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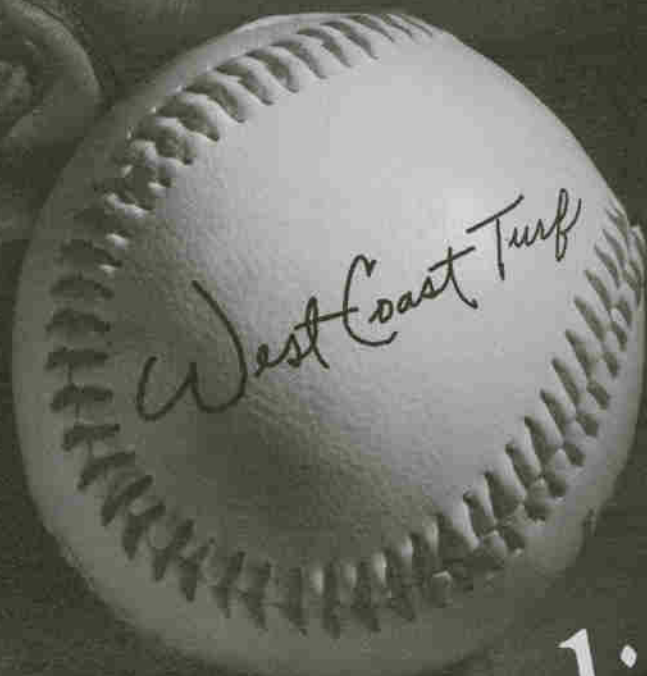
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cover story

Sports Turf Managers Association 15th Conference & Exhibition

Educational programs, speakers, and a list of exhibitors for the meeting to be held in San Diego January 21-25, 2004.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: If you want to read the latest STMA Chapter News, please log on to www.sportsturfmanager.com and click on "Chapters." Our regular STMA coverage will be back next month.

ON THE COVER: New PETCO Park, San Diego. Photo courtesy of West Coast Turf

SPORTSTURF (ISSN 1061-697X) (USPS 000-292) (Reg. U.S. Pat. & T.M. Off.) is published monthly by Adams Business Media at 833 W. Jackson, 7th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Sportsturf, P.O. Box 2120, Skokie IL 60076-7820. For subscription information and requests, call Subscription Services at (847) 763-9565. Subscription rates: 1 year, \$40 US & Poss.; 2 years, \$65 US & Poss.; 1 year, \$65 Canada/Foreign Surface, 1 year, \$130 Airmail. All subscriptions are payable in advance in US funds. Send payments to Sportsturf, P.O. Box 2120, Skokie, IL 60076-7820. Phone: (847) 763-9565. Fax: (847) 763-9569. Single copies or back issues, \$6 each US/Canada; \$9 Foreign. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, IL, and other mailing offices. COPYRIGHT 2003, Sportsturf. Material may not be reproduced or photocopied in any form without the written permission of the publisher.

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from the sidelines

ISABEL PAYS A VISIT

When Hurricane Isabel and her subsequent tropical storm hit the East Coast in mid-September, turf took a beating from Newport News to Pittsburgh. The winds blew over a neighbor's tree onto his car; the trunk left behind was at least 3 feet in diameter. That's a big storm.

I asked some turf managers who work in Isabel's path how they and their fields fared:

Tim White, Director/Park Operations, Fairfax County, VA, says the Park Authority cancelled all events in the hurricane's wake. "Staff had removed all trash cans, benches and other items that could be tossed by the high winds. During and following the event, we were assisting state and local authorities removing downed trees from roads, as well as assisting with flooding problems, temporary shelters and other issues," says White.

"While damages to Park Authority properties are approaching \$1 million, the athletic fields received only minor fence damage. Most fields were only littered with branches and vegetative debris," he says. Crews had everything cleaned up and back in place by Monday.

"We have an emergency preparedness plan that was executed [well]. Pre-event meetings were critical for that. The Fairfax County Park Authority has responsibility for 22,000+ acres as well regional responsibility in the event of emergencies and disasters."

Nick Gammill, CSFM, American University, says, "Isabel only brought 1 3/4 inches of rain here. We cancelled all practices for the day as well as a scheduled game the day before. We could have played a game that afternoon because our sand based field can handle a lot of rain."

"Most of our resources went to removing fallen trees from around the campus. I did have some extra work cleaning up limbs and debris from our stadium seating but damage to the sports facility was minimal," he reports. "I prepared by tying down the goals and cleaning out drains."

In Charlottesville, Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, University of Virginia, dodged a serious bullet. "We experienced 60+ mph winds but only 4 inches of rain. It could have been worse; the forecast called for 12 inches and sustained 80-mph winds.

"We did go forward with a baseball prospect camp 2 days after Isabel. We were able to play four baseball games with only 17 bags of Turface. No damage was done to the fields and/or our facilities. We had maybe 10 trees down. We came through okay," says Rodgers.



ERIC SCHRODER, EDITOR

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president's message

COME JOIN IN THE STMA "FAMILY REUNION"

THE YEAR 2003 is passing quickly. As we look to the holidays, we hope that our football fields will withstand the remaining practices and games as wear increases and the weather starts worsening. It is the time of year we look to the future and reflect on the year that has passed.

With all the new initiatives we started this year, it has been a challenging time for the STMA Board and Headquarters staff. Thanks to a great deal of hard work and dedication by a number of people, several of our goals have already been reached this year. Our overall goal to improve the image of our profession and provide support to help our members grow professionally remains our primary mission. We continue to focus our efforts on these important tasks.

One goal we committed to in January 2003 was the review of and revisions to our by-laws and code of ethics. I am pleased to report that this has been accomplished and, as pledged, the members of this association will have the opportunity to vote on the revisions by the end of the year.

On behalf of all the members of STMA, I would like to thank Ken Mrock and all the members of the by-laws committee for the time and effort they put into the task representing all the members of this association.

As you are starting to make plans for next year, I hope you are planning to join us in beautiful San Diego January 21-25, 2004, for the 15th STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held at The Town and Country Resort. This is the time we get together to "charge our batteries" and prepare for another season.

Under the leadership of Mike Trigg, CSFM, Conference Chair, and Dr. John Sorochan, Conference Education Subcommittee Chair, this Committee has assembled a program that promises great educational sessions and optional activities, along with excellent networking opportunities. The trade show continues to grow and this year promises to be the best ever as both the trade show and educational sessions are located in the same facility.

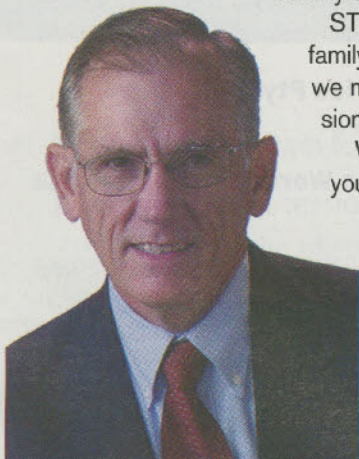
Once again, Wednesday, January 21 will be jam-packed with activities. You will have the opportunity to choose the always-popular seminar on wheels, the baseball field seminar conducted by major league sports turf managers, or the Jacobsen-sponsored SAFE Golf Tournament at La Costa Resort. Choosing which events to attend has always been a tough decision. I hope you will also be able to take some extra time to unwind by seeing the many interesting sights in this beautiful part of the country.

The conference is a great opportunity for professional growth as well as the chance for us to reconnect with our old friends to share our experiences, including the problems and opportunities our profession faces. It's a time to review the year just past, personally and professionally.

STMA is like a family, so consider this conference an opportunity for a family reunion. And it's a welcoming, growing family, so that each year we meet new friends and are able to learn new things about our profession. That's the best part of the deal.

Whether you're a rookie in the profession or a grizzled veteran, you'll want to be part of it all.

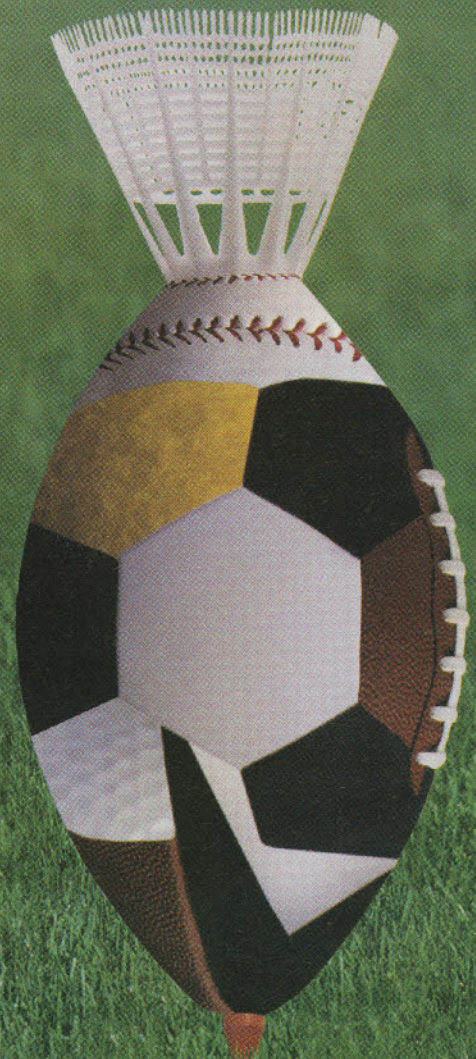
I hope to see you in San Diego.



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Maumee OH

Aqua-Maxx, Inc. 447
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Carolina Green Corp. 811
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Graden Industries Pty. Ltd. 751
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Wednesday Seminar on Wheels to regional sports venues

Wednesday Workshop conducted by MLB Sports Turf Managers

Wednesday SAFE/Jacobsen Golf Tournament

Wednesday late Afternoon Sports Turf Jam Sessions

Sunday Seminar on Wheels to San Diego area sports venues

Sunday Wheels Tour to San Diego attractions

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New Holland PA

Milliken Turf Products 543

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Missouri Turf Paint 426

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