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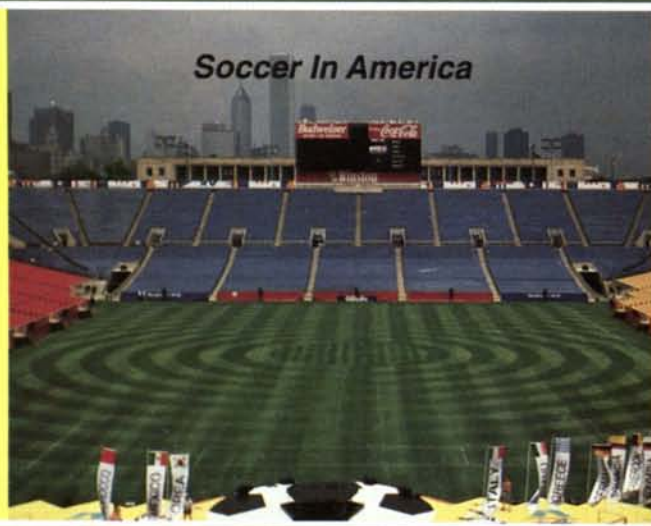
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68-860 PEREZ RD., SUITE J, CATHEDRAL CITY, CA 92234
(619) 770-4370; Fax (619) 770-8019

sportsTURF Magazine (ISSN 1061-687X) is published monthly except
bi-monthly October/November by Gold Trade Publications, Inc. Material
in this publication may not be reproduced or photocopied in any form with-
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Business Publications Audit of Circulation, Inc.



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

ONE YEAR \$33 TWO YEARS \$50
FOREIGN (ONE YEAR) \$55 SINGLE COPY \$5

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

P.O. BOX 2180, CATHEDRAL CITY, CA 92235-2180.

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID at Cathedral City, CA and at
additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Please send change of address to sportsTURF,
P.O. Box 2180, Cathedral City, CA 92235-2180.

VOLUME TEN, NUMBER SEVEN

JULY 1994

MAIN EVENTS

10 RECOGNIZING AND CORRECTING TURF COMPACTION PROBLEMS

Soil compaction predisposes turf to a variety of stresses that
can eventually destroy it. Understanding soil compaction is
essential in fighting the problem, says Dr. Ali Harivandi.

16 TONY BURNETT KEEPS RFK TOGETHER

Working on the RFK grounds crew was supposed to be a summer job
for Tony Burnett in 1962. Little did he know it would become a lifelong
labor of love.

20 IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS: SELECTING FOR SUCCESS

High-tech features are a plus, but when it comes time to choose an
irrigation controller, ease of operation is the key, explains award-winning
irrigation designer Gaylon Coates.

23 CENTRAL CONTROL PAYS OFF IN MILWAUKEE

Watering the 2.6 acres of turf at County Stadium in Milwaukee, WI, used
to require plenty of manpower. An automatic, centrally controlled
system installed in 1987 reduced man-hours while increasing irrigation
effectiveness and efficiency.

25 CHOOSING TRAFFIC-TOLERANT TURFGRASS VARIETIES

Before selecting traffic-tolerant turf, you need to grasp basic principles
of what makes a particular grass susceptible to heavy traffic. Roch E.
Gaussoin, an extension turfgrass specialist with the University of
Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, explains.

27 CURING THE BERMUDAGRASS BLUES

The same qualities that make bermudagrass ideal make it difficult
to control when unwanted. Eliminating bermuda from cool-season
turf often requires a combination of practices, says Bob Milano.

LINE-UP

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On The Cover: To prepare for World Cup soccer, 102,000 square feet of
bermudagrass sod was brought into RFK Stadium on May 15. The first game was
played on June 19. Photo courtesy: Tony Burnett, RFK Stadium.

A Common Sense Approach to Sports Turf Maintenance

While these comments and suggestions are directed to those who maintain ball diamonds they also apply to other areas of sports turf. They are based largely on the experience of George Bannerman (upper right with tractor and the Truplay diamond groomer.)

George, who is responsible for new product development at Gordon Bannerman Limited, has concentrated on assembling an outstanding combination of aeration, topdressing, overseeding and diamond grooming equipment over the last ten years.

"There's a lot of very knowledgeable people in this industry and a lot of good equipment," says Bannerman. "But do we always understand fully what this equipment can do for us?"

"Whether or not you have grass on your infield let us hope you have some semblance of grass on your outfield. So it's not the greatest field you've seen lately. This is where your equipment can really help. However, you do need the basics. Aeration, topdressing and overseeding equipment.

Let us hope you can complement these items with the addition of a fertilizer spreader and perhaps a thatch remover."

Bannerman says you may well need quite severe aeration such as ShatterTine and heavy coring if available in the beginning. Many people believe in coring at least twice a year in any case.

The biggest problem for many people is taking the diamond out of play.

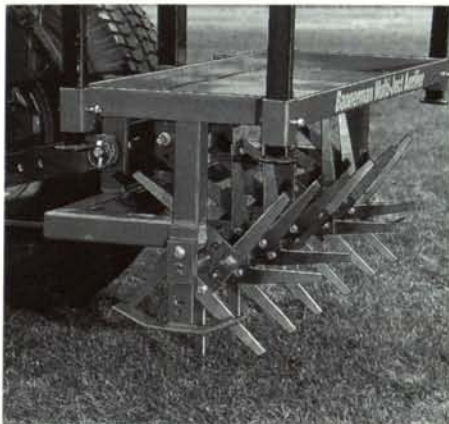


But Bannerman claims to have a solution for that. It's mainly a matter of deep aeration and top dressing over and over again until you achieve the desired result. And with the specially designed Bannerman SlitterTine there's no need to take the field out of play.

George says you have to see it to believe it. Why not give him a call and ask him to arrange a **FREE DEMONSTRATION** in your area.

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THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE



Last Inning

In 1989, I came to the publisher of *sportsTURF*, then Gold Trade Publications, fresh from two years as a managing editor of bi-weekly newspaper. I had no experience with national trade magazines and thought that "green industry" had something to do with Irish-American business interests. The jargon, from aerification to zoysiagrass, was completely foreign to me. I planned on staying just long enough to get my next newspaper or "mainstream" magazine job.

So much for plans. Four years ago, Adams Publishing bought Gold Trade and I was given several amazing opportunities and responsibilities. One of those opportunities was editing *sportsTURF*, and for that I will always be grateful. It wasn't the company's biggest or most prosperous magazine, but it dealt with an important topic and a group of down-to-earth people.

I can't imagine being associated with a better group of *individuals*. As such, you're all different. You don't agree on everything. Your educational and socioeconomic backgrounds are diverse. You have personality conflicts. (Show me a group that doesn't.) You fight for your beliefs. You're loyal, both to your profession and one another. You're dedicated and united in your desire to promote healthy, safe, natural sports turf.

You will succeed, both as professionals and a professional group.

This is my last issue of *sportsTURF*, and I would be remiss if I didn't thank at least a few of you.

Bruce Shank will "re-take" the editorial duties of *sportsTURF*. Bruce created the magazine, and letting me take his "baby" demanded an enormous leap of faith. For his trust and guidance I am deeply grateful — for his friendship I am privileged.

My fellow editors at Adams Publishing, namely Luke Frank and Helen Stone, as well as art directors Sue Noble and Debbie Belle, have been unfailingly supportive.

I was fortunate to get to know a number of STMA members — and forgive me for not being able to mention all of you — including Greg Petry, Gil Landry, Scott Gaunky, Bill Whirly, Steve Guise, Bob Milano, Tom Lujan, David Minner, Chuck Dixon, Dr. Dick Caton and Dr. Henry Indyk, George and Chip Toma, Dave Mellor, and many more. Steve Wightman of San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium has been eternally helpful and accessible. Early on, Dr. Kent Kurtz made me feel like I *belonged*. And I feel lucky to have worked with Steve and Suz Trusty of Trusty Associates, as well as Bob Tracinski of John Deere.

This magazine has some incredibly loyal advertisers. They stayed with it, as did Mark Adams of Adams Publishing, when both economic times and *sportsTURF* didn't look too promising, and for that I am eternally grateful. Magazines are not charities; they are businesses, and as such need revenue to survive. They serve both readers and advertisers, and although the interests of each group tend to be rather different, both are crucial.

Ultimately, it is you the reader I must thank the most. You care for the fields on which champions of today and tomorrow are made. You are the keepers of the Fields of Dreams. I wish you all the success you wish for yourselves.

Blue skies,

Matt Trulio

EVENTS

CALENDAR

July 24-26 Texas Turfgrass Association Seminar. Arlington, Texas. Contact Shirley Duble at (409) 693-1656.

July 4-8 World Scientific Congress of Golf. St. Andrews, Scotland. Contact the Sports Turf Research Institute/World Congress of Golf at 44/334-75560.

July 19-21 3rd Annual Midwest Grounds Management Conference. Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois. Contact: Chuck Scott (309) 438-2032 or fax (309) 438-7955.

July 13-16 American Association of Nurserymen Conference. Baltimore, MD. Contact: (202) 789-2900.

July 24-26 International Lawn Garden and Power Equipment Expo. Louisville, KY. Contact: (502) 473-1992.

Sept 11-13 Golf Europe '94 Munich. Munich, Germany. Contact Jerry Kallman, Jr., Kallman Associates (201) 652-7070.

September 18-21 Florida Turfgrass Conference. Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Contact: (407) 898-6721.

September 26-29 48th Northwest Turfgrass Conference. Salishan Resort, Gleneden Beach, OR. Contact the Northwest Turfgrass Association: (206) 754-0825.

October 5-6 Southern California Turfgrass Expo. Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, CA. Contact: (619) 723-0947.

October 10-13 Northwest Turf Conference. Seaside, OR. Contact: (206) 754-0825.

October 13 The First Urban Integrated Pest Management conference. Royal Plaza Motel, Marlborough, MA. Contact: Allen Christensen, (617) 565-0895.

Send announcements on your events two months in advance to editor, sportsTURF magazine, 68-860 Perez Road, Suite J, Cathedral City, CA 92234. Fax (619) 770-8019.



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It's why Scotts, as part of the World Cup Legacy Tour, is helping to develop and renovate soccer fields in each of the nine cities hosting World Cup USA 1994 with special emphasis on fields in inner city areas. It's why Scotts will make a cash donation to the U.S. Youth

Soccer Association for every goal scored during the World Cup '94 games.

It's not surprising that Scotts is playing a major role in World Cup USA 1994. Scotts products have long been associated with major sporting events, including baseball (Scotts is the official turf care consultant for Major League Baseball®) and, of course, golf (Scotts sponsors The Tradition, one of four major tournaments on the Senior PGA Tour).

Whether for athletic fields or your front lawn, Scotts products are dedicated to adding beauty to our world in many ways. And helping the youth of America experience the fun of the world's most popular sport? We get a kick out of that, too.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gil Landry, Jr.



As you know, *sportsTURF* magazine is the official publication of the Sports Turf Managers' Association. I've received several calls and inquiries over the year asking me to explain exactly what type of relationship we have together.

Let me highlight some things we have agreed to do together:

- *sportsTURF* magazine is the only official publication of the STMA.

- *sportsTURF* magazine includes a list of STMA activities and events in each issue.

- *sportsTURF* provides STMA with editorial space for a president's message, chapter news, technical reports, members' news, etc.

- *sportsTURF* is mailed to STMA members free of charge.

- *sportsTURF* significantly supports STMA financially.

- *sportsTURF* assists and supports STMA to develop printed materials and special projects.

One special project currently underway is the "Industry Profile Survey." *sportsTURF* magazine and Smith, Bucklin & Associates (our management firm) have teamed up to construct and implement a survey to gather information that will allow us to better understand the size and scope of our industry. If you have received a survey, please take the time to complete and return it. If you have already returned it, thanks!

This "Industry Profile Survey" is the first attempt to gather and assess accurate information that will support the notion that our profession is credible and substantial in size.

I have reviewed some of the preliminary results. I am quite amazed not only with the amount of acreage we manage, but also the purchasing power. Bret Kelsey (SBA) and Bruce Shank (*sportsTURF*) will write the report that will be published soon.

My gut feeling has always told me that we manage a lot of fields and spend a lot of money doing so. Now we will be able to reference an actual study that has some statistical backup.

Others have also had that gut feeling that our profession and industry have a

tremendous value and worth. Just look at the June issue of *sportsTURF*. There was a variety of articles and product showcases. There were 38 advertisers, which is an increase over previous issues. My sense is that everyone is coming together with the realization that our industry has learned how to walk steadily forward quite nicely. Much of this has to do with that solid group of people who have worked hard to foster the development and growth of the profession—STMA and *sportsTURF* magazine.

Another leap forward was taken because of World Cup Soccer. Recent technological advances have been made by those affiliated with preparing the playing surfaces. Advancements have been made with regard to growing grass indoors and over Astroturf™, as well as developing standards for ball-roll consistency.

As said by Matt Trulio, regardless of how the U.S. team performs, and whether or not the World Cup increases soccer popularity here, the field and those who prepared them will be among the best in the world.

**Sports
Turf
Managers Association**

STMA Chapter News

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association — The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will hold a workshop on soccer field maintenance August 4 at the Muscatine Soccer Complex, 401 South Houser Street, Muscatine, IA. Events begin at 9 a.m. Gene Sneckloth of Sneckloth and Associates, will speak on irrigation system design and troubleshooting. Wayne Klostermann, Klostermann and Associates, will cover soccer field construction. There also will be time to visit with vendors and see equipment demonstrations. Kevin Vos will host this event assisted by other ISTMA members.

For further information on the workshop contact Kevin Vos, Muscatine Soccer Complex, (319) 263-1002. For more information on the ISTMA contact Gary Peterson, (515) 791-0765.

Midwest Chapter: STMA — The Midwest Chapter will hold a Summer Field Day at Kishwaukee College in

Malta, IL, July 20. For further information or registration contact Scott Pippen, (708) 883-8600.

Chapter meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. For more details contact Jesse Felix, (708) 293-0770. For more information on the chapter call the Chapter Hotline, (708) 439-4727.

The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association — As one of the 13 "Green Industry" member organizations of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation (MTGF), the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association will participate in the Grounds and Facility Training and Equipment Expo jointly sponsored by the Minnesota Park Supervisors Association and MTGF. The event will be held August 3 and 4 at Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, MN. Educational training and demonstration opportunities will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. For more information on the event contact Jim Vaughn, (612) 924-2565. To learn more about

MTGF contact Brad Pedersen, (612) 624-7401.

For more information on the Minnesota Chapter contact Tom Rudburg, (612) 962-6545; Mike McDonald, (612) 625-6097; or Brian Deyak, (612) 255-7223.

The New England Chapter: STMA — *Special Reminder* — On Wednesday, August 10, the New England Sports Turf Managers Association, the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System, and the College of Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, will host the third annual New England Sports Turf Managers Association Athletic Turf Management Field Day. Demonstrations will feature field marking and painting, and irrigation and sprinkler head comparison.

Registration deadline is July 25. Interested exhibitors should contact Jack Schmidgall, (508) 892-0382, ext. 3014, or (508) 465-1653. Those interested in attending the event or learning more about the chapter should contact Mary Owen of University of

Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System (508) 892-0382.

The Southern California Chapter: STMA — *Special Reminder* — The Southern California Chapter will hold an STMA Night at Dodger Stadium on Friday, August 12. Evening events will include a tour of the facility with the opportunity to look behind the scenes. During the panel discussion, your peers will share their problem-solving methods from the trenches of real life. Participants will view batting practice, enjoy a buffet dinner, and end the evening watching the Dodgers beat the Cubs. Cost is \$35 per person. Make check payable to SO-CAL STMA. Attendance is limited to 50 people. Send registrations to: Guise & Associates, c/o Steve Guise, Suite 215, 515 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton, CA 92632. Registration must be postmarked on or before August 3. For more information contact Steven Guise, (714) 578-0215.

For more information on the chapter contact Chris Bunnell, (619) 432-2421.

Chesapeake Chapter: STMA — The Chesapeake Chapter is working in conjunction with national STMA on a September Regional Institute to be held at RFK Stadium.

Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Members are invited to attend.

For more information call the Chapter Hotline, (301) 865-0667.

The Heartland Chapter: STMA — For information regarding the Heartland Chapter contact Mark Diller, sports turf manager, Johnson County Parks and Recreation, (913) 782-7625 or Jack Schwarz, (816) 792-2808 or (800) 344-8873.

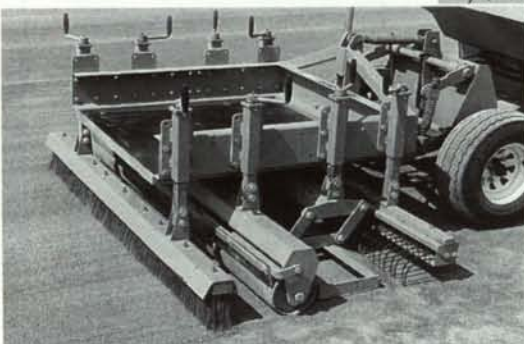
STMA Florida Chapter #1 — *Special Reminder* — The South Florida Chapter has several events in the planning stages. An August 3 meeting at Floyd Hall Stadium will focus on fertilization and irrigation. This event will be hosted by Kathy Conner.

The chapter will also participate in the Florida Turfgrass Association Conference and Trade Show scheduled for September 18-21 at the Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center.

For more information contact John Mascaro, (305) 938-7477 or Ed Birch, (305) 938-0217.

Colorado Chapter: STMA — For more information on the chapter or future activities contact Joe Adams, Greeley Parks and Recreation, (303) 350-9340.

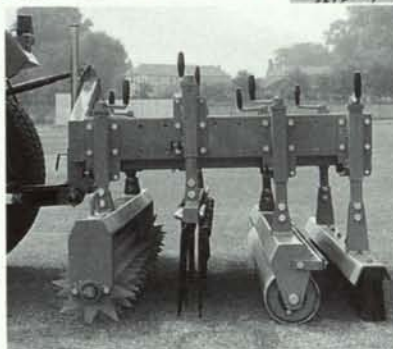
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THE ENDLESS WEB OF COMPACTION



Photo courtesy: Verti-Drain



Photo courtesy: Envirojet



Photo courtesy: AerWay



Photo courtesy: Toro

Incorporating one or more cultivation practices into your turf management program is recommended for turf grown on compactible soil. The poorer the soil, the more frequently it should be aerified.

By Dr. Ali Harivandi

Hheavy traffic on highly used turf sites often results in significant turf damage. Soil compaction is a stress that never directly kills the plant. Instead, it predisposes turfgrass to a variety of other stresses that can cause injury. Several identifiable problems are

associated with heavy traffic on turf: turfgrass wear, soil displacement, turf removal or divots, and most important of all, soil compaction.

Although soil compaction is less visible than the others mentioned above, it is certainly the most damaging to turf.

Compaction restricts the growth of turf roots and shoots, and eventually causes the turf plant's death. To understand soil compaction as major turf stress, knowing how compaction affects soil physical properties is essential.

continued on page 14