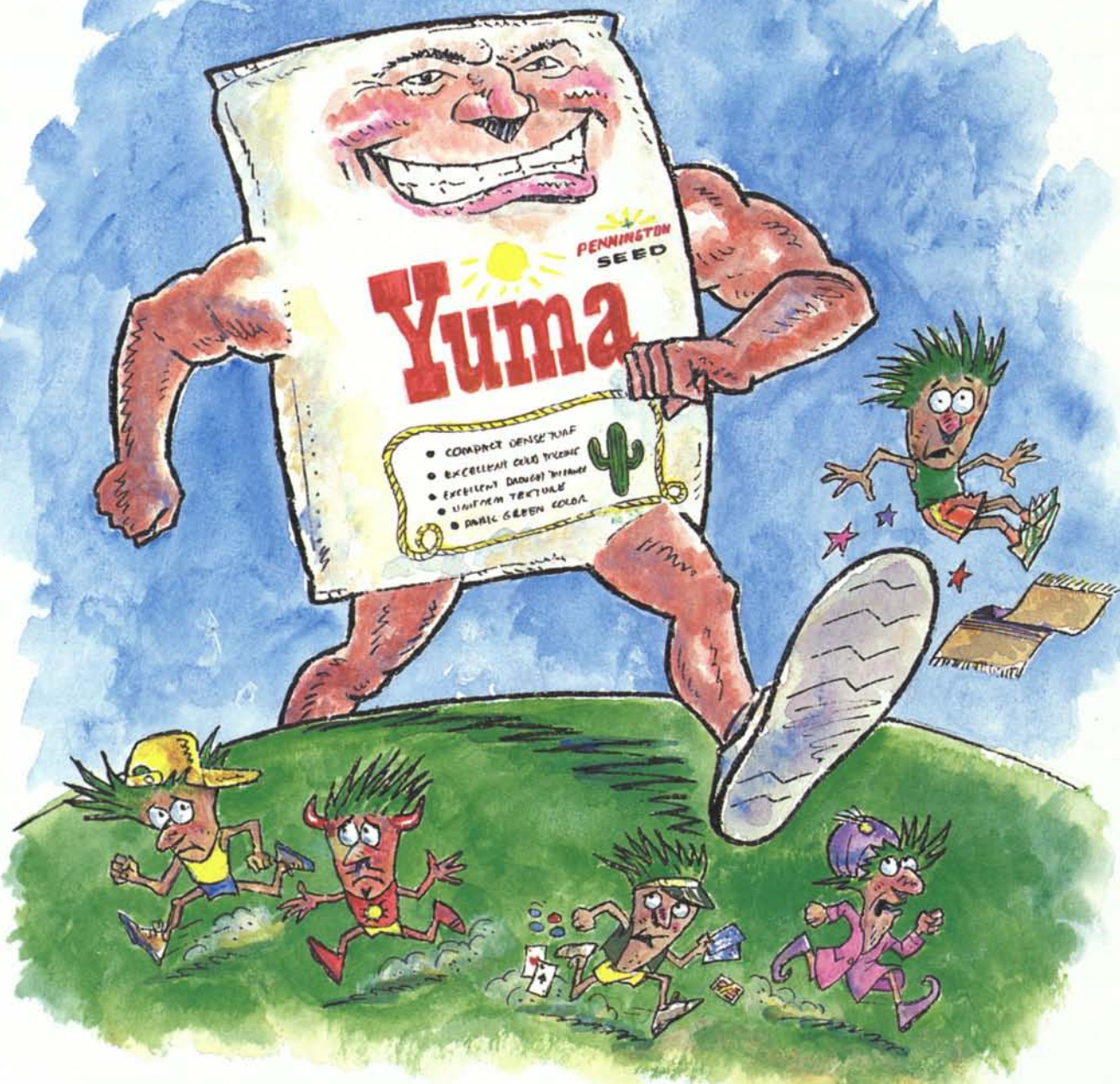


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VOLUME ELEVEN, NUMBER SIX

JUNE 1995

### 10 *The Beam Clay 1995 Soccer Field of the Year: Sportscore Soccer Complex, Rockford, IL*

The floods that devastated the Midwest in 1993 destroyed the soccer fields at the Sportscore Soccer Complex in Rockford, IL. Incredibly, Sportscore Superintendent Steve Roser and his staff were able to get the fields back in shape in time for limited play during the winter soccer season, and by the start of the 1995 season the fields were back in top condition. Bob Tracinski has the inside scoop on how Roser and the Sportscore crew brought the fields back to life.

### 14 *Spreaders and Sprayers: Precision Application Depends on Regular Calibration*

Spreaders and sprayers are essential tools for turf managers. To get the proper results from any turf product — seed, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides or fungicides — the rate of application must be consistent. To assure proper application rates, spreaders and sprayers must be maintained properly and calibrated correctly. Steve and Suz Trusty outline the proper procedures for calibrating equipment.

### 20 *Integrated Pest Management: Discouraging Diseases With Cultural Management Techniques*

Cultural management is one of the most overlooked methods of discouraging turfgrass disease. Proper fertilization, irrigation and mowing are key elements in disease prevention and are critical to maintaining healthy athletic fields. Dr. J.M. Vargas Jr. of Michigan State University explains how cultural management can keep your turf healthy.

### 24 *Turf of the Month: Zoysiagrass*

Zoysiagrass has been called "The Living Astroturf" and offers tremendous potential as an athletic turf. However, zoysiagrass, though popular as a home-lawn turf in both warm climates and the transition zone, has not yet developed a niche in the sports turf market. Zoysia producers are continuing work on improved varieties that will offer faster germination and better recovery from injury, the two major drawbacks of zoysia.

### 28 *Guidelines for Summer Mowing*

Summer mowing is a crucial element of any turf management program. Many fields, such as baseball fields, are in use during the summer, and turf managers must keep the grass short enough for optimum playing conditions but not so short that the health of the turf is threatened. Other fields that are not in use during most of the summer, such as many football fields and soccer fields, still require mowing and maintenance to prevent turf damage and to keep the field in prime shape for the next season. Joe McDonald, product manager for John Deere, offers some summer mowing tips to help keep your turf looking great.

## LINE-UP

7	STMA Message	30	Rookies
7	STMA in Action	33	Industry Happenings
8	Front Office	34	Classifieds
8	Calendar	34	Ad Index
19	Chemical Log		

#### On the Cover:

The Sportscore soccer complex in Rockford, IL, hosted a total of 3,700 games in 1994 after recovering from devastating floods in 1993.

Photo courtesy: Steve Roser/Sportscore.



## STMA MESSAGE

### We're Going to Disneyland!



Plans, planning and changing plans: Have you ever thought about how much of our lives we spend making plans? Only it seems we have to change or modify those plans on a daily or hourly basis. How have your plans held up this year? By the time you read this column, half of 1995 will have sped by. Where does time go?

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about plans for 1996. One plan I hope you are working on, and won't have to change, is to attend the annual STMA Conference in Anaheim, CA, January 24-28.

The conference committee has been busy since the conference in Bradenton, FL, closed last February, putting together ideas to make the 1996 event even better than last year's. If you attended the Bradenton conference, you know what an excellent combination

of educational seminars, tours and demonstrations we had.

The Anaheim area lends itself to all sorts of interesting opportunities. It is easy to get to from any area of the country. There are numerous athletic and scholastic facilities in the area to visit, and we'll be close to the "Magic Kingdom" for an extended visit after the conference.

The conference committee's plans are coming together, and in the next couple of months you will receive more details of what is in store for you at Anaheim. Block off this week in January to make sure your plans for 1996 start off on the right foot.

Whether you're a newcomer to the association, a seasoned veteran or one of our many vendors, make your plans now to join us at Anaheim. I hope to see and meet you there!

— Mike Schiller, STMA President-Elect

## CHAPTER NEWS

**Midwest Chapter** — "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" is the theme of the July 19 meeting of the STMA Midwest Chapter. The event will begin with a tour of the Rockford, IL, Park District Sportscore, site of the STMA 1994-1995 Soccer Field of the Year. The meeting will then move on to Marinelli Field, the home of the Rockford Cubs, for a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility. Meeting participants will wrap up the day at the Cubs baseball game. The Midwest Chapter will charter a bus from the Chicago area for this meeting. Further details will be announced soon.

The Midwest Chapter is planning an August Workshop on "Rapid Turf Renovation." Further details will be announced shortly.

For information on these meetings, charter bus arrangements for the July meeting or other upcoming activities, call the Chapter Hotline at (708) 439-4727.

**Colorado Chapter: SPECIAL REMINDER** — The Colorado Chapter will hold a summer seminar/workshop

at Coors Field in Denver on June 29. Registration will run from 8:30 to 9 a.m. The morning educational sessions will run from 9 a.m. to noon and will feature a history of the design, construction and establishment of Coors Field. After lunch, the facility tour will begin at 1 p.m., first concentrating on the building, then moving to the field for a tour and on-field demonstrations. Host for this meeting is Mark Razum. Please RSVP your plans to attend to the 24-hour CCSTMA Hotline/Fax at (303) 438-9645.

Coming Attractions: The Colorado Chapter is planning an August 24 seminar/workshop to be held at the Pleasantview Sports Complex in Boulder. More details will be announced soon. For more information on these seminar/workshops, the Colorado Chapter or other upcoming activities, contact Ross Kurcab, Denver Broncos, at (303) 649-9000.

**Southern California Chapter:** For information on the Southern California Chapter and upcoming activities, contact Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

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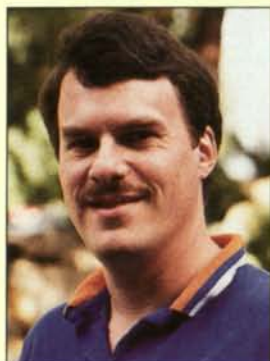


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# THE FRONT OFFICE

## OPINION PAGE



### Tools of the Trade

**L**ike Tim Taylor on *Home Improvement*, many sports turf managers utilize a wide variety of tools to accomplish their work. From spreaders and sprayers to mowers and mulchers, sports turf managers have an endless array of tools at their disposal. While some tools serve a singular purpose, others can adapt to a variety of jobs.

Unfortunately, many sports turf managers, handcuffed by the demands of their jobs, fail to utilize one of the most important tools available to them: the knowledge of their colleagues. This tool is available on a limited basis through *sportsTURF* magazine. Many of the best features that appear in this magazine on a monthly basis are contributed by sports turf managers who deal with specific problems and issues on a daily basis. However, the best way to utilize this useful tool is to attend any of the educational conferences and seminars sponsored by the STMA or your local STMA chapter.

I was invited to attend a recent seminar at Sea World in San Diego, CA, that was sponsored by the Southern California chapter of the STMA and featured demonstrations on just about all aspects of landscaping, irrigation and turf management, including big-roll sod installation, deep tine aeration and subsurface turf irrigation. Presentation topics included pest management in turfgrass, disease control through irrigation management, stress management techniques for turfgrass and greenwaste recycling. Representatives from many companies were on hand to lend their expertise in product selection, equipment use and maintenance.

Perhaps the most important part of the seminar was the interaction between the many sports turf managers who attended. Often the best resource a sports turf manager can have is another sports turf manager who has experienced similar conditions at his facility. Whenever two sports turf managers get together for any period of time, they inevitably learn something from each other that can be utilized on the job. Anytime a dozen or so of them are together in one place, the opportunities for learning expand proportionally. That's why your colleagues in the sports turf industry are the best tools you can find.

The next time your local STMA chapter sponsors an event, make an effort to attend if you can. Be prepared to return to your facility with some tools you didn't have before.

*Mike Augsdorfer*

Mike Augsdorfer

### Editorial Divots

Last month's issue of *sportsTURF* contained a couple of editorial divots that we'd like to repair right away. In Mark Altman's article on Coors Field in Denver ("Wrigley in the Rockies"), Dan Almond of Randall & Blake, Inc., of Littleton, CO, was inadvertently credited with the turf installation at Kauffman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals. George Toma was in charge of the Royals' project, while Almond worked on the renovation of Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Kansas City Chiefs football team. Mark Altman apologizes for the oversight.

Also, the photo of Dave Dravecky Field in Boardman, OH, on page 18 was incorrectly credited to Project Manager Jim Puhalla of Sportscape International, Inc. Puhalla himself called us to point out that the photo was taken by David Grantonic of Grantonic Studios in Boardman.

# EVENTS

## CALENDAR

### July

**18-22** Second Annual Groundskeepers Management Academy, Millington, TN, home of Team USA Baseball. Academy includes 12 hours of classroom and 20 hours of hands-on experience. Contact: Floyd Perry, (800) 227-9381.

**19-20** Fourth Annual Midwest Grounds Management Conference, Illinois State University, Normal, IL. Contact: Mike O'Grady, (309) 438-2032, or e-mail: meograde@ilstuedu.

**26** Turfgrass Field Day, sponsored by the University of Georgia and the Georgia Turfgrass Association. Georgia Experiment Station, Griffin. Contact: (404) 975-4123.

**26-28** Summer Convention and Field Days, sponsored by Turfgrass Producers International. Omaha, NE. Contact: (800) 405-TURF or (708) 705-9898.

### July-August

**24-4** Fourth Annual Irrigation Designer Manager School, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Contact: (805) 756-2434.

**30-1** International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo, "It Keeps Getting Better." Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. Contact: (800) 558-8767 or (502) 473-1992; fax: (502) 473-1999.

### August

**2** Summer Field Day, sponsored by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. Ball Seed Field Co., West Chicago, IL. Contact: Julie Nicoll, ILCA, (708) 932-8443.

Send announcements of your events two months in advance to:

Editor

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*The 1994-1995  
STMA Soccer Field  
of the Year:*



The Sportscore soccer fields suffered substantial turf damage following the torrential downpours that flooded the complex in 1993, but Steve Roser and his staff had the fields back in excellent condition just a few months later.

# The Sportscore Complex in Rockford, IL

By Bob Tracinski

Over the past two years, the multiple soccer fields of the Sportscore Complex in Rockford, IL, have survived the worst of times. Sportscore Superintendent Steve Roser and his able staff faced the ravages of 1993's 100-year floods — twice. Throughout the flooding — and the aftermath of the flooding — the scheduling and the maintenance staff were tested to the limit.

"Our fields were under water during March and most of April of 1993," says Roser. "When the waters receded in late April, we thought the worst was over. We'd been lucky. Minimal silt was left on the field surface, and though the fields were soggy and the turf in a very weakened condition, we were able to begin play.

"As the grounds began to firm up and after much aerifying, seeding and top-dressing, conditions were just starting to turn around as we approached summer and the bread and butter of our soccer season."

Sportscore is located on a 100-year flood plain bordering the Rock River, a tributary of the Mississippi. The complex opened in the summer of 1983 and features nine in-park soccer fields, five outlying soccer fields, eight lighted baseball diamonds, nine sand volleyball courts, three boat launches, two outlying parks and five miles of bike paths, for a total of approximately 140 acres under Roser's care. "Though we deal with spotty, wet conditions when rains are heavy, we had few problems prior to 1993," he notes. "The fields within the complex, with the exception of the sand volleyball courts and the skinned areas of the ball fields, all are composed of native soil. Though a lot of native topsoil was moved around, there is limited use of other than native materials."

Because of environmental restraints on wetlands areas, the Sportscore staff can move soil around a bit but not change the overall consistency or basic topography. Above-ground drainage is achieved by a slight crowning of the

fields and channeling natural drainage with a minimal grade.

The groundwater table at the facility is high. If the river is at a high level, water can be less than 3 feet below the soil surface. If the river water level is down, the fields can percolate 1 inch of rainfall overnight. Percolation rates fluctuate with the river.

On Tuesday, June 28, Roser judged field conditions to be good enough that he and two staff members could attend an STMA Midwest Chapter meeting in Wheaton, IL. "Though 2 inches of rain had fallen the evening before, and we had 124 soccer teams coming in on Friday, things were looking OK," Roser says, "so we left for Wheaton at 6 a.m. The drive to the conference included three detours for rained-out roads, and the radio reported that 7 to 11 inches of rain had fallen in Wisconsin the night of the 27th.

"I called Sportscore at noon, and we headed back immediately. The rest of my crew had been hauling cans, tables,