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y Ground Maintenance Services,

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A videotope training series for Baseball groundskeepers. Computer graphics and detailed explanations provide unique insight and understanding of athletic field care. These videos also make great teaching tools for new, part-time & temporary field assistants. Features setting/rebuilding; homeplate area; rebuilding pitchers mound; sodding dugout walkways; application of crushed; brick; rounding infield crescent; complete infield; repair of turf; fertilizing & overseeding, patterns; reducing infield lips; removal of dew from grass; water removal in clay areas; edging the running track. VIDEO. 55 Minutes.



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The Computer as a Maintenance Tool

by Tim Moore, CSFM

Thinking about a computer as just another tool in your shop may be a rather foreign idea, but that is how you should think of it. It really is no different from the rotary spreader or nursery spade or triplex. You rely on those tools to get your job done in a professional and efficient manner. The computer can do the same thing and, just like most of your other tools, you'll get out of the computer what you put into it, literally!

For those that are not computer friendly, this article should help to open you up to the potential of this tool. For those that are familiar and currently using it as a tool, it should perhaps show you some new ways to utilize the PC.

Conquer Your Fears

The first thing one has to do is conquer the fear of the new technology. Do you remember when the first hydraulic reel or rotary mower came to market? They were to become the best, most efficient and effective tools for the sports turf manager. They also were a little intimidating. With the belt driven models you could see how the machine worked and how to repair it if necessary. The were more hydraulic models abstract. The closed system was a bit mysterious; you couldn't really see how it worked; it all happened inside. The computer has and will prove to be the same way. Over time you will become as comfortable with the computer as you have become comfortable with hydraulics. All it takes is time and the willingness to learn.

How Can You Use It?

You can, and should, use the computer much like a closet or storage building. You should put or store things in it that are to be used later. The storage building in the computer is really a database. You can use a database to track inventory, such as pesticides used and in stock; machinery and parts; fertilizer used and in stock; soils and amendments, such as mound clay or topdressing agents; and general supplies, such as pitching rubbers or irrigation flags.

You can track degree days, daily temperatures, humidity and rainfall amounts and any other weatherrelated data that will be beneficial to know in developing and carrying out your maintenance program.

You can use the computer to track labor costs. By using a simple arithmetic formula in Excel you can have instant labor costs. You can track the performance of contractors on your site, the number of hours spent there and materials used. This information can help you when it comes time to pay for their services.

You also can track your budget. By using a subtraction formula in Excel you can input expenditures and have a running declining balance. It sure is nice knowing how much money you have at the click of a button.

Can you do all this tracking without a computer? Absolutely! But just like the hydraulics made it more efficient to mow, the computer will make it easier to store your information, and you'll only have to look in one place to retrieve it.

What Else Can You Use It For?

Just like the materials you store in the closet, eventually you'll need to pull them out and produce something. The data collected in the computer can be pulled out to produce reports. Those reports can be month-end or year-end labor, or inventory, or even budget reports. These types of reports can be a great help when justifying your maintenance program and asking for future funding. You will have credible, realistic data. Believe me, that goes a long way in budgeting.

continued on page 35



Circle 122 on Inquiry Card

continued from page 32

Has your turf maintenance program ever experienced a disease infestation that was difficult to diagnose? The meteorological information stored in your computer can help in your diagnosis and perhaps even give you the ammunition needed to ward off a turf disease or weed pest.

You also can take your information one step further. You can turn your database into a multi-media presentation. The use of power point or other presentation software in your program also lends to your credibility and professionalism. It holds the audience's attention better than written documents and the visual aids help you in presenting by taking the focus off you and putting it on the screen.

Tap Into the Communication Equation

Let's not forget the most common

use of the computer these days, Internet communications and email. Within seconds or minutes vou can retrieve information from sites that in the past would have taken you days to track down and access, let alone review and retrieve. You also can communicate more efficiently with colleagues and other employees. Often it takes much less time to send or respond to an e-mail than to pick up the phone and talk to the other individual. Mind you, this does not decrease the importance of personal contact, it simply adds another dimension of communication when personal contact is not necessary.

E-mailing also allows you to send the same message to several people at the same time. This can become an excellent management tool when the same information needs to be received by several employees or contractors. You can "broadcast" changes in scheduling or other specific aspects of a project rather than contacting each individual directly.

Conclusion

If you are not using the computer in your sports turf management program, you really should do so. Start slowly and get comfortable with the new machine. Little by little you will be able to do more. You certainly don't need to know everything about the computer program before you begin using it. You'll find that you will learn about it as you need it, expanding your understanding and capabilities as you expand your computer use. Eventually you will become as comfortable with the computer and rely on it to give you results just as you rely on your favorite spreader, spade or mower.

Tim Moore, CSFM, is the ballfield coordinator for the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission. He is based in Silver Spring, Md. Tim is secretary of the National Sports Turf Managers Association and Immediate Past President of the MAFMO Chapter of STMA.

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Chapters in Action

Midwest Chapter Gathers At Northwestern Univesity

by Mike Schiller, CSFM

O ver 50 people attended the Midwest STMA Chapter meeting and annual Awards Luncheon held at the Ryan Field Stadium Club of Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., on March 6, 2001. Attendees were welcomed by Ted Baker, CSFM, Chapter Program Chair, and Eric Adkins, CSFM, Agronomist for Northwestern University, who served as meeting host.

The morning's Construction Seminar was presented from three perspectives. The sports turf manager's perspective was presented by Scott Pippen of the Village of Lincolnshire, for which the 63 acre, multiple-athletic field, North Park Project was developed. Paul Wiese, Principal of the Smith Group, JJR, supplied the architectural firm's perspective. The contractor's perspective was provided by Mark Van Landuyt, President of Van's Enterprises, Inc., which serves as a contractor on numerous athletic field construction and renovation projects. A question and answer session followed the three presentations. Adkins gave a presentation on the history of Northwestern's football facility. The Chapter congratulated Adkins, Randy Stoneberg and the Northwestern University athletic field staff for receiving the national STMA 2000 Football Field of the Year Award in the College/University division for Ryan Field.

Steve Trusty, STMA Executive Director, presented a certification update. STMA Board Member, Mike Trigg, CSFM, Superintendent of Parks for the Waukegan, Illinois, Park District, provided an update on National STMA activities.

An excellent buffet lunch and the award presentations followed the morning sessions. The Midwest Chapter Field and Facility Awards were presented to: Hoffman Estates High School of High School District 211; The Midwest Chapter Scholarship Awards were pre-

continued on page 38



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Application for Membership

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) is an organization of professionals representing all segments of the sports turf industry. Our members work to combine the science of growing turfgrasses and the art of maintaining both natural and artificial athletic field materials to produce safe and aesthetically pleasing playing surfaces.

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Chapter News

continued from page 36

sented to Randy Stoneberg of Northwestern University and Scott Pippen of the Village of Lincolnshire.

Closing the formal portion of the program was Randy Walker, Northwestern's Head Football Coach, who gave a dynamic presentation on the University's football program and on the interaction he and Adkins have to provide the best possible playing conditions for the student athletes.

Chapter News

Arizona: The Arizona Chapter is planning a Golf Tournament for the last week of May. Contact Chris Calcaterra, City of Peoria, at 623-412-4226 for information on this event. Other upcoming events include: a Karsten Turf Grass Facility Tour, with transportation from Phoenix to Tucson by bus. Dr. Dave Kopec will provide the tour and information about current research projects. Those interested in reserving slots, please contact Bill Murphy.

Planned for June is the Summer Flagstaff Conference on Cool Season Grass. It will be hosted by Flagstaff Parks and Recreation. Phillip Garcia is the contact for this event. The Arizona Parks and Recreation Annual Conference will be held in Phoenix August 16. For information on this event, please contact Chris Calcaterra, City of Peoria. For information on the chapter or other upcoming events, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Park, Recreation and Facilities Manager, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or phone: 480-312-7954.

Colorado: The CSTMA Board is working on the upcoming calendar of events for 2001. For information on the Colorado Chapter or upcoming activities, log on to the Chapter's Web site: www.CSTMA.org or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline: 303-346-8954.

Florida: For information on the chapter or pending activities, contact John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

Gateway: For information on upcoming events or on the chapter, contact: Mark Jennings at 314-983-5345 or Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, at: 314-977-2956.

Indiana: The Indiana Chapter will host a Regional Meeting to be held at Bloomington, Ind., during the first week of June. More details to be announced soon. For information on the Indiana Chapter or pending activities, contact: Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at 219-356-8424.

Iowa: The Iowa Chapter will be joining the Minnesota Chapter for the annual Chapter Clash on July 13 and 14, 2001. More details will be announced soon. For information on the Iowa Chapter or upcoming activities, contact: Lori Westrum at The Turf Office at 515-232-8222 (phone) or 515-232-8228 (fax) or e-mail: Lori@iowaturfgrass.org.

Keystone: For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter or other upcoming events, contact: Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at 610-375-8469, ext. 212 or via the chapter e-mail address: kafmo@aol.com.

Michigan: For information on the chapter or other pending events, contact: Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at 616-738-6974 or click on your computer to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's NEW Web site.

Mid-Atlantic Field Managers Organization: The MAFMO Chapter is planning an Aug. 24 Design and Construction Seminar to be held at the Annapolis Waterfront Marriott Hotel. For information on the MAFMO Chapter or pending activities, contact the Hotline: 410-290-5652.

Mid-South: For information on the Mid-South Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Robert Bodi at TURF419@aol.com or Jim Calhoun at 901-755-1305.

Midwest: Upcoming events for the Midwest Chapter include: the Big 10 Regional Workshop in Bloomington, Ind., in early June; the Wisconsin Chapter tour of the Milwaukee Brewer's new Miller Park & Game on June 15; a Tour on Wheels in August, a Fall workshop at the Lincolnshire Sports Complex in October, and the annual North Central Turf Expo at Pheasant Run Resort in December. Details on all these events will be announced. For information on the Midwest Chapter or pending activities, call The Chapter Hotline 847-622-3517.

Minnesota: The Minnesota Chapter's annual Minnesota/Iowa Chapter Clash is set for July 13 and 14, 2001. The annual Tour on Wheels will be held on July 25. The Chapter will participate in the MTGF Field Day to be held at the University of Minnesota on July 26. Details on these events will be announced soon. For information on the Minnesota Chapter or other upcoming events, contact: Ron Unger, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Kasson, by phone at: 507-634-4165 or via email at: ParkNRec@CityofKasson.com.

Missouri-Kansas: The MO-KAN Chapter will hold its Satchel Paige Field Renovation Workday at Satchel Paige Stadium on Saturday, May 12. Also planned is a June 6 Summer Field Day on "Managing Football and Soccer Fields" at the Olathe, Kan., District Activities Complex in Olathe. Included in the event schedule are sessions on Summer Turf Management, Managing Football and Soccer Fields, Vendor Presentations and Breakout Sessions offering hands-on training in: Basic football and soccer field maintenance; Topdressing methods and materials; Field striping and logo painting; and calibrating sprayers and spreaders. For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or on upcoming events, contact: Trevor Vance at 816-504-4271; Gary Custis at 816-460-6215; or Jody Gill at 913-681-4121.

Nebraska: The Nebraska Chapter is planning a June 13 event at Gothenburg, and an August 6 event at the Mead Turf Show in the morning and Seward in the afternoon. In the planning stages is an October meeting at Haymarket Park in Lincoln, Nebraska, the new home of the University of Nebraska Huskers Baseball Team and the professional baseball Northern League team, the Saltdogs. More details will be announced soon. For information on the Nebraska Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at 308-385-5426.

New Jersey: For information on the New Jersey Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Jim Gavigan, Lesco, at 732-248-8979 or Eleanora Murfitt, Director, Township of Clinton Parks & Recreation Department, at 908-735-5999. Northern California: The Nor-Cal Chapter is in the process of planning their annual Seminar on Wheels event. Details will be announced soon. For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter or pending events, contact Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

North Texas: For information on the North Texas Chapter or pending activities, contact: Kayla McAfee, at 972-234-6584 or Rene Asprion at 972-647-3393 or log onto www.ntstma.org to check out the Web site.

Ohio: On May 23, OSTMA, in conjunction with the Kentucky Turfgrass Council, will hold a joint workshop at Paul Brown Stadium (home of the Cincinnati Bengals) and Cinergy Field (home of the Cincinnati Reds). The day will include tours of both facilities and such top speakers as Dr. A. J. Powell from the University of Kentucky and Joe Motz of the Motz Group.

OSTMA will host the second annual Regional Chapter Workshop on July 18 at Ohio State University. Events will include presentations by national speakers and tours of OSU athletic facilities, the Ohio Turfgrass Research Center, the



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Chapter News

Columbus Clippers Stadium and the Columbus Crew Stadium. The day will conclude with attendees enjoying dinner at the Crew Stadium and then watching a professional soccer game. The Ohio Chapter anticipates attendees from the Michigan, Midwest, Indiana, Tennessee and KAFMO Chapters and issues an open invitation to others to attend. Contact OSTMA or STMA National Headquarters for more information on this event. This event will be followed on July 19 by the OSTMA first Annual "Chapter Challenge" Golf Outing, also in Columbus, Ohio, with the proceeds to benefit the OSTMA scholarship fund.

OSTMA is accepting scholarship and field of the Year nominations until Oct. 1, 2001. For information on the OSTMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Joe Zelinko at 800-897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery at 419-885-1982 ext. 50, or click on your computer to www.glstma.org to visit the chapter's Web site.

South Texas: The chapter is planning a June/July meeting in the Houston area. More details will be announced soon. For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Tom McAfee, Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium, San Antonio, at 210-207-3754.

Southern California: For information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact: Ron Kirkpatrick at 858-453-1755.

Tennessee Valley: TVSTMA is planning a June Meeting at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn. Also planned is a July meeting at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn. More details will be announced soon. For information on the TVSTMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc. at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062. Virginia: For information on the Virginia Chapter or upcoming events, contact: Chapter President, Tim Swaim of Landscape Supply, Inc., Richmond, Va., by phone: 804-675-3050 or via e-mail: cardscowboys@cs.com.

Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Chapter will be joined by the Midwest Chapter for an event on June 15 which will include a behind the scenes tour by Gary VandenBerg of the Milwaukee Brewers of the new Miller Park Stadium, and takes in the night game between the Brewers and the Kansas City Royals. Events begin at 9 a.m. at Spring Valley Turf and include a tour of their fertilizer plant and an educational session on fertilizer by Spring Valley Turf personnel. For information on this event, contact Chris Brindley, UWSP, at 715-346-3622. For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter or other pending events, contact: Richard Miller, at 608-756-1150.

Chapters On The Grow

Las Vegas: With the STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition headed for Las Vegas (Jan. 16-20, 2002), plans for the formation of a Las Vegas Chapter also are moving forward. For more information on the developing chapter, please contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center, via e-mail at rms@lvcva.com or by phone at 702-386-7140.

New York: A chapter is forming in Central New York. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the National Soccer Hall of Fame. Interested? Want more information? Contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, via e-mail at Kevin@wpe.com or by phone at 607-432-2953.



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