

as they are finalized. Don't miss out on this great event and your chance to hear how the pros operate, and also network with your peers!

The OSTMA will host a summer workshop with the Toledo Mudhens on June 26, at the brand new 5/3rd Field in downtown Toledo. Educational sessions will be conducted by Jeff Limburg, Head Sports Field Manager, and the OSTMA. The MISTMA Chapter also has been invited to participate. Tickets will be available so attendees can catch the ballgame following the workshop.

For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 740-452-4541 or Boyd Montgomery at 419-885-1982; or visit the chapter's website at www.glstma.org.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The Minnesota Chapter is planning a spring workshop. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota at tel. 651-638-6075 or e-mail: j-hintz@bethel.edu.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): The Michigan Chapter's annual meeting will be held June 20, at Okemos High School. MISTMA also will join the Ohio Chapter for a summer workshop with the Toledo Mudhens on June 26, at the brand new 5/3rd Field in downtown Toledo. Educational sessions will be conducted by Jeff Limburg, Head Sports Field Manager, and the OSTMA. Tickets will be available so attendees can catch the ballgame following the workshop. Plan now to take part in G. A. M Day at Spartan Stadium on July 19. This event will team sports turf managers and business managers with a focus on the business end of maintaining sports fields. For information on the Chapter or other pending events, call Amy Fouty, University of Michigan, at 734-763-4422, or go to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's new website.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, contact Bill Murphy, Recreation and Facilities Manager, City of Scottsdale Park, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or tel. 480-312-7954.

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

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter or pending events, call Steve Dugas, California State University-Fullerton, at 714-278-3929 or email sdugas@fullerton.edu.

Florida Chapter #1: For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Gateway Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist

College, 314-392-2328 or email krone@mobap.edu.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Iowa Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Lori@iowaturfgrass.org.

Indiana Chapter: For information on the Indiana Chapter, or pending activities, call Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at 219-356-8424.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at 308-385-5426.

Midwest Chapter STMA: For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter's website, <http://mctma.org/>, or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jim Gavigan, Lesco, at 732-248-8979; or call Eleanora Murfitt, at 908-236-9118; e-mail to SFMANJCHAPTER@netscape.net.

Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA): For information on the MAFMO Chapter, or pending activities, call the Hotline at 410-290-5652.

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, call Kayla McAfee at 972-234-6584 or Rene Asprien at 972-647-3393, or visit the website at www.ntstma.org.

South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the South Texas Chapter, or upcoming events, call Craig Potts, Texas A & M University, at tel. 979-458-8841, or e-mail: CPotts@athletics.tamu.edu.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Virginia Chapter, or upcoming events, contact: Chapter Vice President, Randy Buchanan, County of Henrico Recreation and Parks, via e-mail: buc06@co.henrico.va.us or at tel. 804-261-8213.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter, or other pending events, call Richard Miller at 608-756-1150.

Chapters on the Grow

Las Vegas: 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 at e-mail: rms@lvca.com or at tel. 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. For more information, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: Kevin@wpe.com or at tel. 607-432-2953. **ST**

Sports Turf Managers Association gains more space

The Headquarters of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) has relocated to gain more office space. The new location is 1027 South 3rd Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503. The new phone number is 712/322-STMA (7862). The toll free phone number remains the same: 800/323-3875. Both fax numbers remain the same: 712-366-9119 and 800-366-0391.

The new E-mail address is STMAHQ@st.omhcoxmail.com. Staff members also have individual E-mail addresses using their first name, such as Steve@st.omhcoxmail.com. The website address will remain the same: www.sportsturfmanager.com.

Steve Trusty, STMA executive director, says, "All indications point to continuation of the excellent growth the association has experienced over the past several years. In addition, STMA has continued to add services for our membership including the Certified Sports Field Manager Program, the newly introduced Mentoring Program, and the coordination of a bigger and better website. In order to accommodate all of this, we have upgraded equipment and increased our staff. In the process, we had outgrown our office space. We're excited about what lies ahead for the association and are pleased to report that the new STMA Headquarters site provides adequate space now and can accommodate future growth."

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Looking for a little help and advice

I coach a high school soccer program in Louisville that uses a 3-year-old Bermuda field. It is now brown and dormant and we are considering playing games on it in early March. The field will be a little damp, but fairly dry for this time of the year.

Will there be short-term and/or long-term damage if the field hosts four 80-minute games high school-age players? The high school team won't use it until August. I have been told that you probably cannot damage this type of Bermuda field at this time of the year with minimum play.

*Coach John
Louisville, KY*

In 1981, as a 25-year-old graduate student with Dr. Jackie Butler at Colorado State University, I learned the answer to this question. I'll always remember his sighing through the weathered mustache that filtered many pearls of wisdom: "Dave, there are grass problems and there are people problems. Smart people can usually solve grass problems, but grass seldom solves people problems."

The booming demand for access to fields has accentuated the need for people to work together to solve "grass problems." There is a limit to the type and amount of traffic that grass fields can tolerate. It is very rewarding to hear from a coach who was concerned about the present and future condition of his field. I could make an argument for both sides of this situation, but the more I put myself in the roles of grounds manager and coach, the more I realized that the real message is in the decision process and not the judgment.

In reality a soccer game or two played on a dry and dormant Bermudagrass field would probably not cause substantial damage to the field. Most turf managers would agree, but their fear is that doing so will open the door for more activity and they will lose all control over traffic regulation. Allowing added activity could be perceived as a sign of weakness. Since the grass is dormant and not able to actively recover it does not take much more than a few games before the protective mat of vegetation is removed and the soil exposed.

Some of our traffic trials in the transition zone of Missouri showed that Bermudagrass football fields could recover from fall traffic if they did not receive any spring or summer traffic. The combination of fall football and spring soccer proved too much for the bermudagrass. Traffic when the Bermuda is dormant in the spring or when it is starting to green seems to really set back the fields.

In this case it is a measure of how much traffic do you allow in the spring and how much injury actually occurs. Let's put it this way: If the ground is moist and wet and the players are bringing up any soil or mud, then you are causing substantial damage. Native soil fields that are too wet for play can be severely damaged in a single event.

Here is how I make the call on whether or not the field is too wet. Check for "squishy feet" by standing on any part of the field where you have concern and shift your weight back and forth from one foot to another for a minute. If you start to make a noticeable depression in the ground or you develop a wet spot as if you are squeezing water out of a sponge, then the field will likely have substantial tracking and divots. It may look fine for a couple of minutes, but as the contest progresses repeated trampling of the soft ground will give way to muddy conditions. This is of course the worst-case scenario and should be avoided since this single event can have an immediate and

long-term negative effect. This is especially troublesome in early spring when soils are wet and evapotranspiration is low and also in late fall when grass is thin and soils take longer to dry.

Moderately moist soils, somewhere between just after irrigation and field capacity, are also prone to compaction. Water is not pumped out of the ground as in the "squishy feet" example, but the surface will have many noticeable cleat marks pressed into the Playdo-like soil surface. Both of these situations will result in mud sticking to shoes and exposed on the surface.

If the field is sufficiently dry enough so that there is no free moisture on the surface and there is no sticky soil exposed, then it is likely that the compaction will not be a major concern for that particular event.

But here's the tricky part: Even with these guidelines it is not solely the field's condition that I use as the basis for making a final decision. In fact my response has less to do about grass and everything to do about people, because people solve grass problems.

You need to build a working relationship with all of those who take ownership in the field: coaches, players, turf managers, athletic directors, boosters, and volunteers. Somewhere in this group an alliance must be formed that says "I will help you if you help me."

Back to the judgment call. You fight to keep people off of the field under conditions of "squishy feet" and all of your allies should support you in this because to be on it will be detrimental to all the field's users. Even with this you sometimes find the game being played, e.g., it rains after the game starts but it's decided to finish anyway. Don't say, "I told you so" and make enemies, just submit your list to help remedy the situation.

This is a good time to request topdressing, sod, equipment, etc. You are one up on the alliance scorecard and you should capitalize on it.

Now suppose conditions are not as wet as squishy feet and instead are more in the Play-do stage. It is correct that moist soils will add to compaction, but when you have to make the judgment call, you need to think about developing the relationship with other users. You may know that it adds to the cumulative effect of compaction, but you also know that the coach may really need to get in one more practice before the big game. Be smart about picking your battles and knowing when to strengthen the alliance.

It's about give and take and building relationships. I am not saying roll over and let the fields be repeatedly destroyed. You have probably already been down that dead end street before. Given a reasonable chance most of you can grow grass, but to get that chance you may first need to grow a relationship with the field users.

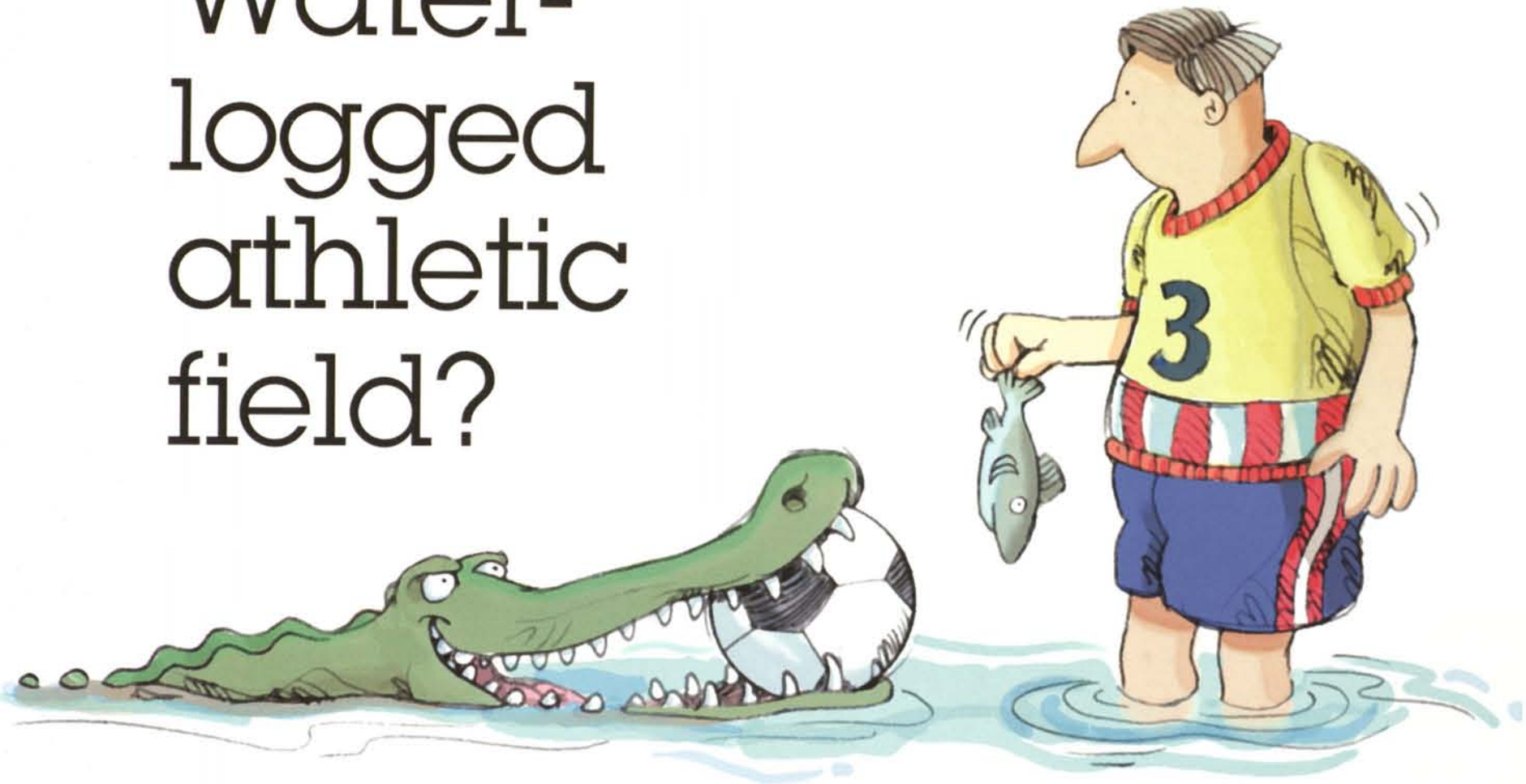
In addition to your arsenal of things that make you better (i.e. mowers, players, new uniforms, fertilizer, helmets) be sure to give proper attention to reason, patience, fairness, and trust. These tools could also use a little sharpening from time to time. **ST**



Have Questions?

Send them to Dave Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011, or email dminner@iastate.edu. Or, send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email gmiller@mail.ifas.ufl.edu.

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