Continuing Education for busy Sports Turf Professionals October 14-16, 2005 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Expo

Double or even Triple Dip on your CEU Requirements. Sessions apply for online and onsite accreditation with: **ASLA, CCA, DPR, GCSAA, IA, ISA** and **STMA.** Register with the form below or register online at **www.LandsConference.com.** For more info on Expo, visit www.expo.mow.org or call 800-558-8767.

LANDSConference REGISTRATION FORM

Please print 1 person per form and mail form with payment to Unlimited Access 7100 Sunnyslope Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91405 or fax to 818-764-3363

Name_____

Company_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

❑ **1 Online Session** ($35) ❑ **3 Online Sessions** ($75*)

❑ **1 Onsite Session** ($50) ❑ **3 Onsite Sessions** ($120*)
Advance Registration for Onsite Sessions in Louisville include the Expo

* $10 Early Bird Discount if registration received before 9/1/05)

Friday, October 14, 2005 - Landscape 1 Track

❑ Session LC01 - 8:00 to 10:00 - *Synthetic Infill vs. Natural Turf*
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
A.J. Powell, Ph.D., University of Kentucky; George Neagle, Synlawn

❑ Session LC02 - 10:30 to12:30 - *Drainage Issues in the Landscape*
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, IA, ISA, STMA
Barry Kew, University of Kentucky; Phil Hilliker, EMCH Bros.

❑ Session LC03 - 1:30 to 3:30 - *Hemlock Wooley Adelgids*
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
Terry Tattar, Ph.D., University of Mass.; James Cortese, Cortese Tree Specialists

Friday, October 14, 2005 - Golf Track

❑ Session LC04 - 8:00 to 10:00 - *It's All About the Turf*
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
Erik Ervin, Ph.D., Virginia Tech; Michael Vanatta, Environmental Turf

❑ Session LC05 - 10:30 to 12:30 - *Management Skills for Golf Courses*
Accreditation Applied For: GCSAA
William Baker, Rep. UCR Ext.; Andrea Bakalyar, Wee Course at Williams Creek

❑ Session LC06 - 1:30 to 3:30 - *Golf Course Preparation*
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, STMA
William Baker, Rep. UCR Ext.; Andrea Bakalyar, Wee Course at Williams Creek

Saturday, October 15, 2005 - Arboriculture Track

❑ Session LC07 - 8:00 to 10:00 - *Micro-Injection Solutions*
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
Terry Tattar, Ph.D., University of Mass.; James Cortese, Cortese Tree Specialists

❑ Session LC08 - 10:30 to12:30 - *Tree Decay: Structural Issues*
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
William Baker, Rep. UCR Ext.; Susan Sims, Sims Tree Learning Center

❑ Session LC09 - 1:30 to 3:30 - *Soil Issues That Impact Tree Health*
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
Susan Sims, Sims Tree Learning Center; Paul Sachs, North County Organics

Saturday, October 15, 2005 - Sports Turf Track Sponsored by STMA

❑ Session LC10 - 8:00 to 10:00 - *Managing Healthy Sports Fields*
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, STMA
Tom Samples, Ph.D., University of Tenn.; Paul Sachs, North County Organics

❑ Session LC11 - 10:30 to12:30 - *Efficient Irrigation Management*
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, GCSAA, IA, STMA
Dave Minner, Ph.D., Iowa State University; Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries

❑ Session LC12 - 1:30 to 3:30 - *Developing an Aerification Program*
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, GCSAA, IA, STMA
Trent Hale, Ph.D., Clemson University; Dale Getz, The Toro Company

Sunday, October 16, 2005 - Landscape 2 Track

❑ Session LC13 - 8:00 to 10:00 - *Sustainable Landscapes: HortiGenomics*
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA, STMA
Susan Sims, Sims Tree Learning Center; Dr. Bruce Williams, Agronomy and Horticulture Services LLC; Ron Whitehurst, Rincon-Vitova Insectaries

❑ Session LC14 - 10:30 to12:30 - *Warm Season Turf for the Landscape*
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
Trent Hale, Ph.D., Clemson University; Michael Vanatta, Environmental Turf

❑ Session LC15 - 1:30 to 3:30 - *Laws and Regs for Chemical Application*
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR , GCSAA, ISA, STMA
Ken Franks, Kentucky Dept. of Ag.; Jerry Seabolt, Tennessee Dept of Ag.

Sunday, October 16, 2005 - Park and Recreation Track

❑ Session LC16 - 8:00 to 10:00 - *Turf Options for Park & Recreation Mgmt.*
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
Tom Samples, Ph.D., University of Tenn.; Michael Vanatta, Environmental Turf

❑ Session LC17 - 10:30 to12:30 - *Saving Water with Irrigation Efficiency*
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, IA, STMA
Bernd Leinauer, Ph.D., New Mexico State University; Andy Moore, Aquatrols

❑ Session LC18 - 1:30 to 3:30 - *Managing Pest Outbreaks in Trees*
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
Ron Whitehurst, Rincon-Vitova Insectaries; Joe Doccola, Arbor Jet

Payment: ❑ Check ❑ Am Ex ❑ Discover ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard

Note: There are no refunds, registration can be transferred if you are unable to attend. Unlimited Access will show on your statement as merchant.

Cardholder_____

Card Number_____

Expiration Date_____ Zip_____

Authorization Signature_____

STMA Annual Report 2004-2005

2004 Financial Review

President's Annual Message

Twenty four years ago, four men had the foresight to create the Sports Turf Managers Association. Their vision was to establish an organization that improved the sports turf profession. They believed that by helping sports turf managers share ideas and exchange information about cultural and maintenance practices, the industry would advance.

Their dream has become a reality. Today, the association has more than 2,200 members who represent the entire sports turf spectrum from sports turf managers...to the product developers, manufacturers and distributors...to educators and researchers...to field architects and builders...to students who are just learning about the career possibilities.

The annual conference is the venue for the sharing of information and ideas. This year in Phoenix, STMA had the largest attendance in its history. Our educational program was top-notch and featured new technology and hands-on applications.

"This year in Phoenix, STMA had the largest attendance in its history."

Our membership services were enhanced with new membership certificates, cards and a monthly electronic newsletter. Our committees brought new ideas for programs and services and staff is focused on implementing them. A new task force was appointed to disseminate information on synthetic and natural turfgrass, which will publish this winter.

The charitable arm of STMA, The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE), awarded more than $18,000 in scholarships and support for those who won to attend our conference. Our Field of the Year program honored 10 sports turf managers for outstanding field management.

The headquarters was relocated to Lawrence, Kansas, with a new CEO at the helm and new staff. Your Board of Directors spent much time planning and revising the strategic plan and developing benchmarks by which we can measure our success.

It was a year of change, but one that resulted in solid progress and alignment of our priorities.

Mike Trigg

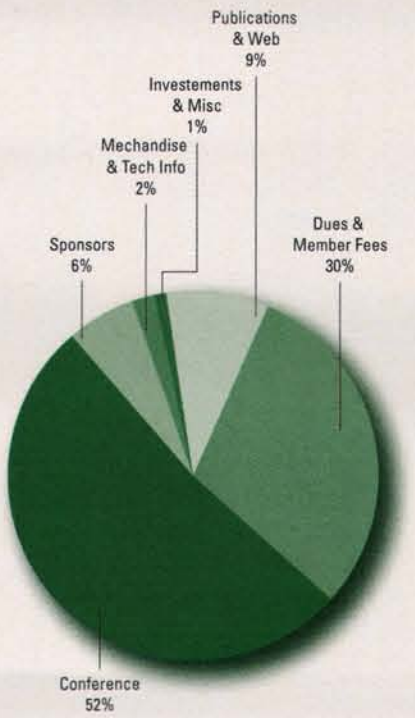
Mike Trigg, CSFM
President

STMA Financial Philosophy

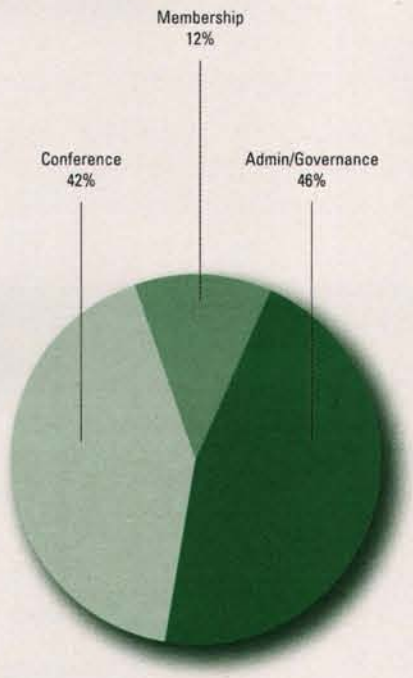
Service oriented associations use dues and sponsorship dollars to fund programs and services for members. That is STMA's philosophy – to maximize each dollar earned by providing benefits back to its members. STMA also realizes that it is prudent to build a reserve fund for financial stability. A strong reserve fund allows the organization to be very nimble so that it can take advantage of appropriate emerging opportunities. It also provides a cushion in case of a down economy, or a crisis that affects our major revenue source – the conference and exposition – so that we can continue to offer uninterrupted programs and services. It is our goal to have approximately one half of our operating budget in reserve. In addition, our headquarters staff is important to the continued success of our association. STMA wants to be known throughout the green industry for being a great place to work by offering competitive wages and top benefits.

Financial Review 2004

Total Revenue 50%

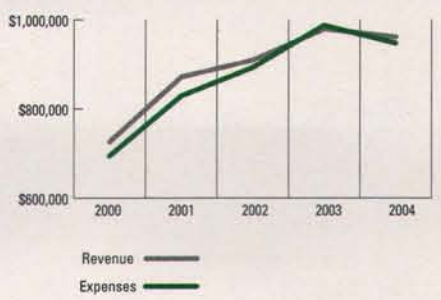


Total Expenses 50%

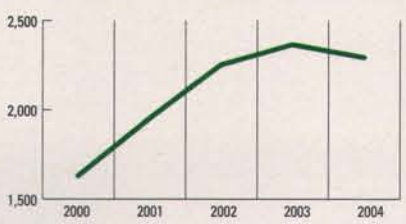


5 Year Snapshot of STMA's Growth

Financial Strength



Membership



Figures provided by Bogner & Long Certified Public Accountants, Lawrence, KS.
For more information, please go to the members only section of www.sportsturfmanager.org.

STMA Mission

"To be the recognized leader in strengthening the sports turf industry and enhancing members competence and acknowledgement of their professionalism."

CEO's Forecast

In 2006, we will be celebrating STMA's 25th anniversary. To recognize this significant occasion, we will present a historical review of the association and the profession in the STMA magazine, SPORTSTURF, and hold a celebration at the annual conference and exhibition.

During the remainder of 2005 and into 2006, staff and I are focusing on membership services. We plan to conduct a member survey that will provide us insight into what you value, and what we can be doing to help you attain career success.

Through our survey, we plan to begin gathering industry data and compensation and benefits information. It is STMA's role to be the source for information on all aspects of the profession. It is only by benchmarking and tracking progress that we can truly measure the profession's progress.

Allied relationships are the key to advancing the sports turf manager's influence in our industry and in the sports world. A major area of focus is to continue to build collaborative relationships at the national level that will benefit our membership. This also includes working with sports field architects, engineers and contractors to provide information about the expertise of STMA members and how this expertise can help them provide an excellent sports field.

We will expand our Web site to offer more resources to our members in education and information. Look for enhanced capabilities to get specific answers to your questions through online discussion.

We are gearing up for the 2006 conference and indications are that it will surpass the size and scope of last year's event.

It is not business as usual at STMA headquarters. We are undertaking an intensive drive to garner respect and recognition for STMA members. Thanks for your support and confidence.

Kim Heck
Chief Executive Officer

An Investment in Your Future

Your membership dues investment provides to you:

- A monthly electronic newsletter that communicates association and industry information, and new resources and technology available.
- A hard copy Membership Directory with field diagrams for football, soccer, baseball and softball (2005-06 published in October).
- A certificate of membership and a membership card.
- Access to the Member's Only section of www.sportsturfmanager.org, which has a real-time membership directory, employment opportunities and many resources to help you do your job better.
- Access to Michigan State's Turfgrass Information File, the green industry's greatest resource for up-to-date technical information, a $100 value.
- Ability to enter your field or complex in the nationally recognized Field of the Year Awards Program.
- Opportunity to become a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) to showcase your professionalism.
- Access to dozens of educational sessions that you will not find anywhere else except at the STMA annual conference and exhibition, at a $95 savings over the nonmember price; and discounts to other organizations' educational programs.
- Discounts on merchandise, turf related and professional development books and resources.
- Opportunity to participate in volunteer leadership positions.
- Opportunity to join one of STMA's affiliated chapters for a strong, local network. (Each chapter sets its own local dues.)
- SPORTSTURF Magazine each month, a $40 value.
- The ability to apply for scholarships (students only).

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

805 New Hampshire, Ste. E • Lawrence, KS 66044
Ph. 800-323-3875, Fax 800-366-0391
www.sportsturfmanager.org

Silicon in the life and performance of turfgrass

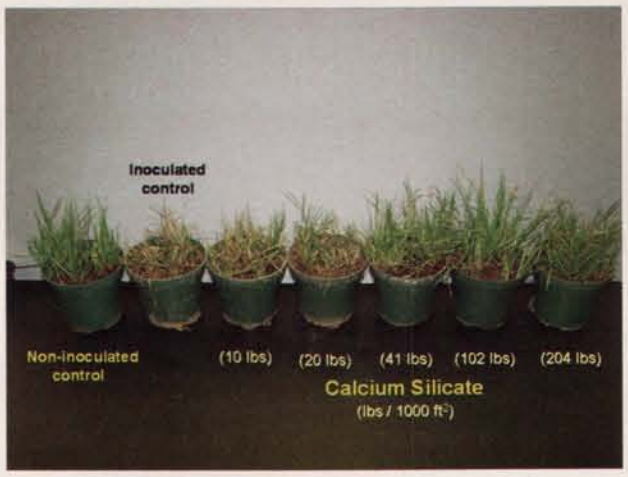
BY **DR. LAWRENCE E. DATNOFF**

There has been a growing interest in the element silicon and its effects on the life and performance of plants over the past few years. Silicon (Si) is the second most abundant mineral element in soil after oxygen and comprises approximately 28% of the earth's crust. Despite the abundance of Si in most mineral soils worldwide, Si deficiency can still occur due to Si depletion from continuous planting of crops that demand high amounts of this element, such as rice. Silicon deficiency occurs more often in highly weathered, low base saturation and low pH soils such as Oxisols and Ultisols in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Heavy rainfall in regions where these two types of soils occur can cause high degrees of weathering, leaching, and desilification. Organic soils (Histosols) are also deficient in plant-available Si because of the greater content of organic matter and low content of minerals. Those Entisols having a high content of quartz sand (SiO2) are also low in plant-available Si. Such Si-deficient condition may be prevalent on USGA-based quartz sand greens and tees.

Soil solutions generally have a Si concentration of 3-17 ppm. This is considered low, but nevertheless it is 100 times greater than phosphorus in most soil solutions.

Many plants are able to uptake Si. Plants absorb Si from the soil solution in the form of monosilicic acid, Si(OH)4, which is carried by the transpiration stream and deposited in plant tissues as amorphous silica gel, SiO2nH2O, also known as opal. Depending upon the species, the content of Si accumulated in the biomass can range from 1 to greater than 10% by dry weight.



Influence of silicon on gray leaf spot development in perennial ryegrass. Calcium silicate was the silicon source applied at 10 to 204 lbs. / 1000 ft2.

Si in turfgrass

Fertilization with Si has shown positive effects in alleviating abiotic stress as well as improving plant growth and development in several turfgrass species. Since Si improves leaf and stem strength through deposition in the cuticle and by maintaining cell wall polysaccharide and lignin polymers, the possibility exists that Si could improve wear tolerance. Saiguisa and his colleagues demonstrated significant improved wear resistance in the Zoysiagrass cultivar 'Miyako'. Foliar spraying potassium silicate, 0.02 or 0.04 lbs. Si/1000 ft2, or applying as a soil drench, 0.45 lbs. Si/1000 ft2, also significantly reduced the injury caused by wear around 20% to seashore paspalum. However, K alone or together with Si provided the same effect.

In another study, several cultivars of creeping bentgrass and Zoysiagrass had improved turf quality, growth, and resistance to traffic and heat stress. Under severe drought stress, Si fertilized St. Augustinegrass plants had a better response than those non-fertilized. Leaf firing and density were significantly greater by 13% and 23.5%, respectively, in Si-fertilized plants. Quality, color, and density also were significantly enhanced when fertilized with Si over the controls by 19%, 13.6% and 8.5%, respectively. However, under these test conditions, visual scores were all below what would be considered acceptable for turfgrass use. Nevertheless, this demonstrates that Si may improve these turfgrass qualitative factors under extreme drought stress. Schmidt and his associates also showed that foliar applications of Si significantly enhanced photosynthetic capacity increasing chlorophyll content especially during the summer when plants were influenced by environmental stress.

Gussak et al. demonstrated increased growth and establishment of creeping bentgrass (Agrostis palustris Huds.) fertilized with Si. Brecht et al. and Datnoff et al. also demonstrated similar results in St. Augustinegrass. A percent bare ground coverage (vertical prostrate growth) rating was recorded 11-12 weeks after sprigging a field with St. Augustinegrass by estimating a visual percent area of bare ground covered by grass in a 21.5 ft2 area. They demonstrated that the final percent bare ground coverage was significantly increased by using Si by 17 to 24% over the control. Ten months after sprigging, one pallet, containing about 500 ft2 of St.Augustinegrass, was harvested from each treatment-silicon and a control. Sod pieces (mat), 12x24 inches, were washed to remove soil, dried for 48 hours and weighted.

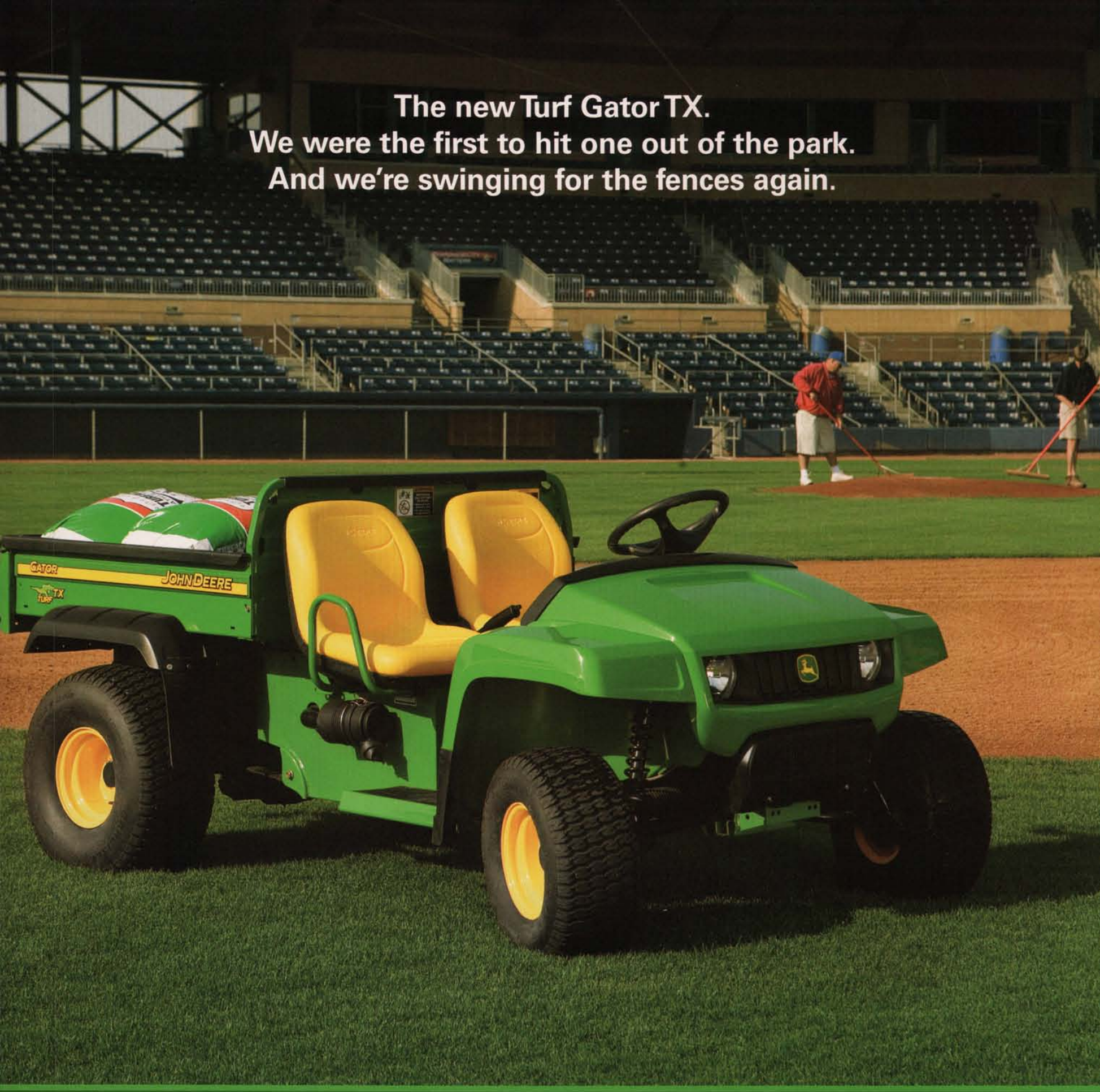
In addition, fresh, intact sod pieces (mats) from each treatment were transplanted to a sand site and monitored for turf quality and root length development for 21 days. At harvest, the treatment that had been fertilized with Si had a dry sod mat weight that was 13% significantly higher than the control. Sod pieces amended with Si also had improved turf quality ratings, 7.1 to 7.6 vs. 6.6 to 7.1 in comparison to the non-fertilized control, 14 and 21 days after being transplanted to the field. In addition, Si treatments had a significantly greater increase in newly generated roots, 2.0-2.5 inches in root length, in comparison to the non-fertilized control.

Silicon also has been effective in suppressing diseases in a number of warm and cool season turfgrass species. Silicon has increased the resistance of zoysiagrass to Rhizoctonia solani creeping bentgrass to Pythium aphanidermatum, Sclerotinia homoeocarpa and R. solani and in Kentucky bluegrass to powdery mildew (Sphaerotheca fuliginea). Si reduced Gray leaf spot development over a range of 19-78% on several cultivars of St. Augustinegrass under greenhouse conditions. In field experiments, Si alone was compared to foliar sprays of chlorothalonil, and Si plus chlorothalonil for managing gray leaf spot development. Gray leaf spot was reduced by 17-27, 31-63 and 56-64% for Si alone, chlorothalonil alone, and Si plus chlorothalonil, respectively, compared to a non-treated control. Recently, Nanayakkara et al. demonstrated similar results in perennial ryegrass turf. They showed that gray leaf spot severity was reduced from 11-24%.

Datnoff and Rutherford recently evaluated the ability of Si to enhance disease resistance in Tifway bermudagrass to Bipolaris cynodontis, the cause of leaf spot and melting out. They found that plants fertilized with Si had 39% fewer lesions than plants non-fertilized. Silicon increased in leaf tissues 38-105% over the control.

Resistance to plant diseases

The effect of Si on plant resistance to disease is considered to be due either to an accumulation of absorbed Si in the epidermal tissue, or expression of pathogensis-induced host defense responses. Accumulated monosilicic acid polymerizes into polysilicic acid and then transforms to amorphous silica, which forms a thickened Si-cellulose membrane. By this means, a double cuticular layer protects and mechanically strengthens plants. Silicon also might form complexes with organic compounds



When it first appeared in the mid-nineties, the original Turf Gator established itself as the first utility vehicle built especially for the sports turf market. So how do you beat an original? For starters, you introduce an all-wheel hydraulic disc brake design. You also increase the power, for better acceleration and unmatched towing capability. An all-wheel suspension, along with a longer wheel base, provides a much smoother ride. And high-back seats and more leg room take care of operator comfort.

We set the bar. It's only right that we raised it. For more on the new Turf Gator TX, call your local John Deere One Source distributor or 1-800-537-8233. www.JohnDeere.com

PGA TOUR OFFICIAL GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER

JOHN DEERE

Circle **137** on card or www.oners.ims.ca/5065-137

IN ANOTHER STUDY, SEVERAL CULTIVARS OF CREEPING BENTGRASS AND ZOYSIAGRASS HAD IMPROVED TURF QUALITY, GROWTH, AND RESISTANCE TO TRAFFIC

in the cell walls of epidermal cells, therefore increasing their resistance to degradation by enzymes released by fungi.

Research also points to the role of Si in planta as being active and this suggests that the element might be a signal for inducing defense reactions to plant diseases. Silicon has been demonstrated to stimulate chitinase activity and rapid activation of peroxidases and polyphenoxidases after fungal infection. Glycosidically bound phenolics extracted from Si amended plants when subjected to acid or B-glucosidase hydrolysis displayed strong fungistatic activity. More recently, flavonoids and momilactone phytoalexins, low molecular weight compounds that have antifungal properties, were found to be produced in both dicots and monocots, respectively, fertilized with Si and challenged inoculated by the pathogen in comparison to non-fertilized plants also challenged inoculated by the pathogen. These antifungal compounds appear to be playing an active role in plant disease suppression.

That Si plays an important role in the mineral nutrition of plant species such as rice and sugarcane is not in doubt nor is its ability to enhance plant development and efficiently control plant diseases. Now evidence is accumulating that similar effects occur in certain turfgrasses. Effective, practical means of application, affordable sources of Si, and methods for identifying conditions under which Si fertilization will be beneficial are needed for use in turfgrass management. However, research on the use of Si for turfgrass is in its infancy. For example, no soil tests for gauging amounts of plant-available Si have been calibrated for turfgrass. Furthermore, most analytical laboratories do not routinely assay plant tissue for Si.

In fact, the current standard tissue digestion procedures used in most laboratories would render Si insoluble, making an analysis of the digested tissue meaningless. Thus, the two analytical tools (soil and plant tissue) most often used for determining the need for fertilization with plant nutrients are not widely available for Si. While a number of beneficial responses of turfgrass to Si applications have been documented in controlled experiments, particularly in the laboratory, few large-scale field effects have been observed to date. Conditions under which beneficial responses to Si fertilization will occur are not well known for turfgrass.

Nevertheless, as the need for environmentally friendly strategies for management of abiotic and biotic stress increases, Si could provide a valuable tool for use in plants capable of its accumulation. The use of Si for improving plant performance while controlling plant diseases in turf would be well-suited for inclusion in integrated pest management strategies and would permit reductions in fungicide use. As researchers and turfgrass managers become aware of Si and its turf potential, it is likely that this often overlooked element will be recognized as a viable means of enhancing turfgrass health and performance. **ST**

Dr. Lawrence E. Datnoff is a professor of plant pathology at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He can be reached at ledatnoff@ifas.ufl.edu.

welcome to the future of green replication

When it comes to green replication, not much has changed over the past several years...until now.

Introducing the entirely new GradeMaster 3D Grading System. This box scraper automatically restores greens and other contoured areas to their original state, allowing you to maintain and refinish with unparalleled accuracy and efficiency.

Using Trimble machine control technology, the GradeMaster 3D allows contractors to topo the existing surface and recreate the original design once work is completed.

The GradeMaster 3D offers a comprehensive, automated process to return greens to their original design specs.

If you would like to learn more about this revolutionary grading system, click on www.laserleveling.com for more information.

LaserLeveling 800.622.5777 www.laserleveling.com

a Trimble partner

BEAM CLAY

Partac/Beam Clay is a supplier to every MLB team and provides over 200 infield products, including Beam Clay (special mixes for infields, pitcher's mounds, home plate areas and warning tracks), and PRO'S CHOICE (the redder, more uniform, less dusty and longer-lasting infield conditioners/top-dressings/drying agents) for better playing and easier-to-maintain infields.

Partac/Beam Clay/800-247-BEAM
For information, circle 075 or
see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5065-075

PBI GORDON'S NEW LAUNCH

New Launch Dry plant nutrient supplement provides the benefits of cytokinins, auxins, humics and fulvics with liquid manure on a greens grade granule. Applications enhance root mass and length. Launch Dry is recommended for use in seeding, sodding and sprigging of new turf, overseeding into existing turf and for maintaining or upgrading established turf areas under high traffic, high stress conditions.

PBI Gordon/816-421-4070
For information, circle 078 or
see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5065-078

TURFACE PRO LEAGUE

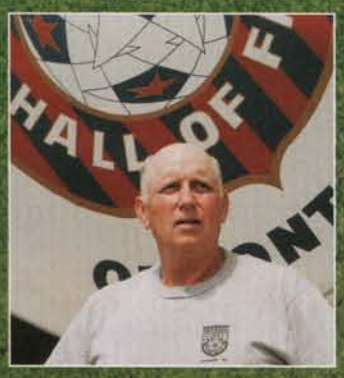
The soil conditioner of many MLB turf managers, Turface is designed to increase safety, playability and drainage for baseball and softball infields at any level. This product is the only patented calcined clay infield soil conditioner on the market. Pro League outperforms crushed aggregates in drainage and absorption qualities for the ultimate rainout prevention.

Profile Products/800-207-6457
For information, circle 073 or
see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5065-073

PRO'S CHOICE PRODUCTS

Soilmaster infield conditioner is designed to meet the challenges of wet, dry or compacted infields. It manages the moisture on your field, keeping it in top-playing condition. Soilmaster Select soil conditioner has a particle size blend that gives you the look of a professional ballpark, making it the perfect infield topdressing. Pro Mound, a blue gumbo packing clay, bonds to form a solid subsurface player's can really dig into and holds up season after season. Rapid Dry drying agent quickly wicks away excess water.

Pro's Choice/312706-3313
For information, circle 080 or
see http://www.oners.ims.ca/5065-080



Kevin Meredith
Turf Manager
National Soccer Hall of Fame

"I was skeptical but we knocked 23 minutes off our striping time per field here at the National Soccer Hall of Fame".

There are four fields at the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, New York, and according to Kevin Meredith, Turf Manager, "The Smithco Super Liner is great, This machine is going to make my life a lot easier". It could do the same for you. That's because the Super Liner is not only self riding, it has a 35 gallon tank for less fillups. And a new air compressor means no pumps to clog, no valves to jam, and no belts to slip. Plus cleanup is easy. See for yourself. Call 1-877-833-7648 for a test drive.

SMITHCO SUPER LINER	
Compressor	12 volt air compressor
Paint Tank	35 gallon steel compressed air tank
Engine	13 hp Briggs & Stratton
Spray Box	Front-mounted and side mounted; paint line widths are 2" to 5"; easy adjustment with double spray nozzles for water-based paint only.
Weight	610 lbs
Body	Heavy strong steel

Smithco was founded 38 years ago and is still a family business. Test drive any Smithco product. Discover what a difference pride and continuity, good people and new ideas can make. (Right: Don Smith President of Smithco with Kevin Meredith)

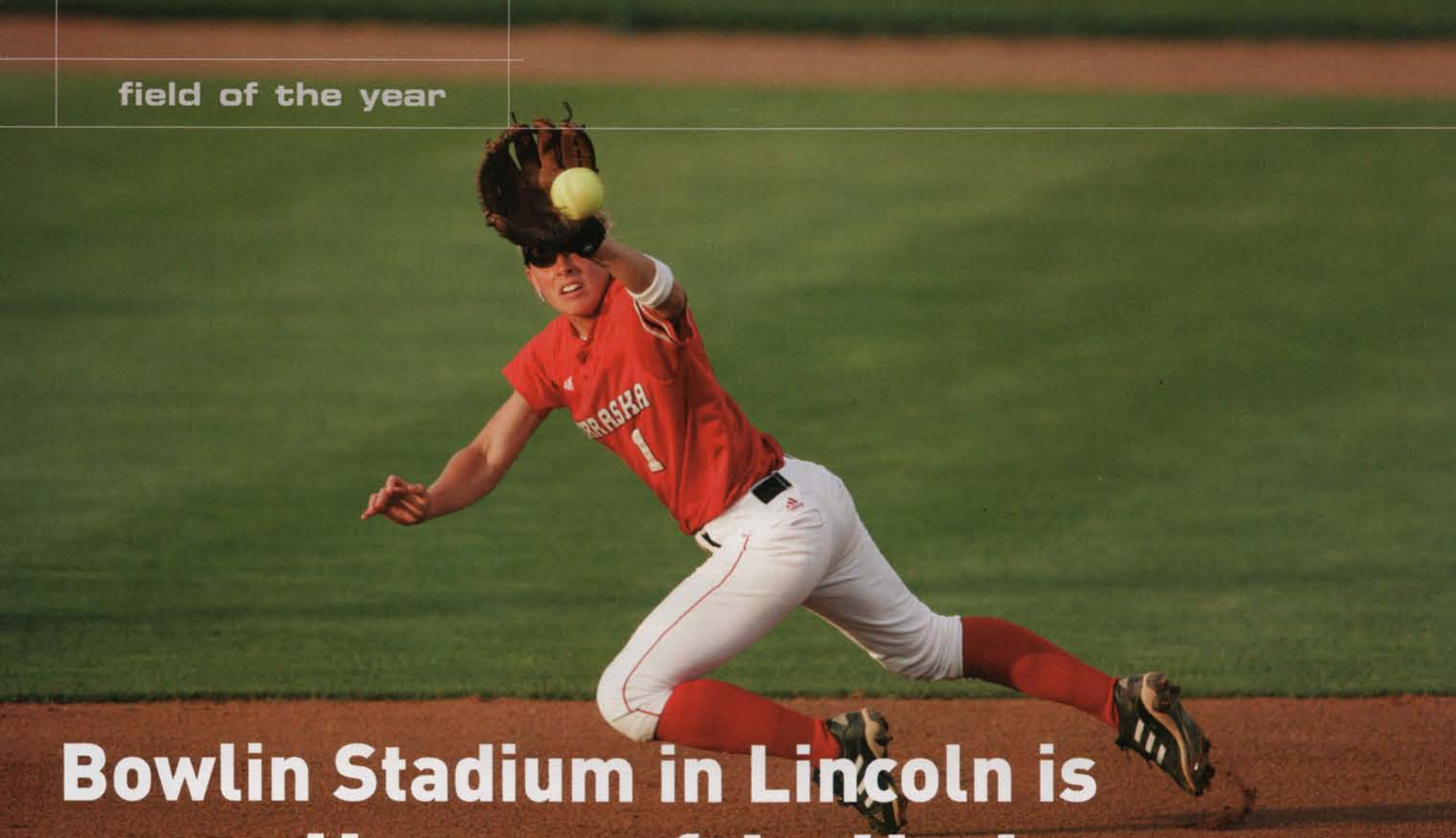
SMITHCO

WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087

1-877-833-7648

www.smithco.com

Circle **141** on card or www.oners.ims.ca/5065-141



Bowlin Stadium in Lincoln is college softball showcase

Bowlin Stadium in Haymarket Park, in northwest Lincoln, NE, won the 2004 STMA College Softball Field of the Year Award. Jennifer Roeber, the University of Nebraska's Assistant Athletic Turf Manager, was honored as chief caretaker of the winning field.

Bowlin's field is sand-based and built according to USGA specifications, and features a Kentucky bluegrass blend of Arcadia, Award, NuGlade, and Freedom II. Roeber's cultural practices allows her to forego using insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides. The infield is MarMix red sand-clay topped with red Diamond Pro infield conditioner. The four-zone irrigation system features Toro 640 heads with six quick couplers.

Roeber says, "I am in charge of the softball field and also help take care of the baseball field that is used by the University baseball team and the Lincoln Saltdogs, a Northern League independent team. We also care for the landscape inside and outside of the ballpark facilities.

"The most important thing I like about my job is being able to do what I love and that is care for turf at a first-rate softball and baseball complex," Roeber says. "I also like my job because the coaches and players treat me with respect. The coaches and girls appreciate the work that is done for them to have a field that they can proudly call their home."

Roeber says she became interested in a career in turf management when I started working for a lawn service in high school. "Studying turfgrass management in college also was a way to stay involved in a sport that I loved."

Solving problems

"The biggest problem that we faced was the field didn't have adequate drainage on the edges of the infield and dugouts. The clay was all the way to the wall and there was only four little drains," says Roeber. "All the water from the tarp and seating bowl drained on to the clay.

"To fix the problem we took the clay out to the foul lines and put in drain tiles and sand for a base. Then we made a warning track against the wall and dugouts. Next we put in a strip of grass that was between the warning track and the clay. The improvements have helped; we don't have to worry about pulling the track off to find water under it and the dugouts don't wash full of conditioner."

The Huskers' field has an advantage over most: a SubAir system that offers reg-