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STMA CONFERENCE
SPEAKERS

The Basics of Athletic Field Management in the Transition Zone

Dr. A J Powell - University of Kentucky

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » This workshop will cover the basic management practices that are always necessary to produce tough sports turf and will present opinions concerning uses of a smorgasbord of 'frilly' products that are highly promoted on both native soil and sand based fields. Both the Pros and the Cons of seeded bermudagrass and perennial ryegrasses will be discussed as they relate to establishment, persistence in the transition zone and predictability.

Weeds

Bruce Kidd - Dow Elanco and Dr. Sowmya Mitra, Cal Poly Pomona

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » This workshop will move beyond the basics of weed identification to focus on the complex interaction of weeds and turf in differing soil profiles under various field use levels, maintenance programs and environmental conditions. Attendees also will examine samples of turf treated with various chemical weed controls to observe the effects of the treatment.

Can You Manage an Athletic Field Organically?

Dr. Frank Rossi - Cornell University

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » This workshop will provide an overview of the various organic options available for athletic field maintenance programs including short- and long-term pros and cons and cost - benefit analysis.

Topic: On the Cutting Edge

Grad Student Researchers Present Their Research Findings.

Trafficking in Seedling Grasses

Federico Valverde - Iowa State University

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » The recuperative capacity of the whole turfgrass system varies according to the developmental stage of the species at the moment of injury. The purpose of the research reported in this presentation was to study the interaction between overseeding and traffic stress on fully established turfgrass systems and those under establishment. This study was conducted at the Horticulture Research Farm in Ames Iowa. Four independent trials were seeded in a lapse of 2 years. The species evaluated were Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, fine fescue, creeping bentgrass, colonial bentgrass, velvet bentgrass and Poa supina. Trials were overseeded six times and traffic simulation was applied weekly during the growing season. Fully established trial started at 100% of turf cover before traffic. Turfgrass species that show wear resistance when fully mature are not necessarily the best option for reestablishment. Perennial ryegrass was the most consistent species in terms of wear resistance among different growing scenarios.

Optimizing Strategies for Sports Fields Using Recycled Irrigation Water

Russell Plumb - Cal Poly Pomona

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » The quantity and quality of irrigation water are becoming the limiting factors in maintaining high quality athletic turf in Southern California. This presentation will detail research comparing irrigation with potable water to irrigation with reclaimed water on GN 1 Bermudagrass plots with irrigation water quality the primary factor studied, and the addition of surfactants the secondary factor.

Weed Management in Warm Season Grasses

Travis Teuton - University of Tennessee

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » This presentation will focus on warm season turfgrass weed control for establishing turf as well as weed control for established turfs. It also will address perennial ryegrass removal in bermudagrass using the new ALS herbicides.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

» GENERAL SESSION - 8:00-10:00 AM

Presenting Yourself as an STMA Professional

C. Mike Jousan - Clear Communication Company

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » Every communication is a "moment of truth" by which you, your professionalism, and your competence are judged. The focus of this presentation is professional image, with practical, workable methods on how to market your professionalism to superiors, field user groups, external audiences - including the media.

» CONCURRENT SESSION 10:15 AM-12:30 PM

There will be four Tracks within this Concurrent Session. Within three of the Tracks there will be three topics which will run for 45 minutes each. The Marketing Skills Track will consist of a professional development and image enhancement Workshop.

» MARKETING SKILLS TRACK

STMA Marketing Workshop - Put Your Best Foot Forward

C. Mike Jousan - Clear Communication Company

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » Every time you verbally communicate a thought or idea to another person - you are marketing not only that thought or idea - but also your image as a professional and a member of your profession. How you communicate to external audiences impacts how others view you. How you communicate to internal audiences - the others within your facility or organization - can impact your future. This workshop will focus on hands-on techniques for "selling yourself" through presentation, marketing and media skills. You'll learn the special skills of: Making a great first impression; Getting to the point quickly; Controlling your nerves and remaining composed; and Handling the toughest questions.

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STMA CONFERENCE
SPEAKERS

» **ELECTRONIC TURF TRACK**

Who Are Your Turfgrass E-Pals?

Dr. Doug Karcher - University of Arkansas

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » The booming growth of the Internet and its use has resulted in opportunities for sports turf managers to get assistance with their day to day tasks. This presentation will discuss several useful internet sites, or 'Turf E-Pals.'

Turf Advantages Online - Building Communities

Dave Saltman - Pitchcare

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » This presentation will give an overview of Pitchcare.com, an interactive magazine for Groundsmen and Greenkeepers. In two years of operation, Pitchcare has brought together over 6000 like-minded Turf professionals and amateurs to share experience, advice and expertise. Operating on the premise that a problem shared is a problem solved, Pitchcare has become a meeting place for people who just don't get the chance to connect in person due to their busy working schedules. Other advantages offered include on-line purchase, direct access to duty weather forecasters, second hand machines (sales and wanted), live chat forums and general evening chats. It provides the ability to get articles on the magazine while they are current and to provide press releases and new product information from suppliers' and distributors' points of view.

Web Blasts and More

Pam Sherratt - Ohio State University Extension

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » This presentation will provide a summary of web-based information available to those sports field managers that strive to stay abreast of this fast moving industry. It will include a synopsis of The Ohio State University Buckeye Sports Turf web-site, which posts topical information on a continual basis throughout the year via "SportsNotes."

» **HIGH PROFILE STADIUM MANAGEMENT TRACK**

Dealing with Non-Turf Events

Raechal Volkening - Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » Most stadiums are becoming more of a multi-use facility each year. Miller Park is no different. It has been host to a Halloween party, 5K run, religious revival, the filming of a Disney movie, several major concerts and graduation ceremonies. Because these events can be very profitable for our employers both monetarily and in generating community support, sports turf managers must learn to coexist with these activities. This presentation will discuss the planning and communication necessary to pull off a successful non-turf event. Both physical and chemical field protections also will be explained. Stage construction strategies and their effects on the playing field will be addressed.

A New Generation of Athletic Fields

Josh McPherson - Virginia Tech

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » This presentation will address the quest for the perfect athletic field. Through technology we are able to select the soil and turf that will best fit our situations. At Virginia Tech's Lane Stadium, with the aid of GreenTech ITM modules and Advanced Aeration's patented Subsurface Soil Conditioning technology, we are able to manipulate the environment to come close to attaining a perfect field. The session will focus on the challenges in using a heating system and assess how our field performed throughout the year.

Dealing with Shade Issues in Stadiums

Dr. John Sorochan - University of Tennessee

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » No different than athletic fields grown in full sun, turfgrass managers who deal with shade issues in stadiums are expected to maintain a dense turf stand that will hold up to frequent traffic (wear) events. Unfortunately, traditional turfgrass management practices do not apply when light is limiting. Therefore, athletic field managers who must deal with shade issues must adjust their management practices to maintain the highest quality playing surface possible even when optimal growing conditions are not favorable because of shade issues. This presentation will cover the components of light and its effect on turfgrass growth, physiological and morphological changes in turfgrass as a result of shade, and how to best manage turfgrass grown in shade conditions.

» **TRICKS OF THE TRADE TRACK**

On the Field Diagnostics

Amy Fouty, CSFM - University of Michigan

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » We all have seen the fancy technical tools to diagnose various turf problems. The best tools we have still are our minds, eyes, ears, hands and nose. This presentation will discuss the use of the more basic tools of the trade along with our senses and how they can be the most effective component in the turf management program.

On the Field Crisis Control

Bob Christofferson - Seattle Mariners

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » This presentation will focus on development and implementation of an effective field management program from pre-event planning through post-event practices. It will address the impact of effective on the field crisis control within the overall field management program.

Wear Area Management

Darian Daily - Cincinnati Bengals

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR » This presentation will address different ways of managing the wear areas that occur on different athletic fields on a limited budget. You will see what different people do to manage, repair, and even mask damage on their playing fields.

» **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS - 2:00 - 4:15 PM**

Each topic will be repeated three times, for 40 minutes each time, with a maximum of five minutes move time in between discussion periods. Participants may choose the topics they wish to discuss, with a three-topic limit. Each discussion will be attendee driven based on the issues that are raised by the participants in each of the groups within their forty-minute session.

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Helping Student Interns

LEADER » Raechal Volkening, Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club

Finding a Job

LEADER » Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, Sylvania Ohio Recreation Corporation

Challenges of Parks & Rec Sports Turf Management

LEADER » Chris Calcaterra, CSFM (City of Peoria, AZ, Sports Complex), and Mike Trigg, CSFM – Waukegan, IL, Park District

Is CSFM for You?

LEADER » Mike Schiller, CSFM, Van's Enterprises, Ltd. and Jeff Salmond, CSFM (Northwestern University)

Turf at K - Through 12 Schools

LEADER » Mike Tarantino Poway CA Unified School District

Environmental Regulations

LEADER » Debra Swartz, Michigan State University

Challenges of College/University Sports Turf Management

LEADER » Eric Adkins, CSFM Michigan State University

Challenges of Minor League Baseball Sports Turf Management

LEADER » Greg Elliott, Lake County Captains

Challenges of Professional Football Sports Turf Management

LEADER » Abby McNeal, CSFM, Invesco Field at Mile High

Wear Area Management - Soccer and Football

LEADER » Darian Daily, Cincinnati Bengals

Challenges of Major League Baseball Sports Turf Management

LEADER » Eric Hansen and Larry Divito, Los Angeles Dodgers

Water Issues

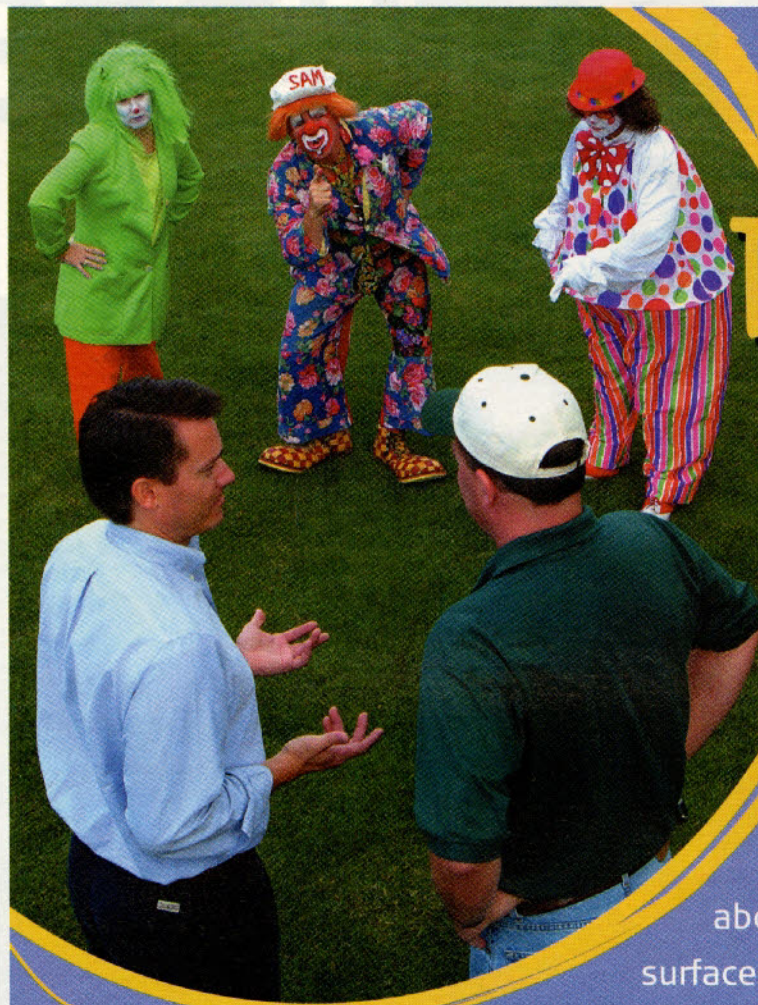
LEADER » Dr. Tony Koski, Colorado State University

Vendor Views on Relationship Building

LEADER » Monty Montague, GreenOne Industries, and Vickie Wallace, Turf-Seed, Inc.

Changing Careers

LEADER » Dale Getz, CSFM, Toro



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NEW SOLDIER FIELD TURF FEATURES HEATING SYSTEM



BY NATHAN ODGAARD

Despite the controversy over the architecture of the new Soldier Field, the Chicago Bears players are only concerned with one thing—the turf.

When 79-year-old Soldier Field reopened Sept. 29 with a Black & Blue Division showdown on Monday Night Football, spectators found improved views of the field, larger concourses and upgraded concessions. The players, meanwhile, have been treated to a new playing surface. The field's immaculate condition on opening night drew rave reviews on television from Bears legend Dick Butkus and commentator John Madden.

Bears head groundskeeper Ken Mrock wanted a field constructed that would provide a healthy, safe-playing surface for the Bears, their opponents and any other athletic teams that were to play on it.

"Players today are bigger, faster and stronger, so it's that much more important to provide them with as healthy and safe a turf as possible," Mrock said.

Mrock didn't have to look far to find a model for which to build Soldier Field after. Halas Hall, the Bears practice facility in Lake Forest, IL, thrives year in and year out

throughout the season. The field's construction enables it to remain healthy and withstand the frigid Chicago climate and daily traffic of 300-plus pound football players, Mrock said.

"We've had great success over the years with our practice field at Halas Hall," he said. "Therefore, we mirrored everything at Soldier Field after that."

Among the similarities between the two fields are two key features: a sand-based root zone mix, and a heating system.

Root zone mix

Drainage and oxygen and nutrient retention are two of the most important aspects to maintaining a healthy sports turf field. A field's root zone make-up determines how efficient drainage and oxygen and nutrient retention are.

At Soldier Field, the custom designed root zone mix is made up of 85 percent USGA sand, 5 percent sphagnum peat moss and 10 percent Profile Porous Ceramic. The root zone depth is 8 inches over a 4-inch gravel blanket. The addition of Profile is meant to help enhance root growth, prevent compaction, provide permanent air porosi-

ty, and improve drainage.

"Incorporating Profile into our root zone mix has shown me the benefits over and over," Mrock said. "This same root zone mix has produced a dense, deep root mass, ideal drainage and overall turf hardness. It has helped prevent unstable playing conditions, wear spots and divoting."

Soldier Field groundskeeper John Nolan will topdress the field as needed throughout the year with 85 percent sand and 15 percent Profile mix. With the sod installed in June this year, John and his staff were able to thoroughly prepare the field before the Monday Night Football season-opener by topdressing, aerifying and fertilizing it several times.

Heating system

Plants depend on sun and heat for survival. Unfortunately, Soldier Field doesn't receive much exposure from the sun once the NFL season rolls along into December and January.

To counter Chicago's cold temperatures, a heating system was installed underneath the field to provide a warm environment for the soil and turf.

"A heating system is going to help us out a lot," Mrock said. "It will help us keep a healthy turf longer. We'll see growth of grass into the winter months because the system will keep the soil at optimum growing temperatures."

By adding the heating system, Soldier Field is taking after several other NFL stadiums in cold-weather climates, including Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

The heating system was installed 9 inches deep, underneath the root zone using more than 40 miles of 3/4-inch tubing. Radiant heat will warm a combination of water and glycol as it is pumped through the tubing.

"It does its job," Mrock said. "It melts some snow and keeps the field from freezing.



As a result, it will make it softer and more forgiving for players, and will extend our growing season."

Soldier Field's sod was custom grown. Mrock chose a Kentucky Bluegrass blend of turf that closely resembles the sod at Halas Hall.

Soldier Field will serve as a multi-use facility. It will be the new home of the Chicago Fire of Major League Soccer, and will be a venue for concerts and high school and youth league events.

ST

Nathan Odgaard is a writer with Swanson Russell Associates, Lincoln, NE. He can be reached at nathano@sramarketing.com.

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TURF COLORANTS

Here are some suppliers of turf colorants:

Athletic Field Services	419-836-5730
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Cleary Chemical	732-329-8399
Floratine	901-853-2898
Harrells	863-687-2774
Lesco	440-783-9250
Partac/Beam Clay	800-247-2326
PBI/Gordon	816-421-4070
Pioneer Manufacturing	
Precision Labs	847-498-0800
Simplot	425-486-6387
Suntec Paint	352-372-3421
Turf Specialties	260-489-4360
United Hort Supply	303-487-9000
Whitlam Paint	330-334-2524
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Suntec Paint/800-333-1104

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see www.oners.ims.ca/2085-082



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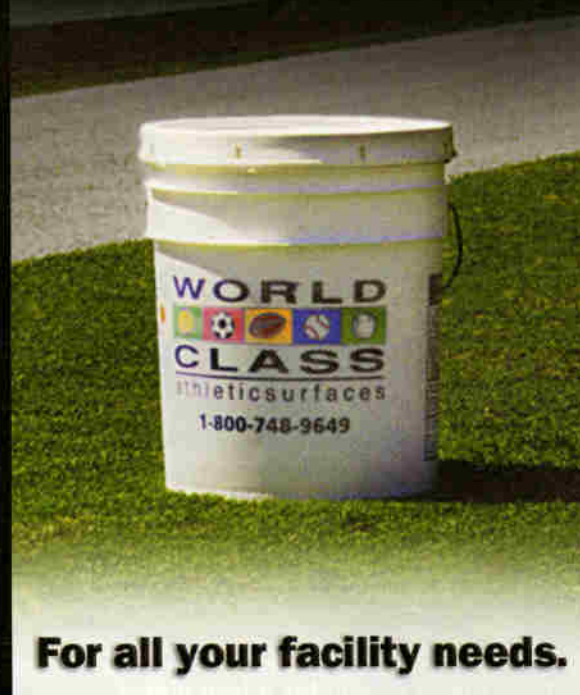


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