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**Friday, October 14, 2005 - Landscape 1 Track**
- Session LC01 - 8:00 to 10:00 - Synthetic Infill vs. Natural Turf
  - Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
  - A.J. Powell, Ph.D., University of Kentucky; George Neagle, Synlawn
- Session LC02 - 10:30 to 12:30 - Drainage Issues in the Landscape
  - Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, IA, ISA, STMA
  - Barry Kew, University of Kentucky; Phil Hilliker, EMCH Bros.
- Session LC03 - 1:30 to 3:30 - Hemlock Woolly Adelgids
  - Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
  - Terry Tattar, Ph.D., University of Mass.; James Cortese, Cortese Tree Specialists

**Friday, October 14, 2005 - Golf Track**
- Session LC04 - 8:00 to 10:00 - It's All About the Turf
  - Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
  - Erik Ervin, Ph.D., Virginia Tech; Michael Vanatta, Environmental Turf
- Session LC05 - 10:30 to 12:30 - Management Skills for Golf Courses
  - Accreditation Applied For: GCSAA
  - William Baker, Rep. UCR Ext.; Andrea Bakalinar, Wee Course at Williams Creek
- Session LC06 - 1:30 to 3:30 - Golf Course Preparation
  - Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, STMA
  - William Baker, Rep. UCR Ext.; Andrea Bakalinar, Wee Course at Williams Creek

**Saturday, October 15, 2005 - Arboriculture Track**
- Session LC07 - 8:00 to 10:00 - Micro-Injection Solutions
  - Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
  - Terry Tattar, Ph.D., University of Mass.; James Cortese, Cortese Tree Specialists
- Session LC08 - 10:30 to 12:30 - Tree Decay: Structural Issues
  - Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
  - William Baker, Rep. UCR Ext.; Susan Sims, Sims Tree Learning Center
- Session LC09 - 1:30 to 3:30 - Soil Issues That Impact Tree Health
  - Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
  - Susan Sims, Sims Tree Learning Center; Paul Sachs, North County Organics

**Saturday, October 15, 2005 - Sports Turf Track Sponsored by STMA**
- Session LC10 - 8:00 to 10:00 - Managing Healthy Sports Fields
  - Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, STMA
  - Tom Samples, Ph.D., University of Tenn.; Paul Sachs, North County Organics
- Session LC11 - 10:30 to 12:30 - Efficient Irrigation Management
  - Accreditation Applied For: CCA, GCSAA, IA, STMA
  - Dave Minner, Ph.D., Iowa State University; Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries
- Session LC12 - 1:30 to 3:30 - Developing an Aeration Program
  - Accreditation Applied For: CCA, GCSAA, IA, STMA
  - Trent Hale, Ph.D., Clemson University; Dale Getz, The Toro Company

**Sunday, October 16, 2005 - Landscape 2 Track**
- Session LC13 - 8:00 to 10:00 - Sustainable Landscapes: Horticomics
  - Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA, STMA
  - Susan Sims, Sims Tree Learning Center; Dr. Bruce Williams, Agronomy and Horticulture Services LLC; Ron Whitehurst, Rincon-Vitova Insecticides
- Session LC14 - 10:30 to 12:30 - Warm Season Turf for the Landscape
  - Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
  - Trent Hale, Ph.D., Clemson University; Michael Vanatta, Environmental Turf
- Session LC15 - 1:30 to 3:30 - Laws and Regs for Chemical Application
  - Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA, STMA
  - Ken Franks, Kentucky Dept. of Ag.; Jerry Seabolt, Tennessee Dept of Ag.

**Sunday, October 16, 2005 - Park and Recreation Track**
- Session LC16 - 8:00 to 10:00 - Turf Options for Park & Recreation Mgmt.
  - Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
  - Tom Samples, Ph.D., University of Tenn.; Michael Vanatta, Environmental Turf
- Session LC17 - 10:30 to 12:30 - Saving Water with Irrigation Efficiency
  - Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, IA, STMA
  - Bernd Leinauer, Ph.D., New Mexico State University; Andy Moore, Aquatrols
- Session LC18 - 1:30 to 3:30 - Managing Pest Outbreaks in Trees
  - Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
  - Ron Whitehurst, Rincon-Vitova Insecticides; Joe Doccala, Arbor Jet

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President's Annual Message

Twenty four years ago, four men had the foresight to create the Sports Turf Managers Association. Their vision was to establish an organization that improved the sports turf profession. They believed that by helping sports turf managers share ideas and exchange information about cultural and maintenance practices, the industry would advance.

Their dream has become a reality. Today, the association has more than 2,200 members who represent the entire sports turf spectrum from sports turf managers...to the product developers, manufacturers and distributors...to educators and researchers...to field architects and builders...to students who are just learning about the career possibilities.

The annual conference is the venue for the sharing of information and ideas. This year in Phoenix, STMA had the largest attendance in its history. Our educational program was top-notch and featured new technology and hands-on applications.

"This year in Phoenix, STMA had the largest attendance in its history."

Our membership services were enhanced with new membership certificates, cards and a monthly electronic newsletter. Our committees brought new ideas for programs and services and staff is focused on implementing them. A new task force was appointed to disseminate information on synthetic and natural turfgrass, which will publish this winter.

The charitable arm of STMA, The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE), awarded more than $18,000 in scholarships and support for those who won to attend our conference. Our Field of the Year program honored 10 sports turf managers for outstanding field management.

The headquarters was relocated to Lawrence, Kansas, with a new CEO at the helm and new staff. Your Board of Directors spent much time planning and revising the strategic plan and developing benchmarks by which we can measure our success.

It was a year of change, but one that resulted in solid progress and alignment of our priorities.

Mike Trigg, CSFM
President

STMA Financial Philosophy

Service oriented associations use dues and sponsorship dollars to fund programs and services for members. That is STMA's philosophy - to maximize each dollar earned by providing benefits back to its members. STMA also realizes that it is prudent to build a reserve fund for financial stability. A strong reserve fund allows the organization to be very nimble so that it can take advantage of appropriate emerging opportunities. It also provides a cushion in case of a down economy, or a crisis that affects our major revenue source - the conference and exposition - so that we can continue to offer uninterrupted programs and services. It is our goal to have approximately one half of our operating budget in reserve. In addition, our headquarters staff is important to the continued success of our association. STMA wants to be known throughout the green industry for being a great place to work by offering competitive wages and top benefits.

Financial Review 2004

5 Year Snapshot of STMA's Growth

Figures provided by Bogner & Long Certified Public Accountants, Lawrence, KS.
For more information, please go to the members only section of www.sportsturfmanager.org.
In 2006, we will be celebrating STMA's 25th anniversary. To recognize this significant occasion, we will present a historical review of the association and the profession in the STMA magazine, SPORTSTURF, and hold a celebration at the annual conference and exhibition.

During the remainder of 2005 and into 2006, staff and I are focusing on membership services. We plan to conduct a member survey that will provide us insight into what you value, and what we can be doing to help you attain career success.

Through our survey, we plan to begin gathering industry data and compensation and benefits information. It is STMA's role to be the source for information on all aspects of the profession. It is only by benchmarking and tracking progress that we can truly measure the profession's progress.

Allied relationships are the key to advancing the sports turf manager's influence in our industry and in the sports world. A major area of focus is to continue to build collaborative relationships at the national level that will benefit our membership. This also includes working with sports field architects, engineers and contractors to provide information about the expertise of STMA members and how this expertise can help them provide an excellent sports field.

We will expand our Web site to offer more resources to our members in education and information. Look for enhanced capabilities to get specific answers to your questions through online discussion.

We are gearing up for the 2006 conference and indications are that it will surpass the size and scope of last year's event.

It is not business as usual at STMA headquarters. We are undertaking an intensive drive to garner respect and recognition for STMA members. Thanks for your support and confidence.

Kim Heck
Chief Executive Officer
Silicon in the life and performance of turfgrass

BY DR. LAWRENCE E. DATNOFF

There has been a growing interest in the element silicon and its effects on the life and performance of plants over the past few years. Silicon (Si) is the second most abundant mineral element in soil after oxygen and comprises approximately 28% of the earth's crust. Despite the abundance of Si in most mineral soils worldwide, Si deficiency can still occur due to Si depletion from continuous plant ing of crops that demand high amounts of this element, such as rice. Silicon deficiency occurs more often in highly weathered, low base saturation and low pH soils such as Oxisols and Ultisols in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Heavy rainfall in regions where these two types of soils occur can cause high degrees of weathering, leaching, and desilification. Organic soils (Histosols) are also deficient in plant-available Si because of the greater content of organic matter and low content of minerals. Those Entisols having a high content of quartz sand (SiO2) are also low in plant-available Si. Such Si-deficient condition may be prevalent on USGA-based quartz sand greens and tees.

Soil solutions generally have a Si concentration of 3-17 ppm. This is considered low, but nevertheless it is 100 times greater than phosphorus in most soil solutions.

Many plants are able to uptake Si. Plants absorb Si from the soil solution in the form of monosilicic acid, Si(OH)4, which is carried by the transpiration stream and deposited in plant tissues as amorphous silica gel, SiO2nH2O, also known as opal. Depending upon the species, the content of Si accumulated in the biomass can range from 1 to greater than 10% by dry weight.

Si in turfgrass

Fertilization with Si has shown positive effects in alleviating abiotic stress as well as improving plant growth and development in several turfgrass species. Since Si improves leaf and stem strength through deposition in the cuticle and by maintaining cell wall polysaccharide and lignin polymers, the possibility exists that Si could improve wear tolerance. Saisana and his colleagues demonstrated significant improved wear resistance in the Zoysia grass cultivar 'Miyako'. Foliar spraying potassium silicate, 0.02 or 0.04 lbs. Si/1000 ft2, or applying as a soil drench, 0.45 lbs. Si/1000 ft2, also significantly reduced the injury caused by wear around 20% to seashore paspalum. However, K alone or together with Si provided the same effect.

In another study, several cultivars of creeping bentgrass and Zoysia grass had improved turf quality, growth, and resistance to traffic and heat stress. Under severe drought stress, Si fertilized St. Augustin grass plants had a better response than those non-fertilized. Leaf firing and density were significantly greater by 13% and 23.5%, respectively, in Si-fertilized plants. Quality, color, and density also were significantly enhanced when fertilized with Si over the controls by 19%, 13.6% and 8.5%, respectively. However, under these test conditions, visual scores were all below what would be considered acceptable for turfgrass use. Nevertheless, this demonstrates that Si may improve these turfgrass qualitative factors under extreme drought stress. Schmidt and his associates also showed that foliar applications of Si significantly enhanced photosynthetic capacity increasing chlorophyll content especially during the summer when plants were influenced by environmental stress.

Gusak et al. demonstrated increased growth and establishment of creeping bentgrass (Agrostis palustris Huds.) fertilized with Si. Brecht et al. and Datnoff et al. also demonstrated similar results in St. Augustine grass. A percent bare ground coverage (vertical prostrate growth) rating was recorded 11-12 weeks after sprigging a field with St. Augustine grass by estimating a visual percent area of bare ground covered by grass in a 21.5 ft2 area. They demonstrated that the final percent bare ground coverage was significantly increased by using Si by 17 to 24% over the control. Ten months after sprigging, one pallet, containing about 500 ft2 of St. Augustine grass, was harvested from each treatment-silicon and a control. Sod pieces (mat), 12x24 inches, were washed to remove soil, dried for 48 hours and weighted.

In addition, fresh, intact sod pieces (mats) from each treatment were transplanted to a sand site and monitored for turf quality and root length development for 21 days. At harvest, the treatment that had been fertilized with Si had a dry sod mat weight that was 13% significantly higher than the control. Sod pieces amended with Si also had improved turf quality ratings, 7.1 to 7.6 vs. 6.6 to 7.1 in comparison to the non-fertilized control, 14 and 21 days after being transplanted to the field. In addition, Si treatments had a significantly greater increase in newly generated roots, 2.0-2.5 inches in root length, in comparison to the non-fertilized control.

Silicon also has been effective in suppressing disease in a number of warm and cool season turfgrass species. Silicon has increased the resistance of zoysiagrass to Rhizoctonia solani creeping bentgrass to Pythium aphanidermatum, sclerotinia homoeocarpa and R. solani and in Kentucky bluegrass to powdery mildew (Sphaerotricha fuliginea). Si reduced Gray leaf spot development over a range of 19-78% on several cultivars of St. Augustinegrass under greenhouse conditions. In field experiments, Si alone was compared to foliar sprays of chlorothalonil, and Si plus chlorothalonil for managing gray leaf spot development. Gray leaf spot was reduced by 17-27, 31-63 and 56-64% for Si alone, chlorothalonil alone, and Si plus chlorothalonil, respectively, compared to the non-treated control. Recently, Nanayakura et al. demonstrated similar results in perennial ryegrass turf. They showed that gray leaf spot severity was reduced from 11-24%.

Datnoff and Rutherford recently evaluated the ability of Si to enhance disease resistance in Tifway bermudagrass to Bipolaris cynodontis, the cause of leaf spot and melting out. They found that plants fertilized with Si had 39% fewer lesions than plants non-fertilized. Silicon increased in leaf tissues 78-105% over the control.

Resistance to plant diseases

The effect of Si on plant resistance to disease is considered to be due either to an accumulation of absorbed Si in the epidermal tissue, or expression of pathogenesis induced host defense responses. Accumulated monosilicic acid polymerizes into polymeric acid and then transforms to amorphous silica, which forms a thickened Sis cellulose membrane. By this means, a double cuticular layer protects and mechanically strengthens plants. Silicon also might form complexes with organic compounds
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IN ANOTHER STUDY, SEVERAL CULTIVARS OF CREEPING BENTGRASS AND ZOYSIAGRASS HAD IMPROVED TURF QUALITY, GROWTH, AND RESISTANCE TO TRAFFIC

in the cell walls of epidermal cells, therefore increasing their resistance to degradation by enzymes released by fungi.

Research also points to the role of Si in planta as being active and this suggests that the element might be a signal for inducing defense reactions to plant diseases. Silicon has been demonstrated to stimulate chitinase activity and rapid activation of peroxidases and polyphenoxidases after fungal infection. Glycosidically bound phenolics extracted from Si amended plants when subjected to acid or B-glucosidase hydrolysis displayed strong fungistatic activity. More recently, flavonoids and monomeric phytoalexins, low molecular weight compounds that have antifungal properties, were found to be produced in both dicots and monocots, respectively, fertilized with Si and challenged inoculated by the pathogen in comparison to non-fertilized plants also challenged inoculated by the pathogen. These antifungal compounds appear to be playing an active role in plant disease suppression.

That Si plays an important role in the mineral nutrition of plant species such as rice and sugarcane is not in doubt nor is its ability to enhance plant development and efficiently control plant diseases. Now evidence is accumulating that similar effects occur in certain turfgrasses. Effective, practical means of application, affordable sources of Si, and methods for identifying conditions under which Si fertilization will be beneficial are needed for use in turfgrass management. However, procedures used in most laboratories would render Si insoluble, making an analysis of the digested tissue meaningless. Thus, the two analytical tools (soil and plant tissue) most often used for determining the need for fertilization with plant nutrients are not widely available for Si. While a number of beneficial responses of turfgrass to Si applications have been documented in controlled experiments, particularly in the laboratory, few large-scale field effects have been observed to date. Conditions under which beneficial responses to Si fertilization will occur are not well known for turfgrass.

Nevertheless, as the need for environmentally friendly strategies for management of abiotic and biotic stress increases, Si could provide a valuable tool for use in plants capable of its accumulation. The use of Si for improving plant performance while controlling plant diseases in turf would be well-suited for inclusion in integrated pest management strategies and would permit reductions in fungicide use. As researchers and turfgrass managers become aware of Si and its turf potential, it is likely that this often overlooked element will be recognized as a viable means of enhancing turfgrass health and performance.

Dr. Lawrence E. Datnoff is a professor of plant pathology at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He can be reached at ledatnoff@ifas.ufl.edu.
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Kevin Meredith Turf Manager National Soccer Hall of Fame

"I was skeptical but we knocked 23 minutes off our striping time per field here at the National Soccer Hall of Fame".

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<td>35 gallon steel compressed air tank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engine</td>
<td>13 hp Briggs &amp; Stratton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spray Box</td>
<td>Front-mounted and side mounted; paint line widths are 2&quot; to 5&quot;; easy adjustment with double spray nozzles for water-based paint only.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>610 lbs</td>
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<td>Body</td>
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Bowlin Stadium in Haymarket Park, in northwest Lincoln, NE, won the 2004 STMA College Softball Field of the Year Award. Jennifer Roeber, the University of Nebraska’s Assistant Athletic Turf Manager, was honored as chief caretaker of the winning field.

Bowlin’s field is sand-based and built according to USGA specifications, and features a Kentucky bluegrass blend of Arcadia, Award, NuGlad, and Freedom II. Roeber’s cultural practices allow her to forgo using insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides. The infield is MarMix red sand-clay topped with red Diamond Pro infield conditioner. The four-zone irrigation system features Toro 640 heads with six quick couplers.

Roeber says, “I am in charge of the softball field and also help take care of the baseball field that is used by the University baseball team and the Lincoln Saltdogs, a Northern League independent team. We also care for the landscape inside and outside of the ballpark facilities.

“The most important thing I like about my job is being able to do what I love and that is care for turf at a first-rate softball and baseball complex,” Roeber says. “I also like my job because the coaches and players treat me with respect. The coaches and girls appreciate the work that is done for them to have a field that they can proudly call their home.”

Roeber says she became interested in a career in turf management when she started working for a lawn service in high school. “Studying turfgrass management in college also was a way to stay involved in a sport that I loved.”

Solving problems

“The biggest problem that we faced was the field didn’t have adequate drainage on the edges of the infield and dugouts. The clay was all the way to the wall and there was only four little drains,” says Roeber. “All the water from the tarp and seating bowl drained on to the clay.

“To fix the problem we took the clay out to the foul lines and put in drain tiles and sand for a base. Then we made a warning track against the wall and dugouts. Next we put in a strip of grass that was between the warning track and the clay. The improvements have helped; we don’t have to worry about pulling the track off to find water under it and the dugouts don’t wash full of conditioner.”

The Huskers’ field has an advantage over most: a SubAir system that offers reg-