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On the cover: Jeffrey Field, on the campus of The Pennsylvania State University, is the STMA's 2006 College Soccer Field of the Year.

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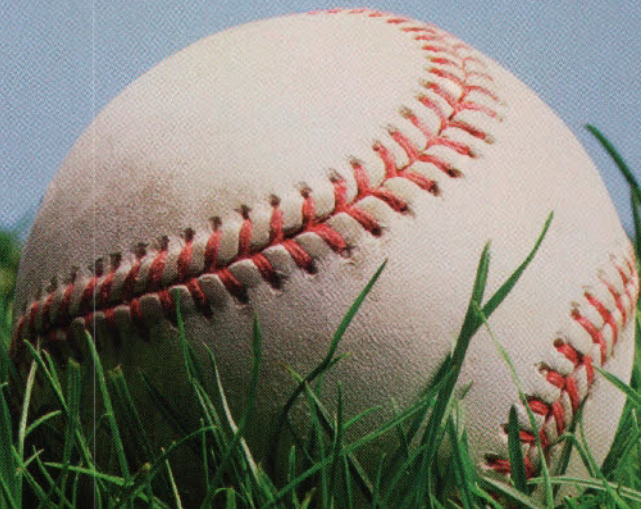
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Dad's duty never done



ERIC SCHRODER
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Earlier this summer a man accidentally drowned at the community pool where my family swims. He apparently had been practicing breathing exercises for scuba diving and lost consciousness for a short time before he was pulled from the water. The victim was in his late 20's, an Army Reservist who, as my wife had previously pointed out to me, was in great shape for any age. The accident was a sharp reminder of water's inherent danger, and made me worry all over again about my children's safety while swimming.

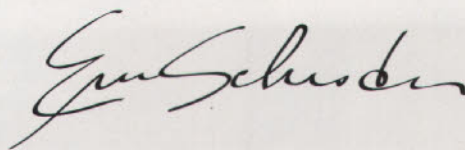
The next time I was in the pool playing with my 8-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter I was extra vigilant. I realized that even as they grow older, I still watch their every move as if they were the same age as their toddler younger brother. I try to anticipate unsafe conditions and prevent mishaps, and issue endless warnings about not running down the driveway (too steep), staying out of the way of each other's backswings, etc., ad nauseam.

Obviously it's only natural for parents to concern themselves with their children. And I'm sure I err on the side of caution. The thought of one of them taking a header chasing a ball down that steep driveway, cracking bones or knocking out teeth literally gives me the shivers. But I'm not always hovering, either. Eight-year-old Max took a nasty bad hop off the side of his head in June and I never left the dugout, for example.

Of course when Claire's 16 instead of 6 she's the one who might shiver at the thought of my grilling her date. But if I don't take the initiative to let the kid know I'm entrusting my daughter's safety to him, what kind of father would I be?

I don't want to break my arm patting myself on the back. I'm sometimes impatient with my children and I always treasure a day away from the ruckus. But Job #1 for me is being a good dad, and that means spending time with your kids. Just imagine how much nicer our world would be if every dad and mom demonstrated true responsibility for their offspring?

So I'll continue to try and make my kids' childhood as carefree and safe as possible. You can't always see it coming but I plan on giving it the old college try. I doubt I'll leave a large inheritance or a beach house to my children, but if they grow into secure, dependable citizens who value their families, this dad will have fulfilled his duty.



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
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President's Message

Never seen THAT...

We all have little things that bug us, things that may be magnified by summer's heat or fall's activities already pressing down. I'm not sure of the dynamic, but about this time each year a little frustration seems to manifest itself. Right now if I hear someone utter, "This is the first time I've ever seen that," I'm going to scream.

Immediately following this football season, we're starting a construction project in the stadium. Increased electrical capacity is required, and in preparation we've had to directionally bore electric service from an adjoining street to the stadium. To accomplish this, lines had to go beneath our football practice complex. To avoid a fiber optic line and ensure no damage would be done to the integrity of the sand based-field area, the crews bored the lines a safe (or so we thought) 17 feet below surface level.

As Murphy's Law will attest, mysteriously during the process a section of our field above the work area developed an 18-inch dome. Pressure 17 feet down caused us to have a 50-foot diameter "pitcher's mound" on one end of the practice field! For two weeks I have heard variations of "I've never seen that happen," and I'm ready to explode.

Iowa State University has a renowned engineering department, and as luck would have it, they are researching the impacts of directional boring on soils. The engineers have been respectful of our emotions, but it's obvious that our misery has them giddy. The integrity of the field components is intact, but with just a few weeks before the start of fall practice, the field is unplayable. The novelty of the problem has passed, and somehow in the nick of time, we'll find resolution.

Ours is a small representation of the pressures we all face going into the fall season. We'll stare down challenges and find solutions. If people could only realize what it takes to survive and be successful in this profession, we'd all be held in higher regard and be better paid.

Now is the perfect time to get motivated to take advantage of STMA's Awards, specifically the Field of the Year Program. The process to enter your fields is simple but formal. A component of the entry is a series of photos. As baseball and softball seasons wind down and football and soccer gear up, you've still got time to get the photos you need to submit with your entry.

The Program is not a beauty contest! The judges focus on what you and your crew have produced with the resources and constraints you've been given. Just developing an award's application is a gratifying experience. Being considered for an award is an honor. If you're fortunate to be an award winner, the exposure and respect that follows is tremendous!

Your peers at the STMA Conference Award's Banquet will applaud your leadership, and the folks back home will recognize their fortune that you're on their team. The whole experience might leave you saying, "That's like nothing I've ever seen before."



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Options for overseeding bermudagrass sports fields

By Mike Richardson, Ph.D., Doug Karcher, Ph.D., Ryan Rolfe, and Josh Summerford

Bermudagrass continues to be the most important turfgrass for sports fields in the southern and transition zone areas of the United States. With its rapid growth rate, good traffic tolerance, fast recuperative ability, good pest tolerance, and excellent quality, bermudagrass performs extremely well in both low- and high-maintenance sports facilities.

One of the only downsides to bermudagrass as a sports turf is that it experiences a long winter dormancy period, especially in the upper regions of its use. During the dormancy period, the turf is not aesthetically pleasing and is much more prone to wear injury during heavy use. For many years, sports field managers have used overseeding with a cool season grass as a means to provide an actively growing turf that is both attractive and can withstand traffic during this dormancy period. This has been especially popular at facilities where early spring sports such as baseball and soccer are being played.

One of the most important decisions in an overseeding program is the selection of an appropriate cool season grass for a specific application. Many grasses have been success-

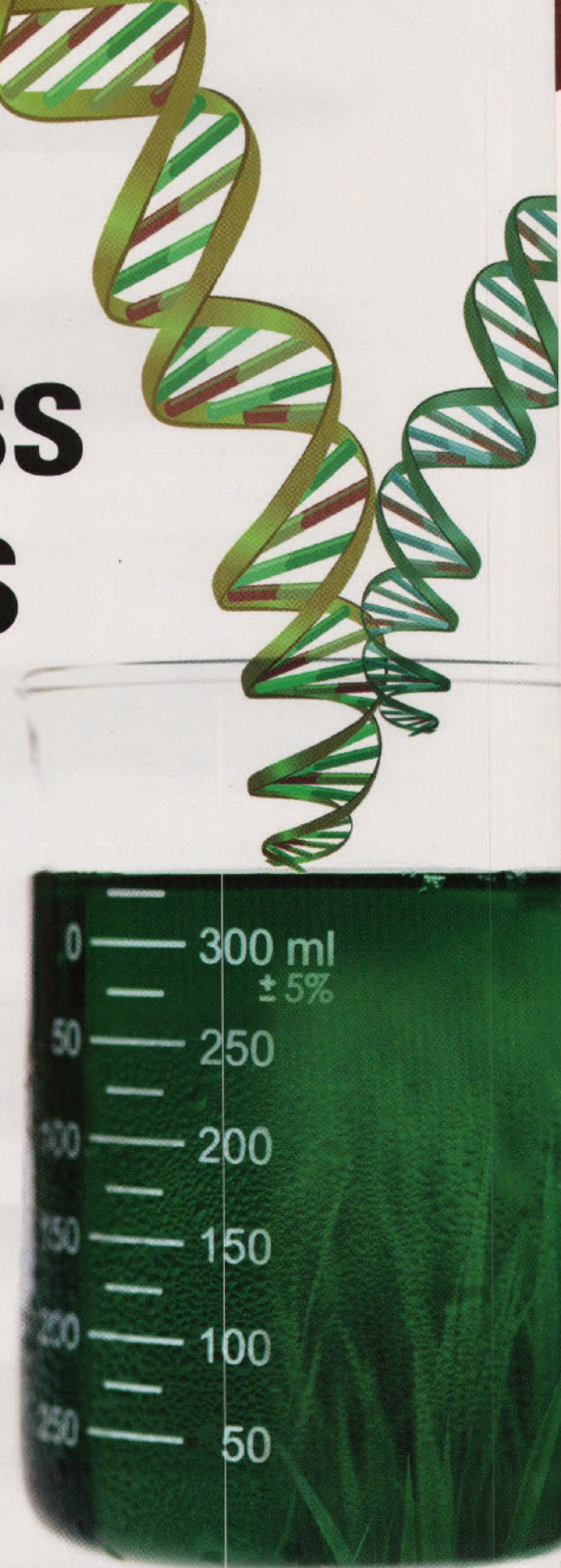
fully used for overseeding, including annual (Italian) ryegrass, perennial ryegrass, intermediate ryegrass, creeping bentgrass, rough bluegrass, and fine fescue. Most overseeding programs on sports fields have used either annual or perennial ryegrass, although some facilities have used the new hybrid, intermediate ryegrasses. Recently, turfgrass breeders have improved characteristics of both meadow fescue and tetraploid perennial ryegrass grasses, which have been used in forage systems around the world but have received minimal interest as turfgrasses. The following is a brief description of the major overseeding species, including their strengths and weaknesses for overseeding sports fields.

Annual ryegrass

Annual ryegrass was one of the first species used for overseeding because it germinates quickly (3-5 days), establishes rapidly under a range of conditions, and is relatively inexpensive to seed. Annual ryegrass can produce an acceptable overseeded turf and can be used in a range of sports field applications. However, compared to perennial ryegrass, annual ryegrass has poor shoot density, coarse leaf texture, and a light green genetic color and is less hardy

under extreme low and high temperatures. Because of its rapid growth rate, it also requires more frequent mowing than a good turf-type perennial ryegrass and this added cost should be considered if selecting annual ryegrass.

Continued on page 11



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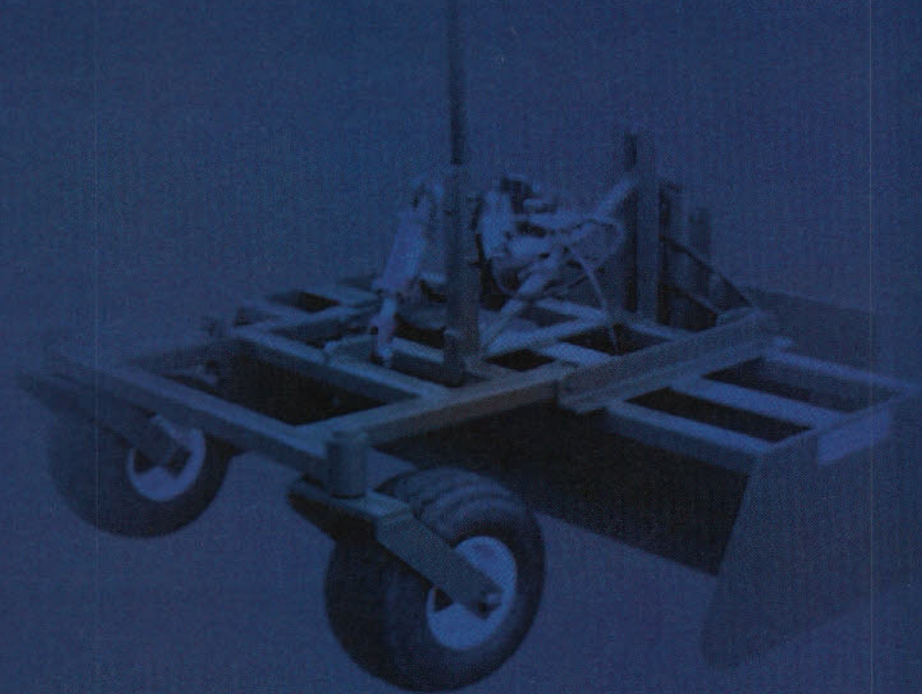


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