

Tools & Equipment

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www.wiedenmannusa.com



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www.turfteq.com



New catalog available from CoverSports USA

CoverSports USA has just released its new 32-page, full-line catalog for 2009. From gymnasiums to football fields, baseball diamonds to tennis courts the catalog showcases the company's entire range of products. Featured are gym floor covers, gym mats and indoor padding, wind and privacy screens, digitally-printed banners, fence-top protection, portable dugouts, temporary outdoor fencing, sideline tarps, stadium covers and padding, winter turf blankets, all-sports shelters and dugouts and more. The catalog and accompanying product samples detail the wide assortment of colors, sizes, warranty information, storage options and other features. It also highlights the company's extensive color and logo customization capabilities.

www.CoverSports.com



Paint remover, pressure washer machine

The Eco Waterbug machine was developed for use with Eco Temp-Line's Removable Turf Marking System, but can be used for a variety of jobs. Two spinning high pressure water tips blast away dirt and paint from artificial turf fields with the ease of a hand-push lawn mower. The Eco Water Bug can run for 10 to 15 minutes per water tank fill (approximately 200 to 400 yards depending on speed). Attach the extra wand and one of four specialized cleaning tips to wash off tracks, equipment, bleachers, sidewalks, walls, etc.

www.ecochemical.com



Gravelly Turf introduces Base Runner infield machine

Gravelly Turf introduces the new Base Runner, an infield conditioner with 3x3 Hydrostatic all-wheel drive and zero-turning radius to allow maneuverability with speeds up to 12 mph. With an 18 hp Vanguard V-Twin air-cooled engine that includes an engine kill switch, this new conditioner is designed to perform multi-functional tasks. Additional features include a low-profile fiberglass body, ergonomic seat, headlight, 12-volt power source, improved operator controls and exclusive wrap-around rear-hinged cargo box for operator accessibility while seated. Mid- and rear-hydraulic lifts accommodate a variety of attachments.

www.ariens.com



Tibbetts, UNE win in new Sporting Grounds category



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND'S FIELD HOCKEY AND WOMEN'S LACROSSE FIELD won the 2008 STMA College Sporting Grounds Field of the Year Award. Lance Tibbetts, CSFM, led the team to victory, ably assisted by Richard Burgess, Gary Jenness, and Phil Taschereau for the field in Biddeford, ME.

The field was built 11 years ago and sees well over 550 hours of action yearly. It features a wide variety of grasses but the two main species are ryegrass (Notable and Prototype mainly) and bluegrass (Award and Corsair). The field is 70% sand, 20% loam and 10% organics. Drainage is supplied by 4-inch perforated pipes, with 10 rows running the length of the field.

Tibbetts says the game and practice schedules and weather dictate if he uses a blend of ryegrass or a mixture of rye and bluegrass for overseeding. He tries to overseed every time he aerates, applying no less than 3 pounds per 1,000/sq.ft.; depending on wear he might go to a higher rate, he says.

Preparing for spring lacrosse last year was a challenge after the campus in Maine received more than 100 inches of snow from December through mid-March. After removing the snow, Tibbetts and crew spread Turface to help melt ice but battled conditions all spring to make the surface safe and playable for both sports as field hockey has a spring practice session.

The staff is also responsible for 88 landscaped acres on campus, as well as parking lots, sidewalks and snow removal. So in between spreading more than 200 tons of pine bark in mulch beds, aerating and overseeding continued in the spring. The challenge remains to balance care for common areas while ensuring quality, competitive-level ball fields.

Tibbetts says the weather continued not to cooperate throughout the year, with 23 inches of rain May through August, and in once instance, a tornado warning, which you don't see too often in Maine.

ST: How has the recession affected your operations?

Tibbetts: The recession really has not affected the grounds side of the University's operation. I don't see any major equipment purchases happening soon, but when it comes to ordering product and supplies we are still in pretty good shape. We have a great mechanic, John Hicks, who

» LEFT TO RIGHT: Lance Tibbetts, CSFM, Gary Jenness, Phil Taschereau, and Richard Burgess



keeps all equipment and fleet vehicles running and that saves us a lot of money, time and headaches.

ST: What changes to your maintenance plans are you expecting to make this year, if any?

Tibbetts: The maintenance plan is the same plan I have been using since 1998. Any alterations to the plan are dictated by Mother Nature.

ST: What's the best piece of turf management advice you have ever received?

Tibbetts: Randy Peters once told me that any turf damage after hours is called job security. I used to get really wound up over after hours damage, by cars, older user groups, etc. I have come to the point in my career that I can honestly leave work at work. Took a long time to get to this point, but it feels good.

ST: How do you balance your work and personal time?

Tibbetts: Family first!! There should be no questioning this by any member of the STMA. When it is all said and done and you are ready to retire, your families are the ones that are going to be there. There have been times I have done 30-hour shifts at work, but to ensure the home front is okay, I will take time off to spend time with the family. It can be as simple as bringing the kids to school before I go into work. My family knows the

nature of sports turf management—spring and fall are busy.

ST: Most field hockey is played on synthetic turf. Do you do anything out of the ordinary to help keep your surface good for this sport?

Tibbetts: We have to be aggressive with our fields. The field hockey field also has women's lacrosse on it in the spring. Usually they are on it early March. Once lacrosse is over we start to repair our goal areas. We will aerate and seed the field heavily up to about late July. After that we sneak in to aerate when the team is away. We purchased a Toro 5200 Reelmaster that made the biggest difference to that field. Before the Reelmaster we were mowing with a 72-inch rotary and keeping the field at 2 inches. Now we have the field down to 1.25 and the Blue/Rye field is like a tight knit carpet.

ST: How has being a Certified Sports Field Manager helped your career?

Tibbetts: When my current position was advertised, being a CSFM was part of the criteria. Being a CSFM has allowed me to be part of a great University. I would like to see more employers seek out CSFMs when positions become available. I am the same guy that started out in sports turf in 1998. I just have CSFM after my name now. ■

Monthly maintenance

▷ February/March

Remove snow if needed
Apply Turface to goals and any ice areas
Paint field for lacrosse

▷ April

Keep fields playable as frost comes up
Take soil samples
Paint lacrosse lines 3x/week
Aerate to correct footprints
Fertilize late in month with 19-0-6 with Dimension
Mow as needed at least 2 inches with rotary mower

▷ May

Mow M-W-F at 2 inches with rotary
Double aerate entire field late in month
Fertilize with 32-0-10 1 lb N/1000 sq. ft.
Remove and store goals

▷ June

Mow M-W-F at 2 inches with rotary
Aerate field with focus on worn goalmouths
Overseed with 50% ryegrass, 50% bluegrass at 3 lbs./1000 sq. ft.
Fertilize with 24-0-5 with Talstar, 1 lb./1000 sq. ft.
Line field for Field Hockey camp

▷ July

Start lowering height of cut with 5200 Reelmaster M-W-F
Double aerate and leave plugs
Topdress with 50 tons of washed Mason's sand
Overseed with 70% bluegrass, 30% ryegrass at 3 lbs./1000 sq. ft.
Fertilize with 24-0-8 with Merit, 1 lb./1000 sq. ft.

▷ August

Get turf height to 1.25 inches, mow as needed with Reelmaster
Fertilize with 32-0-10 at 1 lb./1000 sq. ft.
Put down field hockey lines; paint Tuesdays and Fridays
Huck and Hope grass seed in goalmouths

▷ September

Mow as needed, 1.25 inches with Reelmaster
Aerate one way
Apply Eagleblend ryegrass by hand to worn spots
Fertilize with 29-0-12 at 1 lb./1000 sq. ft.
Paint lines on Tuesdays and Fridays or as needed

▷ October

Mow as needed at 1.25 inches
Paint Tuesdays and Fridays or as needed
Do late season fertilization if timing is right
Blow out irrigation lines (late October)
If season is over remove and store goals
If season is not over, use Turface to keep field safe
Field starts to go dormant

▷ November

Lay out lacrosse lines in blue for spring
Make any repairs to low spots
Apply limestone per soil sample
Aerate and leave plugs

STMA in action

SAFE Foundation seeking items for auctions, raffles



The SAFE Foundation (Safer Athletic Field Environments), the 501(c)(3) charitable arm of STMA, is seeking

items to include in its auction and raffles. The STMA Live and Silent auctions and the Raffle are held each year during the STMA annual conference. The next annual conference will be at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Conventions Center, January 13-16, 2010 in Orlando. Donated items in previous years have consisted of team gear, sports turf products and equipment, tickets to unique events and attractions, personal communication

devices, travel and entertainment opportunities, and cash. Donations to SAFE may be tax deductible (check with your tax attorney) and member companies that support SAFE will receive commercial member priority points.

Through the auctions and raffles SAFE collected more than \$13,000 during the 2009 conference. These funds help to support the STMA/SAFE Scholarship program, the STMA/SAFE Student Collegiate Challenge, and sports field specific research. In 2008, STMA awarded \$12,500 in scholarships to STMA student members, and provided \$4,000 each to the winning two-year and four-year collegiate challenge competitors. Penn State University's 4-year students and Mt. San Antonio College's 2-year students are using the stipend to develop hands-on sports field specific learning laboratories at their respective institutions.

SAFE also raises funds from the SAFE Jacobsen Golf Tournament. This year nearly \$14,000 was raised from the tournament in San José. More than 100 golfers competed in the Ninth Annual SAFE Jacobsen Golf Tournament held at The Ranch Golf Club. Jacobsen, a Textron Company, has raised more than \$130,000 for SAFE, and will again be supporting the tournament for its 10th year in Orlando. Contributing hole sponsors Landscapes Unlimited and Carolina Green and corporate golfers, Aerway, Carolina Green, Covermaster, Diamond Pro-TXI, Dry Ject/Advanced Agrotech, Game Day, Inc., GreenOne Industries, Hunter Industries, Jacklin Seed/Simplot, Kroneke Sports/Colorado Rapids, Landscapes Unlimited, Richmond Strikers, The Toro Company, and West Coast Turf added to the tournament's successful fundraising. Members also support SAFE through ground level contributions, and the SAFE Foundation annually receives donations from the Toro Giving Program and from Ewing Irrigation.

SAFE is conducting its first in-depth research study on sports field traffic through the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). This 3-year study begins in October and its results will provide much needed applied research on field traffic and wear to sports turf managers.

Please consider donating an item for the auctions or raffle so that the SAFE Foundation can continue to provide scholarship, research and educational funding to STMA members and the industry. Send your contributions to: SAFE, 805 New Hampshire, Ste. E, Lawrence, KS 66044 and include the following form. ■

SAFE Raffle, Live and Silent Auction Donation Form

SAFE Auction's to be held during STMA Conference and Exhibition, January 13-16, 2010, Orlando, FL

Donor/Company Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Item Description: _____

Item Value: _____

Special Instructions: _____

Shipping: Drop Off at STMA Conference Registration Desk **on or after Jan. 12, 2010**

Ship to STMA Headquarters **prior to Dec. 11, 2009**
Address: 805 New Hampshire, Suite E, Lawrence, KS 66044

Ship to Disney's Coronado Springs Convention Center (call STMA to make arrangements)

I hereby donate the item stated above to the SAFE Live or Silent Auction.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to STMA Headquarters via mail to:

Mailing Address: STMA, 805 New Hampshire, Suite E, Lawrence, KS 66044
Or Fax: (785) 843-2977

If you have any questions, please contact STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875 or STMAinfo@STMA.org. A letter acknowledging your donation will be sent to you after the Auctions/Raffle for your records, provided the item(s) listed are presented and auctioned/raffled as described on this form. SAFE is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit foundation. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of your donation to the SAFE Foundation.

Congratulations to our 14-19 year members!

In the May issue, STMA recognized its 20+ year members. In this issue, we salute our 14 to 19 year members for their support of and commitment to STMA! It is with great appreciation that we acknowledge the loyalty of the following STMA members:

Year Joined	Name
1990	Tra Dubois
	Brian Deyak
	Michael Tarantino
	Mike Trigg, CSFM
	Russ Nicholson, CPAG
Anthony Koski, Ph.D.	
1991	Richard Moffitt
	Ross Kurcab, CSFM
	Floyd Perry
1992	Steve McQuerry
	John Pridgen
	Michael Boekholder
1993	Kevin Vos, CSFM
	Paul Griffin
	Danielle Marman
	Peter Ashe, CSFM
1994	Abby McNeal, CSFM
	Brian Gimbel
	Lyle Minshull
	Ron Werner
	Mary Owen
	Bob Shumate
	Ron Hall
	Jeff Kershaw
	June Boston
	John Noe
Dan Bergstrom	
Kurt Nilsson	
William McGeough	

Donations can be fun

By Bryan Wood

While at the national STMA conference and trade show last January, I participated in the SAFE Foundation auction. For those of you that haven't been to a national show, there is always a silent auction and a live auction. The proceeds from these auctions go to the SAFE Foundation. The SAFE Foundation's mission statement is "To support sports field specific research, educational programs and environmental concerns to promote user safety."

I was the winning bidder on two NASCAR tickets to the Aaron's 499 at Talladega in April. Being the race fan that I am, this was right up my alley. The tickets were donated by Toro, which is a track sponsor at Talladega. My brother-in-law summed it up perfectly when he said, "Next to the Queen of England, Bryan's wife is the last person I'd expect to see at a NASCAR race." But thanks to Toro, we both had a great race weekend. We received VIP treatment in the Toro hospitality tent for the Saturday race, and great seats accompanied by a Toro cookout Sunday. All in all, not bad for a tax deductible donation to a good cause! ■

Bryan Wood is the owner of Commercial Turf & Tractor in Chillicothe, MO.

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1 What is your company's primary business? (check ONLY ONE)

- F Sports Complex G Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer
T School, College or University P Park
H Other (please specify) _____

2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)

- A EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR — President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director
B MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor
C GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
D SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
F COACH E Other (please specify) _____

3 Do you have the authority to buy, specify or recommend products and/or services for your business or organization?

- Y Yes N No

4 Yearly operating expenditures (excluding salaries)

- F Over \$1 million C \$50,001 - \$100,000
E \$500,001 - \$1 million B \$25,001 - \$50,000
D \$100,001 - \$500,000 A \$25,000 and under

5 Please also send a free subscription to the following people at the same location

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STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Editor's Note: Congratulations to STMA's 32nd chapter, the Oregon STMA!

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

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

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

Florida #1 Chapter: 954/782-2748

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.

North Florida STMA Chapter: 850/580-4026.

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.sfmnj.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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The worms crawl in, the worms crawl out

The Iowa Chapter, like all the other STMA Chapters, serves as an endless source of information for any level of athletic field management in the country. Joe Wagner, past president of the Iowa Chapter, left me a message that "West Branch High School has a bumpy baseball field, they're not members but can you give them some help; I think worms might be the problem."

Dr. Tom Dean answered the number Joe left me, he's a real doc with a scalpel and all. His son played baseball so he has always been really interested in the field's playing condition. Tom was really down with all the turf management lingo and obviously not a rookie. That conversation led to Rich Stout, Head Baseball Coach for the West Branch Bears and he made it very clear that the worms needed to go for the field to improve.

The reason for the long introduction comes from the old adage "why buy the cow if you can get the milk for free." STMA members will bend over backwards to help anyone responsible for managing fields, but too often they don't follow through requesting the beneficiary to join the local chapter. A membership in STMA is a great way for an athletic director to improve playing conditions while also supporting the professionalism of coaches, boosters, custodians, and grounds managers. Tapping into STMA brings with it an element of pride that pays for itself many times over.

I met the infamous Dan Devine late in his career and learned that you shouldn't really put a price on pride, but when directed properly it has immense value that translates into tremendous profit.

Now about those worms. In most turf situations, earthworms are a welcomed inhabitant. They decompose thatch and organic matter that recycles nutrients, tunnel macro channels in the

soil for roots and drainage, reduce compaction, and distribute soil on the surface as topdressing; nature's perfect aeration and topdressing machine all rolled into one. If they could only distribute their fecal matter casts in a thin layer rather than a moundy bump, we would give them a hug and not curse their presence and kick at their little dirt monuments.

Rich has rolled the field because there are too many bad hops and it's simply unsafe. He commented, "That helps but the worm casts keep coming and constant rolling is too impractical. We want to kill or at least slow down the worm activity." This is somewhat controversial since we know that worms are a wonderful and natural method of aerifying soils and reducing compaction. There are no pesticides specifically labeled for worm control since they are usually thought of as beneficial for soil productivity, despite the fact that they can make a field nearly unplayable and reduce the beneficial thatch layer that cushions the playing surface.

Carbaryl (Sevin) is a general use insecticide that can be used on athletic fields but is not labeled for control of earth worms. It is known to suppress earth worm activity for 7 to 30 days

when applied at the highest labeled rate for other pests. Worms are most susceptible when applications are made at the start of casting and they are working on the surface. A good rain followed by a dewy night really gets them moving upward. Even with two or three applications during a playing season worm activity will be reduced but not eliminated. This is good because the worms can continue to provide some of the benefits mentioned earlier with less casting during the playing season.

Casting problems seem to be greatest on fields where worms have consumed all of the visible thatch/mat/biomass. If thatch is limited, try increasing nitrogen fertility by 1 to 2 pounds N 1000 sq. ft./year. This gives the wiggles more to ingest and seems to dilute the amount of visible casting. Sand topdressing also creates an abrasive layer near the surface that reduces worm activity. Sandy casts that do occur tend to crumble apart easier when mowing.

I'm all ears about your worm stories since we are researching natural products and topdressing materials to manage worm related problems on athletic fields and golf courses. Call my mobile if you have something to offer (515-231-1741) or if you know of a good fishin' hole . . . I'll bring the worms! ■



Image courtesy of istockphoto.com

Q&A



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
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