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CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESSES OF THE FUTURE!

THE FOUNDATION FOR Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) was created by the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) to provide research, educational programs, and scholarships geared to sports fields.

As part of our mission, SAFE is dedicated to supporting students focused on the profession of sports turf management through our scholarship program. Now is your chance to help the future of our industry, STMA, and the SAFE Foundation by helping to fund the scholarship program through your contribution of items for the SAFE Live and Silent Auctions and the Raffle. These events all will take place at the STMA Conference in San Diego, January 21-25, 2004.

Tom Curran, STMA member and Florida STMA Chapter President, also is an award-winning auctioneer. Tom has been organizing and running this auction for SAFE and urges everyone in the sports turf industry to contribute something to these great fund raising events. Items such as memorabilia, autographs, clothing, vacation packages, and equipment all help raise funds for this great cause! The 2004 Live Auction will be held January 22 from 8-9 PM in the Conference trade show area. The Silent Auction will take place on the trade show floor on Thursday, January 22, and Friday, January 23.

Scholarship funds are earmarked for students of 2-year programs, students in 4-year undergraduate programs, and for grad students focused on a future in the sports turf industry. Information on the SAFE Scholarship program is posted on the STMA website www.sportsturfmanager.com. Click on 'About Us,' go to the SAFE Foundation, and visit the Scholarship section for the link.

All items that you donate to SAFE are tax deductible. Items should be sent to STMA/SAFE HQ, Attn: Jaci Pettie, at 1027 S. 3rd Street, Council Bluffs, IA 51503-6875. Or, to save on shipping and handling, send a description of your donations, and bring them with you to the Conference.

The SAFE Foundation has much work to complete before it can supply the sports turf industry with the desired level of programs. Additional funding is needed to fulfill not only the scholarship program, but also the research and education arms of our mission. Your willingness to consider the SAFE Foundation's request for funding and item donations is truly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Tom via email (CTomSell@aol.com) or Steve Trusty at SAFE Headquarters by email (Steve@st.omhcoxmail.com) or by phone at 800-323-3875.

Want to help us start a Sports Field revolution?

Contact Steve Trusty at 800-323-3875 for more information on how you can make sports fields SAFE!



BY BOB STUDHOLME

VSTMA FIELD DAY(S) HUGE SUCCESS

The Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association (VSTMA) held its Annual Field Day last July at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Situated approximately in the center of the Old Dominion and featuring award-winning athletic fields, UVA was the ideal venue for this statewide event. The VSTMA Field Day Committee met 10 times to iron out all the details, with a goal of creating an event that would spark interest in Sports Field Management across the state.

Based on the theme "Bet You Can't See It All," our marketing strategy included posting flyers, mailings, e-mail blasts, website postings, and even a press release by the UVA Athletic Department. The event drew 245 participants, 29 suppliers and service providers, plus five industry support groups, including the Virginia Turfgrass Council. Spread over 2 days, featuring sixteen educative lectures, concurrent vendor displays, and equipment demonstrations, the event was the VSTMA's most ambitious to date.

One afternoon everyone gathered for the "Tailgate Reception" at Scotts Stadium. Jimmy Rogers, CSFM, a VSTMA director, spoke on the renovation of Harrison Field that led to it being awarded STMA College Football Field of the Year in 2001. Scott

Cornwell, UVA event & facility manager, led groups on a fascinating tour of the stadium while food, refreshments, and a raffle were provided by Luck Stone Specialty Products. STMA President Bob Campbell, CSFM, was on hand, discussing issues and comparing notes with the membership.

The Field Day itself was held the next day and hubbed at Davenport Stadium, UVA's baseball venue, with Klockner Stadium and Lanigan Field right next door providing additional venues for the day's events. The "Pre-Game" registration was held from 7-8 AM and was sponsored by Landscape Supply & Profile Products. With this correspondent (VSTMA president and Fairfax County Park Authority turfgrass specialist) serving as Master of Ceremonies, the "Kickoff" was at 8 AM and featured a keynote address by Campbell. The STMA president brought everyone up to speed on current initiatives and programs on the national front, and addressed the professional responsibility of today's Sports Field Manager. The "First Half" featured the main draw of the day: 16 educative sessions over the next 4 hours at various locations at and around Davenport, all within a few minutes walk.

Presenters included: Dr. Shawn Askew of Virginia Tech, "Weed ID & Control;" Dr. Erik Ervin of Virginia Tech, "Bermudagrass Management in the Mid-Atlantic;" Chad Mulholland, Richmond Braves, "Infield & Mound Maintenance: How the Pros Do It;" Marc Moran, Atlee High School, "Painting Logos;" Joel Simmons, Earthworks and Soil First Consulting on "Soils, Soil Sampling & Laboratory Testing;" Aaron Boggs, sports field manager, University of Louisville, "Artificial Turf Surfaces;" and Rodney Hopkins, Richmond Strikers, "Rectangular Field Maintenance: What Works For You."

The "Halftime Luncheon" was sponsored by Revels and Fleet Tractor, Finch Turf Services, and John Deere Landscapes, while refreshment stands around the venues were sponsored by G.L. Cornell. Other sponsorships from Pro's Choice, Smith Turf & Equipment, and Green Meadows Turf Supply defrayed other costs such as printing, mailing, and advertising.

The Field Day Committee was pleased the weather even cooperated this year with seasonably warm temperatures and no rainfall. Planning for the VSTMA Field Day 2004 will begin this fall.

ST

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will hold a Soccer workshop from 8 AM to 3 PM October 14 at Pioneer Park in Des Moines. Along with lunch and time set aside to visit with vendors, the agenda includes: a welcome by Ken Trytek of the James W. Cowie Soccer Complex; the Year in Review by Jeff Wendel; presentations by Dr. Dave Minner and Mike Andresen, CSFM, of Iowa State University; Goal Box Repair by Joe Wagner of the City of Iowa City; Fall Preparation by Kevin Vos, CSFM, of the City of Muscatine; and Multi-Field Use by John Newell of the City of Burlington Regional Recplex. Ken Trytek also will conduct a walking tour of the facility. For information on the Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will meet at the Kansas Speedway and Community America Ballpark 8 AM to 3 PM October 15. Registration begins at 7:30 AM. This will be a unique opportunity for a behind the scenes tour of the Kansas Speedway. Following lunch in the infield garage area, attendees will tour the new Community America Ballpark, home of the Kansas City T-Bones Baseball Club. For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121 or JGill2@bv229.k12.ks.us.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): Reminder: Applications must be post-marked by October 15 for the OSTMA Educational Scholarship Program, STMA National Conference Scholarship Program, and the OSTMA Field of Distinction Award. See the OSTMA newsletter or website for details. 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 the chapter's website at www.ostma.org.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The Chapter is planning a Fall Workshop for October 16 in Woodbury. The schedule will include a mixture of educational sessions, hands-on activities and networking. More details will be announced on the website. For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota at tel. 651-638-6075 or e-mail: j-hintz@bethel.edu or check out the Chapter website: www.mstma.com.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): The KAFMO Cup Open will be held Monday, October 20, at Fairview Golf Course in Lebanon. This tournament is the main fundraiser for the KAFMO Scholarship Fund. For more information, contact Steve LeGros at 717-534-3167, email kafmo@aol.com or check out the Chapter's webpage on the STMA website: www.sportsturfmanager.com. For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

Florida Chapter # 1: The Chapter will meet October 21 at the City of Pinecrest. The educational focus for this event is "Overseeding Bermudagrass Athletic Fields." For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, contact John Mascaro at 954-341-3115 or STMA@Turf-Tec.com.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will hold its General Meeting and Election for 2004 October 22 at 3PM at the Japanese Garden of Cal State University - Long Beach. For information on the Chapter or pending events, call Steve Dugas, California State University - Fullerton, at 714-278-3929 or email sdugas@fullerton.edu.

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will hold a combination Irrigation School and Scholarship Golf Tournament in Mesquite October 23. The morning session on Irrigation Troubleshooting will be held at the Dunford Recreation Center. The golf outing will start with lunch at the Mesquite Municipal Golf Course. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, contact Kathy Cassmeyer at 972-603-2869 or Katherine.Cassmeyer@lmco.com, or visit the website at www.ntstma.org.

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter's Annual Seminar on Wheels event is in the planning stages. Please email Emory Hunter at emhunter@usa.net if you have questions or suggestions about this program. For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.



Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter is looking into sites for their community service Fall Work Day. This will be a hands-on community renovation and training day. Details to follow soon. For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Jay Warnick - JayW@Seahawks.com or Mike Wagner - MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu.

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.

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

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website—www.CSTMA.org—or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954, or contact Chapter President Phil McQuade at 303-237-7188 or pmcquade@jeffco.k12.co.us.

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

pending activities, contact Stan Moscrip, Indiana University, at 812-856-2256 or smoscrip@indiana.edu.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Tom Nielsen at TNielsen@batsbaseball.com or Aaron Boggs at AVBoggs@netscape.net.

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

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): For information on the Chapter or pending events, contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, University of Michigan, at fouty@umich.edu, or go to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's website.

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

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

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call SFMANJ at 908-730-7770 or Eleanora Murfitt at 908-236-9118; or e-mail to HQ@sрманj.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): For information on the 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 the chapter's website: www.tvstma.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.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, contact: Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority via e-mail: Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov or at 703-324-8590.

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.

South Carolina: Efforts are currently underway in South Carolina to form a Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association. The contact is Dr. Trent Hale, a Research and Extension Turfgrass Specialist in the Department of Horticulture for Clemson University. He is located at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence. For more information contact Dr. Hale at 843-662-3526 or by email at thale@clemson.edu or the forming chapter's page on the STMA website: 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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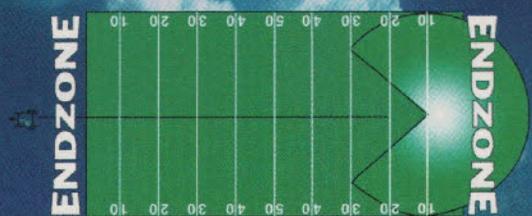
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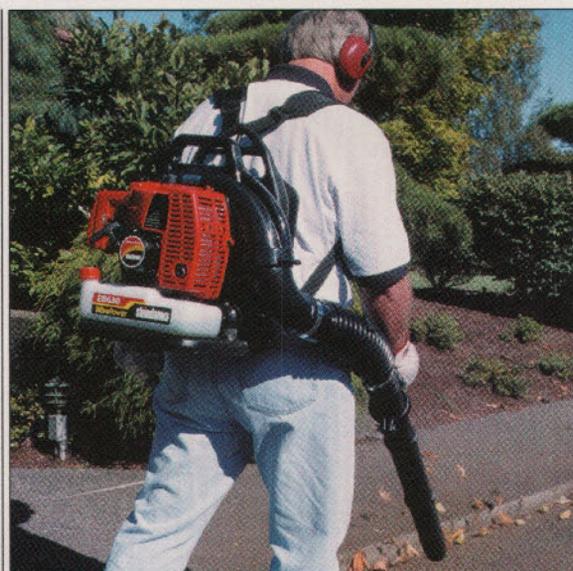
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NOT SO FRIENDLY LOW PLACES



I AM THE baseball coach in Cumberland, MD, and also take care of the fields. I have two low areas in the infield, one near first base and another near third. These two areas hold up to 3 inches of water after a rainstorm with no possibility of draining. I have plans to fill in with topsoil and seed. Any recommendations?

I have a new seeded soccer field that has pocket areas between stands of grass that have nothing but the dirt exposed. In most cases throughout the field, there is a depth of at least 1 inch lower than the grass. It resembles a cow pasture. Do I need to topdress with dirt the entire field to get the surface level with the existing areas then seed, or just overseed again and again until grass starts to grow in the bare spots between the pockets of existing grass?

Ohio

These two questions have some similarities so I thought would address them together. I assume in the first scenario from the seed comment that the location of the low areas should be growing turf rather than clay (skinned areas). I also assume the field has some type of cool-season grass. If it were a warm-season grass such as bermudagrass then my recommendations would be a little different.

If the field has localized drainage problems, I would first try to correct them. Core aeration would be a typical plan of attack. If the sites are small and/or an aeration machine is not readily available, then you may just want to get a heavy-tined pitchfork, force it into the soil, and move it back and forth to "shatter" the hard area. Then you can fill in with topsoil (hopefully one with significant sand fraction to aid drainage) and seed. You may want to lightly rake the seeded area to cover the seed with 1/8 an inch or so of soil, lightly tamp, and then water. If possible, keep traffic off until the seeds germinate and begin to grow.

If the low areas are due to localized wear, you may have to topdress these areas more frequently to try and prevent them from re-appearing. I would also suggest that you fertilize these high-wear areas a little more often than the surrounding areas to promote rapid regrowth of the turf. More frequent aeration of the areas would also be beneficial. Never be afraid of treating problem areas differently than the rest of the field.

While you are addressing the low areas, make sure you check the slopes around the infield. Deal with any high spots that are preventing surface drainage around the base paths or on the sidelines. Working the clay may have resulted in the base paths becoming elevated in respect to the infield, or there may be a clay lip at the outer perimeter of the infield clay.

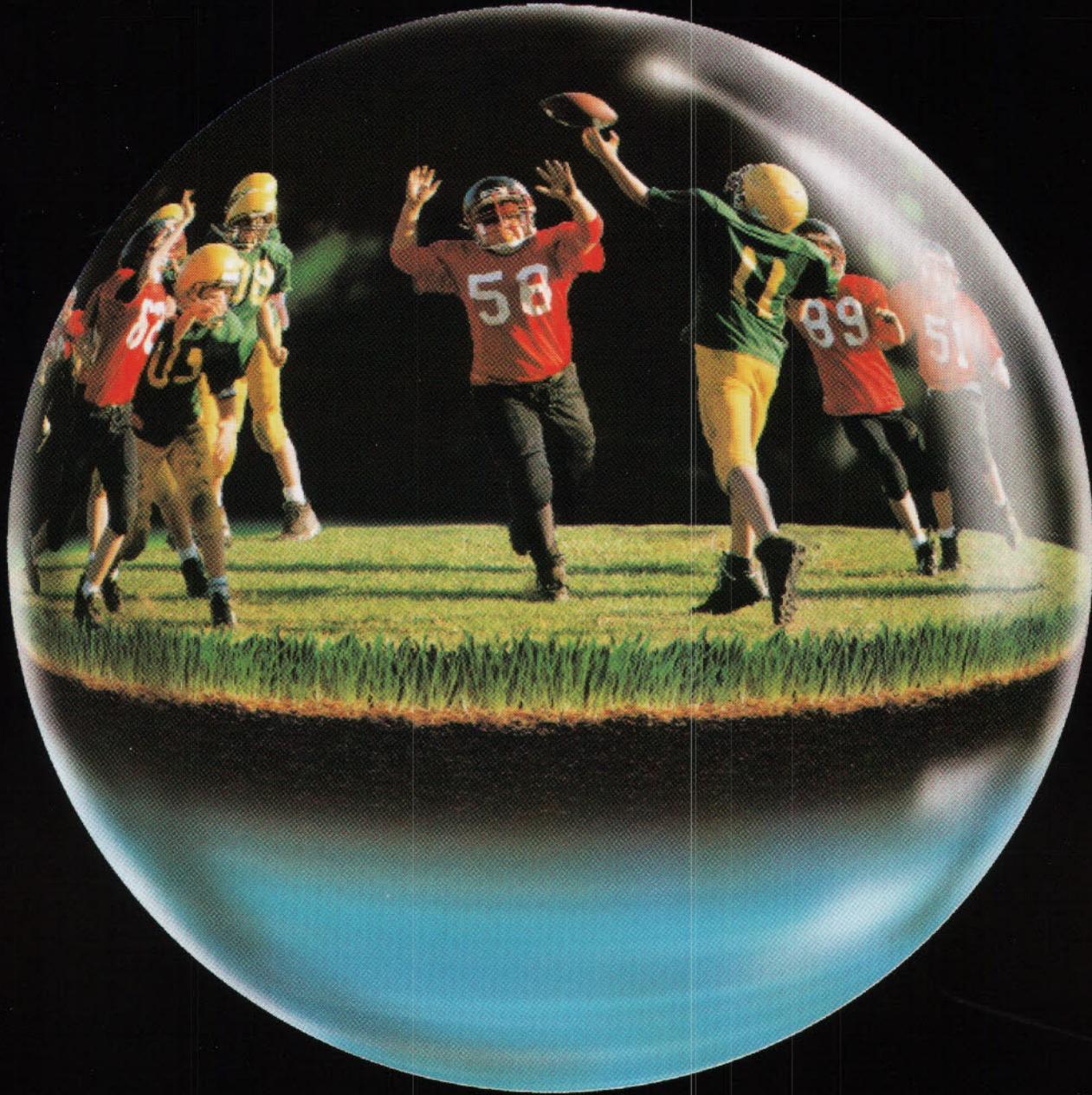
The second question is a little different in that it is a new field. Also, since it is a soccer field there is no clay baseline to maintain, resulting in an easier turf maintenance situation. I grew up on a cattle farm, so I am very aware of cow paths and wallows. With bare ground soil subsidence and erosion becomes an increasingly severe problem. You did not mention why it is bare (i.e. erosion during establishment, poor seed distribution, disease, or insect damage). If the bare area is a symptom of something, you should first address that problem. If you are unsure of the diagnosis, you may want to contact your local county extension agent for a second opinion.

If the low areas on the field are more than about 1/4-inch below the other soil surface, I would go ahead and topdress with a similar soil to the base soil and reseed those areas. One inch lower is too much difference and even if you get the turf established, will still result in maintenance and player safety problems. If the depressions were in that 1/4-inch or less range, then simply seeding as you would for a newly established area would be sufficient. Given growing conditions, you should lightly scratch the soil surface, sow the appropriate seed, apply light topdressing, firm the soil surface, and keep moist.

Both these field managers may want to investigate "laser-topdressing." It is the most effective way to take a field that has a desirable slope, but has a few low areas that need filling. Laser-topdressing can maintain desirable slopes and level areas by strategically placing topdressing material where it is needed. This technology was once considered too expensive except for the elite. But now with competition and better equipment, it may be priced to fit into even low-budget operations. Laser leveling would not replace routine topdressing, but could be used for that occasional field tune-up.

ST

QUESTIONS? Send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email gmillers@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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