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- **Quickly find the information you seek** through STMA's easy-to-access technical information and through its searchable archives of *SportsTurf* magazine.

Go to www.STMA.org and click on the Try It Before You Buy it Membership button to sign up. For more information, call STMA Headquarters at 1-800-323-3875.



University of Texas at Austin

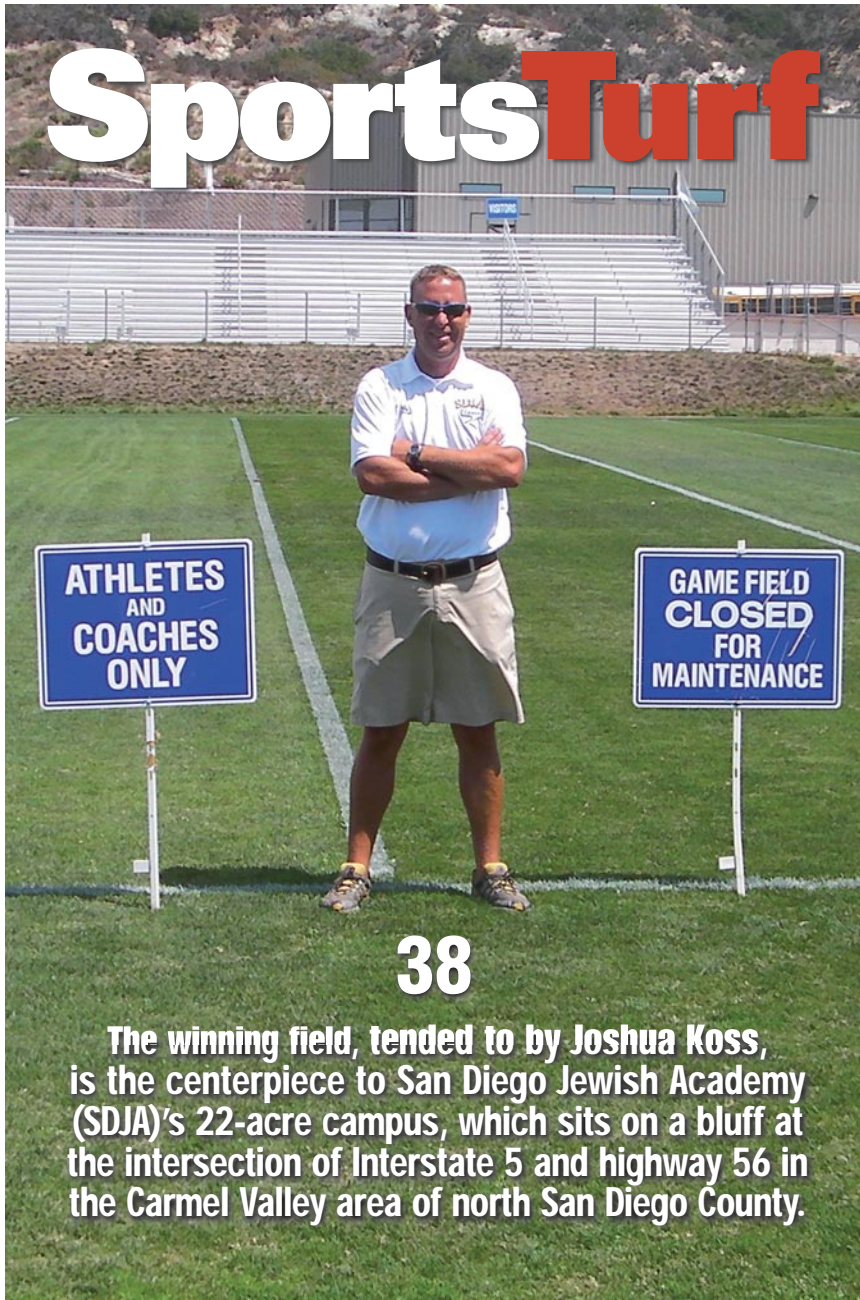
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MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

STMA is the non-profit association for the men and women who manage athletic fields and facilities. The association has a very strict privacy policy and does not sell or give out its members' contact information.

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The winning field, tended to by Joshua Koss, is the centerpiece to San Diego Jewish Academy (SDJA)'s 22-acre campus, which sits on a bluff at the intersection of Interstate 5 and highway 56 in the Carmel Valley area of north San Diego County.



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On the cover: John Ponti had agronomist Joel Simmons and Logan Labs conduct soil tests on his fields at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. See page 26 for the results.

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From the Sidelines



Eric Schroder
Editor

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First aid kits can't go wireless

The American Red Cross recommends all 10 items listed below be included in a basic first aid kit, which every reader should have access to in the work place. People can tailor their kit depending on their needs.

1. *American Red Cross Emergency First Aid Guide* (to reference in case you don't know or can't remember what to do)
2. Non-latex gloves (to prevent body fluid contact)
3. Assorted sizes of self adhesive bandages, sterile gauze and adhesive tape (to cover and protect open wounds)
4. Tweezers (to remove splinters or ticks)
5. Scissors (to cut tape, cloth or bandages)
6. Instant cold compresses (to control swelling)
7. Triple antibiotic ointment (to prevent infection)
8. Breathing barrier (to prevent disease transmission while giving rescue breaths)
9. Emergency blanket (to prevent heat loss and to treat for shock)
10. Aspirin (chewable) 81 mg (for chest pain)

Many of you are leaders for your athletes and that's one reason the American Red Cross and the United States Olympic Committee teamed up to develop a comprehensive course to help anyone else working with athletes prevent, prepare for and respond to sports-related injuries. Sport Safety Training lets you choose from the following training options: Sports Injury Prevention and First Aid; Adult and/or Child CPR; and Adult and/or Child Automated External Defibrillation. Course participants receive the Sport Safety Training handbook that contains injury prevention information and step-by-step instructions for responding to a variety of emergencies.

The Red Cross recommends having a durable kit in all vehicles and in the office. See <http://workplace.redcrossstore.org/shopper/ProdList.aspx?LocationId=28> for a full list of Red Cross first aid kits.

2011 STMA Conference fees still at 2009 levels

The 22nd event is scheduled for January 12-15 in Austin, TX. Registration fees remain the same as 2 years ago despite the organization's adding a full day of workshops on Wednesday again next year. The hump day sessions in Texas include: Sports Turf Pest Control Update for 2011 (qualifies for Pesticide Recertification Credits); Managing Athletic Fields without Traditional Pesticides: Cultural, Organic, and Alternative Pest Management (qualifies for Pesticide Recertification Credit); What's New in Warm Season Grass Management; Native Soil Field Improvement and Construction: Making the Best of What you Have; and New Technology: Gadgets and Gizmos.

And that's all before the official opening of the conference, which also includes the Awards Banquet, certification exams (including new this year, the ASBA field builder exam), chapter officer training, the best trade show exhibit for sports turf managers anywhere, networking sessions, Seminars on Wheels tours, golf tournament, student activities and more.

In all more than 90 hours of education will be offered, 20 hours of networking, and most meals are included. But perhaps the best reason to be in Austin? Sharing laughs with old and new friends.

SportsTurf

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President's Message

Chris Calcaterra,
CSFM, CPRP

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Constantly adjusting is our way of life

Some of us in the warm-season and transition zone climates may be seeing the results of our overseeding practices on our bermudagrass fields. As the ryegrass becomes more established and the fields change over, we adapt our management practices and “change our hat.” Constantly adjusting to whatever the season brings is the life of a sports turf manager. Although overseeding may not fit into every sports turf manager’s cultural practices, it is another tool that our professionals can use to provide playable and attractive sports fields. The technology and abundance of management practices we have available to us is remarkable. Sports turf management is a multi-faceted and ever-changing profession. For us to be successful in it, we must embrace our changing environment.

Smaller budgets, reduced staffing, wage freezes, more responsibilities...these are a few challenges that are affecting sport turf managers. Add to this the expectations of our employers, players and fans that our fields and facilities continue to be maintained to the highest level of quality. The situation is no longer one that we can simply adapt to, but one that we must develop new ways of conducting our work. Plato’s proverb, “Necessity is the mother of invention” definitely applies to us!

In just a few months STMA will be holding its annual conference. This is the one place that has it all—academicians who teach the science of turfgrass management, product and equipment suppliers who showcase their latest technology, and most importantly, your peers. It is through their presentations, and during the networking times when we exchange ideas, that we learn about new “best practices.”

As you can see from your conference brochure, this year’s educational program is very strong. More than 60 presenters are focusing on practical and impactful ways to solve your problems. The sessions have actionable “best management practices” that you can apply to your field and facility management programs. We are introducing roundtable sessions that focus on timely topics that are relevant to you. You will have the opportunity to ask questions of speakers and other practitioners in a relaxed and lively environment, as our conference education sessions wrap up.

I encourage you to check out STMA.org for ideas on how to secure funding from your employer to attend. You can see the featured speakers and also review and print out the learning outcomes that this conference promises to deliver. You will even find a ready-made trip report that helps you to provide information back to your employer and staff about what you learned and how it will benefit your facility.

Our profession is multi-dimensional and each one of us has a wide range of responsibilities. By attending the conference and continuing our education, we will be better prepared for the many changes we will encounter throughout our careers. And rather than just “changing our hat,” we’ll be redefining our profession.

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Getting ready for winter

Editor's note: *The air will be crisp for a lot of the country by the time you read this, a sure sign cold and snow and ice are around the corner. Here we present information to help you get ready for it.*

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Winterizing your irrigation system properly is the one of the biggest factors affecting sprinkler system longevity. This article will provide a general overview of winterization including procedures and equipment needed to properly winterize an irrigation system, helping to prolong the life and integrity of the irrigation system.

Winterizing consists of using compressed air to force water out of the irrigation system before it can freeze and cause damage. Because water expands as it freezes, water left in the irrigation system may damage sprinklers and other components when it

freezes. Piping, fittings, valves, and control valves may need to be repaired or replaced in the spring if the irrigation system is not properly winterized. Winterization should be done after 1-2 frosts, which usually is about the time when you have mowed the turf for the last time of the season. Even when air temperatures fall below freezing for a couple of hours the soil temperatures are still warm enough to keep irrigation system components from freezing.

As far as equipment is concerned, having a correctly sized air compressor is the most important component. Correct air volume and pressure settings are the key to properly winteriz-

ing an irrigation system. Air volume is a key component because the compressed air is used to fill the pipes and force the water out of the system. For example, a small compressor used to inflate tires will have more than enough pressure, but not enough volume to fill the pipes with air. The volume of air needed depends on the size and length of pipe and number of sprinklers. Generally a 90-135CFM (Cubic Feet per Minute) compressor will do a satisfactory job on most sports fields. For golf courses or large sports field complexes a compressor of 185 CFM-750 CFM are required.

Although the volume of compressed air is a driving factor for a good winterization to be performed, don't overlook the importance of air pressure. Most sports fields can be winterized using 40 psi-60 psi of air pressure. It is important to know that air is more easily compressed than water. With this in mind, it is best to use an external pressure regulator on the air compressor. This regulator is simply a pressure gauge

Winterizing consists of using compressed air to force water out of the irrigation system before it can freeze and cause damage.



WINTERIZATIONPACKAGE

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and ball valve used to regulate the air pressure going through the lines. These units can be made pretty easily, or rented at most tool rental agencies for \$8-\$10 per day. It is easier to monitor and adjust the pressure output from an external regulator, but if you choose not to use one then you must adjust the pressure internally on the compressor. There is usually a pressure gauge and set screw on the compressor under the hood.

PROCEDURES

Procedures for properly winterizing an irrigation system are easy to follow, and some of these steps may not even be necessary with all systems. The first step in winterizing an irrigation system is to shut off the water supply. There should be a valve between the main water supply and the backflow preventer. Close this valve and then close the valve on the downstream or outbound side of the backflow preventer. Depending on how your system was designed, there may be a valve to close between the backflow preventer and point of connection for the air compressor.

Next, go to the controller and set a zone/station to run for 10-15 minutes while you set up the compressor and fittings. Always keep a zone open from start to finish avoiding pressure build up and damage to system components. It is best to blow out the system from the zone/station closest to the water source and end at the zone/station farthest from the water source. This will push the air from the beginning of the system to the end or farthest point from the water supply, insuring that minimal water is left in the system.

Connect the compressor to the system mainline. This is usually done using a quick coupler valve or service "T" fitting. If possible, avoid connecting to the backflow preventer as high volume and high air pressure can damage the internal parts. Once you are connected to the mainline, open the compressor to about 40 psi-45 psi. After a short delay, you should see water being forced out of the zone that was manually set to run in the previous step. If the sprinklers do not reach full pop-up height add more air pressure in

small increments until they look like they are operating normally.

From the controller, manually go through each zone/station for 1-2 minutes. Letting a zone/station run longer can produce heat which can damage rubber components or seals in the sprinklers and

If your pump is not enclosed/ heated it is especially important to winterize the system before heavy freezing occurs to give it some time to dry out before winter sets in.