

where the no-maintenance theory has been dispelled, and in fact proven that to have a quality field; it is actually rather maintenance intensive.

One of the issues that has been shown cannot really be overcome though any conventional means is the heat or temperature issue. These fields have been measured with infrared thermometers in the south, in the summer, just when most football teams are headed to summer camp, at temperatures of up to 160 degrees Fahrenheit on the surface. The bottom of athletes shoes have measured as high as 125 degrees. This has caused a shift in the way these fields are used to confine practices to times of the day when the sun is not as intense and the field temperatures are lower. For two-a-days, 7 am and 7 pm are the preferred practice times.

It was originally thought that the application of water to the fields would lower the temperature, although no one had provided for a way to do this since it seemed unnecessary at first. Water cannons were brought in to run down the middle of the fields as if growing in a natural grass field. This was not the best solution however, as it typically takes a cannon 2 hours to travel the length of a football or soccer field. Nevertheless, at first this seemed as though it may be a viable exercise. Initial application of water to a hot synthetic field showed a drop in surface temperature of sometimes 50 degrees or more. This seemed promising, however it was soon discovered that this drop in temperature was very short lived and often lasted no more than 15 minutes. On top of that, it added an element of humidity in some cases, right at the level the athletes were working, that some reported to make the situation even worse.

There are some very positive effects to having water available for a synthetic field that were initially overlooked however. In the summer of 2002, Southern Methodist University in Dallas decided to replace its bermudagrass game field with a synthetic field to accommodate the football team being able to practice in the stadium every day. As head groundskeeper I saw an opportunity to take advantage of an irrigation system that was already in place.

We left the system under the field (it was already a 100% sand-based rootzone and that was also left intact in the event we would ever

want to go back to natural grass), and only removed the heads, capped the swing joints and turned them down in the sand, removing the valves and altering the plumbing slightly to insure there could be no water under the field. We then took the perimeter lines and moved them out to the edge of the rubberized warning track, change the heads from sports field heads to golf course heads so that nearly 100% of the field could be reached with just a perimeter system.

The reason this was important, and I'm so glad we had the foresight to do it, was because I knew what was on my field after every practice, game, or for that matter, any event. Think about some of the substances that are deposited on a field during a contest (substances that I would typically wash out with post game irrigation anyway, although the primary importance of that was to begin the healing process for the natural grass as quickly as possible). You have blood, vomit, sweat, spit, potentially other bodily fluids (believe me, I've seen it, even in a packed stadium), and of course the obligatory 10-20 gallons of sugar-filled Gatorade or other sports drink dumped directly on the field by the trainers after every game as they packed up to leave the field.

Now think about all the available living microbes in a natural grass field that would typically render all of this a non-issue. Not so on a sterile synthetic surface, so as soon as the field was clear, the equipment removed, and the bench tarps rolled up, on would go the irrigation to begin the flushing and cleaning process. I believe this to be one of the biggest tools we had available to us in maintaining that field and in keeping what is now an 8-year-old field still looking like one of the best synthetic fields in the country.

There were other benefits to being able to apply water that we found advantageous. Many groundskeepers with sand-based rootzones, particularly with Bermuda, have seen that a wet field actually plays better than a dry field, even in a light rain. This is because the rootzone is firmer and allows for better footing. As long as there is no soil which gets slippery when it is wet, this is a proven improvement. The same is true for a synthetic field. Some moisture in the field gives the players better footing, and cuts down the sand and rubber flying that we see on very dry fields.

This is no small issue to the players who have to deal with these substances in their eyes and noses and can be a bigger problem than is often publicized. It will also cut down on the displacement of the infill, especially at the line of scrimmage where the most aggressive footwork takes place, and it cuts down on static electricity, whether you use a fabric softener or not. This helps with the static attachment of the rubber particles to helmets, but has become an even more significant benefit as more and more players have gone to clear plastic face shields. If you watch closely, you will routinely see these particles attached to all parts of the uniform, but especially the plastic parts like the helmets and shields.

A good soaking of the field during the early morning on game day, or even the night before, will allow you to realize these benefits during the game, and with any required painting complete and the game set up not yet in place, the timing works out perfectly. Only in very hot climates and in the early part of the season, when it is typically warmer everywhere may the moisture not last for the entire game, but it will last a long time and is always worth the effort.

It is important to remember that very little of this can be accomplished without an in-ground system just like you would use for a natural grass field and although it is not recommended to place live irrigation lines directly under the playing surface (it can be done however) because of the obvious repair nightmares should something go wrong, and it can (synthetic grass cannot simply be removed and replaced like natural grass), perimeter irrigation is a fantastic tool that very few groundskeepers think about.

You should demand it if you have to make a change, or build a new field, and field designers should recommend it when designing a field. Its cost is minimal in the grand scheme of the project and it pays untold dividends that are rarely considered, even if cooling the surface is not one of them. There are ever emerging, new technologies, albeit expensive, that will one day address that issue for sure. ■

Rob Anthony is a turf professional, former NFL head groundskeeper and nationally known horticulturist. He can be contacted at raturf@aol.com.

Building good drainage for synthetic fields

WHEN IT RAINS....well, it won't necessarily pour, but it will rain. And when it does, you'd better hope you have efficient drainage for your field. No matter how well constructed a field is, or how good it looks, it's not going to hold up for the long term if it can't shed water. Unlike its natural counterpart, artificial turf won't turn into a muddy mess in inclement weather, but it can (and will) have problems if it doesn't drain well.

A good drainage system should work invisibly; the athletes and spectators using the facility shouldn't be aware of it. But you as a manager should be aware, and at all times. It's one of the most important components in the integrity of your field.

A good drainage system works on multiple levels. Here is a quick recap:

WITHIN THE FIELD ITSELF

The turf itself is permeable; water trickles down through, and into the system that

moves it away from the field. Once it has passed below the turf surface, it will meet with one of several subsurface systems, depending on what was installed at the time of construction. Both systems are used with great effect. Installation of these systems takes place once work on the sub-base has been completed. Two systems are:

- Flat drains, 6" to 12" wide and 1" to 2" thick, with or without a wrapping of filter fabric, placed on the completed sub-grade of the field, in a diagonal or herringbone pattern, about 15' to 30' apart.

- Perforated pipes, 4" to 10" in diameter (also laid out in a diagonal or herringbone pattern), laid in trenches and surrounded by filter fabric and clean stone. (Note: This system is more expensive, but widely acknowledged as more efficient.)

The system chosen should depend on the specific use of the field, the climate, amount of rainfall and more. Proper preparation of the site with regard to expected weather conditions is also key to the success of a field as a whole.

"Typically, we do not have the freeze/thaw problems here in the Southeast as they have in areas in the Northeast and Midwest," says Dan Wright, vice president of SportsTurf, located in Whitesburg, Georgia. "It is extremely important in wetter areas that the sub-grade is dry, has 95% compaction, and is protected by an impermeable filter fabric to keep the subgrade from getting saturated."

Some fields, often those without infill, contain an additional layer, have a shockpad or elastic layer (e-layer for short) positioned between the base and the turf. An e-layer is porous, meaning that water can drain through it and into the regular drainage system.

AROUND THE FIELD

The systems mentioned above are meant to handle water that is on the field as a result of precipitation, irrigation or as overspray from irrigation of

» **A FIELD WITH AN EFFICIENT DRAINAGE SYSTEM** can allow play to continue even during a rainy day, which becomes essential when one field has to multi-task for many sports. This photo was taken on a misty day when facilities can continue to be used. The setting is the athletic campus of Durfee High School, located in Fall River, MA. Photo courtesy of Gale Associates, Inc., Weymouth, MA.



JOHN MASCARO'S PHOTO QUIZ

Answers from page 17

These four to five inch deep brown depressions on this Minor League Baseball Stadium Field are the result of a strong man competition held over the field July 4th weekend. This was the first time this facility had hosted this type of event. The event consists of several competitors performing lifts of five different atlas stones ranging from 225lbs to 352 lbs each. This had to be completed on the grass instead of the infield dirt or warning track because the officials didn't want any dirt or debris to touch the stones and to make sure the strongmen wouldn't lose their footing. The grounds crew placed a layer of plywood and a large tractor tire to protect the field when they dropped the stones from the top of the platform after they completed each lift. That wasn't nearly enough to protect the sand based field, and three of the five stones left considerable depressions in the field. The Sports Turf Manager reported that if they were going to host this event again, they would use more plywood and find a larger tire to absorb the fall of the stones and/or accept the fact that these stones weigh too much to avoid damage no matter what precautions are taken.

Photo submitted by Ryan Hills, Head Groundskeeper for the Trenton Thunder (Minor League Baseball Team for the New York Yankees).



If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 call (850) 580-4026 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of *SportsTurf* magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.

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>> Above: POOR DRAINAGE of synthetic turf must be traced back to its source. It may be an easy fix (such as clean-outs that have become clogged with debris) or it may be something requiring extensive work. Photo courtesy of William E. Fee, Carducci Landscape Architects, San Francisco.



>> Above Left: A FIELD THAT DOESN'T DRAIN WELL isn't going to provide an enjoyable game for anyone. Photo courtesy of DOC Sports Surface Contractors LLC, Fort Washington, MD.

>> Above Right: IT'S NOT HARD TO IDENTIFY A FIELD that has drainage problems. Water will collect on the surface and not disperse. Keep an eye on the system during bad weather events that occur during non-game times and make sure to address any problems right away. Photo courtesy of William E. Fee, Carducci Landscape Architects, San Francisco.



adjacent fields; in other words, they are meant to handle what falls directly on the field. But a second part of the battle against water calls for keeping excess water from flowing onto the field as runoff from another area. Ideally, a field is constructed at a slightly higher elevation than the surrounding land which would virtually eliminate the possibility of runoff—but very few projects have all components of the ideal world. Therefore, it becomes necessary to create and employ preventive mechanisms.

Perimeter drainage systems, which inter-

cept water and keep it off the field, take several forms. In many cases, fields will employ more than one system, including:

- A series of natural swales (drainage channels covered by grass or other vegetation) is one very economical way of directing water. Swales that are surfaced with asphalt or concrete are also efficient, but less economical.

- Catch basins located around the perimeter of the field can intercept water and direct it to another place, most often a storm sewer or drain pit.

- French drains (several different types are available) can be used to carry water away as well

- Open pan drains (curb and gutter assemblies) are popularly used around the inside edges of tracks that encircle sports fields.

- Integral curb drains (made of polymeric materials) used around the inside edges of a track have outlets to a storm drainage system and serve as a termination point for the turf itself on the field.

Whenever possible, systems should be set up so as to facilitate upkeep.

“An important item to incorporate into any synthetic turf drainage system design is an easy method to access and clean the drainage system,” says Devin Conway of the Verde Design Group in Santa Clara, California. “For perforated or solid wall collection pipes, this is typically done through the installation of cleanouts or junction boxes. Where these are located and if they are exposed within the synthetic turf are important items to discuss with the owner and the maintenance staff.”

MAINTENANCE

A field is only as good as its drainage system, but the drainage system is only as good as the diligence with which a person maintains it.

Perimeter drainage features, including swales, French drains and catch basins will not work effectively if they become clogged. If water is flowing onto the field, check for buildup of silt or vegetation, then remove it. Better yet, don't wait: Keep all grass and other vegetation trimmed back. Neutralize roots or use root barriers. Do an occasional cleanout of all systems with a pressure hose to help keep the water moving. More stubborn and entrenched clogs may require excavation. (In attempting to locate the clog in order to dig, remember that most of these types of clogs occur in areas where there are elevation changes or where there are changes in the direction the water flows).

The question does present itself: will a freeze/thaw cycle hurt drainage systems? Snow and ice themselves aren't going to harm the surface of a field, and given time, will melt and drain through the surface the

way rainwater does. Remember that if any components of your drainage system, such as swales, have asphalt components, there may be cracking and shrinking that occurs as a result of continued weathering. A deep, hard freeze can cause blockages in pipes; with time and more moderate temperatures, these too should melt.

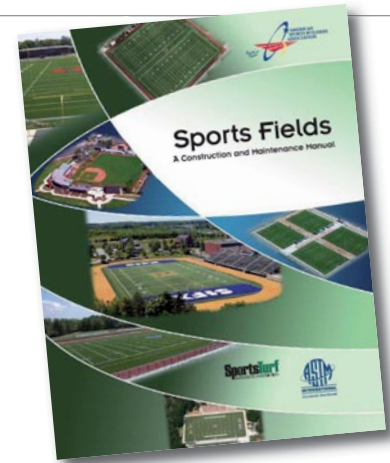
“Most pre-manufactured drainage composites and drain products can withstand extreme weather fluctuations, but always best to verify with the manufacturer to verify any product limitations or installation criteria that may be limited by weather,” says Conway.

Some fields remain open in cold weather while at others, athletes must wait until all moisture, including anything caught in the infill, has melted and migrated downward. If the weather is so cold that your turf is slippery because of ice, and your pipes underneath are blocked (meaning that no drainage is likely to occur anyway), use of the fields isn't recommended. Athlete safety, and the safety of those maintaining the turf, should be the first considerations in making the call on whether to use a field in cold weather.

Because it's under your field rather than on top of it, drainage isn't a glamorous aspect of a facility (the color and design of the turf, the markings, logo, etc. tend to get a lot of attention because they're the visual elements; you don't often hear a spectator say, “Wow, great drainage.”) As a result, when an administration or an owner is looking into cutting expenses in the construction of a new sports field, the temptation may be to cut what can't be seen.

Ideally, good drainage (the kind you invest in and pay attention to throughout the year) will never be seen. That's because it works. On the other hand, inferior drainage either around the perimeter or on the field itself will be seen. It'll be seen by you and your athletes and spectators, in the form of puddles on your turf. It'll be seen when subsurface and surface problems come back to haunt the finished facility long before you've stopped bragging about your new field. Most of all, it'll be seen in the bottom line when costly repairs need to be made.

You will regret cheaping out and not putting in enough ways to move the water off your facility. You'll never regret making



► ASBA's **NEWEST PUBLICATION** deals with issues of field drainage, as well as design, construction and maintenance of both artificial turf and natural grass fields. The book is available through ASBA, www.sportsbuilders.org, or 866-501-ASBA (2722)

the investment of funds in a good system, and of time to keep it functioning well. And in this case, you always get a good return on your investment. ■

Mary Helen Sprecher is a free lance writer who often works for the American Sports Builders Association, www.sportsbuilders.org.

ASBA presents **FIRST GREEN AWARD**

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PAC Center, Rochester, NY has been recognized with the American Sports Builders Association's inaugural Green Award, which recognizes eco-friendly design and construction excellence.

Completed in October 2008, the PAC Center, designed by Concord, MA-based Clough Harbour & Associates, is a 56,000-square foot athletic, fitness and recreational facility on Monroe's Brighton Campus. It accommodates a wide range of uses including health and physical education classes, team sports, intramural leagues, community wellness programs and individual fitness.

And in addition to helping with general wellness, it's healthy for the environment. During the design portion of the facility, the college chose to pursue LEED

Certification, something which added complexity not just to the drawing-board process and the construction phase but to every level of the planning.

Projects are scored individually and anonymously by a committee of ASBA members, based on considerations such as layout and design, site work, drainage, base construction, surface, amenities, innovation and overall impression. Winning entries are those whose cumulative scores meet or exceed the standard.

The PAC Center boasts a wealth of amenities for its users including a field house with a 136' x 220' synthetic turf field (Sportex), two retractable batting cages, a two-lane walking/jogging track surrounding the turf field, an interactive lobby for entry to the campus sports facility, a 3,500 sq. ft. fitness

center with cardio and strength training equipment, 1,800 sq. ft. of training space including hot and cold hydrotherapy pools, locker rooms, a multi-purpose room, a cleat lobby with public rest rooms, office space and equipment storage areas.

Among the center's eco-friendly facilities are:

- A high energy efficient field house
- Energy cost reduction of over 30% from the ASHRAE Standard 90.1, 2004
- 30% reduction in water use from the Energy Policy Act of 1992 Fixture Performance Requirements
- A diversion of over 50% of construction waste away from landfills
- Nearly 40% of all construction materials had recycled content

- More than 10% of all materials were generated within 500 miles of the project.

Even the landscaping of the center was eco-friendly, thanks to the selection of sustainable plants including drought-resistant sedum, as well as picea glauca, nyssa sylvatica, cercis canadensis, syringa reticulata and ilex crenata.

In addition, the location (a former practice field) was eco-friendly, since the project is served by two bus lines within 1/4-mile of the site. Bicycle storage facilities are provided as well, for the convenience of those who are already aware of the need to be eco-friendly, and who are only too glad to be able to exercise in a facility that is as well.-Mary Helen Sprecher ■

STMA honors three companies with inaugural Innovation Awards

AT LAST MONTH'S SPORT TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION IN AUSTIN, TX, the association bestowed upon three exhibitors its first-ever Innovation Awards, which recognizes companies that improve the sports turf

management profession. Any product, service, equipment or technology that was introduced in 2010 was eligible; a panel of non-commercial STMA members representing all segments of membership judged the entries.



ROTATING FOOTBALL GOALPOST, SportsEdge

SportsEdge, a manufacturer of sports construction products, introduced its rotating football goalposts to help solve the problems associated with multi-use soccer and football fields. This goalpost can easily be rotated 180 degrees facing away from the field of play during soccer games, and rotated back for football games. Operation is extremely simple; it takes less than a minute to rotate the goals completely, and can be done by one person. Only 25 pounds of pressure rotates the goal with the use of the 4-foot rotation handle. The goal post locks securely in place in either position. Two pad locks per goal provide tamper-proof security and safety. These rotating goals sit in a 5-foot deep sleeve and can be removed relatively easily if necessary.

Chris Cucchiara, product manager for SportsEdge, came up with the idea in response to complaints from soccer coaches about rebounds off the football crossbar, interference with corner kicks, and bad calls by officials who could not always distinguish which crossbar, football or soccer goal, the soccer ball deflected off.

"I brought the idea to Kress Query of our sister company, ABT Metals, whose experience in metals and metal fabrication goes back 45 years. Kress's design is exceptional for ease of operation as well as strength and stability," Cucchiara said.

View a video demonstration at www.sportsege.com, download the brochure you find there, or call 800-334-6057.



RPR, REGENERATING PERENNIAL RYEGRASS, Barenbrug USA

RPR turfgrass was recently re-categorized as a subspecies within perennial ryegrass, *Lolium perenne subsp. Stoloniferum*. First cited in 1836, no varieties have been recognized as a *Lolium perenne stoloniferum* since!

RPR comes out of the breeding program of Barenbrug USA. Barenbrug breeder Dr. Joseph Wipff bred RPR in Virginia. "The RPR germplasm was a jewel at our Virginia breeding location. Under very harsh conditions the RPR plants were aggressive and expanding. While I tried to make it as hard for them as I could with wear and tear with our wear machine and the help of Mother Nature with hot and cold weather," said Dr. Wipff.

Barenbrug USA launched the RPR program after more than 10 years of breeding. The regenerating perennial ryegrass has proven a great performer in wear and traffic tolerance while also being a high quality turfgrass. Its characteristics include pseudostolons that allow for the regeneration, enhanced with endophytes for resilience, and exceptional drought tolerance.

A number of sports turf managers and golf course superintendents have tried RPR and are very satisfied with it. "We have seen a lot of re-orders from Turf Managers who tried this in the spring," said Christiaan Arends, Barenbrug turf product manager. "We hear a lot of positive feedback from sports turf managers. They just love the product."

Dr. Wipff said, "I am very pleased and honored that a product I worked on for so many years has gotten this kind of recognition. When breeding turfgrass varieties, you need to be very patient and it is great when it gets recognized with an award like this." www.barusa.com



FIELD ROVER, Bush Sports Turf

Steve Bush, CSFM, said, "The Field Rover is an idea I have had for several years. I wanted a way to rapidly and accurately measure the surface and conditions of sports fields. The robot uses GPS and a series of on-board sensors to both autonomously drive the field and take surface elevation measurements at the same time. We can measure and grade in 3-d with mm accuracy and gather 60,000 measurements on a field in an 8-hour day."

"This allows us to document all surface irregularities with coordinates and a photo reference. We can verify if a field is smooth and show any damage caused by events or say concerts," Bush said. "The grade information can then be evaluated, corrected and loaded into our on board grading equipment. This technology will allow us to build the smoothest, truest, safest fields possible. We can use the crated files then to grade the field precisely year after year."

"We want to bring technology to turf. We have the sod father; we want to be the Edison of turf. It is a true honor to receive the Innovation Award in its inaugural year," he said.

"The rover was designed to fold into its shell and be transported easily on an airplane. We are going to provide this precision measuring and grading as a service. We can be contacted through our website at bushturf.com."

New MG72 Multi Groomer

Heying Company has introduced the MG72 Multi Groomer. Available in two versions: Granular-Rock and Golf-Turf. Engineered with removable and adjustable implements makes it convertible from the granular to turf version, or vice versa, in minutes, making it the most versatile maintenance machine available. The granular & rock version is used to groom baseball and softball infields, maintain rock parking lots, trails and more. The golf & turf version is used on natural and artificial turf to pulverize aeration cores, work in topdressings, de-thatch, groom golf greens, and rejuvenate artificial turf. Pull with a variety of towing machines. No tools needed to adjust. Comes standard with electric lift and wireless remote control.

www.infield-drag.com

All-new Dirt Medic infield groomer

Newstripe is pleased to announce the all-new Dirt Medic infield groomer designed specifically for use with garden tractors, light duty utility vehicles and ATV's. Built with the same heavy construction as the larger Dirt Doctor models, the Dirt Medic features a 4-foot wide grooming path, 10-inch pneumatic tires for easy transport to and from the field, and a 36-month warranty. The hand wheel conveniently adjusts both the angle and depth of the harrow teeth and reversible cutting bar from the driver's seat to quickly fill in and level infields. The finishing broom creates a smooth, finished surface.

www.newstripe.com

Reduce infield grooming time

See for yourself why the TurfTime Equipment Infield Groomer is the best buy for the money. Whether using the 60-inch wide groomer that any 15-hp vehicle can pull or the wider 78-inch tractor mounted unit, owners confirm that it levels and grooms the field in half the time of other drags. As shown it is tough enough to level new fields in minutes. For continuous daily maintenance simply adjust the hitch for minimal surface smoothing. The standard brush leaves a professional looking field.

www.TurfTimeEq.com

Updated John Deere groomer

John Deere Golf continually strives to provide turf care professionals with equipment they can rely on for best-in-class performance and increased productivity. For 2011, John Deere Golf has made updates to existing products for improved performance including the 1200A and 1200 Hydro bunker rakes. Both models feature updated fuel systems which meet new CARB and EPA requirements for 2011. The 1200A engine model also features increased engine displacement from 286 cc to 351 cc, and 9.5 horsepower. In addition to meeting industry regulations and requirements, these updated models offer improved performance and maximize machine uptime. Both updated models are available immediately.

www.deere.com

Toro introduces edger attachment for Sand Pro

New for the Toro Sand Pro 3040/5040 infield groomer, the Sport Field Edger attachment is designed to quickly and easily maintain the grass edge of the outfield on baseball and softball fields by removing overgrown turf and infield lip build-up. The Edger attachment helps to eliminate much of the hand work done in edging base lines, warning tracks and infield/outfield boundaries. It may take 8 hours to edge a field by hand but with the Edger attachment on a Sand Pro 3040/5040, it can be done in less than 2 hours.

www.toro.com

Kochek irrigation hoses

Dura Flow is Heavy Duty Irrigation Hose specially designed for durability and maximum flow. Its flexible compounds are blended to make this hose look and feel like comparable rubber hose yet it remains flexible and lightweight. GH Series Hose has a smooth black PVC inner tube. The cover is smooth opaque green PVC compound reinforced with high tensile strength yarn. Features include high working and burst pressures, abrasion resistant cover, light weight, and weather, ozone and ultraviolet resistance. Ultralite Hose is circular woven, single jacket, combined with a helical interior reinforcement, with an all polyester cover and polyurethane coating. This thin-walled rubber lined hose is the most durable lightweight irrigation hose on the market. Clear Braided is a lightweight standard wall crystal clear yarn reinforced PVC hose that is "crystal clear" to allow visual confirmation of product flow and is longitudinally reinforced to reduce elongation under pressure.

www.kochek.com

New Cyclone KB4

Buffalo Turbine introduces the New Cyclone KB4. This new generation of Buffalo Turbine blowers coincides with the 15-year anniversary of the "Original" self contained, tow behind KB blower and our 65th year of being in business. The New Cyclone KB4 replaces our successful CKB3 workhorse and is now powered by Kohler's, electronically governed, 27-hp Command Pro engine.

www.buffaloturbine.com



2011 STMA Conference sees 7% attendance increase

THE SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION'S 22nd Annual Conference and Exhibition saw more than 900 sports turf managers, academics, and other practitioners from all over the world gather in Austin, TX for the green industry's premier sports turf specific event. Including exhibit personnel, more than 1,500 people were on site; more than 160 companies exhibited.

Individual attendance figures outpaced the 2010 show in Orlando, FL by more than 100 people. Despite poor weather around the country, and unseasonably cool weather in Austin early in the week, attendees arrived mostly as scheduled to take advantage of educational tracks, the exhibition, off-site tours, banquets and receptions.

STMA presented its first ever Innovative Awards to three companies whose product and/or services were judged to be revolutionary to the job of the sports turf manager by the STMA Awards Committee. These companies and their winning products/services were: Barenbrug USA for their RPR turfgrass species; Bush Turf for its Field Rover; and SportsEdge, Inc. for its rotating football goal (see p. 36 for details).

Those attending the conference took advantage of more than 90 hours of sports turf specific education, including an entire day of educational Pre-Conference Workshops Wednesday.

Dr. James Beard, a legend in the sports turf industry, gave the keynote address on the past, present and future of sports turf

management, and then attendees were entertained by a Texas trio, the Swing Riders, whose songs and stories brought smiles to all.

The Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition is supported through the generous sponsorship of the following companies: Barenbrug USA; Covermaster, Inc.; Diamond Pro/TXI; Hunter Industries; Jacobsen; Rain Bird Corp.; The Toro Company; and World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

The 2012 STMA Conference and Exhibition, which will be the association's 23rd annual event, will be January 10-14, 2012 in Long Beach, CA. The Exhibition will be at the Long Beach Convention Center and the official hotels of the event are the Westin Long Beach and the Long Beach Hyatt. ■

2011 Board of Directors election results

STMA OFFICIALLY INSTALLED its 2011 Board of Directors during the association's annual meeting in Austin, TX. Troy Smith, CSFM, Denver Broncos Football Club, was elected STMA's 19th President and James Michael Goatley, Jr., PhD, Virginia Tech, is President-Elect. Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, City of Peoria Sports Complex, Peoria, AZ ascends to the office of Immediate Past President. Martin Kaufman, CSFM, Ensworth Schools, Nashville, TN was elected to the Secretary/Treasurer position.

Four new Directors have joined the

STMA Board; three were elected and one was appointed. Those elected include:

- Allen Johnson, CSFM, Green Bay Packers, WI, representing the Facilities used by Professional Athletes category
- Mike Tarantino, Poway Unified School District, CA, representing Schools K-12
- Jeff Fowler, Penn State University Cooperative Extension Services, Franklin, PA was elected to an At-Large Director position.

President Smith appointed Jeff Salmond, CSFM, University of Oklahoma, to an At-Large Director position. Smith also ap-



TROY SMITH, CSFM, left, STMA's new President, accepts the gavel from Immediate Past President **CHRIS CALCATERRA**, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP

pointed previous board member David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, Town of Lexington, MA, to the Parks and Recreation's open Director position. Rene Asprion from Diamond Pro/TXI, Dallas, TX was elected to a 2-year term as Commercial Director. He was appointed to the board last year to fill the vacant Commercial Director position.

Returning to the Board for the second year of their terms are Chad Price, CSFM, Vice President-Commercial, Carolina Green Corp.; Pamela Sherratt, Academic Director from The Ohio State University; and Ron Hostick, CSFM, who serves on behalf of the collegiate membership segment from San Diego State University.

The 13-member board participates in quarterly meetings and provides leadership by chairing more than half of STMA's 22 committees. ■



THE 2011 STMA BOARD: Front row, L to R: Jeff Salmond, CSFM; James Michael Goatley, Jr., PhD; Pamela Sherratt; Mike Tarantino; Jeff Fowler; Allen Johnson, CSFM. Back row, L to R: David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP; Chad Price, CSFM; Ron Hostick, CSFM; Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP; Troy Smith, CSFM; Martin Kaufman, CSFM; Rene Asprion.

Membership Application

SportsTurf MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

Name _____ Title _____

Employer/ Facility _____

Business Home

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Signature _____

Direct Supervisor Name _____

Membership Category:

- Sports Turf Manager \$110
 Sports Turf Manager Associate* (Additional member(s) from the same facility) \$75

Please select the primary facility type where you are employed:

- Professional Sports Higher Education Schools K-12 Parks and Recreation

Academic \$95

Student (verification of enrollment) \$25

Commercial \$295

Commercial Associate* (Additional member(s) from the same commercial company) \$75

Affiliate (Person who is indirectly or on a part-time basis, involved in the maintenance/management of sports fields) \$50

Chapter Dues (contact headquarters for amount)
Chapter name) _____ \$ _____

Contribution To SAFE Foundation (research, education and scholarship): \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Payment Method:

Check Money Order Purchase Order #: _____

Credit Card: Mastercard Visa American Express Discover

Name on Card _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

*There must already be a national sports turf manager from your facility or commercial member from your company before you may sign up in the Associate category.

Fax to: (785) 843-2977

Or mail with payment to:
Sports Turf
Managers Association
P.O. Box 414029
Kansas City, MO 64141

"I know I am a better sports turf manager because of this association. As sports turf managers, we take the challenge seriously to make our fields the best possible for the next game. The resources I have access to through STMA helps me do it."

— Bob Campbell, CSFM
Higher Education
Membership Segment

Phone: 800-323-3875

www.STMA.org

Mercer wins Leadership Award for his environmental stewardship

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP presented the STMA President's Award for Leadership to Kevin Mercer, superintendent of grounds at St. Mary's College of Mary-



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP presented the STMA President's Award for Leadership to **Kevin Mercer**, superintendent of grounds at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

land, St. Mary's City, during the STMA annual awards banquet

The award is given at the discretion of the president, and this year was awarded to Mercer for his leadership in environmental stewardship, specifically for leading the effort for St. Mary's College to be awarded certification in Environmental Planning from the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. The program is designed to help preserve and enhance the environmental quality of properties. Mercer is part of the sustainability efforts at his college to reduce, recycle and reuse. He has also been making rain gardens on his campus to capture storm and other run-off water to be used as sports turf irrigation (see January issue, p. 34).

"Kevin exemplifies environmental leadership," says Calcaterra on why he selected him to receive the award. "He proactively seeks ways he can make a positive impact on the environment at his college, and he is very open about sharing his ideas and practices with his peers."

As STMA continues to advance its focus on the environment through committee work, it is also seeking to highlight examples of its member's environmental stewardship and build on them to promote to the public the positive impact of sports turf management on the environment. ■

SAFE Jacobsen Golf Tournament, Auctions highlight fundraising efforts

THE FOUNDATION for Safer Athletic Fields for Everyone (SAFE), the charitable arm of STMA, raised more than \$25,000 for scholarships, grants, and the production of educational materials during the 2011 STMA Conference. These monies were raised through many events including a golf tournament, raffles, and auctions held throughout the conference.

Nearly 80 golfers competed (and survived the cold and wind!) in the 11th Annual SAFE Jacobsen Golf Tournament held at the Golf Club at Star Ranch. Those golfers and more than 25 pre-registered players who could not make it to Austin because of inclement weather around the country donated nearly \$14,000 to SAFE. The net-scrabble style tournament was won by the team of Russell Barksdale,

Randall Carpenter, Chris Price and Allen Reed. The SAFE Jacobsen Golf Tournament would not be possible without the generous contributions of Jacobsen, a Textron Company. Since it began sponsoring the tournament, Jacobsen has raised more than \$158,000 for SAFE. Carolina Green Corp. sponsored a Beverage Cart and drink tickets for the players, World Class Athletic Solutions sponsored a Hole In One Promotion, with \$10,000 up for grabs on one hole. Diamond Pro/TXI also sponsored a hole at the event.

Due to Texas state gaming laws, SAFE was not able to continue the Pull-Tab Lottery Style Game. These tickets were tremendously popular with attendees in 2010 in Disney. However, in typical STMA Member fashion, attendees stepped up

and ensured that the SAFE Auctions and Raffles conducted in the Exhibition Hall and at the Awards Banquet Reception on Friday brought in a record amount. Winners walked away with some amazing autographed memorabilia, apparel, a Toro Turf Guard System valued at \$7,800, electronics, hotel packages, golf gear, sports turf specific equipment, and an African photo safari valued at more than \$4,000. The Large Item Raffle held at the Awards Banquet Reception was a success as well, raising more than \$1,800. A Panasonic HD Camcorder, Amazon Kindle and Gift Package, Sony CyberShot Camera and an all-inclusive trip to next year's conference in Long Beach were all given away to lucky winners. ■

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