

STMA in action

STMA expands to Singapore, England and Canada

In the span of 4 weeks, STMA's outreach efforts culminated in official relationships in Singapore, England and Canada.

In a formal presentation in front of nearly 200 conference attendees, STMA President Abby McNeal, CSFM, officially installed the Singapore Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association October 30, in Singapore. This is STMA's first international chapter.

McNeal was invited to speak at the International Turfgrass Seminar, sponsored by the Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE). CUGE is managed by the National Parks Board of Singapore and is the leading national training and research institution for the Singapore landscape industry. Her presentation, "Environmental Practices on US Sports Fields," was well-received and complimented the focus of the seminar, which was sustainable management of turf grasses in parks, gardens and community.



STMA President Abby McNeal, CSFM officially installs the association's Singapore Chapter last October 30 in Singapore.

Before her presentation, McNeal presented a chapter gavel to Dr. Leong Chee Chiew, Chief Operating Officer & Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, officially recognizing the Singapore Chapter of the STMA. All attendees at the conference received automatic membership in the new chapter. In addition to presenting and installing the Singapore chapter, McNeal shared the STMA mission and key programs with the audience. Outreach efforts will continue in Singapore, with a commitment by STMA and CUGE to share ideas and resources with similarly focused organizations in Australia, which were also in attendance.

STMA is also very pleased to announce that it is recognizing its first International Affiliate Organization, The Sports Turf Association (STA). Headquartered in Guelph, ON, Canada, the STA was formed in 1987 to promote better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs. STA and STMA will collaborate and share information and educational resources. To be an International Affiliate, the organization must be recognized as a business entity in their country and provide proof to STMA annually; develop bylaws or other governing documents; and have a governing Board of Directors. The STA meets these requirements and officially accepted STMA's offer to be an affiliate organization November 5. In addition to sharing information and resources, STMA will list the STA on our website as an International Affiliate Organization, provide one membership to the President of the STA, Mr. Gord Dol, and will offer to the membership of the STA conference registration and education and training resources at STMA member rates.

After months of work, the STMA Membership Committee recommended to the STMA Board of Directors that it create the designation of International Affiliate Organization. The Board approved the recommendation at its summer board meeting. ■

Heck presents at London conference

CEO Kim Heck attended and presented at the Institute of Groundsmanship's (IOG) 75th Anniversary conference and celebration October 15, in London. She spoke about the STMA's outreach efforts and image enhancement programs, areas that the IOG is focused on further developing for its membership. Established in 1934, the IOG's purpose is to provide information and support to all grounds manager in the United Kingdom, to raise the profile of the profession, and to give a voice to the membership on important industry issues.

The conference was held at Emirates Stadium, home to the Arsenal FC. In addition to seeing Emirates, Heck had the privilege of meeting and touring the facilities of Darren Baldwin, groundskeeper at Tottenham Stadium, home to the Tottenham Hotspur, and Eddie Seward, head grounds manager at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon. Representatives from the IOG will be attending the STMA annual conference in January to continue dialogue and seek areas of collaboration.

These three efforts support an Objective in the STMA strategic plan: To develop relationships internationally that will benefit the STMA membership and the Action Item in the plan, which states: To reach out to international allied organizations that currently exist and develop mutually beneficial relationships.

STMA has a small, but very loyal, number of international members. It is a goal of the association to help these members reach out to other sports turf managers in their country and create International Affiliate Organizations. A group in Israel is pursuing this affiliation. ■

Support Student Challenge competitors

Send a Student Challenge Team to the annual Conference to compete. The STMA Student Challenge, which is supported by Gold Level Sponsor Hunter Industries and The SAFE Foundation, continues to mature. The number of competitors has grown from 60 the first year to its record high of 108 students, representing 22 colleges, universities and technical schools that competed in 2009. Get your chapter, local commercial suppliers, and your peers to consider helping these teams defray their travel expenses to the conference.

STMA provides each competitor complimentary registration, but hotel and airfare are expensive. STMA encourages these teams to seek sponsorship locally, so look for possible requests this fall from nearby schools. If you do not have a college or university close by, and would like to help these students, contact STMA, STMAinfo@STMA.org. The SAFE Foundation, STMA's charity, awards \$4,000 to two winning teams, one from a 4-year and one from a 2-year school, to develop a hands-on learning lab at their institutions. At the Orlando conference, the 2009 winners, Penn State University Blue Team 009 (4-year) and Mt. San Antonio College Team 102 (2-year) will have poster displays explaining how they used their funds. ■

Celebrating 8 years of membership!

Thank you to these members who joined STMA in 2001. We appreciate your continued support of STMA, and look forward to your continued membership with us!

Rick Acuna
Yavuz Selim Alpay
Daniel Andrus
Bret Baird
Carol Baker, CSFM
Kenneth Baldi
Larry Ballenger
Dave Birth
David Boggan
Bob Bordeau
Jeffrey Borger
Mike Bowers
Bill Brunner
Darin Budak, CSFM, CPRP
Gene Buonomo
Jake Burnside
John Cabori
Matt Carl, CSFM
Ray Cason
Danny Cazzelle
Clifton Clarno
James Cleveland
James Coens
Christopher Collier
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Brian Desrochers
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Will Wolverton ■

STMA President McNeal accepts position at Wake Forest

Abby McNeal, CSFM, is now the sports turf manager of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC. McNeal will manage approximately 66 acres of athletic grounds, including three acres of synthetic turf. McNeal had been sports turf manager at the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO since early last year. ■

SAFE scholarship winners named

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) was created to provide research, educational programs, and scholarships geared to sports field specific endeavors. The level of scholarship funding has steadily increased since the scholarship programs inception in 1999 and in 2009 STMA awarded \$12,500 to eight recipients in 2-year, 4-year, and graduate level categories. Since the scholarship program's beginning, SAFE has awarded more than \$150,000 in scholarship and travel to the STMA Conference and Exhibition.

Graduate Scholarships

Dr. James Watson Graduate Scholarship - \$2,500
Andrew Hoiberg, Iowa State

Four Year Scholarships

Dr. James Watson Undergraduate Scholarship - \$2,500
Brian McDougal, Michigan State

SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship - \$2,000
Kyley Dickson, Tennessee

SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship - \$1,000
Kent Dickerson, Georgia, Eric Haub, Purdue, & Zack Severns, Washington State

Two Year Scholarships

Dr. Fred Grau Memorial Scholarship - \$1,500
Ryan McGillivray, Massachusetts

SAFE Two Year Scholarship - \$1,000
Patrick Escalera, Mt. San Antonio College

Judging criteria: A panel of eight judges independently scored each entry based on each students academic preparation, experience in the sports turf management industry, professional goals, extracurricular activities, and input from academic advisors and employers. Each student also wrote an essay describing his or her background and career aspirations.

Scholarship Program Supporters: The TORO Foundation provides generous support for the Dr. James Watson Scholarship winners. Jacobsen supports the SAFE Scholarship Program through the SAFE/Jacobsen Golf Tournament held at the STMA Conference each year. The program is also supported through individual and corporate donations made throughout the year and proceeds from the Live and Silent Auctions and raffle held each year on the STMA Trade Show Floor. These sponsors fund a stipend for each recipient to attend the STMA annual conference (including lodging) and a scholarship ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Recognition: Scholarship recipients had their financial aid mailed directly to their university, with a check made out jointly to them and their schools financial aid office. The students will be recognized during the Annual STMA Awards Banquet on Fri., Jan. 15, 2010 at the 21st Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. ■

are used to measure turf water use from irrigation applied by new technology hardware. New concepts for moisture sensor technologies are evaluated for efficacy in maintaining quality turf.

Stephen Cockerham, superintendent of Ag Operations

Using Turfgrass to Remove Contaminants from Reclaimed Water. The objective is to measure the ability of turfgrass to remove personal care products contaminants from reclaimed water. Reclaimed water with known concentrations of personal care products is applied as irrigation to a leaching lysimeter with hybrid bermudagrass turf cover. The captured leachate is analyzed for the concentration remaining in the water after passing through the turf, which is managed as a fairway or home lawn.

Jay Gan, Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Evaluation of Cool-season Turfgrasses under Deficit Irrigation. The objective is to evaluate relative drought tolerance among *Festulolium* and tall fescue experimental lines, tall fescue commercial varieties, and commercial seed mixtures in the field when subjected to deficit irrigation during the warm season. Data show that irrigating tall fescue and other cool-season grasses at the equivalent of 74% ET is not sufficient for the Southern California Inland Valley summer conditions.

Robert Green, Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Examining Turf's Carbon Footprint

The objectives are (1) determine association between water use efficiency and carbon dynamics among different turfgrass species and cultivars under non-limiting cultural practices, and (2) expand knowledge

base about ecological role of turf in the landscape. Whole plot CO₂ and H₂O exchange were measured every two weeks under non-limiting irrigation, fertility, and mowing height the data to establish a baseline for 19 cool season (C-3) grasses and warm season (C-4) grasses. Irrigation was then scheduled at 60% ET; Data being collected include turf quality, color density, leaf firing/wilting, rooting, gas exchange, and leaf C content.

Daryl Jenrette, Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Chemical Control of Anthracnose and Dollar Spot on Putting Greens. Forty-two fungicide treatments were evaluated for their effectiveness in controlling anthracnose (*Colletotrichum cereal*) on creeping bentgrass. Disease severity was high, reaching an average of 57% in untreated plots. Banner, Tourney, and Triton FLO provided good to excellent control. Several products formulated as products and used in tank mixes also provide excellent control. Thirty-four fungicide treatments were evaluated for their effectiveness in controlling dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) on creeping bentgrass. Disease severity was high reaching 72% in untreated plots. All materials provided significant control.

Frank Wong, Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Assessment of Soil Amendments for Turf Water Conservation.

Two rates of an inorganic amendment, one inorganic amendment, and the native fine sandy loam soil are to be treated with three irrigation regimes and evaluated for potential water savings in turfgrass management.

Laosheng Wu, Natural and Agricultural Sciences ■

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Special Note: The North Florida Chapter has changed its name to Florida #2.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: www.azstma.com.

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization – MAFMO Chapter STMA): www.ccstma.org.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: www.cstma.org.

Florida #1 Chapter: 954/782-2748

Florida #2 Chapter: 850/580-4026.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gstma.org.

The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: 847/263-7603.

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.imstma.org.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: www.iowaturfgrass.org.

• **Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA):** www.kafmo.org.

• **Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:** www.kystma.org.

• **Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** www.mistma.org.

• **Minnesota Chapter STMA:** www.mstma.com.

• **MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:** www.mokanstma.com.

• **New England STMA (NESTMA):** www.nestma.org.

• **Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:** 402/441-4425.

• **North Carolina Chapter of STMA:** www.ncsportsturf.org.

• **Northern California STMA:** www.norcalstma.org.

• **Ozarks STMA:** www.ozarksstma.org.

• **Sports Turf Managers of New York:** www.stmony.org.

• **Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** www.sfmanj.org.

• **Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):** www.ostma.org.

• **Oregon STMA Chapter:** 503/953-9406

• **Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:** www.pnwstma.org.

• **Southern California Chapter:** www.socalstma.com.

• **South Carolina Chapter of STMA:** www.scstma.org.

• **Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** 866/897-8621.

• **Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** www.tvstma.com.

• **Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** www.vstma.org.

• **Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:** www.wstma.org.

Forming Chapters:

• **Central Florida:** Contact George Lawson, 863-665-5800

• **Gulf Coast Chapter:** 225/757-9136.

• **Nevada STMA Chapter:** 702/884-2987.

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- F Sports Complex G Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer
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 H Other (please specify) _____

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- A EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR — President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director
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 C GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
 D SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
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Cut Here

Keeping it real



My stadium field at the city owned Open Space Sports Complex is host to Dordt College and our local high school and junior varsity teams. May 22 I aerified and overseeded the worn center of the field with 5 lbs of Kentucky bluegrass per 1000 sq.ft. as you suggested. I have been using Primo on the rest of the field and would like some advice on how it will affect the newly seeded areas. Do you have any other tips on getting the field to fill in faster? Football starts in September, just 3 months away.

Brad Vermeer, Sport Turf Manager, Sioux Center, IA

BY DR. DAVID MINNER

Professor, Iowa State University

Questions?

Send them to
David Minner at
Iowa State University, 106
Horticulture Hall,
Ames, IA 50011
or email
dminner@iastate.edu.

Or, send your
question to
Grady Miller at
North Carolina State University,
Box 7620, Raleigh, NC
27695-7620, or email
grady_miller@ncsu.edu.

I've actually known Brad for several years as an excellent sports turf manager in northwest Iowa. It's a 4-hour trip to campus from his neck of the woods and travel budgets are getting tighter so it was good to see him at the Midwest STMA Field Day in Ames during the summer. I could tell he was developing a strategy for his field woes and he wanted to bounce a few ideas off of some of the patrons at the Field Day. I gave him my usual seed heavy, topdress and aerify at the start of the day and after viewing some of the field demonstration plots he added "frequent and more nitrogen" along with Primo growth regulator. A follow-up call to Brad in November gives even more details of how he got his field back:

- No grass in the center of the field on May 22 so he aerified, topdressed, and overseeded with 5 lbs Kentucky bluegrass/1000 sq.ft.
- Applied Primo at 12 fl.oz/A every 2 weeks on the 1.5-acre field from July 1 through August 11 for a total of four applications and a total cost of about \$120, figuring about \$40/month of PGR.
- Applied 8.5 lbs of nitrogen/1000 sq.ft. from May 25 through October 22 on the native soil field.
- Mowed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at a 2-inch cutting height.
- Solid deep tined aerified two times, conventional aerified four times, and topdressed six times (totaled 30 tons of sand on center 20,000 sq.ft. of field) from May 22 through October 25.
- The result was 100 percent turf cover with no bare soil showing at the start of the playing season in early September.
- After 31 games, with six in the rain, the center of the field retained 70% turf cover and he had a very respectable season.

Brad plans to repeat the program next year.

Aerifying, topdressing, and higher than normal seeding rates, as Brad has demonstrated, are standard practices on intense traffic areas of priority fields. Anything less is "old school" or "rooky" field management depending on which type of generational slang you prefer. Brad's strategy adds two new tools that force growth and reestablishment of intensely trafficked areas. Many of the improved Kentucky bluegrass varieties have better density that is desirable for athletic fields; however their diminutive growth habit makes them even slower to establish 100 percent turf cover. Higher seeding

rates help, but recent trials demonstrated at the STMA Field Day show that higher rates of nitrogen split into more frequent applications forces the type of growth that speeds turf cover.

We have observed that the speed of turf cover increases as nitrogen increases up to 10 lbs N/1000 sq.ft. year. In these "force grow" situations we suggest applying 1 lb N/1000 sq.ft. every 20 to 30 days until the turf canopy has completely covered the bare soil. If the grass doesn't become too lush then continue for another few months until a bit of thatch or mat develops some cushion to the field. Brad's program ended up using 8.5 lbs N which is not excessive when trying to force growth and recovery of high traffic areas.

Brad was also having success with Primo on other areas of his facility to regulate growth, reduce mowing, and improve turf appearance, so he wanted to try it out to enhance establishment.

It sounds crazy to use a product that slows growth when in fact your strategy is to speed growth in terms of turf cover. Actually, Primo slows vertical growth (taller grass doesn't really help with turf density) and enhances production of tillers, roots, and rhizomes that are important aspects of turf cover and density. The goal of the extra nitrogen was to increase tillering and plant maturity, but unfortunately it also increases vertical leaf growth and the need for more mowing. Primo offsets excessive leaf growth that actually helps the plant redirect energy into root and rhizome production. The combination of nitrogen and Primo have the net effect of reducing establishment time and providing the densest turf cover by the beginning of the football season.

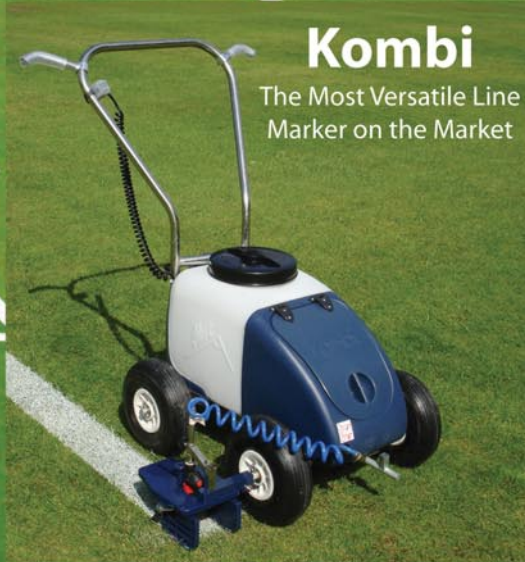
Nitrogen and Primo rates may need to be adjusted to fit your specific turf establishment situation, so don't be afraid to adjust the rates to fit the seedling stage and growing conditions. Brad used half the normal rate of Primo and made applications every 2 weeks instead of applying the full rate every month.

If you know Brad Vermeer then you know he would never toot his own horn so let me spit in the tuba for a minute because we all need to find ways to make this happen on our highly visible fields if you don't want to sweep rubber for a living. Brad actually wrote to thank me for giving him some of the information we have shared today; I roped him into helping with the "Q&A" after reading this section of his email: "... This past Friday we had high school homecoming, and then on Saturday we had the 10th game of the season, and the 14th event on the field. The opposing coach came out at 11:30 when we were still painting and mowing the field, and the coach walked all the way across the field and stopped me on the mower. He asked if I took care of the field, and I said yes. He then said no question that this is the best field in the GPAC conference of NAIA schools. The conference has schools that are ranked number 1, 5, and 13 in the nation."

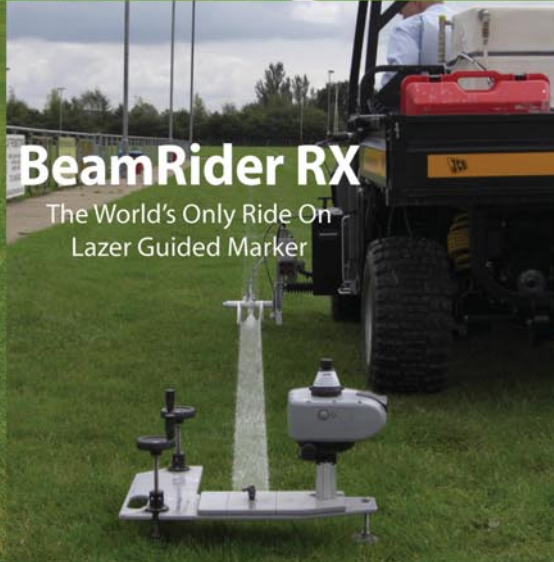
Way to go Coach, and way to go Brad for "keeping it real." ■



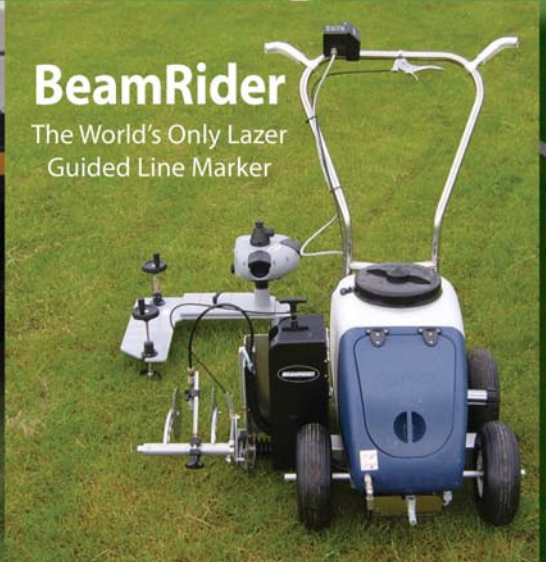
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