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see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2917-066>

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For information, circle 064 or  
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2917-064>



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# Store It Right This Winter

BY DAN DORN

**M**ost turf pros understand that proper maintenance during the season is critical to the performance of cutting equipment, but did you know that how you store your mowers during the off-season can impact long-term durability? After spending a little time cleaning and preparing mowers and other turf equipment for extended winter storage, you can go a long way toward ensuring easy starting and strong performance in the spring.

The first step to this, or any mower maintenance, is to acquire a copy of the owner's manual and factory maintenance schedule for each different mower in your fleet. If you've lost manuals for your mowers over the years, don't worry, most manufacturers make manuals available on their websites.

- \* Perform a thorough cleaning and inspection of each mower. It's typically best to avoid using high-pressure washers, or water at all for that matter. Instead, use compressed air whenever possible, as moisture in mower components can lead to corrosion and premature wear that can shorten mower lifespan. If you do choose to use water, be sure to lubricate the grease points on the mower to expel any moisture that may have entered during cleaning.

- \* While cleaning, it's important to give each machine a thorough inspection, noting any obvious fluid leaks, loose fasteners or damaged components. This inspection will help you establish before storage.

- \* The cutting deck demands particular attention. Remove all grass and debris that has built up on the underside of the deck. This keeps trapped moisture from corroding the cutting deck during storage, and will allow the cutting deck to perform as designed next spring without any additional work.

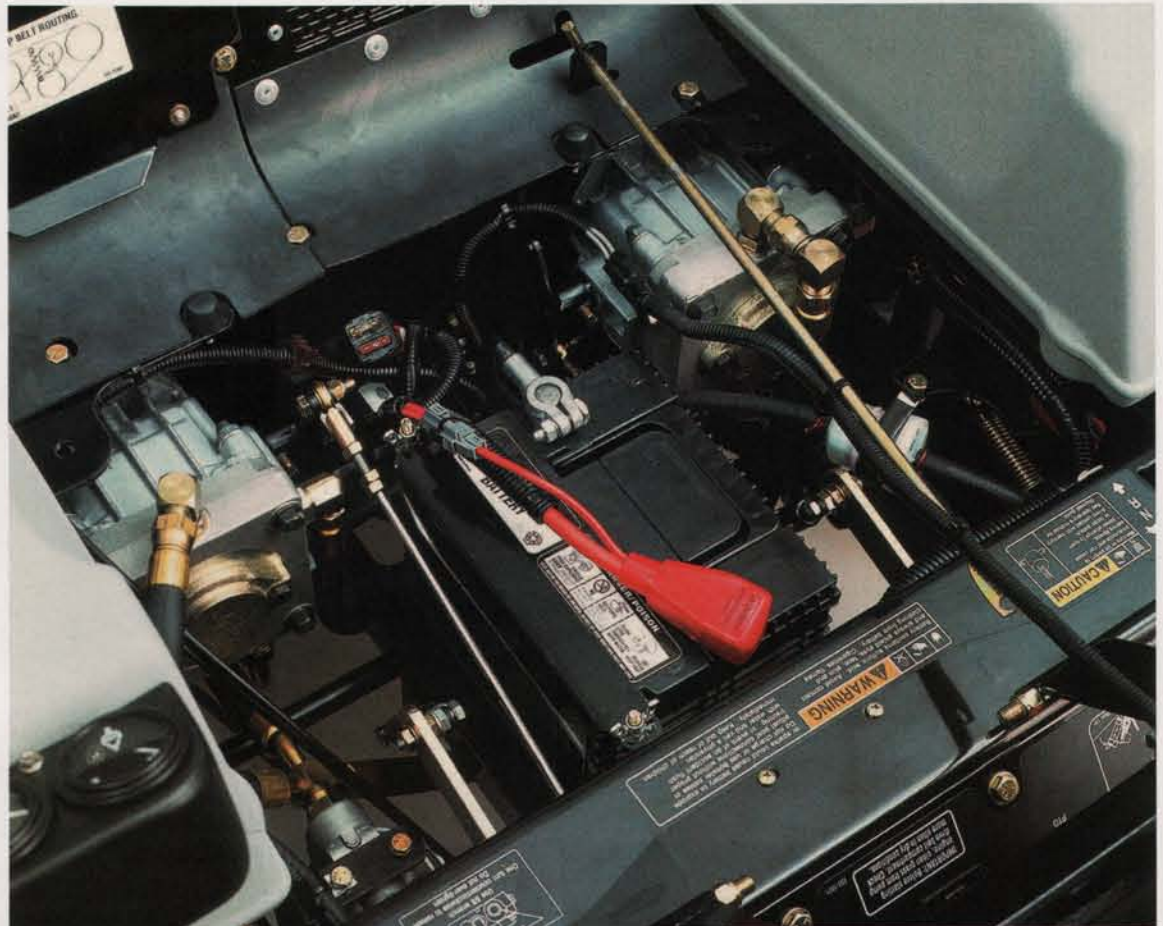
- \* Once the mower is clean, inspect to verify that all guards, shields, safety devices and interlock switches are in-place and functioning properly. Also be sure to check for and replace any parts that are obviously worn or deteriorating.

## Engine prep

The end of the season offers a great opportunity to catch-up on maintenance items that may have been neglected during busy summer months, and to prepare the engine for the unique challenges presented by extended storage.



- \* Changing the engine oil and oil filter (if equipped) - An oil change flushes any water or other



contaminants from the engine that can cause corrosion inside the engine during storage.

- \* Replace other regular maintenance items such as spark plugs, fuel filters and air filters. Replacing these inexpensive items now makes it much easier to hit the ground running next spring.

- \* Clean and maintain the engine's cooling system. Over the course of the mowing season, debris and grass clippings can accumulate in the cooling fins of air-cooled engines, and in the radiators of liquid-cooled engines. This build-up compromises the efficiency of the cooling system, which can lead to overheating, as well as decreased engine performance and longevity.

On liquid-cooled units, check to verify that the cooling system is filled with the proper mixture of antifreeze and water (typically a 50:50 ratio). This is critical for locations that regularly see freezing temperatures, as an improper mixture can allow the coolant to freeze inside the engine, which can cause extensive engine damage.

Use compressed air to thoroughly clean dirt and debris build-up in the cooling fins or radiator. Inspect and clean the cooling system again in the spring, when the mower is pulled out of storage, as insects, mice and other small rodents can make their home in stored equipment, and the nests need to be removed.

- \* Maintain and charge the battery. Before storage, be sure the battery is completely filled with distilled water, and clean all battery posts, connections and cables. Disconnect the battery from the negative post for any storage of more than 30 days. It's also a good idea to give batteries a full charge using a trickle charger before storage. This will ensure the battery has enough charge remaining to start the mower when it is pulled out of storage.

- \* Stabilize the fuel and fuel system. Use a fuel stabilizer in the tank of any equipment to be stored for more than 30 days. Run the mower for at least 5 minutes after the fuel stabilizer has been added to make sure stabilized fuel is present in the fuel lines and fuel system of the engine.

### Chassis and deck prep

\* Lubricate the chassis and cutting deck. Virtually all commercial mowers provide grease zerks at critical bearing areas on the chassis and cutting deck, which allow periodic lubrication without disassembly. Use a grease gun to lubricate bearings with a high-quality waterproof grease before storage. This will flush any moisture and/or contamination build-up from the bearing, and will allow extended storage without concerns about bearing corrosion and/or freeze-up.

When greasing pivot points that are tensioned, such as the idler arms or bearings on the cutting deck, release the tension from the system before lubrication. This allows the grease to be more uniformly distributed within the mechanism. Consult your owner's manual to find the exact number and locations of grease zerks on your mower, as well as the manufacturer's recommended grease type.

\* On hydrostatic-drive mowers, check the level of the hydro oil and replace the hydro oil filter at the end of each season. On gear-drive mowers, inspect the drive belts and pulleys for signs of wear, cracking or deterioration. Also inspect the belts that drive the cutting deck, replacing as necessary.

\* Put a fresh edge on the cutting blades. - Sharpen and balance cutting blades before storage. Sharp, balanced cutting blades restore full cut quality and efficiency to the deck, and doing so in preparation for storage means it's one less item to maintain before next spring.

\* Check mower fasteners. Since nuts and bolts can loosen over the course of a cutting season, it's especially important to check these fasteners often, especially at the beginning and end of cutting seasons. This will ensure that mower safety, performance and durability isn't compromised. **ST**

Dan Dorn is the product marketing manager for Exmark Manufacturing, [www.exmark.com](http://www.exmark.com).



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turf maintenance equipment

**7-IRON DECK WALK-BEHIND**

John Deere offers a gear-driven 7-Iron commercial walk-behind mower for 2005. With an 18-hp Kohler engine and 48-in. cutting deck, the 7G18 makes the industry-exclusive 7-Iron deck available to cost-conscious professionals. With a new 5-speed Dana Spicer transmission and floating deck system, the 7G18 also features redesigned steering control levers to reduce handgrip reach and tension.

All John Deere 7-Iron decks are stamped from a single sheet of 7-gauge steel (.177 inch), so there are no welds to wear or break.

John Deere/800-537-8233

For information, circle 106 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2917-106>



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Tru Mark Athletic Field Marker's two field marking string winders save time when mowing field marking lines. Both come standard with a 3/8-in. steel post for a cordless drill and a free wheeling handle (holds 1500 ft. plus of twine). The all-steel and ball bearing model can be posted in the ground. The "light weight" model features a sturdy plastic frame reel.

Tru Mark/800-553-6275

For information, circle 109 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2917-109>



**RIDE-ON SPREADER SPRAYER**

Perma Green Supreme has the next generation of their flagship product, the all-new 2005 Ride-On Magnum Spreader Sprayer, now available. New features include a Honda engine with built-in wet clutch, a new heavy-duty transmission, a 150-lb. capacity hopper and 12-gal. spray tank. The MAGNUM also sports a larger 2 GPM pump and improved spray system and spreader mechanism for easier and more reliable calibration and product control.

Perma Green/800-346-2001

For information, circle 108 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2917-108>





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The Turf Tracer features Exmark's Enhanced Control System (ECS), which allows instant forward-to-reverse control as well as infinite speed adjustment, and topside, inward control positioning increases control and comfort, while keeping hands further from obstacles. Three engine options, including a 23-hp Kawasaki V-twin, and 20- or 23-hp Kohler V-twins, are available. Also feature patented Insta-Track on-the-fly tracking adjustments.

Exmark/800-667-5296  
For information, circle 111 or see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2917-111>

### NEW ZTR MOWER

The new EverRide Hornet zero-turn radius commercial mower is now available. Sister product to last year's Warrior, both models have tunnel decks for cutting through deep grass, and dial-gauge adjustment of cutting heights. Hornet model available in 48- or 52-in. decks with optional grass catchers.

Auburn Consolidated Industries/402-274-8600  
For information, circle 095 or see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2917-095>



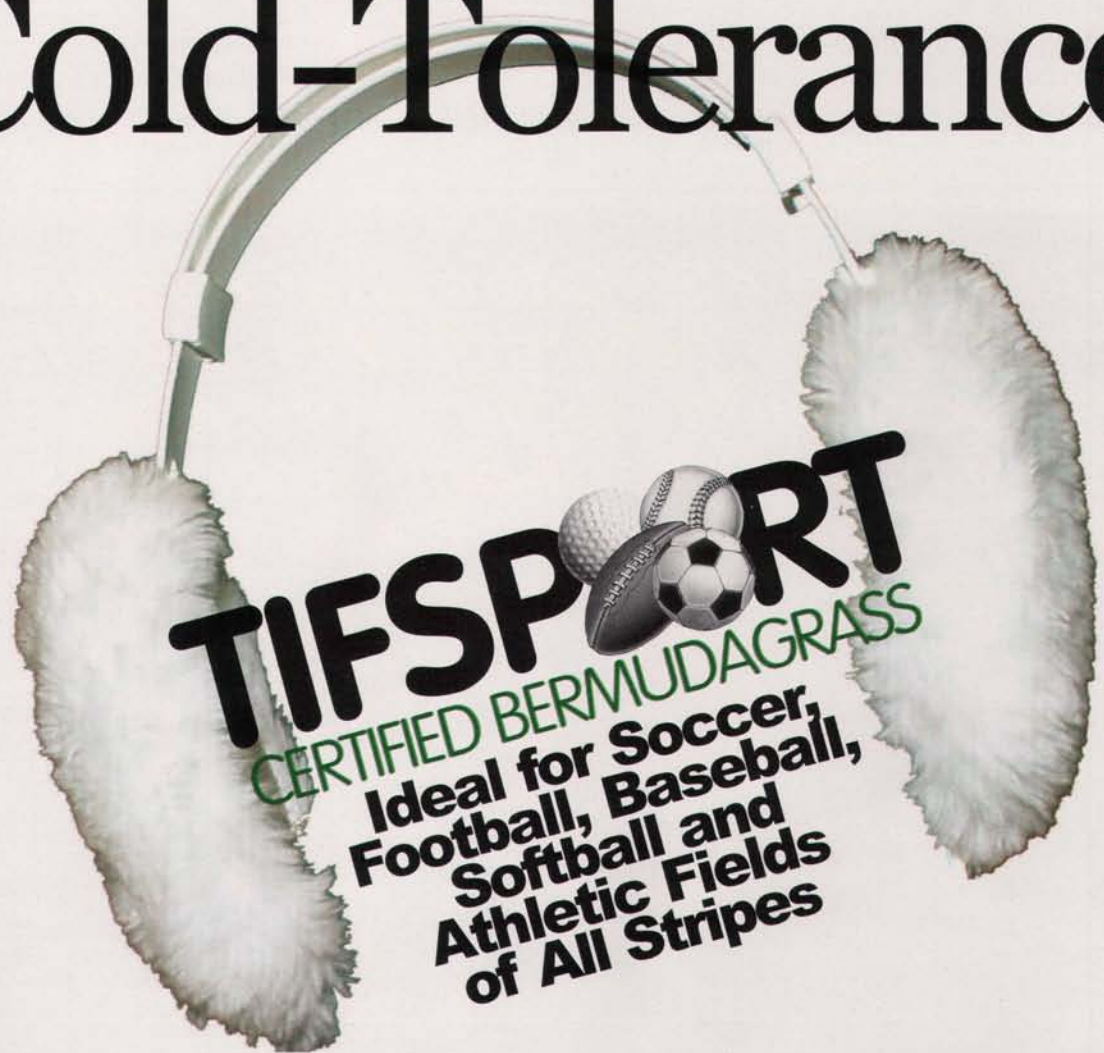
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Walker Manufacturing introduces Walker by Walker, a compact, mid-size, walk-behind mower. The 15-hp Kawasaki engine with full-pressure lubrication delivers the power needed to run all Walker side-discharge and mulching decks up to 56 in., the same full-floating decks that are run on the Walker Rider also mount on the walk-behind, including the deck tilt-up function. A castoring tail wheel on the tractor allows the deck to move independently with flexible deck suspension and spring counterweighting allowing the deck to "float" and follow ground contour.

Walker Manufacturing/800-279-8537  
For information, circle 110 or see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2917-110>



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Circle 155 on card or [www.oners.ims.ca/2917-155](http://www.oners.ims.ca/2917-155)



# Make a Difference— Donate Prizes for the SAFE Raffle

**The Foundation for** a Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) needs your help for this year's STMA Conference Raffle. As in previous years, SAFE is conducting a Live and Silent Auction at the Conference in Phoenix on January 19-23, 2005. We need prizes for the raffle and will accept almost anything. Donations in the past have included team gear and logo items such as shirts, hats, jackets, autographed baseballs and footballs and industry suppliers' products such as mowers, field rakes, fertilizer, etc.

Be creative; any donation is appreciated. To help us plan and appropriately promote your donations, please call Tom Curran, Raffle/Auction chair at 954-786-4138, or Steve Torske at 402-472-4778. Send your donations to our STMA Show Office, 28 Pelham Street, Newport, RI 02840.

Have you ever wanted to work on a crew preparing for a major event? If you have any type of sports field work experience, you have a chance by partic-

ipating in the SAFE raffle. One lucky person will be selected to work at Comerica Park, the home of the Detroit Tigers, for 4-5 days preparing for the All-Star Game July 12. Experience first hand everything that goes into the All Star game, including media events, entertainment rehearsals, and of course, the field preparation. You will be part of 2005 baseball history!

A 501(c)(3) corporation, SAFE is the charitable entity of STMA that funds sports field specific research, educational programs, and scholarships. In addition to funding from this raffle, SAFE receives donations from a variety of sources, including the Jacobsen-sponsored golf tournament held annually at the Conference, Toro scholarship funding, from Chapters and from members. Don't forget to indicate a donation to SAFE on your annual membership renewal application, which you will receive this month. Look for a complete listing of those who donated to SAFE in 2004 in the next issue of *SPORTSTURF*.

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# New Space, New Faces at Headquarters

**Although there are** still many boxes to unpack and review, we are settled and would like to introduce our new location and ourselves to you.

The STMA headquarters moved October 1 to its new location at 805 New Hampshire, Suite E, Lawrence, KS 66044. The move from Council Bluffs, IA, involved transporting 8,500 pounds of files, printed materials, and association history. Although the move took place during that day, the headquarters was up and running with phone service and staff at 8:00 AM October 1.

Our offices are located in the oldest existing warehouse in the state of Kansas. The original stone and wood structure was built in 1857 and was among the carnage of burned and destroyed homes and businesses from the infamous Quantrill's Raid of Lawrence during the Kansas/Missouri border wars.

As the town of Lawrence rebuilt, this was one of the first buildings to be restored. In addition to being a general store, the location was also the long-time home of The Barteldes Seed Co. Friedo Barteldes, the proprietor of a small bakery, decided to add a new line to his business. So he bought a few large sacks of garden seeds, and in his spare time, weighed them out into small sacks that were then displayed next to his bread counter. That was the beginning of the Barteldes Seed Co. In 1875, his nephew took over and established the Kansas Seed House that thrived here until 1962.

In 1998, local investors made the commitment to rehabilitate the historical downtown building. The top two floors of the three-story building were converted to office space. STMA is located on the second floor, with natural stone walls and exposed ceiling beams and ceiling rafters. The building also houses a real estate agency, an architectural firm, and an advertising agency.

Our staff includes Erica Spurling, manager of finance and operations; Leah Craig, manager of member programs; and Kim Heck, chief executive officer. All three come to STMA from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Spurling worked in the Finance and Member Solutions department at GCSAA as the coordinator for accounts payable and accounts receivable. She was also responsible for exhibitor and attendee registration at the GCSAA annual conference and show. She has 12 years of accounting background is looking forward to meeting and working with the STMA members. She and her husband, Eric, have three children, Adam, Shawn, and Emily.

Craig has five years of association experience in member programs, career development, and market research. Before her employment with GCSAA, she was responsible for researching student loan application denials for the federal government, and is also experienced in retail sales. She and her husband, Chris, have one son, Logan.

Heck has 10 years of experience in all facets of association management. At GCSAA she created the career development and student services areas and oversaw the scholarship function. She also participated on the membership growth team, conference and show team, and headed up the brand strategy and market research division. Before GCSAA she was heavily involved in marketing engineering and environmental services. Her background includes advertising agency work and several years in the cellular technology industry. She is involved in the Lawrence community where she serves on several boards and committees. Heck has three children, Jessica, Madeline, and Andrew.



Left to right: Kim Heck, Leah Craig, and Erica Spurling, the new STMA Headquarters staff in Lawrence, KS.

## chapter news

### Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:

Our final show this year was in Yuma on Thursday, December 2, 2004 at the Yuma Civic Center. The Golf Tournament was held on Wednesday, December 1st. Our program included topics on the following: Aeration principles (Dr. David Kopeck), Playground Safety (LandscapeStructures), Seven Deadly Sins of Tree Care (Tina Mckeand, City of Yuma arborist), and Selecting the Right Sprinkler (Nate Gould/Hunter). They were followed by a round table discussion on topics affecting our sports turf members. For more information on the show contact: Larry Munoz at 928/373-5221 or Joel Hubbard at 928/373-5227. For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Chris Calcaterra at 623/412-4231 or by e-mail at chrisc@peoriaaz.com or Bill Murphy at 480/312-7956 or by e-mail at bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us.

**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 e-mail Nick Gammill, CSFM, at ngammill@american.edu.

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Chapter or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website at www.CSTMA.org or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303/346-8954, or contact Chapter President Ryan Jensen at 303/464-5687 or rjensen@ci.broomfield.co.us.

**Florida Chapter #1:** The Chapter is offering two upcoming regional seminars, they are: January 18, 2005 the FTGA Palm Beach Regional Seminar in Lake Worth, FL and on January 19, 2005 the FTGA

Miami-Ft. Lauderdale Regional Seminar at Pro-Player Stadium in Miami, FL. For information, contact John Mascaro at 954/341-3115 or STMA@Turf-Tec.com.

**Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:** On December 15, the Chapter will be hosting their annual, year-end meeting banquet. For information on the Gateway Chapter or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College at 314/392-2328 or e-mail krone@mobap.edu.

**Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Skip Kirby at 770/928-1580 or e-mail skip@sportsturfmanagement.com.

**The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter

# chapter news

announces the incoming 2005 Executive Board: President, Emilio Avalos, President Elect, Carol Gundlach, Commercial VP, Paul Webb, Secretary, Bill Rudometkin, and Treasurer, Tim Isles. For information on the Chapter or pending events, call Eric Johnson, USC at 213/821-5654 or [ejohnson@busaff.usc.edu](mailto:ejohnson@busaff.usc.edu).

**Indiana Chapter:** For information, contact Stan Moscrip, Indiana University at 812/856-2256 or [smoscrip@indiana.edu](mailto:smoscrip@indiana.edu).

## Iowa Sports Turf Managers

**Association:** Mark your calendars now for the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Show, January 31, February 1&2, 2005 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. For information on the Chapter or upcoming activities, contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at 515/232-8222 or fax 515/232-8228 or e-mail [Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org).

## Keystone Athletic Field Managers

**Organization (KAFMO/STMA):** The 9th Annual KAFMO/PRPS Athletic Field Conference will be held Friday, February 18, 2005 at the Holiday Inn - Grantville. Topics to be discussed include grassy weeds, mushroom soil, aeration, worn areas and limited resources. John Mascaro of Turf-Tec International is the featured speaker. There will be vendor exhibits along with "Field of Distinction" and scholarship presentations. For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, email [KAFMO@aol.com](mailto:KAFMO@aol.com) or call Dan Douglas at 610/375-8469 ext. 212.

## Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:

The Kentucky Chapter's Board members met and determined the dates of their 2005 meetings, they are as follows: February 21-25, The KTC Short Course at the Executive Inn in Louisville- the Sports Turf Workshop will be held on the 23rd. June 30, UK Research Field Day at Spindletop Farm in Lexington, July 28-29, KySTMA Summer Workshop at the University of Louisville, and November 2005, KTC Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Bowling Green. For more information, check out the website at [www.kystma.org](http://www.kystma.org) or contact Tom Nielsen at [TNielsen@batsbaseball.com](mailto:TNielsen@batsbaseball.com) or Donnie Mefford at [dbmeff00@email.uky.edu](mailto:dbmeff00@email.uky.edu) or call him at 859/257-1451.

## Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association

**(MiSTMA):** For information on the Chapter or pending events, contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517/712-3407 or e-mail Amy Fouty, Michigan State University at [fouty@ath.msu.edu](mailto:fouty@ath.msu.edu) or go to [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org) to visit the Chapter's website.

**Midwest Chapter STMA:** The Chapter participated in the Illinois Professional Turf Conference (IPTC) Nov. 30 & Dec. 1, 2004. The Chapter sponsored a breakfast meeting for its members at the conference the morning of Nov 30. Following the breakfast there were sports turf educational sessions, lunch on the tradeshow floor, and a keynote address by Pat Hughes, radio voice of the Chicago Cubs. New

to the conference sessions this year was Pesticide Applicator Training & Testing plus Chainsaw Training & Safety Certification, in Spanish and English! For more information visit the Chapter's website at <http://mcstma.org/> or call Libby Baker at 847/263-7603 or e-mail [Bake60ft6in@aol.com](mailto:Bake60ft6in@aol.com).

**Minnesota Chapter STMA:** For information contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary in St. Paul at 651/638-6075 or by e-mail at [j-hintz@bethel.edu](mailto:j-hintz@bethel.edu), or check out [www.mstma.com](http://www.mstma.com).



## MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:

For information call Mike Green at 913/888-8055 or e-mail [mgreen865@earthlink.net](mailto:mgreen865@earthlink.net).

**Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information call Janet Gift at 530/758-4200.

**Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter is having our annual lunch and business meeting on December 6th at the Texas Turfgrass Institute & Trade Show to be held at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine. Topics will include annual elections and chapter plans of consolidation. For more information contact the TXSTMA office at the Phone/Fax number: 866/TXSTMA1 (866/897-8621) or e-mail T.J. Thompson, Treasurer at: [TXturfmanager@prodigy.net](mailto:TXturfmanager@prodigy.net).

## Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:

For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, call Loren Humphrey at: 402/461-2324 or e-mail [lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org](mailto:lhumphrey@cityofhastings.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-Hermann at 903/236-9118 or e-mail [HQ@sfmanj.org](mailto:HQ@sfmanj.org) or visit [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org).

**Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):** On December 9 the Chapter is having its Annual Meeting & Lunch from 11:30am -1:30pm at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in conjunction with the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation show.

February 28th & March 1st - OSU & OSTMA Sports Turf Short Course Columbus Crew Stadium - cost \$210 and you can get more information and register online by visiting [www.pware.com/2753](http://www.pware.com/2753). OSTMA is working on other spring and summer events for 2005 and will be announcing them shortly. We will be having a workshop with the Cleveland Browns this year and will have our Fall Field Day in September at the Intramural complex - Fred Beckman Park at OSU. For information call OSTMA Headquarters at 888/824-9805 or 419/824-9805 or Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, at 419/885-1982 or visit [www.ostma.org](http://www.ostma.org).

## Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers

**Association:** For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Bob Christofferson at [bchristo@mariners.org](mailto:bchristo@mariners.org).

**Southern California Chapter:** For information on the Chapter or pending activities, call Michael Tarantino at 858/679-2526 or e-mail: [MTarantino@powayusd.com](mailto:MTarantino@powayusd.com).

**South Carolina Chapter of STMA:** For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dr. Hale at 843/662-3526 ext. 206, or by e-mail at [tchale@clmson.edu](mailto:tchale@clmson.edu) or visit the chapter's website at [www.scstma.org](http://www.scstma.org).

**Texas Turf Managers Association:** For more information contact the TXSTMA office at the Phone/Fax number: 866/TXSTMA1 (866/897-8621) or e-mail T.J. Thompson, Treasurer, at: [TXturfmanager@prodigy.net](mailto:TXturfmanager@prodigy.net).

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** The Tennessee Turfgrass Association Annual Conference & Trade Show and the TVSTMA meeting is January 4-6, 2005, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN. 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 or e-mail [Glenn@tvstma.org](mailto:Glenn@tvstma.org), or visit [www.tvstma.org](http://www.tvstma.org).

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter is holding their Annual Membership Meeting on January 12, 2005 during the Virginia Turfgrass Council's Conference and Marketplace. For information on the Chapter or other upcoming events, contact Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority, at [Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov) or 703/324-8590.

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Chapter or other pending events, contact Chris Brindley at 715/346-3622 or [cbrindle@uwsp.edu](mailto:cbrindle@uwsp.edu).

## Forming Chapters:

**North Florida STMA Chapter:** For information on the newly forming North Florida Chapter, contact Mark Clay at 904/633-6116 or Jay McCord at 904/448-2583.



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