profile on an established turf.

I mentioned clay contributes to CEC earlier, but I would normally not suggest adding clay to a sports field due to drainage and compaction issues. There are some calcined clay products that would not be bad amendments since they are heated and do not negatively impact drainage. They may also increase plant available water in some sand soils. There are other minerals (e.g. zeolites) used as amendments that may have a CEC around 200. Research the material before purchasing since some zeolites may contain high sodium levels (not good) and they seem to have a minor impact on soil moisture. Not all heated clay products are the same either.

Though not part of your question, the last points I would like to make concern management of low CEC soil. Start by adjusting soil pH if warranted. The CEC in many soils is pH-dependent. An increase in pH from 5.0 to 7.0 may result in a 10-50 percent increase in CEC. Use slow release nitrogen fertilizers or spoon-feed with quick release nitrogen. You may also see enhanced results with organic fertilizer sources. Maintain adequate potassium in your fertilizer program since potassium ions are easily leached in low CEC soils. I would suggest yearly soil tests to watch your magnesium, calcium, and manganese levels. Iron deficiencies may also occur under low CEC conditions, so foliar iron applications may be beneficial. Low CEC should not be a significant concern since many of the normal cultural programs will compensate. **ST**

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

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