

and upwards of 30 inches before we were through," said Bossard. "The dome was scheduled to be finished before we started putting in the field, so the outdoor temperature shouldn't have had any effect on us. It wasn't finished though, so we had to devise a way to install the field on frozen ground."

The field had to be thawed before the sod could be installed. A foot of snow had to be plowed away and a 6-inch trench of frozen ground had to be torn out by frost teeth on D8 bulldozers to put in the irrigation system. "But we were ready for opening day and that's all that matters," added Bossard.

Bossard and his team also developed a unique irrigation strategy for Miller Park. Its overhead, integrated hydraulic irrigation system was the first of its kind. It heats water from 80-93 degrees, then runs it through the irrigation system to help bring the turf out



Bossard says, "When I work on my field, I get all these great ideas in my head that I know can help other groundskeepers, techniques they don't teach you in school. This is my opportunity to pass on valuable experience."

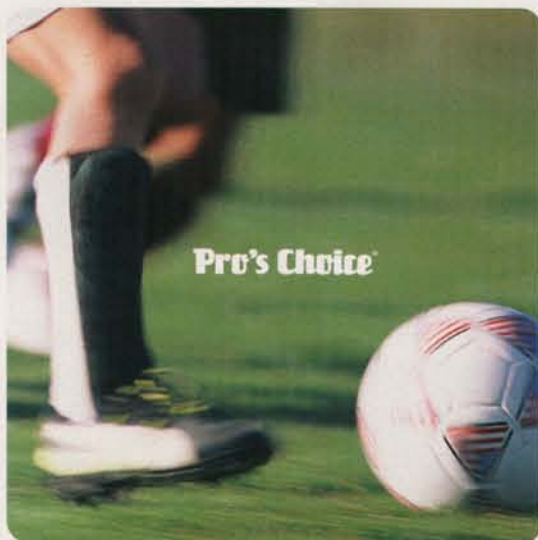
of dormancy and establish growth in the cool weather. "Sure, projects like this may push the envelope of creative sportsfield care," said Bossard. "But the point is that the best way to broaden your skills is to work with the most experienced people in the game. This forum provides that opportunity."

"In the end, it's what you do on your field that counts. This course will teach you how to properly maintain your field, but more importantly how to fix mistakes that may have happened in the past. You'll design a program that meets your specific maintenance needs and be able to apply it."

"And if the attendees are really lucky," added Bossard, "I may even reveal a few of my grandfather's famous '17 Tricks of the Trade'—strictly for nostalgia, of course."

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New STMA Chapter hosts field day

BY BOB STUDHOLME

The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the STMA held its inaugural event last August 19 at the home of the Seattle Mariners, Safeco Field. More than 200 people attended the field day that featured a rotating station format that addressed infield maintenance, turf care, and logo painting.

Former major league player Dave Henderson welcomed the crowd as the keynote speaker. Henderson spoke of the impact that a field manager can have on a game, both good and bad. He then answered questions about his favorite/least favorite ballparks, and his memories about the 1989 "Battle of the Bay" World Series.

At the lunch break, participants, while enjoying a genuine ball park hot dog, heard from the chapter board members as well as special guests Dale Getz, CSFM, and Charlie Vestal who addressed the value and growth of the STMA.

The six rotating stations consisted of Chapter President and Mariners' head groundskeeper, Bob

Christofferson, sharing his knowledge on managing the infield skin, while his assistants, Tim Wilson and Leo Liebert, spoke on mound maintenance and construction.

The Washington State University turfgrass research team of Dr. Gwen Stahnke and Dr. Eric Miltner spoke on managing sand-based turf systems, and University of Oregon grounds manager Mike Wagner, CSFM, covered the aspects of mowing and its impact on the turfgrass plant. Seattle Seahawks' director of fields, Jay Warnick, CSFM, demonstrated some of the machines used in field and logo painting. The final station allowed participants to visit the equipment and displays of the six sponsors.

The day was a great success and a perfect way to launch the new PNWSTMA Chapter. Future plans include a round-table discussion and election meeting this fall. For more information contact Jay Warnick at 425-893-5130, or email JayW@Seahawks.com.

ST



The STMA's new Pacific Northwest Chapter held its inaugural event last August at Safeco Field.



Seattle Seahawks' Jay Warnick, CSFM, demonstrated some field painting machines.

STMA Chapter News

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: The MO-Kan Chapter will hold a Sports Facility Tour On Wheels October 16. Tour sites will be announced soon. Each stop will include a walking tour and a description of the maintenance practices of the facility.

For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121, Gary Custis at 816-460-6215, or Mike Green at 913-208-6158.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The Minnesota Chapter's Fall Workshop will be held in Woodbury October 17. More details will be announced soon.

The Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation announces two opportunities for Pesticide Recertification, Categories A & E: October 15

at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington and November 5 at Madden's Resort Town Hall Convention Center in Brainerd. For information on the

recertification programs visit the website: www.mtgm.org or call 612-625-9234.

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



Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): The KAFMO Cup Golf Tournament will be held October 21 at Fairview Golf Course in Lebanon. Start time is 12:30 pm. This is the main fundraiser for the KAFMO scholarship fund. The scramble tournament is open to anyone who wants to enjoy a round golf, a great meal, and super day of networking. For more information on the tournament con-

tact Steve LeGros at 717-534-3167 or e-mail to KAFMO@aol.com.

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

Midwest Chapter STMA: The Midwest Chapter is planning a Fall Workshop for October. For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter's website, <http://mcstma.org/>, or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Florida Chapter # 1: The Florida Chapter will meet November 12 at the University of Miami in Miami. The program will include: Weed Identification, GN-1 Bermudagrass Fertilization Research Project, and Mound Building. Attendees will tour the athletic facilities.

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

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): TVSTMA's Annual Planning and Election Meeting will be held November 12 at Vanderbilt University.

For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062 or visit the chapter's website: www.tvstma.org.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter is planning a November Field Day at Edison International. The date and time will be announced soon. The Chapter's general meeting and elections will take place at 3:30 p.m. November 14 at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut. Bruce Kidd of Dow AgroSciences will give a presentation on weed control strategies in turf. The Chapter also will have a booth at the Turfgrass and Landscape Institute (SCTC) December 11 at Buena Park.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, call Steve Dugas, California State University-Fullerton, at 714-278-3929 or email sdugas@fullerton.edu.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: The Virginia Chapter will hold officer elections in November for the 2003 officers. Installation of the 2003 officers will take place at the Virginia Turfgrass Council annual Conference in January.

For information on the Virginia Chapter, or other upcoming events, contact: Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority via e-mail: Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov or at 703/324-8590.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: The Colorado Chapter will participate in the RMRTA Turf Conference and Trade Show December 4 - 6 at the Denver Convention Center.

For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website, www.CSTMA.org, or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): The OSTMA Chapter will hold its fifth annual meeting and award breakfast December 11 in conjunction with the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Annual Conference and Trade Show at the Columbus Convention Center. The Conference dates are December 9-12. For information on the Conference, call 888-683-3444. 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.ostma.org.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, contact Chris Calcaterra at e-mail: chrisc@peoriaaz.com or tel. 623-412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or tel. 480-312-7956.

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

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): For information on the Chapter or pending events, contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, University of Michigan, at fouty@umich.edu, or go to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's new website.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Loren Humphrey at: 402-461-2324 or email to lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: The New Jersey Chapter will again partner with the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo to present a special sports turf specific educational track. The Expo will be held December 10-12, 2002, at the Trump Taj Mahal Resort & Casino in Atlantic City.

For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Fred Castenschiold at 908-722-9830 or email to mke@blast.net; or call Eleanora Murfitt, at 908-236-9118; e-mail to HQ@sfmanj.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact in Washington, Jay Warnick at JayW@Seahawks.com or in Oregon, Mike Wagner at MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu.

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, contact Greg Zimmerman at 214-987-5491 or bcf-irrigation@att.net or Rene Aspiron 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.

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

Kentucky: The forming Chapter will participate in the sports turf track of the Kentucky Turfgrass Council's Annual Conference and Trade Show. This event will be held November 4-7 at the Bowling Green Convention Center and University Plaza Hotel in Bowling Green.

For information on the chapter forming in Kentucky, contact Tom Nielsen at TNIelsen@batsbaseball.com or Aaron Boggs at AVBoggs@netscape.net.

Las Vegas: For information on the chapter developing in Las Vegas, contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: rms@lvcv.com or at tel. 702-386-7140.

New York: For information on the chapter forming in Central New York, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: Kevin@wpe.com or at tel. 607-432-2953.



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.

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.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Lori Turek at 770-509-3663 or gastma@earthlink.net.

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

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

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.



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Questions regarding this position can be directed to Colleen Hummer at the listed e-mail address.

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Q&A

BY DR. DAVE MINNER, PH.D.,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Soil prep and rolling: listen to honest Abe

We wanted to know what your opinion is on rolling athletic fields before sodding to help achieve a level playing surface? We primarily work with native soils, but also install sand-based fields. Our main concern is too much compaction before sodding when preparing the surface for native soil fields.

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Put me on a field or a construction job with any type of roller and it is a very easy call for me to assess the situation, observe the roller, and then decide if we should continue rolling under those conditions. Ask me to give advice without seeing the situation and my fingers freeze up.

But you did specifically ask about rolling native soil (assuming something with at least 60% silt-clay by weight) just before sodding. It sounds like you have been on construction jobs where the graded field just didn't look smooth enough to meet your approval and you are wondering if the roller could help or hurt the situation. Hold that picture in your mind; we'll be back after a brief lecture on rolling vs. grading.

Rolling is not a substitute for, or means of overcoming, poor grading. In other words you can't smash the ground with a roller to change the contour or cause higher areas to be filled into low areas. That work needs to be done by laser grading and there are excellent tools and contractors that are readily available. I won't tell you that I never roll bare soils because I can think of several situations where I have tried rolling just to see if I can make the situation better.

Rolling can be used to compact soft spots where the grader has smoothed loose dirt into a low spot. Even though a roller can be used for this we generally find that the vehicle tires and box blade on the laser grader are the best means of firming up the surface. Sometimes the roller is used in conjunction with the laser grader if we have a lot of soft spots. If we get lucky (not too wet and not too dry) the soil works just perfectly and after laser grading there is about a 1/4-inch of crumbly soil on top of a firm base.

Walking or driving on the surface with sod-laying equipment should only leave shallow tracks that are easily raked smooth with a landscape rake, drag, or ball field bunker rake. Here is where you should have a concern with rolling or grading before sodding. If the surface is left too hard then seed or new roots from sod will not develop because of surface compaction. Rolling when the soil is too wet will smash the clay particles together and cause a glazing of the surface; when dry the surface is crusty and seed sits on top of the surface rather than nestled down and slightly buried into the soil. Seed on top of the soil seldom germinates.

The surface should be prepared the same for seeding or sodding. Grading equipment can sometimes leave the soil surface very hard, especially where the cutting bar has planed a high spot. When rolling, grading, or equipment traffic causes a hard surface it must be scarified to loosen the hard surface before seeding or sodding. Working the soil when it is too wet usually causes hard and glazed surface conditions.

I always ask honest Abe Lincoln if my surface is ready for planting turfgrass. Stick a penny in the ground right side up or upside down. The loose soil should be somewhere in Lincoln's ear if you are listening to his advice. If your budget won't allow for the penny method then simply walk over the area to inspect the seed or sod bed. Areas that do not leave any footprints are probably too hard and need to be scarified. On the other hand, foot prints deeper than a half-inch indicates that the seed could be buried too deep or the ground may settle causing a low spot.

Just 2 weeks ago I had a local sports field builder laser grade a new native soil area at our turfgrass research facility. The soil conditions were just perfect for working the ground, slightly drier than moist, no soil stuck to the equipment, and there was just a hint of dust as the soil moved across the box blade. They had started by putting the teeth down on the box blade to loosen up the surface. Two hours later the 0.5% grade was perfect and the filled areas had been firmed by the process of laser grading and tire packing.

We probably could have seeded at that point but Mr. Lincoln would have been upset with about 15% of the area that was left too hard from the cutting of the grader bar. We wanted to get done that day, but we were just not happy with the hard areas, so the next morning we quickly built a nail drag and scratched up the entire surface and followed that with our screen drag. Now the surface was perfect, loose in the top 1/4-inch and firm.

So to answer your question on rolling before sodding I would say that rolling before sodding on a crumbly dry soil will probably not cause much compaction and could help firm up a surface that is too soft. Rolling that compacts moist soil will require some type of scarification before sodding. Aside from rolling, one of my favorite ways to firm up a surface and get all of the soft spots to settle is to give a light irrigation just until puddles begin to form. Each piece of ground works a little different depending on the moisture and soil type. It may take several cycles of grading, dragging, scarifying, and water settling to get the surface just right.

There is one thing for sure; patience is needed since conditions are not always right to work the soil. Rolling can be a helpful tool in the process of preparing ground, but it is not a substitute for proper grading or a means to flatten wet soils as final preparation for sodding.

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