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**Growing Smarter.** 

Circle 163 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2911-163

# TURF STUDENTS BUSY ON LEFT COAST

#### BY DAVID GREEN, PH.D.

urfgrass management at California Polytechnic State University (better known as Cal Poly, SLO) continued to grow in 2003-04. With numerous activities and post-graduate job opportunities, Cal Poly students actively prepared for their future careers while having some fun along the way. Some of the highlights from 2003 include building a new teaching golf green, turfgrass research, hosting

a joint meeting, competing in the annual Collegiate TurfBowl at the GCSAA meeting, and golf social outings.

A unique opportunity for our turfgrass students during 2003 was the construc-

tion of a new 9,000 square-foot teaching green. This green was designed by students to demonstrate the differences in turfgrass growth and management between the USGA and "Push-up" styles. Students were actively involved in the entire construction from design, through site analysis, construction, and final turf propagation.

Other experienced-based learning achieved by Cal Poly's students included a diverse array of internships from across the country. Some of these internships included sport field management with The Brickman Group in Pennsylvania and prestigious golf courses such as Rancho Santa Fe and Meadows Del Mar in San Diego County, and Poppy Hills in Monterey.

In addition to the normal coursework and internship requirements, Cal Poly's turfgrass students are heavily involved in applied research. During the past year these students have been actively involved in improving management techniques of seashore paspalum and annual bluegrass for golf course and sports field use. One example of this was conducted by recent graduate Joe Prygodzynski, who examined weed control on seashore paspalum by integrating commercially available herbicides with saltwater.

One other recent achievement by our students this year was placing in the top 10 at the Collegiate TurfBowl at the GCSAA conference in San Diego. This competition includes a comprehensive 3-hour exam that would challenge the most experienced turfgrass manager. Students competed in teams of four, with more than 70 teams participating. Cal Poly's placement in the top 10 ranks them with

other elite turfgrass programs such as Iowa State, Penn State, Ohio State, and Rutgers.

Although the students worked hard this year they once again found time to get together to have a good time. Several organized (and unorganized) golf outings at local courses provided occasions for the students to relax and have fun. Additionally, the students had a great time in organizing fundraising events such as 'closest-to-the-pin' contests at local golf courses and their annual putting course for Cal Poly's Open House.

More information can be found at www.calpoly.edu. **ST** 

Dr. David Green is a professor of turfgrass science with the Environmental Horticultural Science Dept. at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo.



Round and round and round we go is the theme for Senior Mike

Facciuto who is preparing the final grade of the new green

Recent graduate Mark Weitz is hard at work spraying a green for anthracnose during his internship at Rancho Santa Fe Golf Course.



# USA SOFTBALL FACILITY IN GOOD HANDS

PORTSTURF recently talked with Johnny McClung, long-time turf manager for the USA Softball facilities in Oklahoma City, OK:

#### ST: Describe your duties and the facilities at USA Softball.

McClung: I am responsible for the maintenance and overall operation of the physical plant. This consists of the Amateur Softball Association National Office and grounds and the Don E. Porter ASA Hall of Fame Stadium four-field complex. We maintain the four fields during the season and during the off-season for upgrades on a con-



sistent basis, plus we have a staff that must have ongoing training including safety programs. McClung: Tournament directors, coaches, npires, and others can be very demanding at times and, on occasion, a little

best we can.

vour job?

games.

umpires, and others can be very demanding at times and, on occasion, a little unreasonable. With so many different personalities, you really have to love your

#### World class facilities use World Class products.

ST: Tell us how you prepare your

infields for Olympic-level softball

McClung: I guess you could say we're in the

spotlight. With the NCAA College World Series televised on ESPN, we have to be ready for this

and other prestigious events. The playing surface

has to be near perfect. We have to be prepared

for any problems and of course the weather can

threaten at any time in Oklahoma. The demands

are high and we strive to meet every challenge as

ST: What's the most frustrating part of

We at World Class know that there's more to the game than the coach and the players. When playing in front of a big audience, it's just as important that the facility and playing surface look professional. That's where we come in. We built our reputation as THE reliable manufacturer of custom stencils and quality field paints that are brighter, last longer and are kinder to your turf. Today, we supply most everything you need to support all your sports facilities.



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#### around the grounds

job and be as flexible as possible. The one thing you can't control is the weather and of course it gets very tense during rain delays. Being prepared for the worst is the best you can do. With as many games as we play per day, softball damage does occur and the quality of the fields is very difficult to maintain. As always, safety is a top priority with our staff.

#### ST: What would you recommend, generally, to someone facing the task of building or rebuilding a softball field?

McClung: Usage, budget restraints, and the level of play are three important factors that always should be considered. Grass is grown by the inch and killed by the foot with a cleated shoe on it. Lawsuits can rob a sports program and unnecessary injuries can cost someone their career. A well-maintained park is a safer park. Regular inspections can identify hazards so they can be eliminated.

#### ST: What have been the high point and low point of your career in field management?

McClung: The high point is to realize the fruits of your labor. This is evident when ESPN televises the Women's College World Series and our work is shown nationwide. Of course this results in many positive comments, not only from people attending the event but also from people throughout the United States. We maintain our fields for youth tournaments almost the same way we prepare them for prestigious events. To our staff, there is no difference. We strive for excellence. A benefit is to see the little kids' eyes when they see the stadium for the first time-all the work is worth it.

The low point is when teams that travel long distances and aren't able to play because of rain. There is nothing you can do. It's disappointing because our staff goes all out to ensure that everyone can play ball at our facility. It's the best in the United States and we all are very proud of it.

#### SAFETY RAIL

BP International's Premium Safety Rail carries a 25-yr. prorated warranty and comes in 8 colors, installs easily. Sold in increments of 40 ft., the product fits over BPI's windscreen



uct fits over BPI's windscreen. PrivaScreen and DuraScreen are available in many different colors, custom fit to your fence, with visual blockages from 80-95 percent. Customization is available. BP International/800-767-2255 For information, circle 106 or

see http://www.oners.ims.ca/2911-106



#### **STICK EDGER**

Putting the finishing touches on landscaped areas is easy with the John Deere XT140SELE stick edger, powered by a 1.6-hp, low emission, M-Series Engine. Quieted by a lowtone, glass-wool-lined aluminum muffler, this professional grade stick edger has an angled 59-in. shaft and

large guide wheel; the 8-in. blade and adjustable depth control allows deep cutting up to 2.25 in., with cast-aluminum edger blade housing for added durability. John Deere/800-537-8233

For information, circle 090 or see http://www.oners.ims.ca/2911-090



Circle 191 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2911-191

### Sports Turf Managers Association Membership.







#### Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) members are experts on athletic field maintenance, renovation and construction. Members possess the knowledge and reliability required to manage the safest playing fields, protecting the well-being and future of every athlete. Members come from all areas of sports including professional teams, colleges and universities, other schools, and parks and recreation departments. STMA is also represented by the top commercial and academic industry leaders. Combine science and art to produce playing surfaces that are safe and aesthetically pleasing, and be dedicated to the sports turf profession. Become an STMA member!

#### Member Benefits Include:

- Educational Opportunities
- Certification
- Networking Opportunities
- Local Chapters
- Research
- Annual Conference & Exhibition
- Interactive Website/Publications
- Annual Awards

In order to take advantage of all association benefits and become a member of STMA contact STMA headquarters at 1-800-323-3875 or join online at www.sportsturfmanager.com.

Call or logon now to join!



Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

#### **NO DIPSTICK HERE**

The Shindaiwa T2500X 4-cycle trimmer comes with a 24.5-cc gas engine with high-torque 1.1-hp C4 Technology. It can be used all day, in all positions, and yield the reduced emissions and low-noise characteristics of a 4-cycle engine. It comes standard with barrier bar, blade holders, combination debris shield, and strap for trimmer head and brush-cutter blade operation. Shindaiwa, Inc/800-521-7733 For information, circle 105 or



see http://www.oners.ims.ca/2911-105



# OPE EMISSIONS, TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

#### BY JAY LARSON



he EPA emission standards established for the outdoor power equipment (OPE) industry, and set up in a matrix of progressively tougher compliance levels, has presented

engineers with a formidable challenge. At Shindaiwa, we believe the already published 2005 federal standards will simply mean the end of standard 2-cycle engines as we know them today. Similar to outboard motor and the dirt bike industries, which have successfully made the transition from 2-cycle to 4-cycle engines, tomorrow's handheld outdoor power equipment must also change accordingly.

Like many other manufacturers, we had first assumed it would be possible to comply with looming emission standards by simple "enleanment" of standard 2cycle engines. This essentially means using less fuel to limit the amount of hydrocarbons and other pollutants discharged by the exhaust system. However, with leaner engines operating temperatures dramatically rise and piston and cylinder scoring typically become frequent and expensive problems, which is especially true when basic maintenance is less than ideal. During our research and development work we soon verified that the lean burn 2-cycle engines, even those equipped with catalytic converters or similar devices, simply

cannot comply with tomorrow's tough emission standards.

Shindaiwa moved ahead with development of a 4-cycle engine design featuring the use of a supercharger element to increase crankcase pressure. This patented "Power Boost Chamber" not only provides increased power and torque, it also enables the use of standard 50:1 fuel mix for all its engine lubrication. In other words, no oil sump or dipstick to worry about!

The end result is the C4 Technology 4-cycle engine that beats the 2005 EPA standard while maintaining light weights and multi-positional capabilities. Shindaiwa plans to rollout a full range of commercial C4 Technology products during the next few years.

Jay Larsen is product marketing and communications manager for Shindaiwa, Inc. He can be reached at 503-691-4406.

### WOPK Smarter THINK REELCRAFT



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### Chapter events at an all-time high

**STMA Chapter activity** is at an all time high. Chapter events range from classroom educational sessions, to hands-on "show and tell" on the field demonstrations, to vendor exhibits and "working" demonstrations, to multiple site tours of regional sports fields and facilities. Networking, the chance to share information and ideas with other sports turf managers, enhances all of these educational opportunities.

Networking is key to all STMA events. Those attending their first Chapter meeting are amazed by the amount of information shared and that it is shared so freely. A sports turf manager may see a feature on one of the tours on wheels and ask the turf managers on site how they achieved it. They'll get a great answer, filled with details they can use. And others will add input on their experiences with working toward the same goals. The pros and cons of various methods will be discussed, with nuts and bolts information provided on time allocation, product performance and results throughout each step of the process. Sports turf managers understand that information shared raises the level of expertise for the individuals involved and for the profession. Sharing the details on what worked well and, maybe even more important, the details on what did not work in specific instances, puts a greater body of knowledge forward for all to examine, pick from and put to use. If you haven't yet joined in your regional chapter events, check out the details listed here and on the STMA website, www.sportsturfmanager.com to mark your calendar for the next opportunity to participate.

The STMA Chapters thank the Chapter Sponsors for their continuing support: Gold level - John Deere; and Silver Level - Alpine Services, Inc., Hunter Industries, Stabilizer Solutions, and Syngenta.

#### STMA seeks executive director

The Board of Directors of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) has announced that they are seeking to hire an Executive Director to manage STMA. Currently, STMA has a contractual agreement for management services with Trusty & Associates, which has managed the association since 1996.

In January, the STMA Board of Directors assembled a committee chaired by Steve Wightman to investigate various management options for the future of the association. After extensive deliberation, the committee's recommendation to the Board at the April Board meeting was that it was in the best interest of STMA to have its own dedicated Executive Director and staff, which has been a long standing vision of STMA.

To assist with the search, the Board approved the services of a professional association management recruiter, Dr. Ted Flickinger. The goal is to make a decision about the selection of the Executive Director at the STMA July Board Meeting.

STMA President Bob Campbell, CSFM, said "With the help of the Trustys and many dedicated volunteers, STMA has grown tremendously over the past eight years and is now at a point that it needs the attention of a full-time dedicated Executive Director and staff. We are all grateful for the outstanding job the Trustys have done for this association over the past eight years to help us grow so that we are now in position to make this long-standing vision a possibility."

#### chapter news

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): The Chapter will hold a Hands-On Irrigation Workshop at Paul Brown Stadium, home of the Cincinnati Bengals, June 17-18. This 2-day event will include sessions on soils, basic irrigation principles, and troubleshooting. OSTMA will hold its South East Ohio Field Day July 8 at the University of Rio Grand. Low-budget field maintenance will be the focus of this event. A Collaborative Golf Outing between OSTMA & OLCA will be held July 28 at Apple Valley in the Columbus area. The OSU/OTF Turfgrass Research Field Day will be held at the OTF

Turfgrass Research Field Day will be held at the OTF Research & Education Center at Ohio State August 18. The Chapter also will participate in the OTF Annual Golf Tournament October 5 at the Golf Club of Dublin, Dublin. For info on the OSTMA 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.

#### Keystone Athletic Field Managers

**Organization (KAFMO/STMA):** KAFMO and Penn State Cooperative Extension are teaming up to present an in-depth baseball field clinic at the Goodman Campus of Lehigh University in Bethlehem June 22. Sessions include an Infield Clinic on the mound, home plate, batters boxes and infield clay; an "On the Edge" session on maintaining basepaths and eliminating lip areas; a parade of vendors and equipment demonstrations; and Fighting Weeds in the Diamond. Contact Nancy Bosold at (610) 378-1327 for more information. KAFMO will hold its Fourth Annual Sports Turf Managers School June 28-30, with both classroom sessions and hands-on out activities offered to provide practical instruction for athletic field managers. Contact Linda Kulp at (717) 921-8803 to register. For info on the KAFMO/STMA 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.

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter will participate in the ITI Equipment Demo Day planned for June 22 at the ISU Athletic Fields in Ames. The ITI Field Day is scheduled for July 22 at the ISU Horticulture Research Station in Ames. The annual Iowa-Minnesota Chapter Clash will be held July 9-10, with Iowa this year's host. For info 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.

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. The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Field Day will be held July 21 at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center in East Lansing. MiSTMA also is planning a half day hands-on workshop for September 21 at Plainwell High School. For info on the Chapter or pending events, contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, Michigan State University, at fouty@ath.msu.edu, or go to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's website.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The Chapter is planning its annual Tour on Wheels for June 23. Registration opens at 7:30 AM at the St. Paul Saints Stadium. Following the 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM tour of area sports facilities the Tour will wrap up with the traditional return to the St. Paul Saints Stadium for tailgating and the game. The annual Iowa-Minnesota Chapter Clash will be held July 9-10, with Iowa this year's host. For info on the Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, at tel. 651-638-6075 or e-mail: jhintz@bethel.edu or check out the Chapter website: www.mstma.com.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will hold a