

Spring great time to think SAFE

As the spring season is in full force across the nation, thinking "SAFE" is the top priority of sports turf managers. The Sports Turf Managers Association's positioning statement sets that goal with this statement, "Providing the best sports surfaces for all levels of play." Safe fields are the right of every athlete, young or old, amateur or professional.

How does the SAFE Foundation fit into this equation? The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) was created by the STMA to provide research, educational programs and scholarships geared to sports fields. SAFE's mission statement is: "To support sports field specific research, educational programs and environmental concerns to promote user safety."

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 all three arms of our mission: the scholarship program, research and education. SAFE's major thrust for 2004 will be seeking greater funding for sports specific research, finalizing the research criteria, and beginning assessment of research projects for funding.

So - How about a Chapter Challenge - and some "thinking outside the box?"

The Ohio Chapter made a \$500 donation to SAFE at the STMA Annual Meeting.

The KAFMO/STMA Chapter presented a \$1,000 check, designated for SAFE

Foundation sports turf research, to STMA President Bob Campbell, CSFM, at the KAFMO/STMA 8th Annual Athletic Field Conference in February.

The past 2 years a group of KAFMO STMA members known as "Grass Stain Productions" has collected photos from sports turf managers across the country and has assembled them into short video clips set to music. These clips have been presented during the Awards Banquet for the STMA Annual Conference. The 2004 production, titled "Reflections," consisted of an 8-minute tour through the past, present, and future of the sports turf industry.

It is great for Chapters and other sports turf related groups to use as an opener to meetings or other events. It's a fun piece for individuals that would like to archive this history-capturing production. The great part is that KAFMO and Grass Stain Productions have agreed to donate all the proceeds, after production costs, to SAFE for the scholarship fund.

To secure your copy, please send your \$20 donation, made payable to KAFMO, to: Grass Stain Productions, Attn: Jeff Fowler, 867 Mercer Road, Franklin PA 16323. Please include the name and address to which you want your copy shipped. Working together, we can build the SAFE Foundation into a strong resource for sports turf managers around the world. Contact Steve Trusty (Steve@st.omhcoxmail.com) with your ideas and for more information on making contributions to the SAFE Foundation. **ST**

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stma in action

BY ERIC SCHRODER

KAFMO conference plays to SRO crowd

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO) President Dan Douglas' sense of humor is legendary in turf management circles in the same way the Enola Gay is legendary in Hiroshima. But it didn't deter hundreds of Pennsylvania turf managers from attending the STMA chapter's 8th annual KAFMO/PRPS (Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society) Athletic Field Conference last February.

More than 40 exhibitors, many of them sponsors of the event, helped attract a record number of attendees. They also came to hear from speakers that included STMA President Bob Campbell, straight-shooting Penn State assistant professor Dr. Andy McNitt, and professional turf managers Mike Boekholder (Phillies), Jim Koontz (2003 scholastic football FOY winner), and Tony Leonard (Eagles).

Before the presentations, Charlie Vestal, the region's Turface rep, announced that everyone in attendance would be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship to be used for any turf education format in the name of the late Terry Mellor, brother of Boston Red Sox turf manager Dave Mellor.

KAFMO donations help support research at Penn State, said McNitt, who added that most of his department's funding comes "from crumbs off the golf table."

McNitt's said during his "Maintaining Multi-Use Fields" presentation that personnel is the number one priority in where to spend your money, including paying for continuing ed for your crew. Money for mowing is next. "Mowing has to be in your bud-

get; if you're mowing once a week, mow twice. If you're mowing twice, mow three times," he recommended, adding, "Mow at whatever height you choose but mow at that height all the time, just mow more often when you need to."

Ask booster clubs to help raise money for a new mower, he said, and don't forget about the band's club. Other tips for multi-use fields from McNitt: After personnel and mowing, your next most important expense should be fertilizer, especially nitrogen fertilization. "After the first killing frost in fall is the day to fertilize with a quick-release nitrogen because the roots continue to grow," he said.

"Every day is a good day to seed," said McNitt, "and use high quality seed. Don't worry about mixing varieties . . . you must oversee high-use fields, preferably with ryegrass."

Regarding irrigation, McNitt quotes Dr. Dave Minner: "All fields need some drought stress. If you never see any, you're watering too much."

Bob Campbell spoke eloquently about turf managers being the "guardians of the game" (see p. 7) during his presentation on turf managers' "survival." Among his thoughts: Remember that today's game is the most important one; keep photo records, especially to show bosses what's left behind after concerts, for example, and how you returned field to playability; establish realistic expectations; and finally, Tennessee Volunteer orange-colored field covers actually work better than other colors (Minner's done the research to prove it!) **ST**

president's message (cont'd)

(Continued from page 7) multi-million dollar athletes in the circus atmosphere that surrounds it or by a group of kids who are playing for the pure joy of competition. The game has to be protected. The job of protecting the actual game might be left in our hands, more now than ever before.

In our profession, we continue to accept the challenge of providing a safe and fair field worthy of the game, regardless of constantly increasing challenges. We are the ones who ensure the bases are 90 feet apart, the mound is 10 inches high, and that the football field is exactly 160 feet wide. Things have changed tremendously in sports. Our respect for the game and professionalism must shine through in everything we do.

That's our calling and needs to continue to be our passion. I think it's become a great part of our

challenge. The "game" needs us more than ever right now, and we owe it to the game to preserve its integrity and its fairness.

Part of the new STMA tagline states that we are partners of the game, and in a true sense we are partners with the games we are part of. Maybe it would be more appropriate to say that we are guardians of the game. For this moment in time, we are stewards of special places where memories are made every day for the ages.

Bob

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: The former North Texas Chapter and the former South Texas Chapter are in the process of merging to become the Texas Sports Turf Managers Association. The mailing address is PO Box 1078, Keller, TX 76244. The Phone/Fax number is 866-897-8621, and the website www.ntstma.org. Alternate contact is: T. J. Thompson, Treasurer, 972-670-2138 or TXturfmanager@prodigy.net.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will hold a Second Generation & Natural Turf Workshop at the Johnny Majors Practice Facility at Iowa State from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM April 13. Scheduled speakers include: Mike Andresen, CSFM, Turf Manager, ISU Athletics; Troy Smith, CSFM, Turf Manager, Denver Broncos; and Mark Coberly, ATC, Head Athletic Trainer, ISU Athletics. The meeting will conclude with a "Walking Field Assessment" conducted by Dr. Dave Minner of ISU. Planned for June 8 is a workshop to be hosted by the University of Iowa with "Irrigation" the topic theme. The ITI Equipment Demo Day is planned for June 22 at ISU. For info contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: The Chapter will meet April 15 in the Tiger Den at Clemson University. This event will include a tour of Death Valley, educational sessions, and more! For more info contact Dr. Hale at 843-662-3526 extension 206 or by email at tchale@clemson.edu or on www.scstma.org.

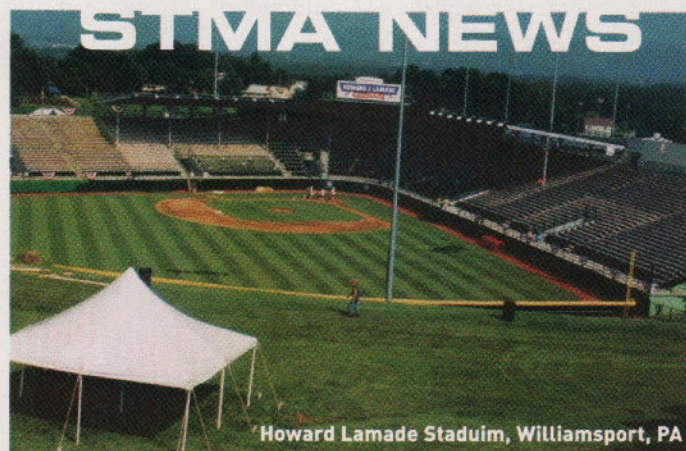
Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: SFMANJ will hold its Spring Field Day April 20 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Drum Point Sports Complex in Brick. This event will include a tour of the 60-acre facility in different stages of construction. For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call SFMANJ at 908-730-7770 or Eleanora Murfitt-Hermann at 908-236-9118; or e-mail to HQ@sfmanj.org or visit the chapter's website: www.sfmanj.org.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will meet at Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha April 29. Registration begins at 1:00 PM. From 2:05-3:15 PM Jesse Cuevas and his crew will conduct a question and answer session on the Rosenblatt Stadium playing surface maintenance program. Attendees will go down to field to watch batting practice set up and early batting practice. Speakers include: John Jones of United Seeds; Jason Allen of Floratine; Rick Lienbaugh of Great American Turf Equipment; and a UNL Turf Department rep on the UNL Turfgrass Web Resources. The group will view pre-game field preparation before the Omaha Royals vs. Colorado Springs Sky Sox game. A Chapter Meeting also is planned for June 29 at Curtis, NE. For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Dan Bergstrom at: 402-441-4189 or email to danbe@saltdogs.com.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of STMA: Baseball Night at CSFU is planned for April 30, with the meeting beginning at 6:00 PM, followed by that game at 7:00. On June 24, the Chapter will hold at

general meeting at USC beginning at 11:00 AM. The meeting topic is Field Installation. Lunch will follow. For information call Eric Johnson, University of Southern California, at 213-821-5654 or email ejohnson@busaff.usc.edu.

Florida Chapter # 1: The Chapter will stage an STMA Bus Tour May 18. Stops include: Haverland Turf Farm, the St. Lucie County Sports Complex (New York Mets), and Rodger Dean Stadium (Florida Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals). For info contact John Mascaro at 954-341-3115 or STMA@Turf-Tec.com.



Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): The Chapter's MiSTMA Field Days, with featured speaker Floyd Perry, will be held June 22 at Zeeland High School, June 23 at Albion College, and June 24 at Oakland University. More details will be announced soon. For info call 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty at fouty@ath.msu.edu, or go to www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The Chapter is planning its annual Tour on Wheels for June 23. Sites will be announced soon. The Tour will wrap up with the traditional return to the St. Paul Saints Stadium for tailgating and the game.

For info contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, at tel. 651-638-6075 or e-mail: j-hintz@bethel.edu or check out the Chapter website: www.mstma.com.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: VSTMA will hold its Field Day at Atlee High School July 20. More details will be announced soon. For info contact Bob Studholme via e-mail: Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov or at 703-324-8590.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: For info 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.

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

Southern California Chapter: For information on the 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 info call the Hotline at 866-818-8873 or email Nick Gammill, CSFM, at ngammill@american.edu.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: For info visit www.CSTMA.org, call 303-346-8954, or contact Ryan Jensen at 303/464-5687 or rjensen@ci.broomfield.co.us.

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

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For info contact Skip Kirby at 770-928-1580 or email skip@sportsturfmanagement.com

Indiana Chapter: For info contact Stan Moscrip, Indiana University, at 812-856-2256 or smoscrip@indiana.edu.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: For info contact Tom Nielsen at TNielsen@batsbaseball.com or Aaron Boggs at AVBoggs@netscape.net.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): For info contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

Midwest Chapter STMA: For info visit the Chapter's website-<http://http.mcstma.org/>, or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: For info call Mike Green at 913-888-8055 or mikegreen@3and2baseball.com.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): For info 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.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Bob Christofferson at bchristo@mariners.org.

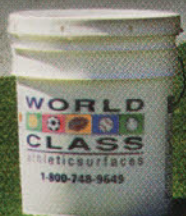
Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): For info call Chapter President, Bob Elliott, Tieco, at 800-239-9547 or Glenn Lucas at 800-837-8062; email to Glenn@tvstma.org, or visit the chapter's website: www.tvstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: For more info contact Chris Brindley at 715-346-3622 or cbrindle@uwsp.edu.

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

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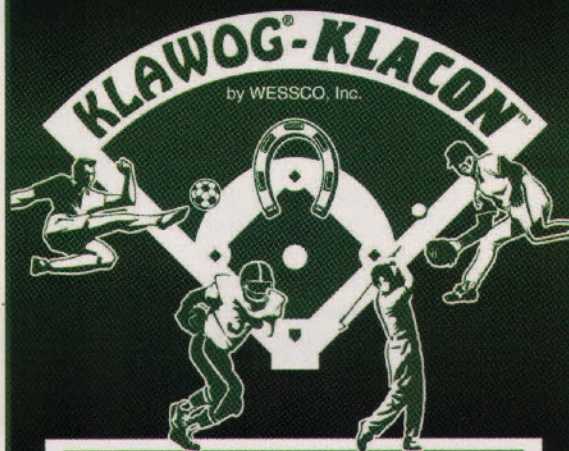
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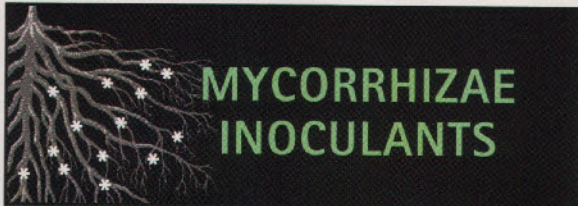


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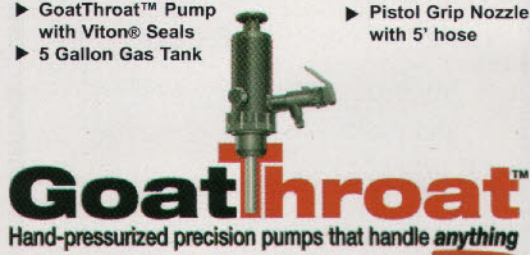
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 1999 Ryan GA 60 250 hrs \$8700
 1999 Toro aerator clean \$7000
 Jacobsen VA1224 \$3000
 1999/2000 Toro hydrojet low, low hrs \$5500

MISCELLANEOUS

2001 Cushman Core Harvester \$3400
 Core harvester
 for Cushman \$2700
 2001 Pronovost 3 way 5 ton
 dump trailer \$2750
 Vicons/lely from \$500
1999 Tycrop quick pass
270 topdresser \$7500 >>
 1999 Toro blowers for GM325
 rotary \$1800
 2001 Smithco superstar sand
 rake \$5000
2001 John Deere 4700
w/turf and Soil relievier
\$30000 >>
1999-2001 Cushman
groommaster trap
rakes from \$2500 >>
 2001 Smithco superstar
 \$5000
 1996 Toro 5000 sandpro
 \$3000
 John Deere 1200 \$1500
1999 Toro Rake-o-vac
pto \$7500 >>
 1999/2000 Jacobsen 1900
 trim mowers from \$7500
 Ford 1900 D tractor 1490 hrs
 turf 1500 hrs \$7500
 Turfco walk behind top-
 dressers from \$2500
 1998 Toro Dingo w/ trailer, trencher, leveler, bucket \$10,200



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1999 John Deere F-1145, 4/wd, Laster Deck Mowers \$9,850
 1999 Jacobsen 528 Turf Cats with 72' decks, 2/wd,
 600-900 hours \$8,850
 Toro 325-D, 2/wd, '99-'00 models,
 medium hours \$6,500-\$8,500
 Jacobsen 5111-D Rotarys, '97-'98 models, medium hours,
 two available \$12,950
 Toro 455-D, 1' cut, 1700 hours, super clean, one available
 \$11,500

Aerators / Trap Rakes

John Deere 800 Greensaire,
 2000 model \$6,500
 Howard Rotivator, 3pt. hitch \$1,800
 2000 Jacobsen Sand Scorpions, medium hours, 3/wd \$4,750
 Mid '90s Toro PTO Fairway Mower \$4,250
 '99 Smithco Super Rake, medium hours, with plow \$3,850
 '99 Cushman GA-60, super clean \$9,500
 Caremaster 3 pt. hitch \$2,950
 '99-'00 Cushman Groom Master Trap Rakes, 3/wd,
 medium hours \$3,800
 Toro Greens Aerifier, early '90s, good shape \$2,850
 Ryan GA-24, mid '90s, very clean units,
 three available \$2,600 ea.

Fairway Mowers

Toro 5400-D, 2000 models, medium hours,
 super clean \$9,800
 2000 Toro 5500-D, 950-1800 hours, 2 & 4 wheel drive,
 four available \$10,500 - \$13,950
 1999 Jacobsen 3810-D, medium hours, 2 & 4 wheel drive, three
 available \$7,800
 Toro 6500-D, 2000 models, medium hours, super clean, four
 available \$8,900 - \$11,500
 2000 Toro 5200-D, 2/wd, low hours, two available \$9,900
 Jacobsen 3800-D, medium hours, very clean
 \$8,800 - \$11,750

Gang & Trim Mowers

Mid '90s Toro 7-Gang, hydraulic transports, 6-blade reels,
 two available \$7,800
 1999 John Deere 2653-A Slope Mower \$8,500
 Toro 3100-D Sidewinder Reel Mower, 3/wd \$9,950
 2000 Jacobsen 1900-D, 1100 hours, three available \$8,800

Turf Trucks & Sprayers

Club Car Carryall Turf II's, 2000 model \$3,000 ea.
 2002 Toro Workman 2100, super clean \$3,800
 Cushman Turf Master Sprayer, mid '90s, 160 gallon \$4,250
 2000 John Deere 1800 Sprayer, 600 hours \$13,000
 Toro 160 Gallon Trailer Sprayer, electric controls,
 like new \$2,450
 Jacobsen SV Turf Truck, '99 model, 1100 hours \$5,000

Greens Mowers

2001 Toro Flex 21 PGM's, four available \$3,400 ea.
 '99-'00 Toro 3100 Greens Master, low hours,
 great shape, three available \$5,400 - \$6,500
 Jacobsen 422 & 522 Walking Greens Mowers,
 '99 models, 18 available \$2,350
 Toro Model 3250-D Greens Mowers, four available \$7,995
 2000 Toro 800 WPGM, six available \$1,650
 1999 Toro Model 1600 Tee & Collar Mowers,
 four available \$2,500
 Toro 500 WPGM, like new \$1,700
 1999 Toro Model 3100, 3/wd, Greens Mowers \$8,500
 1999 Toro Model 1000 Walk Mowers, eight available \$1,600
 '99-'00 Jacobsen Greens King V-Gas,
 medium hours, four available \$4,500
 2000 Toro 3050, low hours, two available \$4,500

Miscellaneous

2001 Turfco 1530-SP Topdresser \$5,800
 Jacobsen 5th Wheel, '99 sprayer, 275 gallons \$2,250
 2 Sets Ransome 305 Fairway Verticutters, NEW \$2,400
 Turfco 4 & 6 Wheel Top Dressers \$3,650 - \$4,450
 2000 Model Cushman Envirojets, 160 gallon,
 like new, 100 hours \$4,250
 Set of 3 Jacobsen Greens King IV & V-Rollers \$1,100

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No such thing as a bad question

With the approach of spring I am often reminded of the childhood pranks we pulled on each other for April Fools Day. Springtime ushers in other returning traditions, including a new growing season and high school science projects. Both of these events often increase my bank of questions that have me asking "are you kidding?" I thought I might share a few recent questions that made me chuckle. But before I share some of these questions with you, I don't want you to think that any question is a bad question. Yearning for knowledge or getting some advice is a good thing. I will provide my short responses.

Grady Miller

Why is grass green?

This is actually a question that is more commonly sent from younger aspiring turf managers. Like a lot of other "simple" questions, this one could be answered on so many levels one could easily produce a Master's thesis with their response. I usually mention that plants are rich in chlorophyll, which is a green pigment that absorbs blue and red spectrum of light from sunlight. Light from the green spectrum is largely reflected. Chlorophyll absorbs so strongly that it masks other colors that may be present. When chlorophyll is damaged other colors may become more visible.

Are there regulations against having a hedge down the sidelines of a football field?

The sidelines are only 11 feet deep in our HS stadium but I like the look of hedges that I see on weekend football games. Some questions seem to answer themselves. But then again, the answer may be wrong. It is often not the question that I have to address as much as it is the extra information offered with the question. Without even looking up the regulation, my response has to be "do not plant the hedge." The hedge would have to be planted away from the wall, and then they will likely grow with time to be several feet wide. Then the hedge becomes a nuisance and a potential safety hazard when there are only six or seven feet between the hedge and sideline. There is also the consideration of the rootzone for the hedge, shade implications, and maintenance issues.

Is there a problem with mixing fertilizer, seed, insecticide and using a hydroseeder to distribute?

Yes. We have become a society that likes convenience and are all for saving money and time. Some things we just should not try to combine. While it may be ok to spread fertilizer with seed, some combinations could potentially result in salt problems with seed. Some fertilizers may also deactivate a pesticide, especially fluid products. Pesticide labels may contain more specifics. There are application rate questions that need answering. It would be difficult

to calibrate the delivery system for these combinations and ensure they were all put out at an appropriate rate or concentration.

A hydroseeder is also not the most adjustable delivery method to dial in rates or direct the materials in the desired application area.

Will my turf grow back after being covered with plywood for a month?

My first response to this question was, "Why do you want to cover your turf for a month?" The response was "to protect it." I had to chuckle on the phone. I have not done the studies, but I suspect that Bermudagrass might grow back after being covered for a month. It would likely take a very long time and come back patchy, but would probably come back. In essence this manager was protecting the soil structure and preventing displacement (rutting) rather than protecting the turfgrass. There is no doubt that for short term (days not weeks) plywood can preserve a field and its turf. But for longer periods of time, perforated materials that allow air exchange and water infiltration would be better than plywood. But even modern mat material will have its limitations.

I am researching about turfgrass for baseball and soccer. But I don't have enough info about turf. I'd like to know what type of turfgrasses you use for each field, how to build the field, and how to maintain the turf.

Unfortunately these broad-based questions are too common. There is still a lot of education needed in this industry, especially for volunteers who manage low-budget fields, or for those for whom field maintenance is an "added responsibility" to their jobs. The most frequently asked questions I get deal with the basics: mowing, fertilizing, irrigation, topdressing, and pest control. To get started, I recommend people purchase a good turfgrass text. For athletic field managers, it is tough to beat *Sports Fields* by Puhalla, Krans, and Goatley. In addition, information relating to athletic field maintenance is readily available from extension service publications and state extension personnel.

In summary, never be afraid to ask questions. We all start learning somewhere and we all run into difficulties. The Rhodes scholar Christopher Morley once said, "There are three ingredients to the good life: learning, earning, and yearning." Thanks for the questions. **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.