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November 2016

SportsTurf

SPORTS FIELD AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

ALSO INSIDE:

- Dr. Grady Miller
on Playing Politics
- Field of the Year:
5/3 Bank Stadium,
Kennesaw State
University

28TH ANNUAL
STMA Conference & Exhibition
January
24-27, 2017
DISNEY CORONADO SPRINGS RESORT • ORLANDO

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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STARTING LINEUP

November 2016 | Volume 32 | Number 11

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PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT



ON THE COVER: Located in the middle of Walt Disney World Resort, the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex's all-natural turf fields are maintained by Disney's Sportscape team, led by turf manager Tim Flowers and his three field managers, Preston Courtney, John Turnbull and Scott Welder, as well as a 34-person crew and support team.





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How Conference education sessions are chosen

Eric Schroder
Editorial Director
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On pages 16-21 of this issue are details of the education sessions that will be presented at the STMA Conference, which will be held January 24-27, 2017, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando. Over the years an occasional query has crossed my desk, asking for details on how STMA chooses what presentations will be included in their Conferences.

The STMA Conference Education Subcommittee makes these decisions and theirs is a difficult job; here's what Subcommittee Chair Dr. Beth Guertal, professor, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences department at Auburn University, emailed to us:

"Selecting speakers is one of the toughest things we do as a committee. In general, we do not have poor submissions. Almost all of the topics are really good and interesting. People are selected over others because maybe they have a bit more experience than another proposed speaker, or perhaps they represent an area of the country that the committee feels is not well represented.

"For example, this year we needed a speaker to talk about salinity and salt issues in water quality, and we did not have a proposal that covered that area. So the committee recommended some people and we went from there. We try our best to have a balanced conference of university speakers, sports field managers, and other industry experts. We watch this closely and adjust if we get too many people from one area. We also try to balance the topics, covering everything from agronomy to personal well being to employee management. Last, we try to balance the content, from pretty technical

material (such as detailed weed control) to a more entertainment-style talk (such as day-to-day preparation for a concert).

"In general I think a key is to write a topical and interesting proposal that will interest the selection committee. There is some art involved in writing an engaging proposal, as it should attract the readers interest quickly. Sometimes the committee selects a topic that we did not even think was important, because the proposal sells the idea so well."

Paul Hollis, executive vice president for Redexim North America and a Subcommittee member, wrote:

"When we start the selection process I look at the programs from previous years usually going back two or three, and I look at research and articles that have been written throughout the last year. I then look at the speakers presented and try to choose topics relevant to what is currently hot in the industry. I think it is key to have fresh material especially as a draw for repeat attendees and I try to choose speakers from the industry that are in academia or leading turf managers."

Current members of the Education Subcommittee are: Adrian Austin; Jim Brosnan, PhD; Steve Bush, CSFM, CFB; Jason Campbell; John Cogdill; Jeff Fowler; Paul Hollis; Bryan Hopkins, PhD; Stephen Lord, CSFM; Andrew McNitt, PhD; Troy McQuillen; Gregg Munshaw, PhD; Brad Park; Craig Potts, CSFM; Chris Ralston; David Schlotthauer; Chrissie Segars; John Sorochan, PhD; Matt Tobin; and Doug Vescio.

SportsTurf
SPORTS FIELD AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

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Attend the most important sports turf event of the year



Jeff Salmond, CSFM
jsalmond@ou.edu

If you have not made plans to attend the STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition, January 24-27, 2017, in Orlando, FL please give it serious consideration. A lot of hard work has been completed by the Conference Education Committee, Bowling, Golf and Seminar on Wheels Committees, Headquarters, Marketing & Events (our trade show partner), and our commercial partners to provide attendees with the utmost first-class experience. Conference is full of sports turf education and an exhibition that keeps getting bigger and bigger each year. We have created a comprehensive educational program of presentations and speakers with cutting-edge research for everyone in all categories of membership. The Seminar-on-Wheels tours will take us to some of the top-notch fields and facilities in central Florida. With all of the educational possibilities, Conference also provides for some of the best networking opportunities with fellow sports turf managers. Lifelong friendships are developed by initial encounters with people with similar experiences, sharing ideas and practices.

The educational sessions this year will cover eight tracks: agronomics, professional development, facility management, water, synthetic, renovation, industry developments, and a new addition this year: education developed specifically for K-12 sports field managers. Identify your field challenges and select the sessions that will help guide you to solve those problems.

My first conference was in Colorado

Springs while I was attending college at Iowa State. During that first conference I met people in STMA who I only get to see once a year. Although I see these same people year after year, it feels like only a few weeks have passed between these meetings. I have also made many new connections and new friends each and every year. These kinds of relationships through networking will help sports field managers throughout the whole year. I know that my contacts and friendships have helped me tremendously. Sports field managers are great people who are willing to help fellow members with issues that they are seeing and experiencing. Much can be learned through networking with others.

The Conference will be at the Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center, a Disney property in suburban Orlando. As an attendee you have the opportunity to get an 'After 4 p.m.' voucher to the Disney Parks, a free \$25 dining card, and full-day theme park discounts. This is a great time of year to bring the entire family and extend your stay, either before or after the conference. Remember that Disney provides a magical experience for all ages, so take the time to refresh and recharge!

I want to extend a sincere invitation to you to come to Orlando and participate in our event. Orlando is a great international destination, too. Our pricing is very reasonable, and if you have not been a member of STMA, you may be eligible to receive a free full conference registration. STMA IS family, and I invite you to join ours. I look forward to welcoming back old friends and meeting you.

STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

Sports Field Managers Converge - Jan. 24-27, 2017

Coronado Springs Resort & Convention Center, Lake Buena Vista, FL

Where the Industry Comes Together to Network, Learn and Energize

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT

WHAT YOU'LL TAKE AWAY

Learn Peer-Tested Solutions

Eighteen top practitioners will share their experiences through panels, classroom education and on off-site tours!

Get the Latest Technical Information

Learn from recognized academics — 22 — who will guide a variety of educational sessions. Leading commercial companies will also present new products and technology. Don't miss the Innovative sessions on the trade show floor on Friday morning.

Recharge to Conquer Your Career Challenges

With seven networking events, three fun runs/walks, a bowling event, a golf tournament, free Disney Theme Park after 4 p.m. ticket*, and six professional and career development sessions, there is ample relaxation time for personal rejuvenation.

Take the Conference Home

Thanks to the generosity of sponsor Diamond Pro, STMA is providing a link to all full conference registrants to view and hear the conference presentations throughout the year.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Sports Turf Managers, Assistants & Crew +

- Students
- Stadium and Facility Managers
- Coaches & Athletic Directors
- Architects, Engineers & Field Builders
- School Business Officials
- Public Works Managers
- Physical Plant Administrators
- Directors of Parks & Recreation
- Suppliers to the Industry
- Others who are involved with Sports

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Host Hotel – \$154 per night

Disney's Coronado Springs Resort & Convention Center
Lake Buena Vista, FL

(Rate is good three days pre- and post-conference dates)

Reserve your room at STMA.org

FREE Disney Shuttle to/from Airport

Reserve the Disney Magical Express for your transportation to and from the Orlando International Airport. Go to STMA.org for information. Reservations requested to be made 30 days in advance.

FREE Dining Card and FREE After 4 pm Theme Park Ticket*

Attendees staying at Disney's Coronado Springs Hotel or All Star Resort through Thurs., Jan. 26 will receive one free \$25 dining card at check in and one free After 4 p.m. Disney theme Park ticket.* (1 dining card per hotel room occupied; 1 theme park ticket per hotel room occupied).

Special Theme Park Ticket Rates

Disney is offering special rates for theme park tickets to STMA attendees.

Go to <http://www.mydisneymeetings.com/2017stma> to purchase.

FREE Conference Registration for New Members

See details under Conference Fees.

Conference App

To find out all that is happening at the conference, download the STMA app. Go to the app store and download it: 2017 STMA Conference.

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STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

SCHEDULE-At-A-GLANCE

Mon., Jan. 23

6:30 - 9:30 pm Registration Open

Tues., Jan. 24

6:30 - 8 am Continental Breakfast

6:30 am - 5:30 pm Registration Open

7 am - 4 pm Seminar on Wheels

8:30 am - 5 pm SAFE Golf Tournament at Hunter's Creek

11 am - 12 pm Fun Run/Walk

2:30 - 5 pm Educational Short Courses

3 - 7 pm STMA Certification Exam

6 - 9 pm SAFE Night of Bowling

Wed., Jan. 25

6:30 - 8 am Continental Breakfast

7 am - 6:30 pm Registration Open

8 - 9:30 am Opening General Session

9:45 am - 12 pm Conference Education

12 - 2 pm Break

12 - 2 pm Women's Forum and Lunch

12:15 - 1:15 pm Fun Run/Walk

2 - 5 pm Conference Education

5:15 - 6:15 pm Networking Sessions

6 - 7 pm Chapter Board Members' Reception - NEW

6:30 - 7 pm First Timers and International

Attendees Reception

7 - 10 pm Welcome Reception

Thurs., Jan. 26

6:45 - 7:45 am Certification Breakfast

7 - 8 am Continental Breakfast

7 am - 6 pm Registration Open

8 - 10:45 am Conference Education

11 am - 1:15 pm Keynote Address & Annual Meeting/Lunch

1:30 - 6 pm SAFE Silent Auction (Exhibit Hall)

1:30 - 6:30 pm Exhibit Hall Open

2 - 4:30 pm Student Challenge

2 - 6 pm Committee Meetings (Exhibit Hall)

Fri., Jan. 27

7 - 8 am Continental Breakfast

7 - 9 am Past Presidents' Breakfast

7 - 11 am Registration Open

8 - 10 am Conference Education

10 am - 12:30 pm SAFE Silent Auction (Exhibit Hall)

10 am - 1 pm Exhibit Hall Open

1:15 - 5 pm Seminar on Wheels

1:30 - 2:30 pm Fun Run/Walk

1:30 - 3 pm Conference Education

6:30 - 10 pm SAFE Live Auction,
STMA Awards Reception and Banquet

Sat., Jan. 28

8 am - 12 pm STMA Certification Exam

8 am - 1 pm ASBA Certification Exam

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SAFE and STMA appreciate the support and commitment of our conference sponsors.

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STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

TUES. JAN. 24 - FRI., JAN. 27

New for 2017! Scavenger Hunt!

STMA will be executing its very first Scavenger Hunt. Thanks to our title sponsor, Syngenta, this event promises to add fun and excitement for attendees and exhibitors all week. The game will open Tuesday and close on Friday after the trade show closes. The Scavenger Hunt will be made available via a mobile link within our conference app that will direct participants to the Scavify game app. Once downloaded all participants will have to do is log in and begin completing the tasks – that's it! At the end of the week prizes will be awarded to the highest point earners.

Sponsored by Syngenta

WED., JAN. 25

Opening General Session 8 - 9:30 am

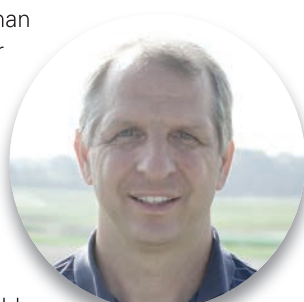
As the kick-off event for STMA's Conference, the General Session will feature two of STMA's most requested speakers – Drs. Andrew McNitt and John Sorochan.

Dr. McNitt is one of the industry's foremost researchers on sports turf playing surface characterization. He serves as a Professor of Soil Science/Turfgrass for Penn State University, is the Director of Penn State's Center for Sports Surface Research, and is the technical advisor to the NFL Groundskeepers Organization.



Dr. Sorochan

is a Distinguished Professor of Turfgrass Science and Management in the Plant Sciences Department at the University of Tennessee (UT). He is also the Co-Director for the UT Center for Athletic Field Safety where his team investigates athletic field performance and safety as well as athlete to surface interactions.



You won't want to miss the insight, humor, and wisdom each individual brings to the stage as they discuss the current state-of-the-industry. Questions and comments from the audience will be encouraged.

Networking Sessions 5:15 - 6:15 pm

Meet with your peers in this formalized networking session. Each category of membership meets separately to share issues and practical solutions.

Chapter Board Members' Reception 6 - 7 pm NEW

All chapter board members are invited to an informal gathering to network with other chapter leaders. This reception is a 'come-and-go-as-your-schedule-permits' event and replaces the Chapter Officers Training Session (COTS).

Sponsored by Hunter Industries, John Deere, Pioneer Athletics, Turface Athletics

First-Time Attendee and International Attendee Reception 6:30 - 7 pm

This reception honors our international attendees and new conference participants. Appropriate ribbons must be worn for admittance.



Welcome Reception 7 - 10 pm

Reconnect with old friends and peers and meet new acquaintances at this heavy hors d'oeuvres event. Drink ticket included.

Sponsored by The Toro Company and Covermaster

STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

THURS., JAN. 26

Keynote Address, Annual Meeting & Lunch **11 am - 1:15 pm**

Laura Katen, President of Katen Consulting, a New-York based professional development training company has been selected to present the Keynote address. She will address the topic of professionalism, and how communication at an individual and organizational level influences how you are perceived by your peers, your employer and your community. Hear about STMA's progress and enjoy lunch.

Sponsored by World Class Athletic Surfaces

THURS., JAN. 26 & FRI., JAN. 27

Events on the Trade Show Floor

Thursday, 1:30 - 6:30 pm

(Dessert, Innovative Awards Announced, Late Afternoon Reception & Silent Auction)

Friday, 10 am - 1 pm

(Innovative Sessions, Lunch & Silent Auction)



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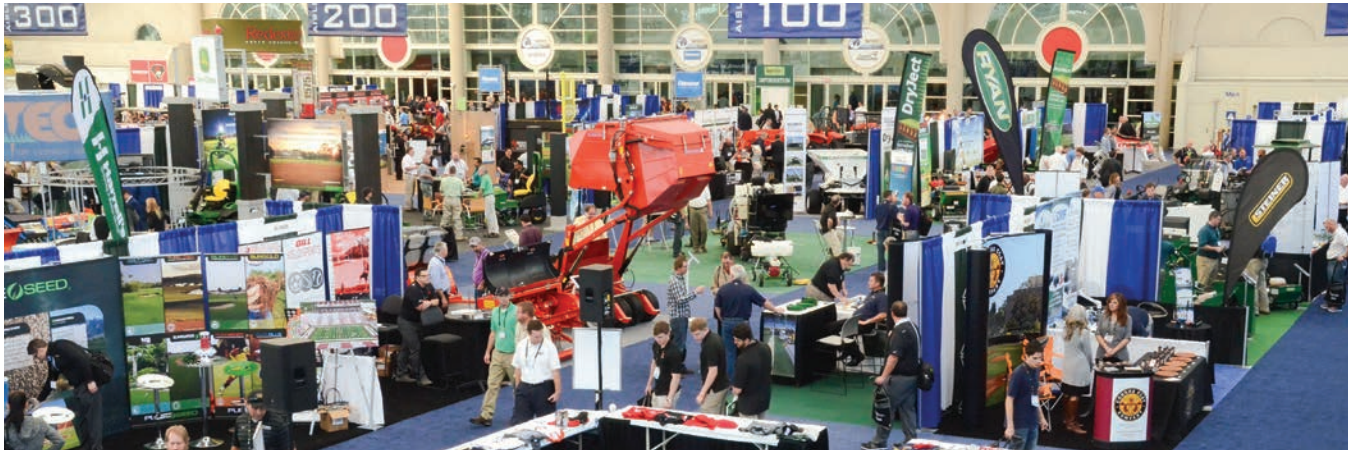


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STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW



Expo

See the newest technology and learn about products and equipment on the trade show floor through a hands-on experience with more than 150 exhibitors. Our trade show brings together all segments of the industry so you can preview products and equipment in one place. At the entrance to the trade show each attendee will receive great gifts from our sponsors.

Trade Show Attendee Gifts Sponsored by Barenbrug USA and GTAirInject (Air2G2).



Innovative Awards Presented

The winner or winners of the Innovative Award will be announced on the trade show floor on Thurs., Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. Look for a list of those who submitted an innovation in the on-site conference guide and in our app. This program recognizes those commercial company members that have developed a product, service, equipment or technology that substantially enhances the effectiveness of the Sports Turf Manager.

SAFE Silent Auction - New Items Daily

Bid on sports memorabilia, tickets to sporting events, gift cards, logoed clothing and items and much more. Please help support SAFE by bidding and by bringing items for the raffle. Drop them off at the Registration Desk. All proceeds fund scholarships, research and educational outreach.

Sponsored by Pioneer Athletics



Innovative Education Sessions

Four educational sessions have been scheduled on Friday on the trade show floor:

10:30 - 10:45 am Planning for a Synthetic Turf Field Replacement

11 - 11:15 am Polymer Coated Fertilizer: Takes a Beating and Keeps on Feeding

11:30 - 11:45 am Porous Inorganic Amendments - Unpacking how they really work

12 - 12:15 pm Stadium Grow Lighting Innovation in Europe and the US

STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW



Awards Reception, Banquet and SAFE Live Auction

FRI., JAN. 27, 6:30 - 10 pm

Support SAFE by bidding on top-of-the-line equipment, technology and autographed items. Enjoy an elegant dinner immediately followed by the awards program, which honors notable contributions by your peers to the industry. RSVP is required. Coat and Tie is the preferred attire.

Awards Program sponsored by Barenbrug, Carolina Green Corp., Ewing, Hunter Industries, World Class Athletic Surfaces

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STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

8 EDUCATIONAL TRACKS - Featuring a New K-12 track!

Find the education to meet your needs. With eight educational tracks, you can find information specific to problems that you are facing now or projects you will be managing in the future. This year, a K-12 track has been established to focus on the special budgetary and overuse challenges many sports field managers at public and private high schools face.

AGRONOMIC

Tues., Jan. 24

2:30 - 5 pm

Research for Everyday Field Managers

Grady Miller, Ph.D.

Wed., Jan. 25

9:45 - 10:45 am

What About the Micronutrients?

Nick Christians, Ph.D.

9:45 - 10:45 am

Turf 101

Trey Rogers, Ph.D.

11 am - 12 pm

Why Every Turf Manager Should Consider Using PGRs

Ben Polimer

2 - 3:15 pm

#WeedWatch2017 - Things to Watch for in Weed Management This Year

Jim Brosnan, Ph.D.

Thurs., Jan. 26

8 - 9:15 am

Pushing Bermuda's Boundaries: Managing Bermudagrass in the Transition Zone and Beyond

Marcus Dean, CSFM and Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D.

8 - 9:15 am

Warm-Season Sports Turf Weed Management

Jay McCurdy, Ph.D.

Fri., Jan. 27

1:30 - 3 pm

Taking Stress in Stride

Mary Owen

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tues., Jan. 24

2:30 - 5 pm

A Break Through Approach to Human Growth and Leadership Development

Phil Eason

Wed., Jan. 25

2 - 3:15 pm

Positive Coaching for

Sports Turf Managers

Josh McPherson, CSFM

Thurs., Jan. 26

8 - 9:15 am

Managing Stress and Avoiding Burnout

Lisa Goatley, M.S., L.P.C.

8 - 9:15 am

Sports Turf Management, Past, Present, Future

Bob Campbell, CSFM

11 am - 12 pm

Keynote Presentation

Laura Katen

Fri., Jan. 27

1:30 - 3 pm

Managing the Problem Employee

Lisa Goatley, M.S., L.P.C.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Tues., Jan. 24

2:30 - 5 pm

Calibration Basics for Spreaders and Sprayers - Small vs. Large

Samuel Doak

Wed., Jan. 25

11 am - 12 pm

Balancing Management and Legal Liabilities: BMPs for Success

Bryan Hopkins, Ph.D.

3:30 - 5 pm

Sustainability on Campus: Green Sports Fields and Grounds

Brad Jakubowski

Thurs., Jan. 26

8 - 9:15 am

So You Want to Be a Meteorologist? Weather and Your Venue

Kevin Kloesel, Ph.D.

9:30 - 10:45 am

Who's Afraid of Calculations?

Samuel Doak

9:30 - 10:45 am

Management Standards for Athletic Field Management and Materials Specification

Barry Stewart, Ph.D.

9:30 - 10:45 am

FIFA World Cup: Preparing for a Final - Challenges and Successes

Marcela Munoz and Sebastian Munoz

Fri., Jan. 27

8 - 10 am

Football Panel

Clark Cox, CSFM, Stephen Crockett, CSFM, Nicholas Fedewa, and Rob Julian

8 - 10 am

Baseball Panel

Dan Bergstrom, CSFM, Nick McKenna, CSFM, Tom Nielsen, and Rick Perruzzi, CSFM, CPRP

RAIN+BIRD

WATER

Wed., Jan. 25

9:45 - 10:45 am

Central Control and Varying Types of Soils in Sports Fields

John Cogdill

11 am - 12 pm

Have You Changed Your Filters Lately?

Tony Strickland, CSFM

3:30 - 5 pm

Don't Let Water Restrictions Strike You Out

Bryan Hopkins, Ph.D. and Kelly Kopp, Ph.D.

SYNTHETIC

Wed., Jan. 25

9:45 - 10:45 am

Managing a Synthetic Turf Infield and Natural Grass Outfield

Chris Pearl and Jonathan Smoot

2 - 3:15 pm

Converting Commonwealth Stadium to Synthetic and Our Involvement

Marcus Dean, CSFM

3:30 - 5 pm

Facts and Misconceptions Regarding Natural Grass and Synthetic Turf

Andrew McNitt, Ph.D.

STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

RENOVATION

Wed., Jan. 25

9:45 - 10:45 am

In Season Resodding

Tony Leonard

11 am - 12 pm

A Spring and Summer Renovation Plan

Pamela Sherratt

3:30 - 5 pm

Triage Tactics and Strategies for Pesticide-Free Heavily Used Sports Fields

Jason Henderson, Ph.D. and Victoria Wallace

Thurs., Jan. 26

8 - 9:15 am

Stadium Field Renovation

Richard White, Ph.D.

9:30 - 10:45 am

Renovating Cool-Season Sports Turf Dominated by Annual Bluegrass

Brad Park

K-12 - NEW

Wed., Jan. 25

11 am - 12 pm

Management of K-12 Fields in the Transition Zone

Grady Miller, Ph.D.

2 - 3:15 pm

Sports Field Management on a Shoestring Budget - Part 1

Mike Goatley, Jr., Ph.D. and Michael Skelton

3:30 - 5 pm

Sports Field Management on a Shoestring Budget - Part 2

Mike Goatley, Jr., Ph.D. and Michael Skelton

Thurs., Jan. 26

9:30 - 10:45 am

You Can Grow Grass, Now Let's Grow Your Program

David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP

Fri., Jan. 27

1:30 - 3 pm

Paying it Forward: How to Be Helpful When Asked for Advice

Rich Watson

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Wed., Jan. 25

8 - 9:30 am

Opening General Session

Andrew McNitt, Ph.D. and John Sorochan, Ph.D.

2 - 3:15 pm

Converting to LED Sports Lights at your Facility

Dan Bergstrom, CSFM

Thurs., Jan. 26

9:30 - 10:45 am

Factors that Affect Dislodgable Foliar Residues and Environmental Fate of Pesticides

Travis Gannon, Ph.D.

Fri., Jan. 27

8 - 10 am

Pesticides Panel

Jim Brosnan, Ph.D., Travis Gannon, Ph.D., Jason Henderson, Ph.D., and Jay McCurdy, Ph.D.

8 - 10 am

Cultivars/Varieties Panel

Leah Brilman, Ph.D., Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D., Brad Park, and Pamela Sherratt

10:30 - 10:45 am

Planning for a Synthetic Turf Field Replacement

Mark Heinlein

11 - 11:15 am

Polymer Coated Fertilizer: Takes a Beating and Keeps on Feeding

Eric Miltner, Ph.D.

11:30 - 11:45 am

Porous Inorganic Amendments - Unpacking How They Really Work

George Serrill

12 - 12:15 pm

Stadium Grow Lighting Innovation in Europe and the USA

Simon Gumbrell

Get ahead of the game in the cold months with FieldSaver® Winter Turf Blankets/Growth Covers.



Actual sequence in same location

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STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

STMA CONFERENCE LEARNING SESSIONS

Earn CEUs from ASBA, GCSAA, NRPA, PGMS and NALP. Pesticide recertification credits will be available for Florida.

STMA Short Courses

Tues., Jan. 24

2:30 - 5 pm

A Break Through Approach to Human Growth and Leadership Development

Speaker: Phil Eason - PLG Leadership

Participants will learn a break through approach to human growth, development and leadership by understanding that the key to success is to fully understand how to apply their greatest talents. A talent is a naturally recurring pattern of thought, feeling or behavior. Tap into this wisdom for more direction, confidence, hope and productivity. Participants will learn how to identify and build on their natural strengths.

Calibration Basics for Spreaders and Sprayers – Small vs. Large

Speaker: Samuel Doak - Virginia Tech

This presentation will focus on the basic principles of calibration using a simple, logical progression. Attendees will learn how to accurately calibrate both small and large spreaders and sprayers using simple calculations and common sense.

Research for Everyday Field Managers

Speaker: Grady Miller, Ph.D. - North Carolina State University

With increased need for fields, increased attention to safety and liability, greater use of technology, and greater conservation of resources, the role of research will become a more significant factor in day-to-day field management. This presentation will discuss common research techniques that can be employed by field managers, as well as provide information on how to access and utilize the research of others.

Wed., Jan. 25

8 - 9:30 am

Opening General Session

A Visit with the Doctors – Your Annual Sports Turf Physical

Speakers: Andrew McNitt, Ph.D. - The Pennsylvania State University; John Sorochan, Ph.D. - University of Tennessee

Join us for discussion and commentary on individual topics important to the sports turf industry. Questions and comments from the audience will be encouraged.

9:45 - 10:45 am

What About the Micronutrients?

Speaker: Nick Christians, Ph.D. - Iowa State University

The presentation will cover several years of research on the effects of micronutrients on the growth and development of turf. The attendee will develop an understanding of plant physiology and how micronutrients fit into a fertility program.

Turf 101

Speaker: Trey Rogers, Ph.D. - Michigan State University

This presentation will provide a simple understanding of turfgrass management using concepts transferable to a wide range of constituents. Attendees will learn about turfgrass as a living organism and the management practices required for turfgrass health.

Central Control and Varying Types of Soils in Sports Fields

Speaker: John Cogdill - City of Boulder Parks and Recreation

Boulder, CO resides in a semi-arid environment, receiving about 20.7 inches of precipitation a year and often experiencing varying levels of drought conditions. Boulder Parks and Recreation Dept. is the largest user of water in the city. This presentation will focus on use of Central Control when managing water on different types of soils, water conservation scheduling techniques, and water component strategies to promote plant health.

Managing a Synthetic Turf Infield and Natural Grass Outfield

Speakers: Chris Pearl and Jonathan Smoot - Eastern Kentucky University

The D-1 college baseball program at Eastern Kentucky University plays on a synthetic turf infield and natural grass outfield. This presentation will discuss maintenance practices and the pros and cons associated with the different surfaces. In addition, the baseball complex is undergoing a three phase renovation process. Goals and how they were or were not met during tough economic times will also be discussed.

In Season Resodding

Speaker: Tony Leonard - Philadelphia Eagles

Throughout the fall, Lincoln Financial Field is used by the Eagles, Temple University, and for other events such as concerts and soccer matches. The demand for better grass surfaces and logos for non Eagles events has required grass replacement mid-season. This presentation will focus on sodding techniques, efficiency, and required maintenance to keep clients satisfied and host multiple events while still maintaining a quality grass surface.

11 am - 12 pm

Have You Changed Your Filters Lately?

Speaker: Tony Strickland, CSFM - Athletic Construction Incorporated

This presentation will focus on surface and internal drainage systems used in both natural and synthetic turf. Advantages and challenges associated with all types of drainage systems will be discussed to help sports turf managers understand proper drainage and efficient water usage.

Balancing Management and Legal Liabilities: BMPs for Success

Speaker: Bryan Hopkins, Ph.D. - Brigham Young University

How do I protect myself and my organization from liability and perception problems and still provide a quality surface? A sports turf management decision tree can help balance management of fields while minimizing legal and liability risks. Topics will include decision making on sports field surface type, as well as the inputs and record keeping needed to have successful fields from the perspective of users, administrators, regulators, and the public.

Management of K-12 Fields in the Transition Zone

Speaker: Grady Miller, Ph.D. - North Carolina State University

Fields in the K-12 system are typically used heavily during the school year followed by a short period of little to no use. Much of the transition zone has to decide if it is best to use warm-season, cool-season, or a combination of both grasses for fields. This presentation will help attendees formulate a transition zone field maintenance plan, recognize field wear issues, and determine the appropriateness of overseeding.

A Spring and Summer Renovation Plan

Speaker: Pamela Sherratt - The Ohio State University

This presentation will provide a detailed look at how to renovate a field in the spring and play on it in the fall. Turfgrass selection, weed and disease control, and grow-in practices that will maximize ground cover in a short period of time will be discussed.

Why Every Turf Manager Should Consider Using PGRs

Speaker: Ben Polimer - Town of Weston

The presentation will discuss the modes of action for typical plant growth regulators (PGRs) used in sports turf and their practical uses from Little League fields to professional stadiums. The cost of materials has made it affordable for all managers to incorporate PGRs into their turf management programs. Growth regulators help with wear tolerance, reducing clippings, early spring green up, and reducing painting.

STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

2 - 3:15 pm

Converting Commonwealth Stadium to Synthetic and Our Involvement

Speaker: Marcus Dean, CSFM - University of Kentucky

This talk will provide a behind the scenes look into the decision making process to convert a football stadium from natural grass to synthetic turf and the timeline on this decision. It will focus on who makes the decision, who writes the specifications, who selects the contractors, and who selects the field's design. It will also discuss how the university valued the experience and knowledge of two sports turf professionals.

Positive Coaching for Sports Turf Managers

Speaker: Josh McPherson, CSFM - University of Missouri

Positive Coaching is a new way to think about building a better team. You will learn how to invest in your co-workers and find out what is important to them, as well as how to transition your team from a fixed mindset into a growth mindset. This presentation will help you discover what you and your co-workers value and how you can use those strengths to guide your short term and long term goals.

Converting to LED Sports Lights at your Facility

Speaker: Dan Bergstrom, CSFM - BBVA Compass Stadium

This presentation will cover the process of Minute Maid Park's sports light conversion from metal halide lights to LED sports lights. Discussion will include factors involved in the decision to make the conversion and specifications of LED sports lights. Kelvin temperature, electrical components, and the rapid changes in the LED lighting industry will also be covered.

#WeedWatch2017 -

Things to Watch for in Weed Management This Year

Speaker: Jim Brosnan, Ph.D. - University of Tennessee

This presentation will provide an overview of issues turfgrass managers might encounter in controlling weeds of warm- and cool-season turfgrass athletic fields in 2017. Topics covered will include new problematic weed species, management of herbicide resistance, as well as new weed management technologies entering the turfgrass marketplace this season.

Sports Field Management on a Shoestring Budget - Part 1

Speakers: Mike Goatley, Jr., Ph.D. - Virginia Tech; Michael Skelton - Culpeper County Parks and Recreation

Sports field managers typically face budget restrictions that result in choices and sacrifices in strategies to best manage their fields. This presentation will focus on proven strategies to stretch budgeted dollars as far as possible by way of novel grassing alternatives and establishment/renovation techniques, strategies in building your soil, forming an equipment/tool inventory that best serves your needs, and modifying equipment to expand its usefulness.

3:30 - 5 pm

Triage Tactics and Strategies for Pesticide-Free Heavily Used Sports Fields

Speakers: Jason Henderson, Ph.D. - University of Connecticut; Victoria Wallace - UConn Extension

There are standard and emergency care practices that are important to pesticide-free management of heavily used, often non-irrigated athletic fields. Cultural practices critical to the survival of pesticide-free fields, as well as aggressive overseeding and compost topdressing strategies specific to non-irrigated situations will be discussed. Effective preventative measures coupled with sound cultural practices serve as the prescription to maintain consistent, safe playing fields.



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STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

Sustainability on Campus: Green Sports Fields and Grounds

Speaker: Brad Jakubowski - The Pennsylvania State University

Across the United States, turf managers face new challenges in meeting safety standards as well as environmental expectations when maintaining natural grass surfaces. In addition to investigating sustainable practices, pest management, and soil and plant fertility, this seminar will also explore the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, LEED certification, and carbon neutrality.

Don't Let Water Restrictions Strike You Out

Speakers: Bryan Hopkins, Ph.D. - Brigham Young University; Kelly Kopp, Ph.D. - Utah State University

This session will focus on helping you develop a pro-active strategy for managing water shortages and potential restrictions in your community. Emphasis will be placed on performing a thorough analysis and description of existing water management practices, as well as implementing best management practices (BMPs) under restricted water supplies.

Facts and Misconceptions Regarding Natural Grass and Synthetic Turf

Speaker: Andrew McNitt, Ph.D. - The Pennsylvania State University

There are lots of misunderstandings concerning natural grass and synthetic turf. This presentation will discuss the many misconceptions concerning synthetic turf and natural grass as well as many actual truths about both surfaces.

Sports Field Management on a Shoestring Budget - Part 2

Speakers: Mike Goatley, Jr., Ph.D. - Virginia Tech;

Michael Skelton - Culpeper County Parks and Recreation

Sports field managers typically face budget restrictions that result in choices and sacrifices in strategies to best manage their fields. This presentation will focus on proven strategies to stretch your budgeted dollars as far as possible by way of novel grassing alternatives and establishment/renovation techniques, strategies in building your soil, forming an equipment/tool inventory that best serves your needs, and modifying equipment to expand its usefulness.

5:15 - 6:15 pm

STMA Networking Sessions

Meet with your peers during this formalized networking session. Each category of membership meets separately to share issues and practical solutions.

Thurs., Jan. 26

8 - 9:15 am

So You Want to Be a Meteorologist? Weather and Your Venue

Speaker: Kevin Kloesel, Ph.D. - University of Oklahoma

Severe weather in the US is unique, and short-fused high impact weather hazards can strike any venue at any time. This presentation will provide an overview of common weather hazards at sports facilities, including lightning, winter weather, flooding rain, hail, and tornadoes, and the emergency planning needed to keep those that work on athletic fields safe.

Stadium Field Renovation

Speaker: Richard White, Ph.D. - Texas A&M University

Stadium field renovation can be a daunting task and requires team work to provide the desired product in a timely manner. Typical renovations usually involve some form of soil property alteration. This presentation will help sports field managers understand basic soil physics principles, recognize important root zone specifications, and apply quality assurance standards for root zone materials to achieve a successful stadium field renovation outcome.

Pushing Bermuda's Boundaries: Managing Bermudagrass in the Transition Zone and Beyond

Speakers: Marcus Dean, CSFM and Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D. - University of Kentucky

The combination of global warming and new cultivars bred specifically for cold tolerance may mean it is time to begin considering bermudagrass in cooler climates. This session will discuss currently available cultivars and each of their strengths and weaknesses including turf quality, cold tolerance, and traffic tolerance. In addition, successful bermudagrass management in the transition zone will be covered.

Warm-Season Sports Turf Weed Management

Speaker: Jay McCurdy, Ph.D. - Mississippi State University

Sports turf managers in warm-season climates are faced with greater weed pressure than their cool-season colleagues. This presentation will focus on weed identification of common and tough-to-control turfgrass weeds, proven means of control for common weeds, and herbicide programs that work year-round.

Managing Stress and Avoiding Burnout

Speaker: Lisa Goatley, M.S., L.P.C. - The Cascade Group

Sports turf managers face a multitude of stressors in their professional lives. It is difficult to meet expectations of others; budgetary and labor limitations are problematic; long and uncertain hours are hard; and balancing family demands creates conflicting priorities. This presentation will address techniques to assist you in managing stress in order to avoid burnout. Don't let stress interfere with your ability to have a long and satisfying career.

Sports Turf Management, Past, Present, Future

Speaker: Bob Campbell, CSFM - Retired

This presentation will provide a short history of our profession and STMA. Discussion topics will include tips on how to define yourself as a professional, what it really means to be a sports turf manager and why we have always had a special place in peoples' hearts, and our responsibility to uphold the trust placed upon us as sports field managers.

9:30 - 10:45 am

You Can Grow Grass, Now Let's Grow Your Program

Speaker: David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP - Lexington DPW

This session will highlight methods to help grow, maintain and sustain your maintenance program. Main topics discussed will be budget, personnel, equipment and how to sell the program and yourself. Lexington will be used as an example of how a maintenance program was expanded and supported to provide safe, playable fields for all.

Factors that Affect Dislodgeable Foliar Residues and Environmental Fate of Pesticides

Speaker: Travis Gannon, Ph.D. - NC State University

Much concern exists around human pesticide exposure, and understanding factors that affect dislodgeable foliar residues is imperative to ensure human health is not adversely affected. Understanding the biological and chemical attributes of pesticides and their fate after application is also imperative to optimize pesticide efficacy while minimizing off-target movement. This presentation will help attendees devise best management practices to minimize pesticide exposure and off-target movement.

Who's Afraid of Calculations?

Speaker: Samuel Doak - Virginia Tech

This presentation provides a hands-on approach to basic fertilizer, topdressing and control agent calculations with some short cuts and money saving methods included. Bring a calculator, because you will have many practical practice problems.

Renovating Cool-Season Sports Turf Dominated by Annual Bluegrass

Speaker: Brad Park - Rutgers University

Annual bluegrass's poor summer performance can lead to significant declines in playing surface quality. An effective management strategy for maintaining turf cover on highly trafficked sports fields involves perennial ryegrass overseeding. This presentation will explore the integration of perennial ryegrass overseeding and herbicide applications for the purposes of renovating cool season sports turf dominated by annual bluegrass.

Management Standards for Athletic Field Management and Materials Specification

Speaker: Barry Stewart, Ph.D. - Mississippi State University

There are many standards for the management of athletic fields ranging from ASTM Standards, to league rules, to textbooks. How can these be used to improve athletic fields while maintaining a "standard of care"? This seminar will examine existing standards, as well as standards for testing and specifying materials used in the construction and maintenance process.

STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

FIFA World Cup: Preparing for a Final - Challenges and Successes

Speakers: Marcela Munoz - Syngenta UK; Sebastian Munoz - Turf Masters Chile

This presentation will focus on preparation of a soccer pitch for a FIFA World Cup final. A case study will be used to discuss the 2015 Chile FIFA under 17 World Cup at Sausalito Stadium. Challenges associated with the 2014 Brazil FIFA World Cup at Maracana Stadium will also be discussed. Attendees will learn about meeting FIFA World Cup standards and expectations, as well as keys to success in a stressful and challenging environment.

11 am - 12 pm

Keynote -

Laura Katen - Katen Consulting

This presentation will address the topic of professionalism, and how communication at an individual and organizational level influences how you are perceived by your peers, your employer and your community.

Fri., Jan. 27

8 - 10 am

Football Panel

Panelists: Clark Cox, CSFM - University of South Carolina; Stephen Crockett, CSFM - City of Union City Tennessee; Nicholas Fedewa - SMG Jacksonville/Jaguars; Rob Julian - Tampa Bay Buccaneers

This panel discussion will cover multiple aspects of maintenance for professional, college and university, municipal, and K-12 football fields. Management tips and tricks as well as safety practices will be presented. The session is an open forum discussion where attendees can ask questions pertaining to the maintenance of safe football playing surfaces.

Baseball Panel

Panelists: Dan Bergstrom, CSFM - BBVA Compass Stadium; Nick McKenna, CSFM - Texas A&M Athletics; Tom Nielsen - Louisville Baseball Club; Rick Perruzzi, CSFM, CPRP - City of South Portland, ME Parks, Recreation & Waterfront

Sports turf managers from across the country will share the various management strategies they utilize to maintain baseball fields. After a brief introduction from each panelist, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss challenges and solutions related to Major League, Minor League, College and University, and K-12 baseball fields and facilities.

Pesticides Panel

Panelists: Jim Brosnan, Ph.D. - University of Tennessee; Travis Gannon, Ph.D. - NC State University; Jason Henderson, Ph.D. - University of Connecticut; Jay McCurdy, Ph.D. - Mississippi State University

This panel will address the control of turfgrass pests using both chemical control strategies and pesticide-free management strategies. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions regarding pesticide resistance, exposure, new formulations, and product selection. Attendees experiencing pesticide bans are also encouraged to attend to learn about compliance and alternative maintenance strategies.

Cultivars/Varieties Panel

Panelists: Leah Brilman, Ph.D. - DLF Pickseed USA; Gregg Munshaw, Ph.D. - University of Kentucky; Brad Park - Rutgers University; Pamela Sherratt - The Ohio State University

This panel of experts will help you decipher which turfgrass cultivar or variety is best for your situation. Recommendations for highest recuperative potential, best color, highest pest tolerance, and best heat, drought, or cold tolerance will all be discussed. Bring your questions to help determine which turfgrasses are best suited for high performing, safe playing fields.

Innovative Sessions

10:30 - 10:45 am

Planning for a Synthetic Turf Field Replacement

Speaker: Mark Heinlein - Turf Reclamation Solutions, LLC

Synthetic fields have a finite lifespan. Evaluation, planning and execution are keys to a successful field replacement project. This presentation will teach attendees how to evaluate an aging turf field and identify and manage key components of the deconstruction process for a successful outcome.

11 - 11:15 am

Polymer Coated Fertilizer: Takes a Beating and Keeps on Feeding

Speaker: Eric Miltner, Ph.D. - Koch Turf & Ornamental

Polymer coated fertilizers are efficient, effective tools for sports turf managers. Polymer coatings resist physical damage, providing controlled-release nutrition even under heavy traffic. Nutrient rates and number of applications can be reduced, saving time, fuel, and equipment use and maintenance. Polymer coated fertilizer technology can enhance turf performance and improve management efficiency.

11:30 - 11:45 am

Porous Inorganic Amendments - Unpacking How They Really Work

Speaker: George Serrill - EnviroTech Soil Solutions, Inc.

This presentation focuses on how soil amendments (calcined clay, calcined diatomaceous earth, and zeolite) work and their potential for water conservation, wear resistance, and nutrient retention. It will illustrate research distinctions between inorganic amendments approved by the USGA for golf green rootzone construction, how these structural differences regulate performance, and provide the basis for each mode of action.

12 - 12:15 pm

Stadium Grow Lighting Innovation in Europe and the USA

Speaker: Simon Gumbrell - Stadium Grow Lighting (SGL)

Supplementary grow lighting use on natural grass stadium fields has become an accepted practice of the last decade with many grounds managers using the lighting technology to ensure a healthy, safe, durable surface for players. The presentation will exhibit the success of the lighting used in MLS, NFL and MLB stadiums as well as the current and future innovations for improved quality.

1:30 - 3 pm

Taking Stress in Stride

Speaker: Mary Owen - University of Massachusetts Amherst

Some abiotic stresses – lack of adequate water, excessive traffic, and temperatures unfavorable to turfgrass growth – pose challenges to the establishment, maintenance, and presentation of a quality, safe playing surface. Those stressors impact the plant and its ability to function, grow and recover from injury. We will discuss the physiology and development of the turfgrass plant in response to stress, and consider strategies to prepare for, manage, and mitigate its impact.

Managing the Problem Employee

Speaker: Lisa Goatley, M.S., L.P.C. - The Cascade Group

Most sports field managers will face the unpleasant task of having to manage a problem employee at some point in their career. Management strategies will be presented with the goal of employee retention and improved morale. The decision about when termination is appropriate will also be addressed, along with suggestions to potentially avoid litigation or facilitate a successful outcome to litigation.

Paying it Forward: How to Be Helpful When Asked for Advice

Speaker: Rich Watson - Laurel Lawnmower

Every year there are new field managers that enter the profession at the K-12 or municipal level that have never maintained a sports field. This talk will focus on how to provide help to field managers that may not have the manpower, resources, or experience to enjoy success at this point in their career. Some topics of discussion will be: field maintenance concepts, communication, continuing education, and priority budgeting.

STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

OPTIONAL EVENTS

Seminar on Wheels - Two Tours

Tues., Jan. 24, 7 am - 4 pm

See the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Practice Facility, then tour their game day field, "Ray Jay" – the Raymond James Stadium. The final stop is Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex on 220 acres, which hosts more than 200 competitions annually.

**\$65 additional fee (paid online by 1/06/17).
Includes transportation, tour and lunch.**

Sponsored by Bush Sports Turf



Fri., Jan. 27, 1:15 - 5 pm

Take the half-day tour to see Barnett Park, a 159-acre park operated by Orange County Parks and Recreation. It offers disc golf, a golf driving range, a boat launch, 12,000 sq. ft. state of the art gymnasium, and sports fields consisting of two gridiron and two adult softball fields. Then travel to the Citrus Bowl, home to collegiate football competitions and bowl games.

**\$35 additional fee (paid online by 1/06).
Includes transportation and tour.**

Sponsored by Bush Sports Turf



SAFE Golf Tournament

Tues., Jan. 24, 8:30 am - 5 pm

Gather a foursome and play Hunter's Creek. Proceeds benefit the SAFE Foundation for scholarship, research and educational outreach. Win prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin and compete for four Par 3 Hole-In-One challenges. One prize is \$10,000 cash. Transportation, green fees, cart and lunch included.

\$135 additional fee (paid online by 1/06).

Co-sponsored by Diamond Pro and Harrells

SAFE Night of Bowling at AMF Skylanes

Tues., Jan. 24, 6 - 9 pm

Win team and individual prizes! Transportation, bowling, dinner and drink tickets included. Sign up with fellow chapter members or other friends and bowl as teams or as an individual. Fees support scholarships, research and educational outreach.

\$75 additional fee (paid online by 1/06).

Title Sponsor: FIELDS Inc.

Drink Sponsor: Beacon Athletics

Fun Run/Walk

Tues., Jan. 24, 11 am

Wed., Jan. 25, 12:15 pm

Fri., Jan., 27, 1:30 pm

Join your fellow runners and walkers for outdoor recreation led by enthusiast Tom Nielsen of the Louisville Bats. Run or walk on a scenic trail that surrounds the Disney resort. No additional fee.

STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

Women's Forum Lunch

Wed., Jan. 25, 12 - 2 pm

Come celebrate a decade of women's sessions! All women at the conference are invited to participate in a facilitated discussion and enjoy lunch.

*Sponsored by Founding Sponsor
Hunter Industries*

CSFM Testing

Tues., Jan. 24, 3 - 7 pm
Sat., Jan. 28, 8 am - 12 pm

Pre-qualification and pre-registration is required by Dec. 15 for those who wish to take the certification exam. If you test on Tuesday and do not pass all of the sections, you may be able to retest on those sections on Saturday. To find out if you qualify, call STMA at 800-323-3875.

ASBA Certification Testing

Sat., Jan. 28, 8 am - 1 pm

The American Sports Builders Association (ASBA) offers three certifications for field builders and will be conducting these tests at the conference. Prequalification and registration is required by Dec. 15. Go to sportsbuilders.org or call 866-501-2722. Those testing to become a CFB, CFB-N or CFB-S must register for the STMA conference, purchasing a one-day package at a minimum.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Networking

Wed., Jan. 25, 5:15 - 6:15 pm

Gather with students from other universities to discuss trends, issues and career aspirations.

www.stma.org

Student Challenge - Now Awarding \$5,000 to Winning Teams

Thurs., Jan. 26, 2 - 4:30 pm

Challenge participants receive FREE conference registration by competing. Undergraduates in two- and four-year institutions are eligible to compete in teams up to four people. Graduate students are not eligible. Win \$5,000 for your school! Pre-registration is required and can only be completed online at STMA.org.

*Founding Sponsor Hunter Industries
Supporting Sponsor Ewing*



Student Luncheon

Fri., Jan. 27, 12 pm

Join your fellow student members in a special area on the trade show floor and network with sports field managers. Winners of the Student Challenge will be announced immediately following lunch at the Hunter Industries booth.

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STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Mid-Atlantic Sports Turf Managers Association (MASTMA) – now forming.

If interested email nandrews@matraxinc.com or contact STMA, 800-323-3875.

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,
Dale Croft, dale.croft@ocps.net

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://irmstma.blogspot.com/>

Indiana - 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.kystma.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/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.

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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Tues., Jan 24th

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Tues., Jan 24th

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SAFE Silent Auction

Thurs., Jan. 26th and Fri., Jan. 27th

Bid on exciting items on the trade show floor. This is a great opportunity to bid on diverse items at a great price while also helping to contribute to the SAFE Foundation. SAFE is grateful for any and all donations to the silent auction.

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SAFE Live Auction and Pre-Banquet Reception

Fri., Jan. 27th

Bid on top-of-the-line equipment, technology, and autographed memorabilia! Also taking place at the auction will be the annual pre banquet reception where you can enjoy good company, beverages, and food.

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Large Item Raffle

Buy tickets throughout the week at conference for your chance to win exciting items. The drawing will take place on Fri., Jan. 27th prior to the annual awards banquet.

STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW



PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Jan. 24-27, 2017

Where the Industry Comes Together to Network, Learn and Energize

FULL Conference registration includes admission to all Education Sessions (except Optional Activities), the Welcome Reception, Awards Banquet, Trade Show, and online access to the education session recordings. Attendees will receive breakfast each day, two lunches, two receptions and dinner during the conference.

RATES

Full Conference Registration Members \$375

2nd Member from Same Facility \$325

Non-Members \$485

NEW STMA Member* FREE

Students Participating in Student Challenge FREE

For these rates, you must register online by Jan. 6.
Higher fees for paper forms and post Jan. 6 registration.

One Day Package \$140 each day

(Select up to two days; either Wed., Thurs., or Fri.)

Trade Show Only \$40 each day

Optional Activities see separate
fees in events'
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GO TO STMA.ORG TO REGISTER

Follow the steps below, except in Step 3, choose your conference registration type.

***New Members:** If you are a new member (never been a member or haven't been a member since 2000) who joined STMA during 2016, you qualify for a free conference registration. Follow these steps:

1. Click Member Log in at the top of STMA.org
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3. Select the 2017 Conference Registration item; choose Full Conference Registration - New Member to receive your free registration. (No fee will be indicated).
4. Add it to your shopping cart and follow the instructions

REGISTER TODAY!

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STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW

America's youth athletes enter all new 'world' at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney

Nation's leading multi-sport venue for amateur and professional events features signature ESPN elements; one-of-a-kind initiative to take youth sports to next level

The widely acclaimed sports facility at Walt Disney World Resort was officially re-launched as ESPNWideWorld of Sports Complex in February 2010, taking youth sports to new heights. The ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex has transformed youth sports by providing an immersive experience for the more than 2 million athletes, coaches and fans who come to the complex each year, while also connecting them to their favorite ESPN programs, personalities and elements. The sports complex offers 75.6 acres of baseball and mixed-use turf; giving youth athletes the chance to compete on the same professional-quality fields as their favorite NFL and MLB teams. Disney uses three types of grass throughout the year to maintain the fields at the sports complex: 419 bermuda, Latitude bermuda, and winter rye. 419 and Latitude



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are standard, while during the winter the complex crews oversee with the winter rye, which keeps the fields green during the colder months.

By using this blend of tough, durable and aesthetically pleasing grass, Disney Sports can stage more than 100 events and has accommodated approximately 70 different sports involving athletes from more than 70 countries. Among these events are Atlanta Braves spring training, Disney Soccer Showcase, the Pop Warner Super Bowl, AAU National Championships, Varsity Cheer events, Disney International Salute to Baseball and the *run* Disney race series, one of the largest race organizers in the nation. New in 2017, ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex will be home to the NFL Pro Bowl. Additionally, ESPN televises dozens of sporting events from the complex.

ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex also provides advertisers a new platform to reach the youth sports market. As part of the project, Disney and ESPN have added many technological and experiential enhancements designed to replicate the signature elements

STMA CONFERENCE PREVIEW



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT

of ESPN throughout the complex, including high-definition cameras (robotic, handheld and studio), high-definition video screens (including three jumbo screens) and a 2,500-square-foot Production Center with links to ESPN facilities in Bristol, CT, New York and Los Angeles. The complex also features a welcome center, a huge marquee highlighting the day's events and 20-zone audio system. **ST**

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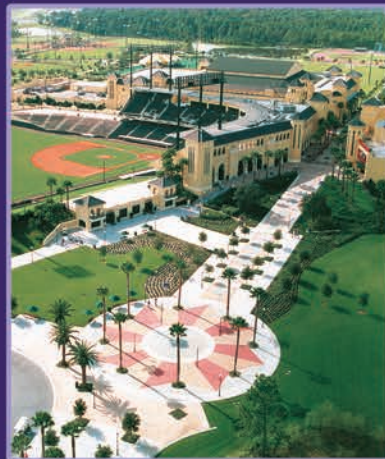
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Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
January 24-27, 2017, Lake Buena Vista, FL

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Material in clay

Turfgrass area: Softball infield

Location: Northeastern United States

Grass variety: Infield clay



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— Scott Clark, President
Clark Companies



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Newstripe Inc.

Aurora CO 925
Newstripe is a manufacturer of paint striping machines, drag mats, infield groomers, layout systems and logo stencils.
www.newstripe.com

Nordic Auto Plow, LLC

West Chicago IL 1135
Light weight rounded edge plow.
www.nordicplow.com

PBI Gordon

Highlands Ranch CO 1114
Anywhere you see beautiful sports turf, golf courses, professional landscaping or lawn maintenance, there's probably a Gordon's product behind it. We're the nation's leader in professional T&O products and nobody knows your turf like we do.
www.gordonsprofessional.com

Pennington Seed Inc.

Madison GA 818
Premier grass seed company bringing the most technologically advanced varieties to the sports turf managers since 1945. Also offering fertilizer, chemicals and skinned surface materials.
www.penningtonseed.com

The Perfect Mound

Sauget IL 339
The Perfect Mound provides baseball players, of all levels, the highest quality portable pitcher's mounds. Our products are designed by baseball players for baseball players with regards to safety, durability and playability.
www.theprecfectmound.com

Performance Nutrition (Lidochem)

New Holland PA 435
Lidochem's performance nutrition division develops and markets unique and effective organic and conventional

plant nutrients, chelated micronutrients, bio pesticides, eco fertilizers, soil amendments and bio stimulants. Most products are patented or patent pending and are safe for the environment, the applicator and the consumer.
www.pnfertilizers.com

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Phylom BioProducts will provide its customers with potent and environmentally safe biological pest control products for use in forestry, tree and shrub care, lawn and garden care, specialty agriculture and animal health.
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Port Industries, Inc.

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www.portindustries.com

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The most versatile sports turf renovation machine on the market. In one pass this machine will remove the problematic infield up, detach, aerate, verticut and level turf.
www.powerturfrenovation.com

Precision USA

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Precision USA- Turf equipment parts, golf car parts, specialized products and equipment for the golf course and sports turf industries.
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Pro-Tech Manufacturing & Distribution

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www.turfpusher.com

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Hubbard OR 929
Suppliers of premium quality turf grass seed to sports turf professionals.
www.pureseed.com

Quality Event Flooring Systems

Beaumont TX 133
Forty-three year manufacturer of portable roadways and temporary event flooring to protect stadium turf.
www.gmat.com

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Linwood KS 731
Quest Products produces fertilizers and micro-nutrient products to increase turf wear, sustainability and performance.
www.questproducts.us

R&R Products

Tucson AZ 329
Manufacturer of turf replacement parts and turf equipment.
www.rrproducts.com

Rain Bird

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www.rainbird.com

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Las Vegas NV 109
Rain Out is a revolutionary, new product that works for all teams—from the pros to the pee wees. With an absorption ratio of 250 to 1, it is deemed an incredible, cost-saving product for high schools, youth leagues and municipalities. Rain out works 10 times faster using a mere fraction of the amount of any competitor's product.
www.rainoutproducts.com

Redexim North America

Valley Park MO 701
Manufacturer of specialized turf and ground care equipment produced especially for aeration, seeding, topdressing and environmental maintenance.
www.redexim.com

Redexim North America (BLEC N.A.)

Valley Park MD 801
Manufacturer of specialist landscaping, grounds construction and turfware machinery.
www.blecna.com

STMA EXHIBITOR LISTINGS

Redox Chemicals, LLC

West Point UT 422
A reacted plant nutrient company that specializes in innovative plant growth technology.
www.redoxchem.com

REHAU

Leesburg VA 203
REHAU is a global leader in turf heating applications, with more than 225 systems installed in professional playing and practice fields throughout the world. We support turf field managers during the design and installation of our Pex-based piping systems and controls and advise on ongoing system optimization.
www.rehau.com

SAF/Sigma Organics, Inc.

Nashville TN 1224
SAF works in conjunction with Sigma Organics to provide the knowledge, capabilities, and personnel to assist any sports turf managers needs. Whether it be professional, collegiate, or high school level sports, Sigma can provide you with the products you need to get the job done.
www.sigmaturf.com

Salsco, Inc.

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Tranz-Former, EHA Sports Fields, Greens and Fairways Roller. With features like 114" effective rolling width, light weight rolling to help prevent compaction and 11 M.P.H. transport speed, the Tranz-Former is the ideal machine for rolling Sports Fields, Greens and Fairways. The Tranz-Former is not designed to make anything flat; it's designed to smooth the surface.
www.salsco.com

Schiller Grounds Care

Southampton PA 117
Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. engineers, manufactures and markets some of the world's most sought-after lawn and garden care equipment. Our passion for innovation, quality and reliability is evident throughout our full line of high performance products used by professionals, avid gardeners and homeowners around the globe.
www.schillergc.com

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Hailey ID 112
ProPlay line of products are engineered shock and performance pad for synthetic turf projects.
www.schmitzfoam.com

Seago, Inc.

Hickory NC 1101
Seago is the U.S. Distributor for Masport striping mowers, Atom baseline edgers, Bowdry field dryer and Spyker sprinklers.
www.seagousa.com

www.stma.org

Seed Research of Oregon

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Quality cool and warm season grass seed for all athletic needs.
www.sroseed.com

Shaw Sports Turf

Calhoun GA 207
Shaw Sports Turf is one of the leading synthetic turf companies in North America. Shaw Turf is a complete turnkey surfacing division comprised of four companies that excel in providing synthetic solutions for commercial, residential landscaping, pet facilities, parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and landfill applications.
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We've developed the fastest and easiest ways to lay thick-cut in the industry, only from Sidekick USA, giving you the safest, firmest athletic field immediately. Our patented machinery is unique to the industry and won the 2013 STMA Innovative Award!
www.sidekickusa.com

Signature Systems Group

Flower Mound TX 223
Signature Systems Group is the world's largest manufacturer and renter of temporary flooring systems that protect natural grass, artificial turf, and ice arenas. Our stadium flooring systems are in use worldwide at prestigious arenas and stadiums and have proven themselves through extensive use.
www.signature-systemsgroup.com

SISGRASS B.V.

Amsterdam Netherlands . 232
SISGrass, the latest and most advanced re-enforced natural turf system, has been selected and install this year at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, the host stadium for the 2018 World Cup Final. Developed by SIS Pitches, a UK's leader in design, manufacture, construction, installation and maintenance of sports surfaces. SISGras

won the inaugural SAPCA Award in 2015, making a new benchmark in quality, innovation and advancement across the sports industry
www.sispitches.com

Smithco

Wayne PA 410
Manufacturers of premier Sports Turf equipment. We provide solutions for today's professional grounds manager.
www.smithco.com

Sod Solutions

Mt. Pleasant SC 900
Researching, developing and promoting improved turfgrass varieties worldwide.
www.sodsolutions.com

Solu-Cal USA

W. Wareham MA 1125
Solu-Cal USA's family of calcium and sulfur products allow turf managers to quickly and efficiently address soil chemistry problems. Solu-Cal Enhanced Calcium quickly raises soil pH at ¼ the rate of traditional liming material.
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Southern Athletic Fields, Inc.

Columbia TN 1119
Southern Athletic Field, Inc. is a supplier of quality infield mixes, mound clays, clay bricks, calcined clays and warning track materials as well as innovative field accessories.
www.safdir.com

Sports Construction Management, Inc.

Lexington NC 302
Turnkey general contractor specializing in synthetic turf athletic fields.
www.sportsconstructionmanagement.com

SportsEdge®

Troutman NC 831
Manufacturer/supplier of surface and sub-surface drain systems, football goals, soccer goals, and track equipment.
www.sportsedge.com

SportsField Management Magazine

St. Johnsbury VT 904
We are a monthly trade publication for field care professionals managing playing fields nationwide. Subscriptions are free to qualified subscribers.
www.sportsfieldmanagementmagazine.com

Sportsfield Specialties, Inc.

Delhi NY 1210
Since 1998 we have been the innovative industry leader in the sale and manufacture of sports construction equipment. We continue to meet the demands of modern sports construction through innovative design and state-of-the-art manufacturing.
www.sportsfieldspecialties.com

Sports Turf Company, Inc.

Whitesburg GA 1039
Sports Turf Company is an athletic facility construction company. For more than 25 years, Sports Turf Company has been building athletic fields, tracks and tennis courts with an uncompromising commitment to quality. Whether it be a design-build project, renovation or new construction, the experts at Sports Turf Company have you covered.
www.sportsturf.net

SportsTurf Magazine EPG Media & Specialty Information Media

Minneapolis MN 741
SportsTurf is the official magazine of the sports turf managers association. BPA-audited and appearing monthly, SportsTurf is the industry's leading source of news and information for sports fields and facilities managers.
www.sportsturfonline.com

Sports Venue Padding

Cerritos CA 208
Leading manufacturer of stadium field padding, rail padding, autogate padding and sponsor graphics.
www.sportsvenuepadding.com

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www.sglconcept.com

STEC Equipment

Sandy Springs SC 519
The industry leader in specialized turf equipment with a mission to stay on the forefront of innovation.
www.steequipment.com

SubAir Systems, LLC

Graniteville SC 504
Providing solutions to air movement problems above and below the surface.
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Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.

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Sunbelt Rentals is proud to be the second largest equipment rental company in the United States. Sunbelt offers a range of general construction equipment, industrial tools, pumps and power generation equipment, trench shoring, scaffolding, remediation and restoration equipment, and much more.
www.sunbeltrentals.com

Sustane, Natural Fertilizers of America, Inc.

Cannon Falls MN 840
World wide distributor network in turfgrass construction & maintenance.
www.sustane.com

SynaTek

Souderton PA 1231
SynaTek, LP is one of the largest independent manufacturers and distributors of commercial turf and lawn care products, golf course chemicals and turf nutritionals, as well as ice melt products to the professional landscape, golf and janitorial/sanitation industries in the United States. SynaTek is best known for their ability to design and implement value-added solutions that solve significant challenges for their customers.
www.synateksolutions.com

Syngenta

St. Louis MO 414
Syngenta is the leading manufacturer of fungicides, herbicides, and insecticides and plant growth regulators.
www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com

Synthetic Turf Council

Forest Hill MD 111
Founded in 2003, the Synthetic Turf Council is a 501(c)6 non-profit association dedicated to serving as a resource for trustworthy information about synthetic turf. Our objective is to encourage, promote, and facilitate better understanding among all parties involved in the manufacture, selection, delivery and use of today's synthetic turf systems.
www.syntheticurfCouncil.org

The Toro Company

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The Toro Company provides a broad suite of products and services that meet the turf professionals' demands for productive and reliable equipment and efficient irrigation solutions. We do this through a commitment to superior innovation and superior customer care.
www.toro.com

Trimax Mowing Systems, Inc.

Griffin GA 235
Trimax Mowing Systems design and manufacture high quality, world leading mowers, for golf courses, sports fields and fine turf.
www.trimaxmowers.com

Tritex Grass

Granbury TX 838
Tritex Grass is a premium grower of warm season grasses for sports and golf.
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TruMark Athletics is your partner in field preparation with everything from paint to machines, stencils to field covers. We have what you need to make your mark.
www.trumarkathletics.com

Turface Athletics

Buffalo Grove IL 819
Turface Athletics is the leader in sports field maintenance, providing the industry's best products to solve and prevent field maintenance problems. Our products are the number one choice among groundskeepers. The complete line of Turface products has superior absorption and drainage to help fight compaction and create safe playing surfaces at all levels.
www.turface.com

STMA EXHIBITOR LISTINGS

Turf & Soil Diagnostics

Linwood KS 305
Turf & Soil Diagnostics is the leading sports turf testing company, with unrivaled knowledge, experience, and dedication to the sports turf industry. Whether you're constructing new fields or perfecting your infield mixes, Turf & Soil Diagnostics can provide the information you need to build and manage your sports fields for optimum performance.
www.turfdiag.com

Turfco Manufacturing

Blaine MN 416
For over 50 years, Turfco has been the innovator in providing quality turf maintenance equipment.
www.turfco.com

Turf Fuel

Novi MI 229
An innovative company specializing in plant health and performance optimization.
www.turffuel.com

Turfgrass Producers International

East Dundee IL Lobby
TPI shares knowledge about maintaining healthy natural grass that can withstand the toughest play.
www.TurfGrassSod.org

Turf-Tec International

Tallahassee FL 407
We manufacture diagnostic testing equipment for natural and artificial turf.
www.turf-tec.com

Turf Time Equipment

New Holland PA 211
Manufacturer of turf maintenance equipment— aerators, top dressers, verticutters, roller and infield drags.
www.turftimeeq.com

Underhill Intl.

Mission Viejo CA 906
Underhill has over 32 years of excellence in worldwide manufacturing and technical sales of irrigation and related products for sports fields, golf courses, commercial and residential.
www.underhill.us

University of Georgia

Athens GA Lobby
The University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education offers comprehensive professional development for turf industry professionals. Earn a certificate of completion in 12 months or less!
www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/courses

U.S. InterLoc Matting, Inc.

Sacramento CA 139
Lightweight and driveable portable floor matting for turf protection on natural and synthetic fields. Perfect for rapid deployment for concerts, corporate events, tent flooring or equipment onto the fields.
www.usinterloc.com

U.S. Specialty Coatings

Alpharetta GA 439
U.S. Specialty Coatings is a manufacturer of Athletic Field Marking Paints, Paint Striping Machines, Athletic Field Accessories, Traffic Paints, Marking Paints, Industrial Coatings, Protective Coatings, Specialty Custom Coatings, Architectural Paints, Concrete restoration coatings, Asphalt repair products, Janitorial cleaners disinfectants, Floor wax polishes, serving customers all over the world.
www.usseproducts.com

Ventrac

Orrville OH 1035
Ventrac compact tractors and attachments lead the sports turf industry in choices for versatility and durability. Ventrac gives you the ability to choose between 30+ attachments such as contour deck, reel mower, aeration, leaf blowers and more!
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Vista Seed Partners

Shedd OR 933
We offer a complete line of quality turf and forage seeds and provide clients with the product, services, and support they require for lasting success.
www.vistaseedpartners.com

Waupaca Sand & Solutions

Waupaca, WI 307
Manufacturer of infield mix, warning track stone and custom soil blending.
www.waupacasand.com

Wiedenmann North America, LLC

Savannah GA 811
Wiedenmann is a leader in the manufacturing of turf maintenance equipment for both natural and artificial turf surfaces.
www.wiedenmannusa.com

Wood Bay Turf Technologies

Alberta Canada 1131
Manufacturer of turf maintenance equipment for synthetic and natural turf sports fields and park and recreational areas.
www.woodbayturftech.com

World Class Athletic Surfaces

Leland MS 627
The world's premier manufacturer of quality field marking paints. We create custom stencils for field logos.
www.worldclasspaints.com

World Sports Solutions International

Henderson NV 323
World Sports International Solutions Co. is a renowned international company specializing in the maintenance of professional and amateur athletic fields, as well as high-end residential and commercial landscaping areas. Our team offers the highest quality services and technologies for the sports turf industry.
www.wsportsolutions.com



Additional Exhibitors

BASF

Research Triangle, NC 544
BASF Professional & Specialty Solutions provides fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and turf colorants to the sports turf industry.
www.betterturf.basf.us

Turf Merchants, Inc.

Tangent OR 1030
Turf Merchants supplies grass seed to sports stadiums and golf courses around the world. We contract to produce our own proprietary lines of cool season grasses.
www.turfmerchants.com

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35 years in business. Design and build natural and synthetic field systems. Providing our clients with "proven products, quality craftsmanship, and trusted service®". Services include construction, irrigation, renovation and maintenance
www.sportsfield.com **ST**

5/3 BANK STADIUM

**Kennesaw State University
KENNESAW, GA**



The Field of the Year Awards program is made possible by the support of sponsors Barenbrug USA, Carolina Green Corp., Ewing, Hunter Industries, and World Class Athletic Services.

Why STMA should consider your field a winner?

5/3 Bank Stadium plays host to a multitude of other world class sporting, and non-sporting events outside of our realm of being a lacrosse venue for The Kennesaw State University Owl's women's team and the future home venue for Major League Lacrosse's Atlanta Blaze.

Aside from the challenges provided to us by Mother Nature, we also face a heavy one in the "human element." 5/3 Bank Stadium is also the centerpiece for Kennesaw State University's "Sports and Entertainment Park." In the past 12 months we have hosted events from 60,000+ patrons at a 2-day country music festival, the Southeastern United States largest hot air balloon, and Halloween festival (Owl-O-Ween) (40,000 patrons), KSU's Homecoming Wiz Khalifa concert, International women's rugby tournaments, four LB3 collegiate men's and women's lacrosse events, and IMG/USA Rugby's Collegiate Division 1 and 2 Men's and Women's national Championship, as well as "home" to The Owl's Division 1-AA Football team, and KSU's women's soccer team. That's why it deserves the title of "STMA Sporting Grounds (Collegiate) Field of the Year!"

The largest challenge came May 16 with a country music festival (Shaky Boots.) Following a weekend full of Rugby National Championships, 20,000+ sq. ft. of Terratrak flooring was put down, and for 8 days a 150-ft crane was parked setting up the main stage. With summer temperatures in the south, 10 days without water, close to 1/4 of the field covered in flooring and 60,000 country music fans trampling every grass plant, sprinkler head and valve box, stress levels mounted if we were going to meet the next event. A nationally televised, Major League Lacrosse Championship was scheduled the first week of August. Not only did we meet that challenge, but exceeded it to the delight of the Major League Lacrosse league office, and most importantly Kennesaw State University's Sports and Entertainment Park.

SportsTurf: What attracted you to a career in sports turf management?

Hohlbein: I always knew growing up that I wanted pursue something outdoors, in the elements. Sitting behind a desk in a cubicle was just not going to cut it. I started off in landscape architecture at Ohio State, but quickly learned they offered a degree in Turfgrass Science. Thinking the same thing that many individuals I come across, I asked, "That is really a major?" I did some research and decided this was the career path that I was going to pursue. One of my good friends was working at a private golf club in the Cincinnati area, and mentioned they were hiring grounds crew, so I hopped onboard, and have never looked back. After college is when I transitioned to the sports turf side of the industry by accepting a job with the Jacksonville Jaguars/SMG. This sparked an even greater interest and passion for me in the turf industry. I could not have asked

Category of Submission: College Sporting Grounds

Sports Turf Manager: Shane Hohlbein, CSFM

Title: Sports Turf Manager

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Turfgrass Science from The Ohio State University

Experience: I have had a wide of array of experience in the sports turf industry. During my time at Ohio State I worked for Camargo Country Club and Golden Bear Golf Club doing internships to further enhance my education. After graduation, I joined SMG/Jacksonville Jaguars as the second Assistant Sports Turf Manager for two seasons maintaining the stadium field and three practice fields. I then moved back home with my wife to Cincinnati where I worked for Hamilton County/Cincinnati Bengals for a season maintaining the stadium field, practice fields, and landscaped areas.

Wanting to gain more experience, and be more well rounded, I found a job with The Motz Group in Cincinnati. Working for The Motz Group helped me learn the fields from the ground up. I got to work on several aspects of turf construction and maintenance while employed there, including natural/synthetic field construction, as well as natural/synthetic field maintenance. After leaving The Motz Group I found myself back in the southeastern United States working for Precision Turf LLC, with whom I am still currently employed. I currently oversee our maintenance division in metro Atlanta maintaining over 70 acres of 419 bermudagrass fields (all overseeded with perennial ryegrass) with five other employees and two summer interns. My crew and I also get the pleasure of installing and maintaining temporary soccer fields all over the country, which comes with a whole new set of challenges. These temporary surfaces are put in for international competition and friendly soccer matches at venues in the United States that do not have natural grass surfaces.

Full-time staff: Jared Kent, Jason Holland, & Austin Smith

Summer interns: Parker McGlone and Daniel Steele

Original construction: 2010

Activities field is used for: KSU's inaugural season of football (3 games/1 walk-thru); KSU Soccer (11 games/22 walk-thrus); MLL Championship (1 game/2 walk-thrus); Rugby 7's (22 games); LB3 lacrosse (4 games); Wiz Khalifa concert; Shaky Boots Country Festival (2 days); Owl-O-Ween Festival (2 days); IMG/USA Collegiate Rugby Championships; LB3 commercial shoot; Atlanta Magazine photo shoot; Drumline movie commercial shoot; band practice; and cheerleading practice.

Rootzone: 100% sand

Turfgrass variety: 419 Bermudagrass

Overseed: The field is overseeded in the fall (depending on schedule and weather) with perennial ryegrass at a rate of 15 lbs./1000 sq. ft. We use Land Pride seeders to create good seed-to-soil contact, along with dragging the seed into the canopy and watering lightly throughout the day.

Drainage: USGA Profile

Sporting Grounds Maintenance: With lacrosse, we have found wear to be a much greater issue in the goal mouth areas than we find in any other sport we manage. Wear is so excessive that after a few games we have to cut sod from our out of play areas to keep the entire surface level and safe for our athletes. We solid tine these high traffic, high wear areas as much as time allows. With the majority of the game happening in the crease areas this is where you get the most foot traffic and compaction. We seed these areas a few days before each match, as well as apply a potassium silicate product to increase rigidity to withstand the constant abuse.

to surrounded by a better group of individuals than those in the sports turf industry. The positive energy and constant networking to get better day in and day out in unparalleled to the rest.

SportsTurf: What are your biggest challenges in providing excellent playing surfaces? And how do you approach those challenges?

Hohlbein: The biggest challenges we face are scheduling, communication and weather. I believe these three things go hand in hand. Our field is in constant use from athletic events, band practices, cheerleading practices, commercials, photo shoots, corporate events, concerts, etc. Needless to say all parties involved need to communicate with each other regarding events and maintenances practices scheduled, so that everyone is on the same page. Everyone involved needs to be aware of the repercussions certain events can cause, and what could happen should we get inclement weather.

By creating a good line of communication we can then figure out timing of certain practices, as well as having a backup plan should something go array. I think it is vital to have face-to-face discussions, as well as having the items discussed formulated into an email, so there is nothing lost in translation. I think this

helps give the turf manager an understanding of how to layout his/her schedule to produce the greatest results, as well as giving the client a platform to host their events with both parties understanding how to keep the integrity of the field at its highest level.

SportsTurf: What changes if any did you implement for the winning field in 2016?

Hohlbein: I think that every year that passes allows for my crew and me to learn what works and what doesn't. This in return helps us educate ourselves on how to grow as turf professionals to create a program that allows us to get better and more efficient each and every year that passes. We have really ramped up our cultural practices (hollow/solid tine aerification, spiking, deep tine aerification, and Air2G2) in the past few years. We are trying to punch some kind of hole in the ground every 7-10 days during the growing months. This has shown great benefits and tremendous results above and below the surface. In return this helps us get through our heavy schedule with a safe and aesthetically, pleasing athletic field.

SportsTurf: What's the greatest pleasure you derive from your job? What's the biggest headache?



Hohlbein: The greatest pleasure I derive from my job is the end product. It is a great feeling when you can look at all of the blood, sweat and tears you and your crew have invested into a field to achieve nothing short of the best, and having the results speak for themselves in the end. It hits a soft spot when outside parties tell my crew how great the field looks. I think this gives them a sense of accomplishment, and shows them that all those hot days and long nights really paid off in the end.

The greatest headache of my job is scheduling. There are too many day-to-day variables (weather, practices, games, walk-thrus, commercials, photo shoots, equipment issues, logistics, etc.) to name a few. This really puts a kink in things when one item changes. This generally means that the whole day then needs to be flipped upside down, and/or even the rest of the week. The challenges faced with scheduling haunt me in my dreams, but it is just part of being a turf manager that you learn to accept or try to accept.

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

Hohlbein: The best advice I have received is, "You can't control the weather." Mother Nature is going to do what she wants, and we as turf managers need to adapt to the situation and come up with solution. I think we as turf manager's plan for the worst, and hope for the best.

SportsTurf: How are using social media at work?

Hohlbein: I believe that social media is a vital tool for turf managers. This allows us to network with other turf managers around the country that we would not normally communicate with to get feedback on what practices they have tried or are trying currently, and what results they are achieving. Our industry consists of a lot of trial and error. No one person has all the answers, so even if you are already doing a certain practice/s, maybe someone else has a more efficient way of achieving better results. It is great to be a part of an industry where everyone is connected, and feeds off of each other's ideas to achieve a great end product for its users.

SportsTurf: How do you see the sports turf manager's job changing in the future?

Hohlbein: I believe the sports turf industry is finally being recognized by owners, players, and the community as an incredibly, valuable asset. I think the portrayal of the "grass cutter" has vanished. Our industry continues to evolve, and we as sports turf managers are called upon more and more every day to achieve tasks out of our normal realm. Athletic fields are being used at a very high volume for many different events, and us as field managers need to adapt to what is thrown at us daily, and focus on the task at hand. Things are only going to intensify in the future, and if we are able to keep producing at high levels by doing tasks outside of our normal job description this will make us that more valuable to the organization we are representing. **ST**

Annual maintenance plan

JANUARY

32-5-7 @ 1/2 lb. N/1000 sq. ft.
Solu-Cal Mag @ 330 lbs./acre
via soil test results.
Urea (1/2 lb. N/1000), Fe (6 oz./1000),
Par (16 oz./acre), N30 (6 oz./1000) and
Minors (3 oz./1000)
Mowing every other day + dew
removal. Edging every other week.

FEBRUARY

18-0-0 @ 1/2 lb. N/1000 sq. ft. Turgor
application @ 3 oz./1000 sq. ft. Solid
tine high traffic areas. Mowing every
other day + dew removal. Edging
every other week.

MARCH

32-0-8 with .67% Ronstar @ 1.5 lbs.
N/1000 sq. ft.
Urea (1/2 lb. N/1000), Fe (6 oz./1000),
Potassium + Calcium (3 oz./1000),
Earthmax (3 oz./1000) and N30 (6
oz./1000)
Turgor application @ 3 oz./1000 sq.
ft. Match Play at a rate of 5 gallons/
acre Mowing every other day + dew
removal. Edging every other week.
Solid tine high traffic areas.

APRIL

32-3-8 @ 1 lb. N/1000 sq. ft. Primo
(22 oz./acre), Urea (1/2 lb. N/1000) and
Fe (6 oz./1000) Turgor application @
3 oz./1000 sq. ft. Mowing every other
day + dew removal. Edging every other
week. Solid tine high traffic areas.

MAY

32-0-8 with .67% Ronstar
@ 1.5 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft.
Urea (1/2 lb. N/1000), Fe (6 oz./1000)
and Chlorothalonil (5.5 oz./1000)
MSM Turf (.53 oz./ac), Urea (1/2 lb.
N/1000) and Fe (6 oz./1000)
Rolled entire surface with 1.5 ton
roller in 2 directions
Aerified with 3/4" spoon tines at
a depth of 4" (2"x2" spacing) and
harvested cores.
Sodded 20,000 sq. ft. with 419
bermudagrass where terra trac
flooring was down.
Sprigged 80,000 sq. ft.
with 419 bermudagrass
Topdressed entire field with
75 tons of USGA sand.
Mowing every other
day + dew removal.
Replaced plastic valves with brass
valves via being crushed by crane used
for Shaky Boots Music Festival set-up.
Edging every other week.

JUNE

18-24-12 @ 1 lb. N/1000 sq. ft.
34-0-0 @ 1/2 lb. N/1000 sq. ft.
every 10 days
Rolled entire surface with 1.5 ton
roller in 2 directions
Spiked field every other day
Urea (1/2 lb. N/1000), Jump Start
(6 oz./1000), IronMn (6 oz./1000),
Primo (11 oz./acre), Monument (15
grams/acre) and Quinclorac
(1 lb./acre)
Mowing every other day + dew
removal. Edging every other week.

JULY

34-0-0 @ 1/2 lb. N/1000 sq. ft. every
10 days Bio-Mas (12 oz./acre), Urea
(1/2 lb. N/1000) and Fe (6 oz./1000)
Spiked field every other day. Mowing
every other day + dew removal. Edging
every other week.

AUGUST

19-2-19 w/.21 Barricade @ 1 lb.
N/1000 sq. ft.
Urea (1/2 lb. N/1000), Bio-Max (12
oz./acre), Earthmax (3 oz./1000),
Calcium (6oz/1000), and IronMn (6
oz./1000)
Match Play at a rate of 5 gallons/acre
Revolver (26.2 oz./acre), Urea (1/2 lb.
N/1000), IronMn (6 oz./1000), and
Bio-mas (12 oz./acre)
Spiked field every other day. Mowing
every other day + dew removal. Edging
every other week.

SEPTEMBER

32-3-8 @ 1 lb. N/1000 sq. ft. Urea
(1/2 lb. N/1000), IronMn (6 oz./1000)
and Bio-Mas (12 oz./1000)
Match Play at a rate of 5 gallons/
acre Mowing every other
day + dew removal.
Edging every other week.

OCTOBER

Solid tine aerified with star
tines. Overseeded @ 15 lbs./1000 sq.
ft. with LandPride Seeder and drug it in.
18-24-12 @ 1 lb. N/1000 sq. ft.
Talstar @ 4 lbs./1000 sq. ft. for
June Beetle grubs. Mowing every
other day + dew removal.
Edging every other week.

NOVEMBER

18-0-0 @ 1/2 lb. N/1000 sq. ft.
Mowing every other day + dew
removal. Edging every other week.

DECEMBER

22-0-11 @ 3/4 lb. N/1000 sq. ft.
Soil Test Mowing every other day +
dew removal. Edging every other week.

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that's the root of our mission

7 MILLION
SPORTS AND RECREATION-
RELATED INJURIES OCCUR IN
THE U.S. EACH YEAR

62% of injuries happen during practice



50%

IN KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 15

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Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) & The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (www.aaos.org)

John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

Answers from page 29

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International



Photo submitted by Mike Whelehan, R.M. Landscape, Inc., Hilton, NY.

This softball field was part of a school district's renovation of all their athletic fields. A roadway construction company was awarded the contract as the low bidder. A portion of the renovation specifications on this field were for a drainage system to be installed at a depth of 8 inches, the trenches then backfilled with sand and the whole infield then covered with an additional 3 inches of new infield material. The first question: why the drainage system was installed into the infield material in the first place, as the perk rate would not allow for the water sitting on the skinned portion to travel fast enough through the infield material and down into the drainage system to be of any benefit. The other question: whether the system was actually buried to the 8-in. depth required and wrapped in a sand mixture. A better solution might have been to provide for a proper surface pitch when grading for water to run off and away from the infield area and install a drainage system into the turf area surrounding the field area where turf meets the infield material. This would then catch any moving water toward the skinned infield. In addition, over a period of just a few years of cold, wet winters in the Northeast the freezing of the soil also caused repeated upward movement of the plastic drainage system, which exposed the pipe to tearing during the nail dragging preparation of the field for games. On this particular year, the drainage system had finally "risen to the top," settling above grade, with the visible damage exposed. As it turned out, the drainage lines were installed in circular patterns throughout the infield about 10 feet apart and about 50% of drainage lines were visible above grade. All the lines had to be removed before final preparation of this field for the first game of the season. The grade of field was corrected minimally as the outfield area of this field was used for multiple sports teams for practices and games.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 call (850) 580-4026 or email to john@turf-tec.com.

If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of SportsTurf magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.

Hallowed Ground

Bobby Gruhn Field
at City Park Stadium
Gainesville GA



Any sport played on natural grass like Bobby Gruhn Field is a natural for TifSport Bermudagrass, If you're looking for a sports turf that can handle non-stop action, a transition zone climate and heavy overseeding, TifSport's your answer. It's ideal for intramural fields, practice fields and game-day 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 call 706 552-4525 or visit us at www.tifsport.com.

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NEWS FROM EUROPE

Water efficiency accelerates in Europe

Editor's note: This article was written by Piet Regnerus, European distributor for Magnation Water Technologies.

Irrigation water quality has become a hot topic to the sports turfgrass industry in Europe.

Elite European stadiums and arenas are always looking to one up each other in a tightly knit, competitive environment. Forward thinking and open-minded doesn't mean without a healthy dose of skepticism. The promises Magnation Water Technologies claims are huge: 20% savings on irrigation water and a greener, denser and healthier turf. Water efficiency by magnetizing irrigation water [DASH HERE] who believes that? As it turns out, more and more people are fans of this mysteriously elegant and easy-to-use technology that replaces chemicals by using physics to transform water quality.

Soccer clubs PSV Eindhoven, AFC AJAX Amsterdam and SC Heerenveen have been actively implementing the magnetization technology for quite some time now.

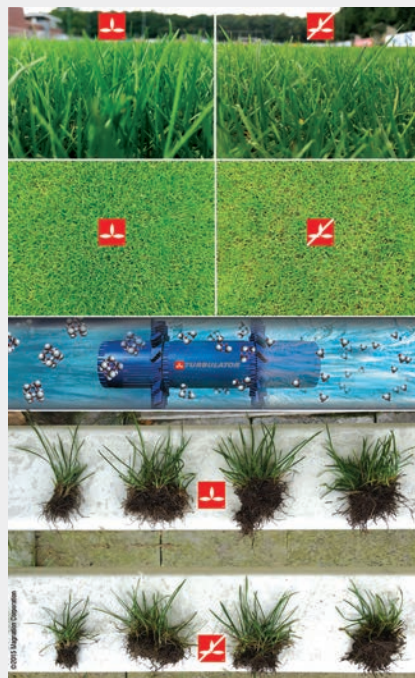
PSV EINDHOVEN

It may seem obvious that water has such a big influence on plant growth, but yet water quality is easily glossed over. The management of Dutch soccer champion PSV Eindhoven decided that further research could be interesting. PSV launched a controlled trial in cooperation with Agterberg Bedrijven BV, who has been responsible for PSV field maintenance for the last 16 years. "A few weeks after installing the field with Magnation water treatment on the irrigation system, we saw significantly more vital grass plants and better root growth," says Kees Haaksman, director of Agterberg.

"After 2 months of watering, there was clearly a big difference in color and density of the grass. After winter with intensive



SC Heerenveen groundsman Henk Schreuder



daily use by the PSV team for the UEFA Champions League trainings, the pilot field was in much better shape than other years. Since the turf is stronger we are seeing less playing damage," SAYS Gert van Veller, project manager at Achterberg Bedrijven BV. Van Veller is responsible for the maintenance of many sports fields, including PSV Eindhoven, World Equestrian festival CHIO Aachen, Hippo Arena, Samorin, Slovakia, and Dutch Olympic Sports Union NOC*NSF at Sports Center Papendal.

AFC AJAX AMSTERDAM

The pursuit of top turf is a big challenge for professional soccer clubs. It is paramount to achieve strong and vigorous turf, especially for soccer stadiums and training facilities at Dutch premier league clubs. In addition, sustainable water and energy practices are a key factor for former UEFA Champions League Champion AFC AJAX as an innovative leader in the world of soccer. After hearing the story about better water quality from some of his colleagues, AJAX groundsman and grass specialist Martin Brummel decided to give it a try. "We have suffered from brackish surface irrigation water and high sodium content in the top layer of our training fields. Therefore, it's important to improve the quality of the water. AJAX applies the latest innovations to optimize the turf on its soccer fields and save (maintenance) costs. With Magnation, we definitely achieve more vital and stronger turf," says Brummel.

SC HEERENVEEN

Dutch premier league soccer club SC Heerenveen has positive experiences with Magnation water treatment. SC Heerenveen groundsman Henk Schreuder is not one to be easily convinced. Nevertheless, he also found these claims plausible enough to give this technology the benefit of the doubt to eliminate some of his toughest challenges on his stadium field. "I constantly get complaints from the players about the offensive stench on the stadium field. That's because we irrigate with ferrous well water. The hydrogen sulphide in the water creates a rotten-egg smell and turns white goal posts, nets and boarding into a dirty brown color, and also makes the field slippery due to a layer of algae on the grass," he says. After installing and measuring results, a surprisingly convinced Schreuder says, "Right after the first irrigation turn I stuck my nose literally between the grass plants. To my surprise, the smell completely disappeared! Also the field is not slippery anymore and looks more vigorous and green."

NEW PRODUCTS YOU'LL SEE AT STMA CONFERENCE



ABI FORCE INFIELD GROOMER

The ABI Force is a zero-turn, stand-up, self-propelled infield groomer packed with purpose-built features designed specifically for infields. It is built to give operators the control necessary to prepare and maintain the safest and most playable infields possible. At the heart of the Force's innovation is its patented, mid-mount spring system that hydraulically provides downward force for multiple attachments to address different applications. When the mid-mount spring system is combined with ABI's patent-pending VibraFlex attachment, operators can apply the perfect amount of force to break up surface tension as deep or as shallow as an infield needs. This leaves a perfectly consistent 1/2" of playing surface with no surprises hidden underneath. With the Force's profile blade attachment, operators can eliminate the need for roto-tilling and re-grading. The profile blades slice through the infield at a precise depth, de-compacting and aerating the ground without changing the grade. The infield can then be reset with the VibraFlex attachment and rigid drag mat and, in a couple of hours, completely change the way an infield plays.

Absolute Innovations, Inc.

AIR2HP AERATION TOOL

The Air2HP is a handheld aeration tool that goes where you need it most. The Air2HP uses a single probe to inject air into compacted soil, fracturing hard packed earth and ensuring better drainage and airflow in problem areas such as goal mouths and sidelines. The Air2HP causes no turf disturbance with no post-treatment cleanup, making it a fast, portable, and affordable aeration solution. The tool uses a single probe and an external air compressor, or the Air2G2 machine, to inject pressurized air in a diameter of up to 3 feet, and up to 40 inches beneath the surface of the soil, fracturing the compacted layers that form as a result of foot traffic and nature's daily wear and tear. This laterally injected air loosens up compacted soil immediately, but without any disruption to the surface of the turf. The Air2HP does not require post aeration cleanup, meaning the turf will be ready to use immediately following treatment of the area. The Air2HP is portable and maneuverable in tight, hard-to-reach spaces, and can be used any day and any time, rain or shine!

GT AirInject

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Ecolawn Applicator introduces the new Walker mower topdresser attachment. This zero turn attachment is a broadcast spreader with a newly designed hopper that eliminates material bridging with smooth, steep sides and its live conveyor system and agitator maintain steady material flow for consistent even spreading. Ecolawn's popular dual reverse spinner broadcast system is PTO driven therefore giving unlimited application thickness control over to the operator's ground speed. This feature is unique to this model. Products that can be spread include screened compost, pulverized soils, most pelletized products, calcite clay, crumb rubber, lime, all grades of sand and unlimited blends of all of these products. Features include: even 180 spread with dual reverse spinner mechanism, polythene hopper 11.5 cu. ft. capacity; feed trap, live bottom/agitator controls; spreading width 4 to 14 feet; and application thickness: 11.5 cubic feet in one spot to a very thin application.

Ecolawn





REBELS RETURN TO THEIR ROOTS

Editor's note: This article was provided by Sports Turf Company, Inc., Whitesburg, GA.

There are certain challenges inherent in growing natural grass in large stadium environments. Stadiums cast shadows that limit sunlight. Edges of the field are difficult to maintain because of high volumes of traffic. Field maintenance crews have to balance providing the right amount of water without flooding portions of the field. So some coaches saw a perfect looking synthetic field as exciting to fans and a great recruiting tool as it always looked ready for game day. In 2003, the University of Mississippi installed synthetic turf at Vaught Hemingway Stadium.

By 2015 their second synthetic field was nearing the end of its lifespan. Head coach Hugh Freeze said during a press conference, "I think here in Mississippi, we ought to be able to play on grass."

Ross Bjork, athletic director, seconded the call saying, "We think it's the right thing to do for our program on many, many levels. Natural grass is the preferred playing surface of our players and our coaches. In the SEC West, Arkansas and we are the only two programs that have artificial turf. The rest have natural grass, so we think it's the right move."

The decision was made via unanimous vote to pull up the carpet after the 2015 season and replace it with natural grass.

The university embarked on a process with some big

decisions to be made. While natural grass was the preferred playing surface, it was decided to install a short pile synthetic surface in high traffic areas around the perimeter of the field, creating the ideal balance between synthetic where it was needed and natural grass where it counts most — where the game is played.

A competitive bid process emphasized qualified sports field contractors with proven experience in projects of the size and scope of Vaught Hemingway's Stadium.

Sports Turf Company Inc. was found to be the most qualified, with four certified field builders on staff and an extensive background in natural and synthetic field construction.

Aaron McWhorter, founder and President of Sports Turf Company, Inc. points out, "Very few sports field contractors could have performed the scope of work which included field demolition and construction, storm water, concrete and coach's towers. It was realistically a 7 month scope of work, during the winter rainy season, with a 5-month timeline for completion."

PLANNING

Bob Calta, certified project manager of Sports Turf Company, Inc., recalls, "It took a lot of time and a lot of planning on all ends before renovation and construction could even begin. There were a lot of considerations. Disposal of the synthetic turf. Deep excavation and extraction of fourteen inches of sand, clay, stone and synthetic field drainage components. Twenty or more owner-requested change orders with no change in deadline."

Ed Norton, landscape architect and partner at Holcombe Norton Partners, Inc., was the lead designer and coordinated



all parts of the project with the university. He points out the importance of collaboration that took place during the stadium project saying, "It couldn't have worked without it. Design review meetings included traffic, electrical, soil and civil engineers, coaches, subcontractors and communications department. Bringing everyone together ensured everyone's needs were met."

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

With a big project comes big challenges. Access to the stadium was limited to a very small entrance requiring low body single axle dump trucks to import and export all of the material at a painstakingly slow pace.

The schedule did not leave much room for problems encountered or weather delays. If a day was missed, other efficiencies had to be recognized elsewhere in the schedule to make up for it. By July the field had to be completely reclaimed to allow the new sod time to become established before the first game.

The coordination of vertical stadium construction along with field renovation meant working closely with numerous other contractors and scheduling had to contemplate all activities. Silt washing down onto the field construction site from other contractors onsite further complicated construction activities.

Sports Turf Company, Inc. self performed 80% of the work with its own personnel giving them control to overcome all the challenges and deliver the field on time.

THE SPECS

Sports Turf Company, Inc. installed a complete natural grass field underdrain system including a 10-inch sand rootzone layer, 4 inches of gravel, and the drainage pipe itself.

The irrigation system for the stadium consists of a new booster pump and Hunter STK-6V's with eight retractable heads spread around the perimeter of the football field. The sprinklers make maintenance simple while keeping the surface intact, playable and safe. Each head produces 326.8 GPM and distributes water to a range of 165 feet, making eight of them the max that was needed to cover the entire football field.

Certified Tifway 419 bermudagrass was installed inside Vaught Hemingway Stadium and on practice field number two to form a dense and durable surface. Tifway 419 has become the gold standard for warm-season athletic fields and is extremely popular in the realm of football fields. Tifway 419 bermuda's ability to recover from damage rapidly and its ability to withstand the rough and tumble nature of football makes it one of the most durable hybrid bermudas. It is also drought tolerant and thrives in hot weather conditions making it the best choice for the University of Mississippi.

A total of 188,325 sq. ft. or 20 loads of sod, were delivered for the stadium and the natural grass practice field. After it was installed it underwent a growing period, where it rooted and knitted together during a 3-week process.

The success of this stadium can be attributed to the intelligent design and coordination of the many departments of the university. Short pile, high wear synthetic surface along the perimeter of the field will handle a lot of traffic from boom cameras, football players, referees and personnel. Overall this combination means the field will improve competition for players competing on a highly performing grass field while the perimeter of the field continues to look great.

MANNING CENTER PRACTICE FOOTBALL FACILITY

Manning Center football practice fields were enlarged to add length to a field that had been shortened by the construction of a parking garage. The addition of 40 yards to the west end of the north field will give the practice facility two full fields for practice. Field one of the practice facility is synthetic turf and field two is a natural field with an underdrain system and has been established with certified Tifway 419 bermuda grass.

For the University of Mississippi, the conversion back to natural grass was a no brainer. It was the best decision for their athletes and their program. Grass provides a much cooler field temperature, often 35-40 degrees cooler than synthetic turf. Grass fields are safer with significantly more force reduction or lower Gmax rating than the previous synthetic field for softer landings. The field plays fast and firm while easily releasing cleats to reduce injuries. By blending both natural grass for the playing surface and synthetic turf for the highest traffic team areas, Ole Miss has the best of both worlds. **ST**

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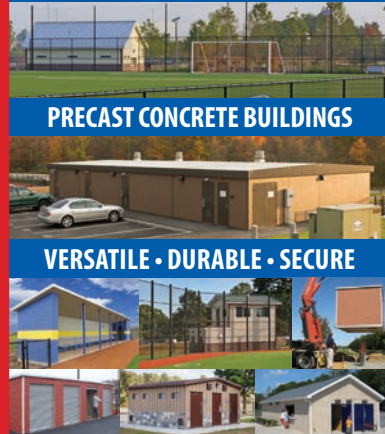
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Q&A with Dr. Grady Miller

Professor, North Carolina State University

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 question to Pamela Sherratt at 202 Kottman Hall, 2001 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210 or sherratt.1@osu.edu

Politics, politics, politics

Q: *I am so tired of politics! I am faced with a position of having to manage my fields using products and practices that I do not agree with because of political deals made by my directors. Do you have any advice?*

A: I am beginning to wonder if this election year is encouraging bad behavior from some people. It is bad enough to hear all the political maneuvering and mud slinging on TV each night, but some of you are dealing with equally bad conduct at work. Over my career, I have been amazed by the decisions made by people for the purpose of furthering their own agenda with little regard to implications for the turfgrass, the facility, and the people that work at these facilities.

Within the past year I heard about an unqualified contractor getting hired to do a job just because he was a buddy to someone high up the management chain. The result was a poorly constructed field. I have witnessed significant dollars spent on turf-related products by (non-turf) managers with little to no knowledge of their effectiveness or need. I know that events were scheduled to make “the facility look good,” even though the event will likely destroy the field. In most of these cases, the field manager was told to “make it work.” When the field does not perform up to a standard or looks bad, it usually comes back to the field manager, not to the person that made the decision that triggered the problem.

These backroom deals can really put turfgrass managers in bad situations. A few years back I knew a turfgrass manager that had significant issues with the day-to-day turf management programs provided by a consultant hired by the parent organization who rarely ever visited the fields. The field manager

“Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it wrongly, and applying unsuitable remedies.”

—GROCHO MARX

used to say that he was the consultant’s best job security, and that he ignored all the consultant’s recommendations and instead continued to use his own plans. The fields looked and performed great. The organization liked the fields, so they assumed the consultant was doing a great job. While I found some humor in that situation, it is not a great position for the turfgrass manager. Consultants can be great for tweaking programs and troubleshooting, but daily operations are best managed by an on-site field manager.

Someone once told me that a person’s job in an organization is to always make those above you in the organization look good, while making those below you (and beside you) in the organization feel good. Of course that is easy to say, but often hard to do. Regular communication is one key. Keep your management updated on as many different aspects of your job as possible. With emails to document your work, this is now easier than ever. Even if your boss is the type that deletes emails, it is often very easy to resend those that have implications that you do not want ignored. You want your upper management to trust your abilities so that you are included on decisions that directly impact your job and/or the fields you manage. The more a supervisor understands your contribution to the success of the facility, the less likely they are to undermine your position with inappropriate decisions.

Floyd Perry, a good friend and mentor

to thousands of field managers, used to say that there are three key rules for field safety: apply the best techniques given the facility budget and equipment; do it regularly and on schedule; and document that you are doing so. If field managers get at odds with their supervisors, it may be difficult to get that support back on their side. In your situation, you may have to begin by telling your directors why you use particular products and practices. Perhaps the reasons are related to economics or performance or both. Use specific documentation to prove your points. If you think a deal related to a turf product is about to happen without your input, you may want to step in and set up some side-by-side comparisons for your supervisor so they can see for themselves the implications of switching. When it comes to management decisions, one may have to be very upfront and honest on the implications of the change.

A quote often attributed to Groucho Marx is “politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it wrongly, and applying unsuitable remedies.” Unfortunately some of you work for practicing politicians. For that reason, I think that there are a couple of thoughts to keep in mind. First, do your best to not sacrifice the safety of the field. The users of your fields deserve safe playing surfaces and facilities. So, always give them your best. Second, do not counter your supervisor’s politics with your own. Address the situation honestly. Regardless of the outcome, you do not want to sacrifice your integrity.

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