

Introducing baseball around the world one village at a time

Children are playing baseball at the base of a volcano in the heart of the jungle. In the village of Bongo, in Chiriqui, Panama, boys and girls ages 6 to 12 are swinging for the fences, rounding the bases and falling in love with America's pastime, thanks in large part to a relatively new outfit called More Than a Game.

"The hunger to play baseball is there, but there is nowhere to play in locations like Bongo," says Tim Fanning. "It's not an uncommon situation. The children want to play and learn the game, but they have no field, no equipment and no idea how to play."

Fanning is the head baseball coach at Glenwood High School in Phenix City, AL. He is also the co-founder of More Than a Game. Established in 2010, Fanning and co-founder Marshall Murray formed the organization to serve communities using the vehicle they knew best: baseball. The 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization seeks to teach baseball to the next generation.

Not long after its formation, More Than a Game divided its efforts into two fronts. Murray's focus is local, planning youth baseball clinics and other community projects. Fanning's focus is global, aiming to bring baseball to those who haven't had the opportunity to play.



Continued on page 49



Committee service is calling you!

"Committees are the workhorses of STMA, says CEO Kim Heck. "They make our job at headquarters so enjoyable and so much more effective."

STMA is considered a small-staff association in the world of associations, but it has something that many of the large associations do not: a strong culture of Committee Volunteerism.

Committees have helped advance the work of STMA by providing insight and resources for current programs and ideas for future services. The nearly 200 volunteers who participate annually are provided various tasks short and longer-term—to help STMA achieve its strategic plan.

The President of STMA annually appoints each committee chair, and all of STMA's membership is invited to volunteer. Consider yourself invited!

To help streamline the process of volunteering, STMA has moved it online, at www.STMA.org, where members are asked to select one committee on which they are interested in volunteering. Our incoming President Pinsonneault asks for some flexibility and consideration from the membership to place volunteers where there is a need, if a particular committee is full. It is his intention to place all volunteers on a committee for the 2014 committee year, which begins March 1.

Available Committees, their purposes and the estimated time volunteers will spend is noted below. All committees meet primarily via conference call, as necessary.

• Awards: To judge the association's awards program applicants selecting the Field of the Year winners and the Minor League Baseball Sports Turf Manager of the Year; to develop strategies to enhance the programs (approx. 12 hours mid-Oct. to mid-Nov.).

• **Bylaws:** To develop association bylaws, which are fair and enforceable, and clearly define the expectations for membership, governance processes and board of directors' service (approx. 3 hours per year).

• **Certification:** To develop strategies to grow the number of certified members; to consistently monitor the program and recommend enhancements to ensure that the program is the top achievement for sports turf managers (approx. 12 hours per year; also asked to volunteer to grade Student Challenge exams during the conference).

• Chapter Relations: To create a chapter structure that is beneficial locally and nationally; to financially assist chapters with their administrative, operations and educational efforts; to facilitate the sharing of best practices (approx. 6 hours a year).

• **Conference:** (Conference Education, Exhibition, and Tours subcommittees) To develop all content, sessions, workshops and off-site venues, and select speakers and moderators for the next year's conference that will make it a "must attend" event for members and nonmembers; to recommend strategies that will drive attendance to the exhibition and will add value to exhibitors. (Education, approx. 12 hours over 2 months; Exhibition, approx. 4 hours per year; Tours, approx. 6 hours per year.)

• **Commercial Membership:** To recommend specific strategies to grow commercial membership and to develop benefits and value for our commercial members (approx. 4 hours per year).

• Editorial: To insure that the STMA magazine contains information relevant to the sports turf manager; to provide ideas and contacts for articles for publication (approx. 4 hours per year).

• Environmental: To develop environmental strategies that position STMA and its members as leaders in environmental stewardship and the related health and safety issues that impact fans and players (approx. 15 hours per year).

• Ethics: To provide a fair and unbiased council to investigate claims of ethics violations, determine if the claim has merit, and shepherd the appeals process. This Committee is called into operation only if there is an ethics violation claim (approx. 15 hours, if engaged).

• Finance & Audit: To provide oversight of the STMA's financial resources by reporting information to the Board of Directors (approx. 6 hours per year).

• **Historical:** To preserve the history of the association and the profession (approx. 24 hours per year).

• Information Outreach: To develop educational and informational opportunities for members to enhance their personal and professional development (approx. 12 hours per year).

• International: To position STMA as a global leader in sports facility management and make STMA the "go-to" resource for those who work internationally in the industry (approx. 8 hours per year).

• **Membership:** To develop initiatives to drive membership growth and retention; to recommend programs that add value for each member (approx. 8 hours per year).

• Nominating: The Immediate Past President chairs this committee and selects its members. It must have representation from each category of membership (not available for general committee sign-up).

• Past President's Advisory Council: Purpose: To advise the STMA Board on issues pertaining to the past, present and future of STMA (limited to STMA Past Presidents)

• Scholarship: To judge the recipients of the SAFE Scholarships, the Terry Mellor Educational Grant and the Gary Vandenburg Internship Grant; to develop strategies to enhance these programs (approx. 12 hours over 1 month, mid-Oct. to mid-Nov.).

• **Student Challenge:** To develop the annual student challenge exam questions, answer key, and protocols; assist in proctoring the exam as needed (approx. 8 hours per year and volunteering at the conference).

• **Student Membership:** To recommend specific strategies to grow student membership; to provide students with appropriate resources and services as they move to their first job post-college (approx. 6 hours per year).

Technical Standards: To help determine standards and best management practices needed in the profession and to guide the work of the ASTM on developing sports field and facility standards (approx. 4 hours per year).

• Turfgrass Curriculum Task Group: To develop and implement strategies to best utilize the STMA turfgrass curriculum (approx. 12 hours per year).

• Website: To insure that the STMA website contains information relevant to mem-

bers, prospects and the green industry in an easily accessible and consumable format (approx. 4 hours per year).

STMA would like to thanks its 2013 Committee Volunteers. They are:

Awards Committee

Chair: Andrew Gossel Members: Matt Anderson, CSFM, Michael Buras, CSFM, Patrick Coakley, CSFM, Grant Davisson, Alan Dungey, Joey Fitzgerald, Keith Gorczyca, Sarah Martin, CSFM, William McBride, Sr., Ben Polimer, Chris Ralston, Dean Rush, CSFM, Lance Tibbetts, CSFM, George Trivett, CSFM, Charlie Vestal

Bylaws Committee

Chair: Mike Trigg, CSFM Members: Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, Jesse Driver, CSFM, Jody Gill, CSFM, Mary Owen, Scott Pippen, Troy Smith, CSFM, Jay Warnick, CSFM

Certification Committee

Chair: Martin Kaufman, CSFM Members: James Bergdoll, CSFM, Noel Brusius, CSFM, Patrick Coakley, CSFM, Michael Di-Donato, CSFM, Adam Dixon, CSFM, Jesse Driver, CSFM, John Fik, CSFM, Jody Gill, CSFM, Ron Hostick, CSFM, Brad Jakubowski, Tony Koski, Ph.D., Joe Kovolyan, CSFM, Jason Kruse, Ph.D., Sarah Martin, CSFM, Nick McKenna, CSFM, Josh McPherson, CSFM, Kevin Meredith, CSFM, Mary Owen, Carol Partridge, CSFM, Anthony Pell, CSFM, Rick Perruzzi, CSFM, Don Savard, CSFM, John Sorochan, Ph.D., Grant Spear, CSFM, Lance Tibbetts, CSFM, George Trivett, CSFM, Brant Williams, CSFM

Chapter Relations Committee

Chair: Debbie Kneeshaw Members: Dan Bergstrom, Neil Cathey, Adam Dixon, CSFM, Dan Douglas, Larry Fitzpatrick, Kevin Hansen, Tracey Hawkins, Matt Hollan, Jason Kopp, CJ Lauer, Brad Mackey, Eddie Medeiros, Scott Miller, Justin Moss, Ph.D., Vince Muia, Ben Polimer, Joel Rieker, Debbie Savard, David Schlotthauer, Matt Tobin, Brian Winka, CSFM, Tony Wise

Commercial Membership Subcommittee

Chair: James Graff Members: Jim Barbuto, Paul Carlson, Kevin Cavanaugh, Jeffrey Hartman, Martin Kaufman, CSFM, Glenn Lucas, Rich Moffitt, John Rector, Waldo Terrell, CSFM, Joe Traficano, Matt Wimer **Conference Committee**

Chair: David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP Members: Education Vice Chair: Jeff



STMA in action

Fowler; Tours Vice Chair: Jeffrey Salmond, CSFM; Exhibition Co-Vice-Chairs: Rene Asprion and James Graff

Conference Education Subcommittee

Chair: Jeff Fowler, Members: Jason Bowers, CSFM, Jim Brosnan, Ph.D., Paul Carlson, Adam Dibble, CJ Lauer, David Gilstrap, Ph.D., Paul Hollis, Bryan Hopkins, Ph.D., Rich Jordan, Stephen Lord, Andy McNitt, Ph.D., Troy McQuillen, Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D., Craig Potts, Dave Radueg, Chris Ralston, Don Scholl, CSFM, David Schlotthauer, Waldo Terrell, CSFM, Matt Tobin, Joe Traficano, Vickie Wallace, Lynda Wightman, Alan Wilson, CSFM, Tony Wise, Brant Williams, CSFM

Conference Exhibition Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Rene Asprion and James Graff Members: Jim Barbuto, Steve Bush, CSFM, Richard Campey, Larry Fitzpatrick, Paul Hollis, David Kimel, Ray Krebs, Chad Laurie, Todd Mason, Eddie Medeiros, Vince Muia, Pat O'Connor, CSFM, John Rector, Scott Strickland, Chet Yates

Conference Tours Subcommittee

Chair: Jeffrey Salmond, CSFM Members: Brad Barbee, Dan Bergstrom, Steve Bush, CSFM, Herb Combs, CSFM, Anthony Defeo, Steve Dugas, CSFM, Weston Floyd, Leo Goertz, Emmett House, Derek Hurlburt, Felix Hutto, Joe Kovolyan, CSFM, Bill Norris, Craig Potts, Dave Radueg, Scott Strickland

Editorial Committee

Chair: Phil McQuade Members: Cale Bigelow, Ph.D., Jim Cornelius, CSFM, Joey Fitzgerald, Mark Frever, CSFM, Jason Henderson, Ph.D., Paul Hollis, Bernd Leinauer, Ph.D., Jamie Mehringer, Allison Moyer, Barry Stewart, Brad Park, David Schwandt, Gwen Stahnke, Rodney St. John, Ph.D., Sean Veilleux, Michael Wade, CSFM

Environmental Committee

Chair: Mike Tarantino, CSFM Members: Dan Bergstrom, Philip Busey, Ph.D., Richard Calarco, CSFM, Blair Elliot, Beth Guertal, Ph.D., John Halloran, Joshua Koss, Mark Lucas, David Minner, Ph.D., Justin Moss, Ph.D., Brian Oliver, Blake Phillips, Chad Price, CSFM, CFB, David Schwandt, Gwen Stahnke, Ph.D., Mike Trigg, CSFM, Gary Tubesing, Sean Veilleux, Brian Walker, Vickie Wallace, Jay Warnick, CSFM, Rich Watson, Dan Wright

Ethics Committee

Chair: Ken Mrock Members: Patrick Berger, Jesse Driver, CSFM, Amy Fouty, CSFM, Mary Owen, S William Pipp, Scott Pippen, Steven Smith, Sun Roesslein

Finance & Audit Committee

Chair: Allen Johnson, CSFM Members: Josh Bertrand, Richard Buelter, Bob Curry, Chad Price, CSFM, CFB, Chris Ralston, David Schlotthauer, Jeff Salmond, CSFM, Jimmy Simpson, CSFM

Historical Committee

Chair: John Mascaro Members: Bob Campbell, CSFM, Leo A Goertz, Steve Guise, Mike Hebrard, Rich Moffitt, Anthony Pell, CSFM, Dean Rush, CSFM, Mike Schiller, CSFM, Troy Smith, CSFM, John Souter, Steve Trusty, Lynda Wightman, Steve Wightman

Information Outreach Committee

Chair: Darian Daily Members: Jason Bowers, CSFM, TJ Brewer, CSFM, Neil Cathey, Weston Floyd, Brad Fresenburg, Ph.D., Mike Goatley, Ph.D., Wayne Horman, David Kimel, Jason Kopp, Alec Kowalewski, Ph.D., Jason Kruse, Ph.D., Jeff Langner, Doug Linde, Ph.D., Ryan McGillivray, Bryan Myers, Steven Phillips, Jim Plasteras, Tony Strickland, CSFM, Vickie Wallace

International Committee

Chair: Abby McNeal, CSFM Members: Tab Buckner, Murray Cook, Ken Curry, Anthony Defeo, Ravi Devaguptapu, Paul Gillen, James Graff, Simon Gumbrill, Roberto Gurgel, Rich Jordan, Quincy Law, Jaime Mehringer, Marcela Munoz, Greg Munshaw, Ph.D., Jim Plasteras, Don Scholl, CSFM, John Sorochan, Ph.D., W. Michael Sullivan, Ph.D., Gerard Van't Klooster, Tim Vanini, Ph.D., Rusty Walker, CSFM, Doron Zur

Membership Committee

Chair: Tim VanLoo, CSFM Members:

Larry DiVito, Alan Dungey, Noel Harryman, Logan Horne, Tim Howe, Tom Jones, Jason Koester, Ray Krebs, Gerald Landby, Glenn Lucas, Kevin Meredith, CSFM, Marc Moran, CSFM, Jim Reiner, Debbie Savard, Michael Smith, Peter Thibeault, CSFM, Derek York

Nominating Committee

Chair: Troy Smith, CSFM Members: Mike Andresen, CSFM, Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, Darian Daily, Dale Getz, CSFM, CSE, Jody Gill, CSFM, Abby McNeal, CSFM, Andrew McNitt, Ph.D., Mary Owen, Don Savard, CSFM, Mike Trigg, CSFM, Lynda Wightman

Past Presidents' Advisory Council

Chair: Troy Smith, CSFM Members: Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, Abby McNeal, CSFM, Mike Andresen, CSFM, 2006 Mike Trigg, CSFM, Bob Campbell, CSFM, Murray Cook, Rich Moffitt, Stephen Guise, Mike Schiller, CSFM, Greg Petry, Gil Landry, Ph.D., George Rokosh, Steve Cockerham, Mark Hodnick, Steve Wightman, David Frey, and Dick Ericson

Scholarship Committee

Chair: Ken Edwards, CSFM Members: Matt Anderson, CSFM, Weston Appelfeller, Brian Bornino, Stephen Crockett, CSFM, Ravi Devaguptapu, PE, PTOE, Steve Dugas, CSFM, Mike Hopkins, Zach Holm, Chad Laurie, David Mellor, Scott F. Miller, Pat O'Connor, CSFM, William Pipp, Kyle Slaton, CSFM

Student Challenge Subcommittee

Chair: Eric Fasbender, CSFM Members: Brad Barbee, Leah Brilman, Ph.D., Jerry D. Cummings, Sam Doak, Ken Edwards, CSFM, Stephen Lord, Josh Marden, CSFM, Ryan McGillivray, Nick McKenna, CSFM, Steve Reis, Mike Schiller, CSFM, Glenn Schult, Zach Severn, Kyle Slaton, CSFM, Rusty Walker, CSFM, Michael Watson, John Watt, CSFM, Lynda Wightman, Derek York

Student Membership

Chair: Amy Fouty, CSFM Members: Nick Binder, Ryan Bjorn, Matt Elmore, Brad

Membership Application



Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

Fax to: (785) 843-2977

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

New Members*

As a new members, you receive a FREE conference registration, value \$375, to be used within 3 years! Just indicate your status on the conference registration form.

Did someone refer you to STMA? We would like to thank them, and reward them with an STMA \$100 voucher.

Person who referred you:

Facility name:

*Not been an STMA national member since 2000. New student and affiliate memberships do not qualify for the free conference registration. However, all members are eligible to receive the \$100 voucher for referring a new qualifying member.

Name		litle		
Employer/ Facility				
Business	🗅 Home			
Address				
City		State	Zip	
Home phone	Work	С	ell	
Fax	En	nail		
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:	
O Professional Sports O Higher Education O Schools K-12 O Parks and Recreation	n
	\$95
Student (verification of enrollment)	\$25
Commercial	\$295
Commercial Associate* (Additional member(s) from the same commercial company)	\$75
lacksquare Affiliate (Person who is indirectly or on a part-time basis, involved in the	
maintenance/management of sports fields)	\$50
Retired	\$50
Chapter Dues (contact headquarters for amount) Chapter name)	\$
Contribution To SAFE Foundation (research, education and scholarship):	\$
Total Amount Enclosed:	\$
Payment Method:	
Check Doney 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 member from your facility or commercial member from your company before you may sign up in the Associate category.

STMA in action

Finn, Kevin Mathias, Ph.D., Brian McDougal, Joel Rieker, Brian Scott, Tom Serensits, John Sorochan, Ph.D., Tim VanLoo, CSFM, Lynda Wightman

Technical Standards Committee

Chair: A.J. Powell, Jr., Ph.D. Members: Patrick Berger, TJ Brewer, CSFM, Richard Campey, Skip Filanowski, Beth Guertal, Ph.D., Kevin Hansen, Jeffrey Hartman, William J. McBride, Sr., Andrew McNitt, Ph.D., Ed Norton, Robert Oppold, Steven Smith, Tony Strickland, CSFM, Gary Tubesing, Adam Thoms

Turfgrass Curriculum Committee

Chair: Jeff Fowler Members: Chad Follis, Mike Goatley, Jr., Ph.D., Bill Griffith, Martin Kaufman, CSFM, Nick McKenna, CSFM, Marc Moran, CSFM

Website Committee

Chair: Pam Sherratt Members: Josh Bertrand, Patrick Coakley, CSFM, Jason Demink, CSFM, Sam Doak, Ronn Ponath, Jim Reiner, Joe Rodocker, Sun Roesslein, Zach Severns

STMA & SAFE Report Audit Findings

STMA and its charitable arm, The SAFE Foundation, undergo an annual audit, which is conducted by an independent auditing firm. In 2013, STMA changed auditors after 5 years with the same firm, a practice recommended in the corporate world. STMA adopted that practice to insure the highest level of transparency and confidence in its results for its membership.

Pickett, Chaney & McMullen, LLP, (PCM) completed its work in June and reported the results to the STMA and SAFE Boards in July. The opinion of PCM confirms that STMA uses accepted accounting practices, has a solid financial basis, and has no evidence of fraud. "In our opinion, the combined financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Sports Turf Managers Association and Affiliate as of Dec. 31, 2012, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America," stated Chris Chaney.

STMA	2012
Revenues, Gains and Other Support: Expenses	\$ 1,154,399 \$ 1,134,509 \$ 19,890
SAFE Revenues, Gains and Other Support: Expenses	\$37,279 \$42,627 \$(5,348)

For more detailed information, contact STMA headquarters, 800-323-3875.

STMA announces Minor League Sports Turf Manager of the Year winners

STMA and Minor League Baseball (MiLB) are pleased to report the winners of the annual MiLB Sports Turf Manager of the Year awards. Each league in MiLB conducts a survey to select their league's sports turf manager winner. These surveys include input from nearly 30 different stakeholders rating these STMA members on 11 different criteria. These winners subsequently submit an application to the STMA, and a panel of independent judges rates them on a variety of criteria including staff, budget, events, cultural practices, game day routine, plus field safety and other factors.

The MiLB and STMA are pleased to announce the following winners: AAA—Chris Ball, Gwinnett Braves, International League

- AA-Brock Phipps, Springfield Cardinals, Texas League
- A-Keith Winter, Ft. Wayne TinCaps, Midwest League

Short Season or Rookie—Bryan Barkley, Connecticut Tigers, New York-Penn League

STMA CEO Kim Heck presented these winners with their awards during the Baseball Winter Meetings, MiLB Annual Awards Luncheon, December 9, 2013 in Orlando.

Gwinnett Braves' Coolray Field



Marketplace



Ft. Wayne TinCaps' Parkview Field



Springfield Cardinals' Hammons Field





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L&M Distributing: 320-267-0241 / MN, IA, ND, SD, WI, NE Douglas Equipment: 503-663-2053 / OR, WA Lawn Ranger Inc: 800-265-7729 / TX, OK, KS Cantrell Turf Equip.: 800-445-1994 / CA, NV, UT

www.ecolawnapplicator.com

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

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

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: 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

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

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gstma.org.

Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports **Turf Managers Association:** www.stmalabasin.com

Illinois Chapter STMA: www.ILSTMA.org.

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

Indiana - FORMING - Contact Clayton Dame, Claytondame@hotmail.com or Brian Bornino, bornino@purdue.edu or Contact Joey Stevenson, jstevenson@indyindians.com

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: www.kvstma.org

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KÁFMO/STMA): www.kafmo.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MISTMA): www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mpstma.org

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mokanstma.com.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: sphillips4@unInotes.unl.edu

New England STMA (NESTMA): www.nestma.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: www.sfmanj.org.

Sports Turf Managers of New York: www.stmony.org.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.ncsportsturf.org.

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): www.ostma.org.

Oklahoma Chapter STMA: 405-744-5729; Contact: Dr. Justin Moss okstma@gmail.com

Oregon STMA Chapter: www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org oregonstma@gmail.com

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter: www.socalstma.com

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.scstma.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: www.txstma.org

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: www.wstma.org.

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Continued from page 49

"We're not going anywhere on the planet where there is something, some diamond, already established," Fanning says. "More Than a Game is about spreading the game of baseball to new places and people so we can give them the gift of baseball, which we hold so dear."

Bringing baseball to Bongo wasn't easy. It took two trips, the first of which came in the fall of 2012. A handful of More Than a Game volunteers traveled to Bongo and spent a week teaching children of two schools in the village how to play the game. In addition to educating them about the game, volunteers also outfitted the children with uniforms and equipment.

The children had now learned the game and looked the part, but still there was no baseball diamond—only jungle.

In a return trip to Bongo in July 2013, Fanning's team of volunteers, along with a group of local villagers, carved out a baseball diamond.

"We built the diamond in 10 days," Fanning said. "It wasn't easy, I can tell you that, but when we finished you could tell it was a source of pride for the entire community. That's what we're all about."

Corporate sponsorships from Turface Athletics, Warner's Athletic

Construction and Memphis Nets helped secure the materials needed to make the field construction a reality, Fanning says. A \$1,000 grant from Turface helped get equipment onsite to help construct the diamond and ensure it could be maintained in the future. Eight pallets of Turface MVP, two pallets of Turface Professional Mound Clay Red and two pallets of Red MoundMaster Blocks were used to create a sustainable, playable field. In some instances local materials were used in the construction, including fashioning foul poles and a backstop out of bamboo.

"More Than a Game is doing an incredible job spreading the game we love to new parts of the world," said Jeff Langner, brand manager for Turface Athletics. "To be able to say we're a small part of that effort is so rewarding for everyone in the Turface Athletics family."

Fanning says plans are already in the works to build a second diamond nearby and establish a league in the near future for the remote area of Panama.

"This is just the beginning for More Than a Game," Fanning says. "If we can build a diamond in a jungle, we can build a diamond just about anywhere."

Jeff Salem is a public relations associate at Swanson Russell, Lincoln, NE.





BY DR. GRADY MILLER Professor, North Carolina State Universitv

Questions?

Send them to Grady Miller at North Carolina State University, Box 7620, Raleigh, NC 27695-7620, or email grady_miller@ncsu.edu

Or, send your auestion to David Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall. Ames, IA 50011 or email dminner@iastate.edu.



ORA Preventing cold temperature damage

It seems we dropped down into the 20s at night earlier this year than normal. It got me thinking about winterkill. I have not had any true winterkill since the 80s, but was wondering if there is anything I should be doing to minimize the potential to have winterkill if this is the year?

—Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Damage to bermudagrass in the Carolinas from low temperatures is certainly a possibility any year. Like most of the other damages from "natural causes," it is very difficult to predict when it may happen. Also, cold temperature injury is just as likely to happen in the early spring, just after greenup, as it is to happen in during the winter dormancy period.

Generally, low temperature injury is caused by crown hydration, direct low temperature exposure, desiccation, or some combination of these three. Additional stresses such as traffic or pests may increase low-temperature injury.

There are some cultural practices that you control that can influence your turf's susceptibility to low-temperature stress. These include things such as shade, drainage, fertility, irrigation, mowing, pest control, and thatch level. Of course turfgrass cultivar has a significant influence, but that is not easy to influence in the short-term. So a turf manager can certainly manipulate their management practices to minimize or reduce the low temperature damage.

Shade should be eliminated. While most fields are out in the open, I still see fields each year that have nearby trees that cause some level of shade. When evaluating shade, some managers like to look at their conditions on December 21 (the winter solstice) which is the shortest day of the year (in terms of daylight) and just as important, the sun is lowest on the horizon. As a

general rule-of-thumb, if bermudagrass turf is shaded on this date by 9 am or before 3 pm, expect some problems. The greatest shade problems usually occur in the southeastern, southern, or southwestern directions due the sun's angle. There are also phone applications (e.g. Sun Seeker) that can help you evaluate shade.

Get a handle on your soil water status since too much or too little soil moisture during low temperatures can be lethal, especially for insufficient soil moisture. It is better to have a bit too much soil moisture than too little. Damage from excessive soil moisture is typically confined to low lying, poorly drained areas[-normally on side lines of fields. However, insufficient soil moisture typically causes extensive turf damage. This is especially true during windy, low humidity days when the sun is brightly shining.

Relieve soil compaction since insufficient soil oxygen and buildup of carbon dioxide combine with shade and traffic stress to cause damage especially along the highest wear areas (e.g. between hash marks on football, goal mouths on soccer, etc.). Develop and stick to an aggressive aerification program in the summer. Use smaller diameter solid times during the less active growth periods for additional oxygenation around the roots.

Prevent or reduce thatch accumulation since excessive thatch accumulation can cause plant crowns to be elevated in the thatch layer which reduces their protection from low temperatures. Thatch also dries easily, contributing to desiccation. Topdressing, vertical mowing, and aerifying are mechanical means to moderate thatch accumulation.

If reasonable, raise the mowing height. Usually about September the days become shorter and extensive cloud cover occurs resulting in a growth habit change. The turf

plants respond to reduced daylight /daylength by stretching or elongating in an attempt to gather more light energy. Allowing the plant to go into winter with a little greater leaf length can increase its carbohydrate production. Some managers counteract the stretching by applying a plant growth regulator.

Provide adequate soil potassium since it has been shown to help with moderating weather extremes. Apply sufficient potassium so levels are in the adequate or sufficient soil report range prior to winter. Levels higher than these have not been shown to be sustainably beneficial. Most research has suggested that applying more potassium than nitrogen (over the years' time) is not beneficial. But since potassium does not encourage growth and is readily soluble in the soil, applying more potassium than nitrogen before winter may be beneficial.

Cover your field. I know that covers are expensive and may be perceived as a luxury by some. But covers can be great "insurance" against winterkill. Covers help retain heat in the soil and more importantly, help prevent soil desiccation. Numerous theories exist on when covers should be used. A common one is to use them if temperatures are projected at night to be below 23 degrees, especially if the next day's temperatures are forecasted to stay below 40 degrees and/or if excessive windy conditions are expected.

So, how many of these can you do? Each one can help and alone may be enough to prevent cold temperature damage. But there are still no guarantees against damage even if you could do them all. At some point the turfgrass may just be susceptible or the temperatures too low. So, try to do as many as you can, but do not ever get too confident that you outsmarted Mother Nature. She may prove otherwise.