

World Cup World Class



TifSport was the grass of choice for Moses Mabhida Stadium for the 2010 World Cup in Durban, South Africa. No wonder it's also a favorite for professional, collegiate and high school fields right here in the USA. At Irving, Texas on the Dallas Cowboys practice fields. At the University of Oklahoma. At UNC and GA Tech. Football, soccer, baseball - any sport played on natural grass is a natural for TifSport Bermudagrass. If you're looking for a sports turf that can handle non-stop

action, a cooler transition zone climate and heavy overseeding, TifSport's your answer. It's ideal for intramural fields, practice fields and gameday venues, where everything has to be perfect. Coaches and players love the way it looks and plays, and you and your crew will appreciate how easy it is to manage. TifSport can only be sold as certified sod or sprigs and only by licensed members of the TifSport Growers Assoc. For more information visit us at www.tifsport.com or call 706 552-4525.

TIFSPORT  
CERTIFIED BERMUDAGRASS
www.tifsport.com
706 552-4525

McMillan: There are numerous soil surfactants on the market today. Certain chemistries are better wetters—helping to restore wettability to water repellent thatch and soil; some are better at helping water to infiltrate more effectively. Know what your needs are when purchasing one, and be a wise buyer.

- Do you need a surfactant to alleviate soil water repellency symptoms curatively or preventatively? Then make sure you choose a wetting agent type of soil surfactant which is designed to do what you need.

- Do you need a surfactant primarily to reduce surface runoff? Then a penetrant type soil surfactant is what you need.

- Do you need a surfactant to maximize benefits of fertilizers or pesticides? Select a product where there is evidence of effectiveness for that use.

- Another question is how the surfactant will be applied. Sprayer or injected – or dry? Different kinds of formulations exist to fit your needs – and it is important to use the formulation designed for your use.

- Some surfactants can be phytotoxic, particularly older chemistries. So make sure phytotoxicity testing has been done on your turfgrass type.

Bottom line, know what you need and ask questions to make sure you get it. Work with distributors that have a good knowledge of the surfactant chemistries they are selling and make sure that there is university research to support claims.

The timing of your turf management program can also be a factor.

ST: Is how much to use always related to square feet being covered or is there any other factor?

McMillan: As with all turf management products, label rates should always be used when applying soil surfactant materials. These are the rates that have been found to be effective via extensive testing to perform as marketed. Because the severity of the water management problem you are addressing can vary, the type and rate of soil surfactant can also vary. The timing of your turf management program can also be a factor. So in addition to square feet being covered being a factor, the depth and severity of the water distribution problem and how long you need a treatment to last are also factors in soil surfactant selection and rate recommendation.

ST: Do you recommend any specific type or brand of sprayer equipment that is better to use when employing surfactants?

McMillan: I do not recommend any particular sprayer or brand for surfactant use. However, I do recommend that when purchasing a surfactant, be clear on how it will be applied. Some surfactants can be very viscous so should not be applied via injection into the irrigation system. If the soil surfactant is to be applied through spray application, remember that the target is not only the surface, but also into the soil, so use a nozzle and water volume that is suited to soil applied materials. ■

Propane group highlights on-site refueling options

As sports turf managers research new additions to their mower and work truck fleets one of the most important considerations is refueling. Whether a fleet is used to maintain a single field, or many across a wide area, making sure both mowers and trucks can be easily refueled saves time, effort, and cost.

More than 15 models of propane-fueled commercial mowers are available today from industry-leading brands, while over the past 20 months, 10 new vehicle platforms fueled by propane autogas have been introduced to the market. Ease of refueling has accelerated the use of both types of equipment.

A number of options exist for centralized, on-site refueling for both applications, making these mowers and trucks feasible for fleets that service large or multiple areas. Cost-saving measures also are available for the installation of infrastructure, and the fuel itself.

Fleets adopting propane-fueled mowers and work trucks fueled by propane autogas can refuel via the same centralized, on-site infrastructure, which can be tailored to fit its unique needs. Depending on storage necessity, longevity and available space, managers can choose between several options:

- Skid-mounted above-ground portable platforms
- Permanent above-ground stations
- Underground storage tanks

Skid-mount systems are typically pre-assembled, making installation or relocation quick and inexpensive, and allowing for safe refueling without the permanence of stationary systems. Skid-mount systems include an above-ground propane tank, dispenser, pump, piping, and control panel mounted on a concrete or steel frame to create a portable unit that can be installed, and then relocated in a matter of days if necessary. They require no permanent changes to the installation site, though above or underground storage tanks are also an option for longer-term use.

Local propane providers can help determine the best on-site refueling option for their mower and truck fleets, and facilitate ongoing fuel delivery. That includes mower



>> PROPANE-FUELED COMMERCIAL MOWER CYLINDER EXCHANGE PROGRAMS usually include installation of a cage and replacement of empty cylinders during regularly scheduled deliveries. The cylinders can be refueled via a centralized, on-site refueling infrastructure.

cylinder exchange programs, which usually include installation of a cage and replacement of empty cylinders with full ones during regularly scheduled deliveries. Propane providers also offer appropriate training to ensure safe refueling practices are always used. Thousands of refueling stations across the country also make propane autogas readily available for off-site refueling (see <http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/locator/stations/>)

MANAGING COSTS

The federal government, along with many states, offer programs to encourage the use of propane as an engine fuel. Currently, a 50-cent-per-gallon alternative-fuel tax credit is available for vehicles fueled by propane autogas. Federal tax credits are also available for 30% of the installation cost up to \$30,000 of alternative refueling structures. Consult their tax advisor regarding claims for credits or refunds, and the IRS website for appropriate dates and forms.

Operators can also increase savings as propane-fueled commercial mowers can operate during pollution advisory periods, such as ozone action days, when local regulations ban gasoline mowers to protect air quality.—Brian Feehan, Vice President, Propane Education & Research Council. ■



One machine, one operator from Kromer

The Field Commander Chameleon uses a “one machine, one operator” concept to maintain both natural and synthetic turf fields. This machine can groom, condition, level, paint, stripe lines, apply logos, end zone markings, yard markers, and coaching boxes. It also sprays water, chemicals, and disinfectants for both indoor and outdoor applications. The synthetic turf version can even cut a line and remove painted lines and logos in just minutes. All Field Commander units can be customized to meet your needs and budget.

Kromer Company

Stow-n-Go athletic field marker

Tru Mark Athletic Field Marker introduces the Model EZ-70 Stow-n-Go field marker. Tru Mark incorporated their proven floating paint shoe technology for crisp field lines on a three wheel steel chassis for durability and control even when painting curved lines and in close quarters. The EZ-70's walk behind compact design with ergonomic folding handlebar assembly ensures lightweight mobility. This field marker integrates easy operations and maintenance capabilities with a removable 5-gallon paint tank, a 12 volt sealed battery and an industrial strength 12 volt diaphragm pump. The EZ-70 along with SwitchBack Double Play Liquid chalk satisfies both natural grass and synthetic turf applications with easy removable performance of tradition powdered chalk.

Tru Mark



New, lighter synthetic field groomer

Wiedenmann has introduced the new, lighter weight Terra Groom. The design and placement of the brushes is a combination of zigzag brushes with a straight row of brushes in the front and rear of the brush. Wiedenmann engineers discovered that using stiffer bristle brushes on the front, straight row of the Terra Groom created results similar to that of using the rake finger attachment, and without the risk of catching a seam. The resulting distribution and decompaction of the infill is equal to or better than the results created when using rake fingers.

Wiedenmann North America



Redexim North America introduces tool Carrier

Redexim North America is now offering a new independent power unit that they call "The Carrier." The Carrier is a short, three-wheeled, self-propelled power unit that features a 32 hp, rear 540 PTO and hydrostatic drive. The Carrier can be fitted with multiple attachments including a Verti-Drain aerator that provides six inch depth, a verti-cut unit, a top-dresser and several seeder attachments. Large turf tires provide traction and keep ground compaction to a minimum even when fully loaded.

Redexim North America

Easily removed paint

Temp-Stripe athletic field marking paint applies like normal paint but is removable from synthetic turf. The exclusive formula was designed and developed for temporary use on synthetic turf fields in which numbers, lines, logos and boundaries require a quick change over following an event. Temp-Stripe is available in all team colors. Removal is accomplished with light to moderate water pressure and scrubbing or with help from our Port-A-Scrub paint removal machine. No costly chemical solutions needed. Because the colors are organic in nature and biodegradable, it is low VOC and safe on turf, uniforms and players. It's the original Temporary Athletic Field Paint.

Whitlam Paint Company

Aerosol paint from Louisville Slugger

Louisville Slugger® Game Time Sports Systems' Strip-It aerosol cans have uniform coverage and quick drying results, crisp lines, perfect for marking all athletic fields. Available in white and 11 colors. Free shipping on 15 cases or more.

Game Time Sports Systems

Hash mark painting system

Made of lightweight aluminum and foldable, the Line Up from Diversified Sports Specialties is a self-aligning hash mark painting system that comes in 5-yard units. It is 4 x 6-foot, made of 1/8-inch aluminum, with offsets built in for quick alignment. Three font types available and billed as "the only painting system you'll ever need."

MarkSmart Pump & Go Spray Liner

When it comes to field set-up and marking, the MarkSmart Pump & Go Spray Liner is a great, low-cost alternative to aerosol can painting. No more "stop, change and shake"; it's faster and leaves a more vivid line than aerosol. There is no motor, no compressor and no battery. It uses pre-mixed, ready-to-use EZ Paint and its 2-gallon capacity holds enough paint to do a soccer field or "touch-up" multiple soccer or flag football fields. Made in the USA and is companion to MarkSmart Field Lining Kits, allowing for faster, permanent field set-up and marking.

Markers, Inc.

Rubber drag mat

Earth & Turf Products, LLC, announces its heavy duty rubber drag mat for breaking up debris after core aeration and leveling fields after topdressing. Mats measure 6 ft. x 6 ft. and 3/4 in. thick, of recycled rubber. Durable hitch system sandwiches rubber between two steel plates using 7/16 in. bolts. All mats are shipped rolled up and bound with two strong cable ties. Total weight of each mat is 133 lbs. Pull chains are not included.

Earth & Turf Products, LLC

New fungicide

Quali-Pro has added Tebuconazole 3.6F fungicide to their turf portfolio. It provides excellent preventative and curative control on a broad spectrum of disease pathogens, including dollar spot, brown patch, anthracnose, snow molds and more. A systemic mode of action delivers up to three weeks of residual control and its multi-site activity is excellent for rotation in resistance management programs. Low use rates and the latest "mix-friendly" Quali-Pro formulation make Tebuconazole 3.6F easy to work with and convenient to apply. Labeled for disease control on warm and cool season grasses, golf course turf and around landscape, nursery ornamentals, Tebuconazole is not for labeled for use on residential lawns.

Quali-Pro

Varsity chalk line markers

Straight field marking is a cinch with the chalk line markers available at Future Pro. These marking units are constructed of heavy-duty galvanized and powder coated steel for years of use. Choose 50 lb. or 100 lb. capacity. The four 10-inch diameter cushion wheels and ergonomic handle design make both models easy to roll. There's a smooth chalk shutoff for consistent lines. Spray paint line markers are also available. Future Pro is an authorized Bison dealer, and won't be undersold on Bison equipment.

Future Pro



For more information on any of these products, please visit www.greenmediaonline.com/productportal

F.O.Y.

Field of the Year

Grow-in results in Field of the Year Award for North Scott Community

>> 9/4/09: Pre-game warm-ups, 135 days after seeding

NORTH SCOTT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, ELDRIDGE, IA, won the STMA 2010 Football Field of the Year in the School/Parks category, led by John Netwal, CGCS, a leader and influential turf manager in the region. Director of Operations Netwal was a superintendent for 20 years before taking of the sports turf management for the school district before being named to his current post. He and what he calls the District's "unsung heroes," his 3-man maintenance team, Andy Hamman, Terry Loesel and Chris Thomas, cover 110 acres of general grounds and 11 acres of sports fields.

The football field needed renovated because an open ditch between track and field was getting worse and so was the drainage. The 50-year-old playing surface was stripped to a

depth of 11 inches to establish a new base pad for rebuilding the field; the pad was laser-leveled and new irrigation and drainage systems were installed. The entire playing surface was capped with 4 inches of 85-15 mixture of USGA sand and Dakota peat, and laser-graded. Then the surface was lowered about 6 inches to provide for a smoother transition from track to turf.

GROW-IN BEGAN SPRING 2009

"The original project schedule gave us 145-day window to grow in. With weather delays we lost 10 days, which I didn't think we could afford," Netwal wrote in his entry. "We finally seeded the field April 24 and began the grow-in by irrigating the field with 3-minute sets on the hour throughout the day. Within 12 days of this light, frequent irrigation the field began to germinate; then we started to pump nutrients into the field.

"In May we applied fertilizer weekly (total lbs: 5.07 N, 3.49 P, 4.32 K/1,000 sq ft) in just the first month. May 26, 32 days



5/18/09:
24 days after seeding



5/26/09:
Turf density after first mowing



6/8/09:
46 days after seeding

after seeding we mowed the first time and by the end of the month we were mowing 3x/week.

“We continued weekly fertilizer applications through June (nutrients total lbs: 7.2 N, 4.49 P, 5.69 K/1,000 sq ft) and the program jump started our field and brought density to nearly 100% by the end of June.

“In July we changed the irrigation regime to 15-minute sets during the night with occasional syringes during days as necessary. We also began to use growth regulators that reduced mowing requirements from 3x to 2x/week. July 31, 100 days after seeding, we took rootzone soil profiles and found a 3.5-4-inch root system throughout the field. Through July’s total nutrients: 9.37 N, 4.94 P, 6.66 K/1,000 sq ft.

“In August we changed irrigation to deep, infrequent cycles to encourage deeper rooting. Through four months of growth, our total nutrients were 10.66 N, 5.55 P, 7.49 K/1,000 sq ft.

“We held the first game of the season September 4, 135 days after seeding. The turfgrass was dense and had established a 4-inch root system throughout the field so it was ready. Through 5 months’ growth: 12.74 N, 5.75 P, 8.29 K/1,000 sq ft.

“In October we cut back on fertilizer apps as we began to phase out of the grow-in and into a maintenance fertility program. Into November and football over, we made a final, dormant application bringing the total grow-in nutrients to 13.42 lbs N, 5.75 lbs P and 8.51 lbs K per 1,000 sq ft.



» 6/9/09: Iowa STMA Chapter Turf & Technology Workshop

“This aggressive grow-in program succeeded as we went from seed to a full season of play without missing one scheduled event,” Netwal wrote.

SportsTurf: What changes are you planning to make to your maintenance plan for 2011, if any?

Netwal: We have always challenged ourselves as a team to take our turf management programs to the next level and try to exceed the expectations of our administration, coaches, athletes and community. To accomplish this we constantly evaluate our maintenance



Sharing is the goal.

Soccer or Football? Share the field with no worries.

The **Kwik Goal Fusion 120** is the perfect soccer goal when your field is shared between football and soccer. You can have it both ways, easily.



800-747-5985 BeaconAthletics.com

FIELD MAINTENANCE . GAME-PRACTICE EQUIPMENT . TRAINING & CONDITIONING

WE MAKE THE



quality bulk paints



custom windscreens



bright aerosols



custom stencils



painting equipment

JOIN THE
WORLD CLASS TEAM



Find it all on our website:
www.worldclasspaints.com
1.800.748.9649



>> 7/1/09: 70 days after seeding



>> 7/30/09: Turf profile 100 days after seeding

programs for effectiveness and examine the labor intensity required to produce those results. It is our goal is to be as cost effective as possible without sacrificing quality. We also take the time to run our own trials with new products or maintenance techniques to keep us on the cutting edge. This way we know exactly what to expect before our investing in a field wide application or with a new maintenance procedure. We are always looking for the best blend of maintenance practices and procedures that will provide us with the highest quality of the turf.

This past year we conducted multiple test of Tenacity herbicide (Syngenta) for the purpose of exploring if it is something that would fit into our programs.

Through our own research, we learned that this may be an effective tool for reducing *poa annua* in our bluegrass fields and have developed a comfort level with this product through our own trials. This year we will be applying Tenacity @ 3.2 oz/acre every other day for a total of five applications starting in early June on our bluegrass soccer and football fields. We hope to repeat the same success we had in our trials last year and if so, we expect to see a significant reduction in the *poa annua* in our fields.

Another change this year is that we will be treating our high wear areas on our football field differently than the rest of the field. We will be overseeding our sidelines and the area between the hash marks between the 20-yard lines with Rush Kentucky Bluegrass. It is our hope that this more aggressive bluegrass will perform better in these high traffic wear areas. Another change to our program will be to supplement these same areas with additional nutrients to bolster the growth and density of the turf these vulnerable areas. By treating these areas separately from the rest of the field, we hope to grow more durable turf on the sidelines and between the hash marks.

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

By treating these areas separately from the rest of the field, we hope to grow more durable turf on the sidelines and between the hash marks.

Netwal: "Green Side Up" over the years it has come to mean many different things for me as a turf manager; but mostly this term, reminds me not to take things so seriously. It all started out, many years ago on a sodding project, when one of my staff intentionally laid one piece of sod upside down. It was on that day, that I believed that I learned not to take myself, so seriously and that term has followed me throughout my career to mean just about anything I need it too, regarding turf management.

Another bit of advice that has always stuck with me throughout my life and career is something that my father had often reminded me of, and that was; "anything worth doing is worth doing right." This advice as has guided me throughout much of life and career. I may not have always gotten things right, but I figure if you start out trying, hopefully most of what I do will.

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

Netwal: Not very well, this has always been a challenge for me. Unfortunately, some very special people have made some sacrifices, so that I could pursue my career goals and now that that time has passed, I may never be able to get that time back. My advice to others in this profession would be to make sure that you take the time for yourself and your family. Fortunately, I have taken up a new hobby and I have actually taken some time off work to pursue it.

ST: What advice might you have for K-12 turf managers who are trying to maintain high standards despite budget cuts?

Netwal: One thing that has worked very well for me over the years is what I refer to as my "Sports Field Maintenance Plan." This plan is a very detailed written plan that outlines every maintenance task, product application and costing information for everything we do in the maintenance of our athletic fields. We calculate how much each individual maintenance input for our fields is actually



>> 10/27/09: End of season sideline damage

going to cost. For example we know that in any given year we are going to mow one of our fields one time per week in the off season and twice a week in during the season. This means that we may need to mow the field approximately 45 times. We also know that it takes us approximately 2 hours two mow the field once; thus requiring approximately 90 hours of labor to mow the field for the season. Knowing approximately how many hours it going to take to

mow our field for the season multiplied by our labor rate gives us our total mowing cost for the season.

We use this approach for every input we schedule for all of fields. It's in this detail that gives our plan and budget its legitimacy. When you know your programs in this detail, you can easily evaluate and respond to any adjustments to your budget. I have always prided myself on the detail of my management plans and if I was ever asked to reduce my budget, it would be relatively easy task for us to make adjustments. So if my employer asked me to reduce the budget; I would ask them just what maintenance task they would they want me not to do? I would begin by with asking them if they would want me to extend the periods between painting game lines and if so, would they accept the lines being faded? Obviously, the answer would probably be no, that's unacceptable.

Then I would ask them if they wanted me to mow the field one time less per week during the season, but if we do that would they be willing to accept mow muffins on the playing surface occasionally? Again, the answer would most likely be no. Then I would ask them if they wanted me to fertilize less and if we did so, would they willing to accept thin turf on their playing surfaces? I'm sure the answer to that would also be no.

If you become the expert of your fields and know what your costs are for everything you do, you can tell people what they can expect to see in advance if you delete or reduce any maintenance activity. You might be surprised to find that they won't want to reduce

— Andrew Adams
Capital Turf Management
Willow Grove, PA

Make a statement with DuPont™ Acelepryn® insecticide.

Evolve your business with DuPont™ Acelepryn®, the latest advancement in grub control. One application provides unparalleled performance against every turf-damaging white grub species as well as key surface feeders. And thanks to the Acelepryn® Application Advantage, you can apply when it best fits your program—providing ultimate flexibility for even the busiest playing seasons. Also Acelepryn® is the first and only grub control product to be granted reduced-risk status by the U.S. EPA for application to turfgrass. And, it features one of the lowest application rates (lb/acre) and water solubility for white grub control with an excellent environmental and toxicological profile.

DuPont™ Acelepryn®. Start an evolution.

For more information visit us at proproducts.dupont.com/aceleprynsports.



The miracles of science™

DuPont™ Acelepryn® is classified for restricted use in New York state. Acelepryn® is not for sale, sale into, distribution and/or use in Nassau, Suffolk, Kings and Queens counties of New York. Acelepryn® is not registered in Hawaii. Always read and follow the label. The DuPont Oval Logo, DuPont™ The miracles of science™ and Acelepryn® are trademarks or registered trademarks of DuPont or its affiliates. Copyright © 2011 E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company. All rights reserved.

Membership Application



Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

This form is only valid for first time STMA National members through Sept. 30, 2011
(membership benefits continue through Dec. 31, 2011)

Name _____ Title _____
Employer/Facility _____

Business Home

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Ph: _____ Home Ph: _____ Cell Ph: _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Fax to: (785) 843-2977

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

Membership Category:

- Sports Turf Manager \$55
 Sports Turf Manager Associate* (Additional Member(s) from the same facility) \$55*

Please select the primary facility type where you are employed:

- Professional Sports Higher Education Schools K-12 Parks & Recreation
- Academic \$55
 Student (Verification of enrollment) \$25
 Commercial \$148
 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

Credit Card: Please do not email credit card info, please call 800-323-3875 to provide Exp Date: _____

Card # _____ 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.

F.O.Y. | North Scott Community School District



>> 11/14/09: 205 days after seeding

your budget because they definitely won't want the results.

You need to be able to effectively communicate and demonstrate your maintenance programs and by having a detailed written Sports Turf Management Plan would go a long way in accomplishing you as the expert on the field to your employer.

ST: Are you yet involved in "sustainable" management practices? If so, what are you doing?

Netwal: As a manager of a property, I have always taken the responsibility of managing the land seriously. It has always been a goal of mine to leave that land in better shape than when I took over the responsibility for it. I have always strived to be the best manager that I could be with the property that was entrusted to me. I have always wanted others to enjoy the property as much as I did. Some of my past efforts to demonstrate this sense of responsibility have lead to the awarding of two Environmental Stewardship Merit Awards from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the certification of Glynn's Creek Golf Course in Long Grove, Iowa as a Cooperative Wildlife Sanctuary through the New York Audubon. Much of what I have learned

through those experiences continues to manifest its self in everything we do here for the North Scott Community School District. It has been a great honor to provide our students and community with the highest quality of playing conditions in the area. ■

CYCLONE KB4
Engineered to Perform. Built to Last!

www.buffaloturbine.com
BUFFALO TURBINE

Ph: 716.592.2700 / Fax: 716.592.2460
All Buffalo Turbine products are manufactured in the U.S.A. and feature a one year warranty.

IHRA OFFICIAL BLOWER
MADE IN THE USA
NHRA PREFERRED TRACK BLOWER

Paint → Extract → Repaint.

The *original* removable turf paint and equipment.
It's how the pros convert their fields.

TempLine

ECO TEMPLINE REMOVABLE TURF PAINT AND EQUIPMENT
eco-templine.com | 800.677.7930

STMA streamlines the Field of the Year Awards process

SUBMITTING AN ENTRY to the Field of the Year Awards program is now electronic. Applicants are required to fill out the writable application form, which is located at www.STMA.org under the Professionalism Tab/Awards, and submit it electronically. Photos are also required to be created in a PowerPoint. The PowerPoint can be submitted through our online drop box or applicants can send a CD or jump drive to STMA headquarters. These materials must be received at STMA headquarters no later than October 15.

Now is the perfect time to begin preparing your STMA Field of the Year Application. The program requires photos from throughout the year and completion of the STMA PCI four times, so it is important to begin working on those items.

The Awards Committee implemented the change to an electronic process to allow for remote judging of applications, to provide a fair process for all applicants regardless of the budget spent on the packaging of the submittal, and to focus on the field management practices.

By applying for the STMA Field of

the Year Awards, members gain recognition from their employers and community. Community athletic facilities are a point of local pride, and by applying for this program, and showcasing your expertise in the process, you can draw media attention and gain respect throughout the community for the hard work you, your crew and volunteers undertake making your field look and play its best.

Each Field of the Year Award winner is presented with a special plaque at the STMA Awards Banquet, held each year at the STMA Conference and Exhibition. This year, the Awards Banquet will be the evening of Friday, January 13, 2012 in Long Beach, CA. In addition to the plaque, each STMA Field of the Year winner will receive free conference registration, three nights of lodging at the conference hotel, STMA signature apparel, and a feature article in the official publication of STMA, *SportsTurf Magazine*. These awards are generously supported by STMA's official awards sponsors Carolina Green Corp., Covermaster, Inc., Hunter Industries and World Class Athletic Surfaces. ■

Winners reflect on FOY Award

"We are all working with very different levels of understanding, budgets and expectations for the facilities that we all maintain. Often, much of what we do in sports turf management is missed by those who depend on what we do. They don't usually recognize the time and effort put into field maintenance, they just like it when everything looks beautiful. I have found that the people who have the best idea of what we do day in and out, is another fellow Sports Turf Manager. They are the only ones who actually understand the trials and tribulations of the job. So, when the opportunity came about to have my fields and programs reviewed by my peers in the Field of the Year Award program, I took the challenge to find out where my programs stood according to the people who know the industry. There has been no greater honor for me to have had our fields and maintenance programs reviewed by my peers. This has been a great shot in the arm for me both personally and professionally. When anyone enters one of our award winning fields they are greeted by signs letting them know that these fields are award winning fields and that they are maintained by a professional staff."

John Netwal, CGCS, North Scott Community Schools, Eldridge, IA, Winner of 2010 Football Field of the Year - Schools and Parks category

"There is a science to what we do, and winning this award helps showcase it. I sit back and think about all the challenges that the crew and I went through, and realize it was noticed by others. Winning the award has put the Athletic Field department on the map. We are not just people that mow grass."

John Watt, CSFM, North Kansas City Schools, Kansas City, MO, Winner of 2010 Softball Field of the Year - Schools and Parks category

"Winning a Field of the Year Award has been beneficial for several areas. Personally, it has provided self-gratification, a significant achievement to add to my résumé, and has made many people aware of the STMA for the first time. The university is able to promote another achievement, and especially uses it in recruiting athletes and potential students, enticing them with the opportunity to play on an award winning field. The award benefits my employer in sales, when trying to gain additional accounts and maintain others due for renewal, showing the expertise that they are able to provide. When I entered our facility for a field of the year award, I was honestly doing it more for a sense of personal achievement and fulfillment. At that time, I never imagined how much the university or my employer would benefit from it as well."

—Kari Allen, CSFM, Sodexo/Benedictine University, New Lenox, IL, Winner of the 2010 Baseball Field of the Year and Softball Field of the Year - College & University category. ■

