

## WHY STMA SHOULD CONSIDER YOUR FIELD A WINNER?

Championship Field is home to the Seattle University Men & Women's varsity soccer programs. It serves as both the practice and game field. Our vicinity to Century Link Field also makes us an attractive venue for hosting training sessions and special events for MLS, NWSL, National teams, and occasionally the English Premier League; in 2011 Manchester United trained while on tour in the US.

Each year seems to have more scheduled (and unscheduled) events. Normally we have a month of uninterrupted down time to renovate and prepare the field for summer camps and the start of training for the fall soccer season, but this year has been by far the busiest. In early spring, we hosted Santos Laguna twice and the Seattle Reign FC, the professional women's team. In addition to varsity soccer, Championship Field hosted our University Rec's men's and women's club soccer tournaments. At the end of spring soccer, we had 2 weeks before the next scheduled camp, and rumors were going around we were a potential host site for the USMNT while in town for the World Cup qualifier in June. Unfortunately, the USMNT decided to train elsewhere, but our little pitch soon became very busy nonetheless.

The first two weeks of July, we hosted DC United 3 days; Panama and Martinique during the Gold Cup matches; Seattle Reign FC twice; and a Special Olympics event all while our men and women's teams were running summer camps. In total, over 14 days we hosted 17 events and logged 81 hours of use with minimal wear.

Our biggest challenge is squeezing in maintenance amongst events. Between the men and women's teams, our 86,000 square foot pitch is in use nearly every day of the week. That doesn't leave much time for maintenance, so scheduling and active communication with coaching and Athletics staff is critical to our success, as well as being creative with our work.

Aeration and frequent seeding are two of the keys to our success. Our goal is to be on the pitch each week with a slicer, solid-tines or pulling cores. With aeration, we put out 5,000 pounds of seed each season.

We are also pesticide-free and mostly organic. Following a sound IPM program and using biostimulants and bridged organic fertilizers, allow us to keep from applying synthetic chemical pesticides. We combat *Poa annua* by diligently hand cutting it out, and maintaining a healthy, dense stand of perennial rye/Kentucky bluegrass.

At the end of each season, I am always amazed how much use our field receives, and how well it stands up to the daily rigors of training and games by both teams. I know the major key to our success is the passion and dedication our team puts into creating a quality pitch for our university's varsity soccer program.

**SportsTurf:** What channels of communication do you use to reach coaches, administrators, and users of your facility? Any tips for communicating well?

**Kevin White:** We use various forms of communication, from formal boardroom style meetings to informal texting. During the season, we have standing weekly meetings with the coaches, athletic directors and game operations staff to ensure ev-

eryone is on the same page. At Seattle University, our department, Facilities Services, is separate from Athletics, so an open line of communication is vital. We also see the coaches every day on the field where we can chat about field use, the upcoming game, or whatever. If I need a quick response, I can send a text. We have established a great relationship with our coaches and athletics personnel, and it is not uncommon to receive texts with pics of fields when the coaches are on the road saying, "Hey, check this out!"

The best advice I have for communicating well is to be positive and present solutions, not problems. Be visible and approachable. Concerning coaches, remember that they are used to telling people what to do, and do not respond well to negativity—especially if it is on the field during training! We all have jobs to do, so we must work together on a compromise that is reasonable for us both. I like to arrange meetings on the field to discuss options. It is an environment we are both comfortable in, and it is easier to visualize what we are talking about.

**ST:** What are your specific responsibilities? What is your favorite task? Least favorite?

**White:** I am responsible for the development and execution of maintenance programs for our athletic fields, including budget and labor: Championship Field, a natural grass soccer game/training field, and Logan Field, a synthetic rec/intramural and varsity softball with skinned infield. Additionally, we maintain the landscapes associated with the fields and other campus facilities. Seattle University is dedicated to, and recognized for, its environmental stewardship. Our campus grounds are 100% organically managed and pesticide-free, while our athletic fields are pesticide-free and receive organic products where practicable. I feel honored and proud to work with the talented and dedicated individuals within our department, especially those on our Turf Team whom I work with on a daily basis: David "DC" Clausen, Senior Gardener; Peter Larson, Gardener/Field Technician; John Easley, Irrigation Specialist; and a revolving door of student employees. Without their support, and the support of our manager, Shannon Britton, this award would not have been possible.

## Equipment list

- John Deere Pro Gator
- John Deere 4520 Tractor w/Loader
- Wiedenmann XP6 Aerator
- Wiedenmann Terra-Combi Slicer
- SmithCo V62 Sweeper
- Toro RM3100D mower
- Redexim Verti-seed
- TyCrop QP450 topdresser
- Tow-behind roller
- Tow-behind 150 gal. sprayer
- Graco FieldLazer Paint Sprayer
- Each year we borrow a First Products V60 verti-cutter from the Seattle Seahawks.

## Field of the Year



What I enjoy most is providing our teams a high quality grass field. A lot of that enjoyment comes in the challenge of dealing with two teams training and playing games on one field, which receives 700 to 800 hours of use per year. We are always trying to improve through trying new methods, new equipment, or new products. We're not satisfied with 'good enough'! I also find a great deal of satisfaction in working with and mentoring Peter Larson on Championship Field. Peter handles the daily maintenance and doesn't have a background in turfgrass management, but has really excelled in learning and absorbing the concepts and methods we employ to create a quality field.

I enjoy everything I do, but wouldn't mind sitting in fewer meetings. I think most things can be dealt with through email.

**ST:** How did you get your start in turf management? What was your first job?

**White:** I began my career in turf management on the golf side in Southern California, and feel fortunate to have worked at some great places with some incredible people along the way. Initially, I wanted to become a golf course architect, but after some advice from the late Dr. Kent Kurtz, while we were waiting in line at an airport, I chose to pursue Turfgrass Management at Cal Poly Pomona. Kent was a tough professor, wise mentor, and good friend. He had a way of pushing you to your limit, but always had your best interest at heart. His impact on me will last my lifetime; he just had that kind of effect on people!

Seattle University is the first sports turf job I have had, and it has been a very rewarding one. It has also been a great place to transition from golf to sports turf with having a grass field, a synthetic field, and a skinned infield. I've learned a lot in a short time, and continue to learn every day.

**ST:** How do you balance your family life with work demands?

**White:** I find it to be much easier now than when I was an assistant superintendent. Working in golf was difficult, and it put

a big strain on our marriage. Sure, we have busy seasons and long days now, but taking time off isn't really a challenge. The team knows how to do everything, which makes all the difference.

**ST:** What changes if any are you considering or implementing for the winning field in 2014?

**White:** We constantly make little tweaks to our maintenance program trying to make it better, but this year we decided to try something a little bigger. Following the final spring soccer game on May 12, we began the process of fraze mowing, recycle dressing and seeding. We then had 7 weeks to grow it back in before the start of the 2014 soccer season, which culminates in November when we host both Western Athletic Conference women's and men's soccer tournaments. It is going to be a very busy season!

**ST:** How do you see the Sports Turf Manager's job changing in the future?

**White:** I think we are going to have to continue to be more open-minded about maintenance practices and push boundaries in terms of field use for our natural surfaces. I do not think natural grass gets enough credit in terms of how much wear it can tolerate. The new technology in equipment and products, and the new breeds of turfgrasses that are emerging now is very encouraging and exciting. I do believe synthetic surfaces have a place in this industry. However, in my opinion I see an unfortunate trend going on across the country. Personally, I feel that we are losing an appreciation for the art and science of growing a quality stand of grass for sport. I see the profession I'm deeply passionate about and wholly committed to changing. I just hope we can slow, or reverse the current trend, and continue to do what we got into this business to do...grow quality grass! ■

*STMA would like to thank Carolina Green, Ewing, Hunter Industries and World Class Athletic Surfaces for their continued support of the Field of the Year Awards Program.*

By Kenzie Jay

For more on the latest news, please visit [www.sportsturf.com](http://www.sportsturf.com) and [www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org).

## SAFE celebrates 10th anniversary

**A** decade; some may view it as just a 10-year span in time, but we view it as a celebration. And this year, it's time to celebrate some STMA members. Although we won't literally be popping champagne in our offices, know that our hats are off to you as we celebrate your success.

The SAFE Foundation, STMA's charity, takes pride in its ability to provide scholarships for individuals aspiring to be in the field. Since its inception in 2000, the SAFE Foundation has presented 120 students more than \$225,000 in scholarships and travel to the STMA Conference and Exhibition. For some, this year marks the 10-year anniversary since SAFE has presented them with scholarships, an equally rewarding and honorable recognition. So this month we caught up with them to see what they're up to now. Willing and ready to share their positive experience with us, we dove into the details about the scholarship process, the conferences and advice for future scholarship recipients.



Kyle Slaton



Shawn Mahonski



Nathan Salmore

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Scattered all over the United States, that's where. We tracked down where these SAFE scholarship recipients have made their mark over the past 10 years, working with communities and universities alike.

Kyle Slaton, a Penn State University grad, is the Director of Sports Turf & Grounds at Georgia State University. Slaton has been in this position 4 years and enjoys being in charge of all the NCAA athletic fields within the university grounds. Slaton's favorite part of his job is having the ability to come in during a rebuilding year and see the progress made within the grounds department and athletic fields.

A fellow Penn State grad, Shawn Mahonski, is the Athletic Field Manager at Towson University. With 9 years under his belt at this position, Mahonski credits his loyalty to Towson and college athletics to the unpredictability and array of challenges he is presented with, keeping every day interesting.

Nathan Salmore, a University of Massachusetts-Amherst grad, is the Assistant Grounds Superintendent at Longwood Cricket Club in Chestnut Hill, MA. Salmore claims he's enjoyed the past 4 years at LCC due to the unique challenge of maintaining both grass and clay tennis courts.



Matt Anderson



Nick Gow



Dan Blank

A graduate of Michigan State University, Matt Anderson is the Grounds Superintendent at the University of Arizona. Anderson said the love of being outdoors and around sports has kept him in Arizona since he began the position 3 years ago.

Nick Gow, an Iowa State University grad, is the Athletics Facility Manager for the City of Muscatine, Iowa. With his position, Gow is responsible for an eight-field soccer complex, an 18-field softball and baseball complex, and is a turf advisor for a golf course.

After 7 years in a non-related field, Dan Blank has taken his talents to Omaha, NE serving on the biggest stage of college baseball. Blank is the Turf Manager at TD Ameritrade Park, home of the NCAA Men's College World Series.

### CONFERENCE TALK

One of the highlights of receiving the scholarship through the SAFE Foundation is the opportunity to attend the national STMA Conference. In addition to a financial scholarship, each winner's conference registration is paid for and each receives three nights lodging at the conference.

STMA's Annual Conference & Exhibition allows members to share information with other successful members of the sports turf industry and participate in educational seminars and hands-on workshops. Conference attendees are able to tour professional, college and municipal turf facilities that offer a range of insights to take back home. STMA works hard to plan exceptional conferences, but it's the unplanned friendships that make the biggest impression on the scholars.

"There were people that came up to me and introduced themselves to me at the first conference. I was able to talk to them and build a friendship," says Slaton. "The best part of the conference is making friends and seeing everyone."

Known for its eclectic host cities, fun events and exceptional speakers, the conference is unanimously the favorite of scholarship perks among the scholars.

"My ultimate best thing about going to the conference was going to see some of my friends that I only get to see at the conference," adds Mahonski, "also the education, the developments presented in the classes and hearing about the research."



The camaraderie among the sports turf managers isn't the only perk that has the conference buzzing. For Nick Gow, the speakers confirmed that the sports turf industry was the right path for him. "There are amazing speakers out there," he notes. "The ability to hear several professors talk about topics that interest me and expand my knowledge in the sports turf industry helped significantly."

## CHANGES IN THE BUSINESS

Over the past decade, the sports turf industry has grown to be a highly visible profession with tremendous growth potential. Things are changing for the better, with rising salaries at top positions and new facilities and field conversions.

"The work I see people do (either on social media, newsletters, pictures), the quality of work people do blows me away," says Anderson.

The industry has secured a spot on the fast track to broader recognition with over \$1.29 billion in purchases of sports turf products and services annually, according to University of Missouri's Sports Turf AdvanTage. Technology has also seen a progression within the industry, helping sports turf managers' jobs become easier.

"It's amazing to look back at the first conference I went to. It's only been 10 years, and there is such a difference and improvement in equipment and types of fertilizers," says Slaton. "I can't imagine what the next 10 years will do. Technology is becoming a bigger part."

The combination of better technology and a growing industry has helped to better equip fields for use and safety. Nick Gow mentions how the growing industry has provided more opportunities for sports turf managers. "The green industry has really gone from growing grass to upper management of synthetic fields," he says. "It's a growing industry and will continue to grow. I've seen major improvements of high school facilities. The number one goal of a sports turf manager is to provide safe, quality athletic facilities for youth and adults in communities."

As the industry has become more recognizable, so have the rewarding aspects of sports turf management. Gow touches on a very important value of being a sports turf manager, and opens up the discussion for how others, such as coaches and players, can make a difference. According to Sports Turf AdvanTage, some of the most rewarding aspects of Sports Turf Management include: appreciation by coaches, players and fans, having a plan come together and seeing fields hold up to heavy traffic.

But the biggest draw, mentions Salmore, is the opportunity to work outside and around sports. "Working outside is a big draw," says Salmore. "Working around sports is great."

Blank shared in Salmore's enthusiasm claiming that being outside was also his favorite part about working within the green business. The desire to work around a particular sport is also important to some sports turf managers.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year, the SAFE foundation awards their scholarships to the most qualified applicants. The applicants are judged on academic preparation, cumulative grade point average, experience in sports turf

management, and references provided by student advisers and previous or current employers. They are also evaluated on their contributions to their school, department, and organizations to which they belong, as well as their career objectives. Although GPA is included, the scholarship is not focused on the idea of grade point average.

"I've recommended applying to scholarships to students and people I know in the industry all the time," says Anderson. "It's not just based on your academic performance and grades. More is taken in account than just your GPA. People think that is what it's all about, so they don't apply." Like any scholarship, the hope is to further encourage the academic success of the individual as well as provide some positive recognition of an individual's accomplishments.

Dan Blank discusses how beneficial receiving the scholarship was for him. "[It] solidified everything for me. It made everything real. It was a 'this is it, let's do this' kind of thing," he says. "It was a positive reinforcement and good to have on a résumé."

Almost all of the scholars claimed the recognition and having the scholarship on their résumé helped with job interviews. Most of the job interviews eventually landed them jobs in the long run.

"[The scholarship] shows that you're dedicated and interested in what you're doing," says Salmore. "It helped on my resume and job interviews. It definitely helped get the jobs that I applied for."

The scholarship is also an important introduction to STMA for those individuals interested in the sports turf industry. An STMA membership allows members to access job postings and a leg up on others applying for jobs within the industry. Shawn Mahonski received his current job as Athletic Field Manager at Towson University because of his membership with STMA.

At STMA, we make it a SAFE bet that applying for the scholarship will be worth it. With the easy application process and long-time benefits, we encourage all individuals planning a career in the sports turf industry to apply.

The application process includes simply printing and completing the application and returning it to the SAFE Scholarship Committee. It's as simple as that: just do it! SAFE's goal is to make it as easy as possible to apply for the scholarship. Nick Gow urges those interested to apply and apply every year. The scholars raved at how easy the process was, and mentioned how they recommend it to their interns and students because it could lead to something bigger and better. "Apply for every opportunity that is out there and take advantage. Most of them lead to somewhere or another opportunity," says Mahonski.

Ten years has come and gone, and these scholars are still reminiscing about the journey they've had. STMA applauds you and your dedication to the industry. Continuously grateful to our members, the SAFE Foundation and its scholarships would not be possible without the support and donations to help us fulfill our mission to enrich communities through championing safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes. ■

*Kenzie Jay is the SAFE Foundation intern and a University of Kansas journalism student.*

## List of Current CSFM's:

|                    |                                |                    |                    |                   |             |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Richard Alford     | CSFM                           | Amy Fouty          | CSFM               | Brandon Putman    | CSFM        |
| Kari Allen         | CSFM                           | Mark Frever        | CSFM               | Jon Quist         | CSFM        |
| Matt Anderson      | CSFM                           | Dale Getz          | CSFM, CSE          | Allen Reed        | CSFM        |
| Mike Andresen      | CSFM                           | Jody Gill          | CSFM               | James Rodgers     | CSFM        |
| Weston Appelfeller | CSFM                           | James Gish         | CSFM               | Matthew Rogers    | CSFM        |
| Peter Ashe         | CSFM                           | Josh Glover        | CSFM               | C. Tom Rudberg    | CSFM        |
| Ted Baker          | CSFM                           | Ed Hall            | CSFM               | Connie Rudolph    | CSFM        |
| Robert Behr        | CSFM                           | Kevin Hardy        | CSFM               | Dean Rush         | CSFM        |
| Bob Benyo          | CSFM                           | James Hermann      | CSFM               | Jeff Salmond      | CSFM        |
| Steve Berg         | CSFM                           | Shane Hohlbein     | CSFM               | Don Savard        | CSFM, CGM   |
| James Bergdoll     | CSFM                           | Chris Hohnstrater  | CSFM               | Casey Scheidel    | CSFM        |
| George Bernardon   | CSFM                           | Eric Holland       | CSFM               | Mike Schiller     | CSFM Ret.   |
| Larry Berry        | CSFM                           | Jonathan Holland   | CSFM, CFB          | Don Scholl        | CSFM        |
| Scott Bills        | CSFM                           | Douglas Horn       | CSFM               | Carey See         | CSFM        |
| Ben Boeding        | CSFM                           | Ron Hostick        | CSFM, CGM          | Alan Siebert      | CSFM        |
| Rick Bold          | CSFM                           | Michael Hrivnak    | CSFM               | Jimmy Simpson     | CSFM        |
| Jeff Bosworth      | CSFM                           | David Iannicello   | CSFM               | Kyle Slaton       | CSFM        |
| Jason Bowers       | CSFM                           | Mark Janz          | CSFM               | David Smith       | CSFM        |
| Joey Brazil        | CSFM                           | Allen Johnson      | CSFM               | Troy Smith        | CSFM        |
| TJ Brewer          | CSFM                           | Shane Johnson      | CSFM               | Grant Spear       | CSFM        |
| Noel Brusius       | CSFM                           | Patrick Jonas      | CSFM               | Jim Speelman      | CSFM        |
| Darin Budak        | CSFM, CPRE                     | Martin Kaufman     | CSFM               | Jim Stamps, Jr.   | CSFM        |
| Michael Buras      | CSFM                           | Johnathan Knight   | CSFM               | Robert Standing   | CSFM        |
| Steve Bush         | CSFM                           | Jared Knoodle      | CSFM               | Scott Stevens     | CSFM        |
| Richard Calarco    | CSFM                           | Joe Kovolyan       | CSFM, ISA Arborist | Tony Strickland   | CSFM        |
| Chris Calcaterra   | M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP              | Ross Kurcab        | CSFM               | Joey Surratt      | CSFM        |
| Bob Campbell       | CSFM                           | William Lawrence   | CSFM               | Brett Tanner      | CSFM        |
| Brian Carey        | CSFM                           | Timothy Legare     | CSFM, CPRP         | Michael Tarantino | CSFM        |
| Matt Carl          | CSFM                           | Jeremy Link        | CSFM               | Kevin Taylor      | CSFM        |
| Casey Carrick      | CSFM                           | Shaun Lynch        | CSFM               | Waldo Terrell     | CSFM        |
| Richard Clarke     | CSFM                           | Kevin Malone       | CSFM               | Peter Thibeault   | CSFM        |
| Patrick Coakley    | CSFM                           | Joshua Marden      | CSFM               | Nolan Thomas      | CSFM        |
| Joe Collins        | CSFM                           | Sarah Martin       | CSFM               | Scott Thompson    | CSFM        |
| Herb Combs         | CSFM                           | Stephen Matuza     | CSFM               | Lance Tibbetts    | CSFM, NHCLP |
| James Cornelius    | CSFM                           | Ryan McCaughey     | CSFM               | Mike Trigg        | CSFM        |
| Clark Cox          | CSFM                           | Mike McDonald      | CSFM               | George Trivett    | CSFM        |
| Joseph Creadon     | CSFM                           | Nick McKenna       | CSFM               | Elvin Ulmer       | CSFM        |
| Stephen Crockett   | CSFM                           | Abby McNeal        | CSFM               | Tim VanLoo        | CSFM        |
| Marcus Dean        | CSFM                           | Joshua McPherson   | CSFM               | Raechal Volkening | CSFM        |
| Jason Demink       | CSFM                           | Kevin Mercer       | CSFM               | Kevin Vos         | CSFM        |
| Chris Denson       | CSFM                           | Kevin Meredith     | CSFM               | Michael Wade      | CSFM        |
| Jon DeWitt         | CSFM                           | Chris Metcalf      | CSFM               | Michael Wagner    | CSFM        |
| Michael DiDonato   | CSFM                           | Boyd Montgomery    | CSFM, CSE          | Rusty Walker      | CSFM        |
| Adam Dixon         | CSFM                           | Jason Moore        | CSFM               | Joseph Warner     | CSFM        |
| Brian Dossett      | CSFM                           | Timothy Moore      | CSFM               | Jay Warnick       | CSFM        |
| Jesse Driver       | CSFM                           | Marc Moran         | CSFM               | John Watt         | CSFM        |
| Steve Dugas        | CSFM                           | Stuart Morris      | CSFM               | Glen Wear         | CSFM        |
| Matt Duncan        | CSFM                           | Justin Mullis      | CSFM               | Roger Weinbrenner | CSFM        |
| Alan Dungey        | CSFM                           | Brent Neighbor     | CSFM               | Dean Whitehead    | CSFM        |
| Kenneth Edwards    | CSFM                           | Carol Partridge    | CSFM               | Jason Wightington | CSFM        |
| Robin Edwards      | CSFM                           | Steve Peeler       | CSFM               | Brant Williams    | CSFM        |
| Robert Ehrler      | CSFM, MG, CGCS, CTP, CLM, CGIA | Anthony Pell       | CSFM               | Clive Williams    | CSFM        |
| Eric Fasbender     | CSFM                           | Rick Perruzzi      | CSFM, CPRP         | Alan Wilson       | CSFM        |
| Gregory Fear       | CSFM, CGM, LEED AP             | David Pinsonneault | CSFM, CPRP         | Matthew Wimer     | CSFM        |
| John Fik           | CSFM, CGM                      | Joseph Potrikus    | CSFM               | Brian Winka       | CSFM        |
| Michael Flowers    | CSFM                           | David Presnell     | CSFM               | Shane Young       | CSFM        |
| Andy Flynn         | CSFM                           | Chad Price         | CSFM, CFB          |                   |             |
|                    |                                | Jesse Pritchard    | CSFM               |                   |             |

## Changes to CSFM program increase certification accessibility

**M**any sports turf managers and turf professionals will attest to the fact that an individual's experience "in the field" goes a long way towards making them a better professional. This is especially true for crew members and assistants working in the industry who put in long hours to ensure their fields are operating at their best.

STMA agrees. A discussion began in 2012 in the Certification Testing Subcommittee about slightly recalibrating the certification process to more fully take into account the real-world experience of crew members, assistants and student interns to broaden accessibility and opportunity for all in the industry.

A minimum of 40 points are needed to qualify for the Certification Program. Points are accumulated through education and real-world experience in one's career, with varying employment positions and achievements receiving different numeric values.

Previously, there had not been a formal point structure for crew members and assistants; the Certification Testing Subcommittee and STMA Board of Directors agreed that this needed to be rectified and there was consensus the experience point values for crew members and assistants be increased to reflect the value these individuals bring to their organizations. The following recommendations were made by the committee to the Board:

- Increase the crew member from 1 point per year to 2.5 per year
- Increase the assistant from 3 points per year to 4 points
- .1 point to be awarded per 100 hours worked for students in formal internship programs

The changes implemented allow a crew member with no formal education to be eligible to test for the Certification Program in 16 years, rather than 40 with the original point system. Additionally, the changes rightly acknowledge the importance of turf internships for students and their importance to the vitality of STMA.

### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Those individuals interested in and passionate about providing the best sports surfaces for all levels of play raising the level of the sports turf management industry should definitely consider becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager.

Besides increasing your earning potential by (on average) \$7,500, obtaining certification provides a wealth of personal benefits. Some of these include:

- Recognition of achievement and your expertise as a leader in your field
- Commitment to excellence and the very best ideals the sports turf industry strives to honor

### Sample exam questions

The certification exam required of all applicants covers a broad range of sports turf topics but is extremely accessible to all who have experience in the field. The exam covers four major areas of sports turf management: Agronomics; Pest Management; Administration; and Sports Specific Field Management.

#### Agronomics

1. A 100 pound bag of fertilizer with an analysis of 18-5-9 would contain which of the following:

- 5 pounds of actual phosphorus
- 5 pounds of available phosphate
- 9 pounds of potassium
- 18 pounds of urea

Answer: B (5 pounds of available phosphate)

#### Pest Management

2. A herbicide with the label designation 2EC:

- Contains 2 parts per million active ingre-

dient concentration in the container

- Has an active ingredient concentration of 2%
- Contains 2 pounds of active ingredient per gallon of formulated product
- Weights 2 pounds per gallon

Answer: C (Contains 2 pounds of active ingredient per gallon of formulated product)

#### Administration

3. Providing feedback is one of the most important tools for improving performance. Which of the following is **not** true about providing feedback?

- Negative feedback should only be given at an annual review in order to reduce tensions throughout the year
- Supportive feedback is used to reinforce actions and behaviors that are desirable
- Constructive feedback is used to change

behavior that is ineffective or inappropriate

- It is important that employees understand the positive outcomes for performing well, as well as the consequences when performance is low

Answer: A (Negative feedback should only be given at an annual review in order to reduce tensions throughout the year)

#### Sports Specific Field Management

4. The most appropriate paint to use on a natural grass field is:

- Latex
- Oil-based
- Enamel
- All of the above can be used

Answer: A (Latex)

# DOC'S DUGOUT IS BACK!

This new monthly feature will honor the people, places and equipment that helped to create the foundation for our association and advance the sports turf management profession. The "Doc" in Doc's Dugout refers to the late Dr. Kent Kurtz, who spearheaded the initial effort to preserve the history of STMA.

• Increased educational opportunities by expanding the availability of critical resources that will make you more effective in your position.

The CSFM program, now in its 14th year, has graduated hundreds of sports turf managers from across the industry and country, and continues to challenge those who want to "raise their game." The testing portion is challenging but definitely do-able, especially for someone who has worked on a field; 79 percent of people pass it on their first or second try.

If you are eligible to become certified and want to take your career to the next level, the CSFM program and STMA stand ready to assist.

Visit [stma.org/csfm-program](http://stma.org/csfm-program) to learn more about the program, including details on the recalibrated point system for crew members and assistants, and to download the comprehensive application packet. ■



Roger O'Connor, left, former grounds crew leader for Wrigley Field, paints the field in 1984 using a type of paint striper. It uses a liquid propane tank (hopefully filled with compressed air and not propane) instead of a motor. It was silent and worked well, however it can lose pressure fairly quickly and need to be re-charged. If it was using LP gas, it would last much longer, but smoking near it was dangerous.

## STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:** [www.azstma.org](http://www.azstma.org)

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.cstma.org](http://www.cstma.org)

**Florida #1 Chapter (South):**  
305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates) or  
Tom Curran CTomSell@aol.com

**Florida #2 Chapter (North):** 850-580-4026,  
John Mascaro, [john@turf-tec.com](mailto:john@turf-tec.com)

**Florida #3 Chapter (Central):** 407-518-2347,  
Scott Grace, [scott@sundome.org](mailto:scott@sundome.org)

**Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.gatewaystma.org](http://www.gatewaystma.org)

**Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.gstma.org](http://www.gstma.org)

**Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.stmalabasin.com](http://www.stmalabasin.com)

**Illinois Chapter STMA:** [www.ILSTMA.org](http://www.ILSTMA.org)

**Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** <http://imstma.blogspot.com/>

**Indiana - Contact Clayton Dame,** [Claytondame@hotmail.com](mailto:Claytondame@hotmail.com) or Brian Bornino, [bornino@purdue.edu](mailto:bornino@purdue.edu) or Contact Joey Stevenson, [jstevenson@indyindians.com](mailto:jstevenson@indyindians.com)

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org)

**Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.kystma.org](http://www.kystma.org)

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

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org)

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**MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.mokanstma.com](http://www.mokanstma.com)

**New England STMA (NESTMA):** [www.nestma.org](http://www.nestma.org)

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)

**Sports Turf Managers of New York:** [www.stmony.org](http://www.stmony.org)

**North Carolina Chapter of STMA:** [www.ncsportsturf.org](http://www.ncsportsturf.org)

**Northern California STMA:** [www.norcalstma.org](http://www.norcalstma.org)

**Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):** [www.ostma.org](http://www.ostma.org)

**Oklahoma Chapter STMA:** 405-744-5729;  
Contact: Dr. Justin Moss [okstma@gmail.com](mailto:okstma@gmail.com)

**Oregon STMA Chapter:** [www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org](http://www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org)  
[oregonstma@gmail.com](mailto:oregonstma@gmail.com)

**Ozarks STMA:** [www.ozarksstma.org](http://www.ozarksstma.org)

**Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.pnwstma.org](http://www.pnwstma.org)

**Southern California Chapter:** [www.socalstma.com](http://www.socalstma.com)

**South Carolina Chapter of STMA:** [www.scstma.org](http://www.scstma.org)

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** [www.tvstma.com](http://www.tvstma.com)

**Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.txstma.org](http://www.txstma.org)

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org)

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## Q&A with 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](mailto:dminner@iastate.edu). Or, send your question to Grady Miller at North Carolina State University, Box 7620, Raleigh, NC 27695-7620, or [emailgrady\\_miller@ncsu.edu](mailto:emailgrady_miller@ncsu.edu).

# Where skin meets grass

*At our local community college, 24-inch wide strips of sod are being removed to realign all edges where the skin meets the grass. All the edges have a lip and are somewhat jagged after so many years of edging. We are removing 18 inches of sod to make straight lines again and then installing the 24 inches of new sod. How much of the aglime should we core out to replace with black dirt before installing with new sod? Is it even necessary to core out the aglime? Will the sod root down through aglime?*

—Jon Baedke, Smitty's Lawn Landscape Garden, Fort Dodge, IA

Agricultural lime or aglime is sold as a bulk material to raise the pH of acidic soil and is readily available and widely used in farming communities. It is basically a calcium carbonate material with most of the particles in the range of 8 to 60 mesh size (mesh 8 about the size of BB's and below mesh 60 is like face powder). The best quality aglime for neutralizing acid soils is usually lighter gray to white and finer material; however those that are preferred for a baseball infield skin are tan/buff/red colored to reduce glare and have a more grainy appearance with less dust. Aglime is widely used as a baseball infield skin material because of its low cost, wide availability, and good playability under wet conditions. On the down side, aglime can become hard and dusty when insufficient water is used to manage the skin surface.

In my opinion the sod should be placed

on at least 6 inches of good topsoil. That would require excavating out most of the aglime since the aglime base pads are usually 4 to 6 inches deep. In projects like yours or whenever the skin field is reconfigured, there is a tendency to lay sod directly on top of the aglime because it requires less work. I suggest that you avoid this practice and put in a growing media that will create aggressive turf growth and a clean edge between the grass and base path.

Too often I see lazy contractors place sod directly on top of aglime or other infield skin materials when renovating infields. With adequate water the sod will root and begin to grow into the aglime and will look satisfactory for a while, perhaps the first season, but in time the aglime (think about it, it is lime with a very high pH) provides a poor growing media; droughty and low in organic

matter with a pH high enough to induce deficiency of other nutrients such as iron.

Grass growth is stunted and turf appears lighter green when grown on aglime. So my preference is to remove the aglime and replace it with good topsoil before sodding. It is interesting to note that weeds like goosegrass and spurge will readily grow in aglime fields but when it comes to finely manicured turf aglime is not a good growing media. Lips that form from blowing aglime also requires routine removal to promote aggressive turf growth at the edge where skin meets grass.

I've also notice a trend toward all grass base pads between home and first and home and third, especially when coaches and players are managing fields. They like it because there is less lip and skin to manage. I didn't like this non-traditional field look at first, but after putting in and managing a few fields with grass base pads, I certainly do understand the attraction; it is easier to mow grass than to manage skin and lips.

If you are converting from aglime base pads to grass base pads it is extremely important to excavate out all of the aglime and replace it with a good loam soil before sodding. Don't fill the base pads with sand in hopes of making it drain better because it will dry excessively in the shape of the old base pad and differential water of the strip usually never happens. Just use a good local native soil to fill the excavated base pad and then topdress with sand and compost to smooth the surface. It's always a struggle to keep the soil materials separate where the skin meets the grass. ■

