

An open letter from George Toma

Dear STMA Member,

I am constantly amazed at how far our association and our profession have come.

When I started out in the 1940s, it was every man for himself. Fortunately, two great men, Emil Bossard of the Cleveland Indians and Dr. James R. Watson of Toro, took me under their wings. Without them, there would be no George Toma. I also leaned heavily on Joe Mooney in Boston, Dick Erickson in Minnesota, and Pat Sandarone in Baltimore.

Other groundskeepers of my generation were not so fortunate. That's why Dick, Harry Gill of Milwaukee, and Dr. Bill Daniels of Purdue University and I sat down one day and founded the Sports Turf Managers Association. From those humble beginnings, we have grown to more than 2,500 members.

Remember, we have all kinds of members, from those with advanced college degrees to those who didn't graduate from high school. Our association is big enough to accommodate everyone. And the members who are doing a great job at the high school, college, minor league or park and recreation levels are just as valuable as those in the big leagues.

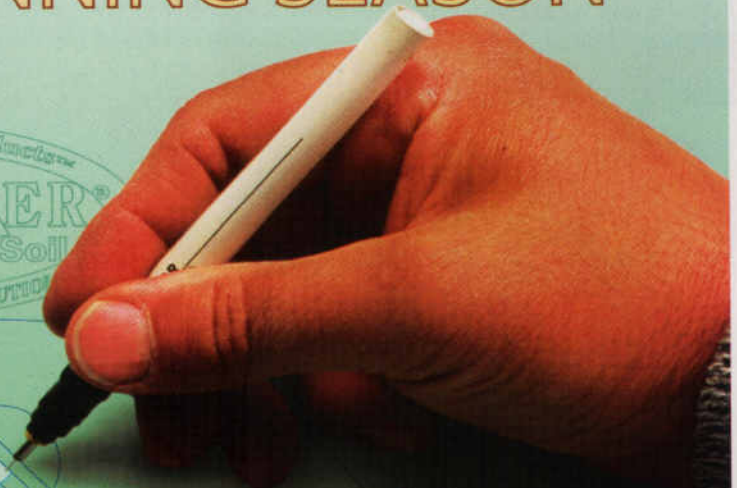
In the last 50 years, and I have been a groundskeeper for 61 years, I have been trying very hard to improve the image of groundskeepers from "just a grass cutter" to a professional. Until the rake is plied from my cold dead fingers, I will always try to help dedicated groundskeepers, from preschool to the professional ranks, do the job, attain respect on all levels and then some, which distinguishes the great from the mediocre.

Sincerely,
George P Toma
July 2003

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Circle 145 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/5903-145

DEERE MOWING DECK IMPROVEMENTS

John Deere has introduced its 7-Iron II deck that offers an increased blade tip speed, spindle pocket reinforcements, and double captured anti-scalp wheels. The higher blade tip speed allows operators to mow at higher ground speeds without sacrificing cut quality. Units also include a redesigned front baffle to better manage airflow and a raised discharge chute to evenly disperse clippings. The new deck will be available on all 2006 commercial mowing models, excluding the F687 Front Z-Trak mower. All Deere commercial mowing equipment is backed by a 2-year bumper-to-bumper warranty.

John Deere/800-537-8233

For information, circle 071 or see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-071>



NEWSTRIPE'S SPRAY HEAD ATTACHMENT

The Perfect Circle spray head attachment has a spring-loaded feature that automatically guides the paint machine in a perfect circle. The operator locates the center of the circle or arc to be painted and drives the pivot point into the ground. An adjustable lightweight aircraft cable is attached between the spray head and the pivot point. The operator simply pushes the machine letting the Perfect Circle do the work of guiding the field marker. Attachment works with any Newstripe walk behind field marker including the AllPro, Fielder, and EcoLiner.

Newstripe, Inc./800-624-6706

For information, circle 070 or see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-070>

TORO'S NEW SPRAY BOOM

The newly designed spray boom for all Multi-Pro and heavy-duty Workman 200-gal. systems features the triangulated truss structure with boom-enclosed turrets to protect spray nozzles from damage and are mounted to prevent turning. Spray mode to transport mode can be made without leaving the driver's seat, and transport cradles hold booms securely during transport. "Whip-Spring" mechanism allows booms to break free and cradle during transport in case of contact with an overhead object.

The Toro Company/800-803-8676

For information, circle 072 or see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-072>



DIXON'S NEW ZTR

Black Bear Pro Series mower has 34-in. cut-width with a small footprint to get in and out of tight spaces, and through most standard gates; 44-in. cut-width also available. Powered by Kawasaki KAI 16-hp twin cylinder or Kohler Command Pro 18-hp single cylinder engines. Also feature Parker hydraulic pumps and wheel motors. Optional attachments include two-bag grass catcher, mulch kit, ROPS, and snow blade.

Dixon Industries/800-264-6075

For information, circle 073 or see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-073>

ROBOTIC MOWER FROM ENGLAND

McMurtry Ltd. has introduced a laser-guided mowing machine able to work totally on its own and create virtually any geometric pattern across sports turf. Known as the MAS Mower 01, the electrically-powered machine combines a conventional 36-in wide, six-bladed cutting cylinder with an advanced laser-guided, computer-controlled steering system that can be pre-programmed to follow any required mowing path across the turf with a very high level of accuracy. To enhance its ability to cut grass without an operator being present, the mower incorporates fully automatic emptying of its 19-gal. high-tip grass collector and has a host of safety features designed to allow totally unattended operation.

The mower's guidance system comprises a long range, eye-safe rotating laser scanner mounted on top of the machine that operates in conjunction with a series of reflectors positioned around the area being mown. On-board microprocessors linked to the laser continuously calculate the mower's position on the field, adjusting the steering to keep the machine moving along its pre-programmed path. Standard on-board safety features include ultrasonic obstacle detection, soft bumpers front and rear, a warning sounder, flashing beacon, operator presence manual over-ride and three emergency stop buttons.

McMurtry Ltd./info@mcmurtryltd.co.uk
For information, circle 075 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-075>



WRIGHT'S NEW MID-MOUNT ZTR

Wright mounted the engine nearly 3 in. lower than most mid-mounts, and the hydro drive pulley is mounted on the bottom of the engine drive shaft. This allows the hydro pumps to be mounted 6 in. lower than most mid-mounts. The result is a significantly lower center of gravity. The rear wheel motors can be moved fore and aft through three different settings. This keeps the proper weight balance with collection systems.



Wright Manufacturing/
301-360-9810
For information, circle 076 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-076>

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TOOLS & EQUIPMENT



NEW TURF TENDER LINE

Dakota Peat & Equipment has introduced its totally redesigned Turf Tender product line for 2006. The new machines have fewer parts to adjust and maintain, and also give operators greater material handling control from the seat. The 410, 412 and 414 units have an electric control box with digital readouts for precise control over spreader settings. The 440 and 420 models have a more durable power chute that is electrically operated for greater control over material placement and easier, faster material handling.

Dakota Peat & Equipment/800-424-3443

For information, circle 084 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-084>

CABS FOR DEERE COMPACT TRACTORS

All new John Deere 3000 TWENTY Series and 4000 TWENTY Series tractors will feature cabs beginning this month. The fully integrated cabs are available in three different configurations: Standard, Deluxe and Air-ride Deluxe. All models offer best-in-class visibility, heating and air conditioning performance as well as the quietest operating environment in a compact utility tractor.

John Deere/800-537-8233

For information, circle 082 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-082>



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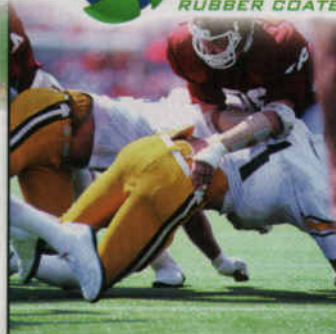
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Circle 150 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/5903-150



NEW AERCORE MODEL

John Deere's 2006 model Aercore 800 aerator (31.5-in. coring width) features a belt-drive coring system, a mechanical transmission and an electro-hydraulic lift/lower system. Its Flexi-Link coring system absorbs the forward motion of the aerator, keeping the tines perpendicular to the turf while the machine is moving. The mechanical transmission provides four aerating speeds as well as a separate transport speed. Standard drive chain tensioners are adjustable without tools, and the coring head is between the drive tires to ensure that it floats with any undulations of the playing surface.

John Deere/800-537-8233

For information, circle 080 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-080>



EARTH & TURF'S LINEAR AERATOR

Being introduced at the 2006 STMA Exhibition, Earth & Turf's linear aerator softens turf. Soil and thatch restriction are permanently modified by cutting vertical grooves, then filling with topdressing materials like calcined clay, compost, or sand. Process improves water infiltration and retention, turf and root growth, nutrient absorption, and organic decomposition. Designed to need only one pass.

Earth & Turf/888-693-2638

For information, circle 069 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-069>

MASSEY FERGUSON'S SUB-COMPACT TRACTOR

Massey Ferguson introduces the GC2310 Tractor Loader Backhoe sub-compact tractor, featuring a 22.5-hp engine; two-range hydrostatic transmission, and a Category I three-point hitch. Features include MF 2375 backhoe, MF 2350 loader with lift capacity of 470 lbs. Can be equipped with front snow blower, rotary broom or blade- easily attached and removed with the quick hitch system. MF 2325 mid-mount mower available with a 60-in. cut.

Massey Ferguson/770-813-6150

For information, circle 083 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-083>



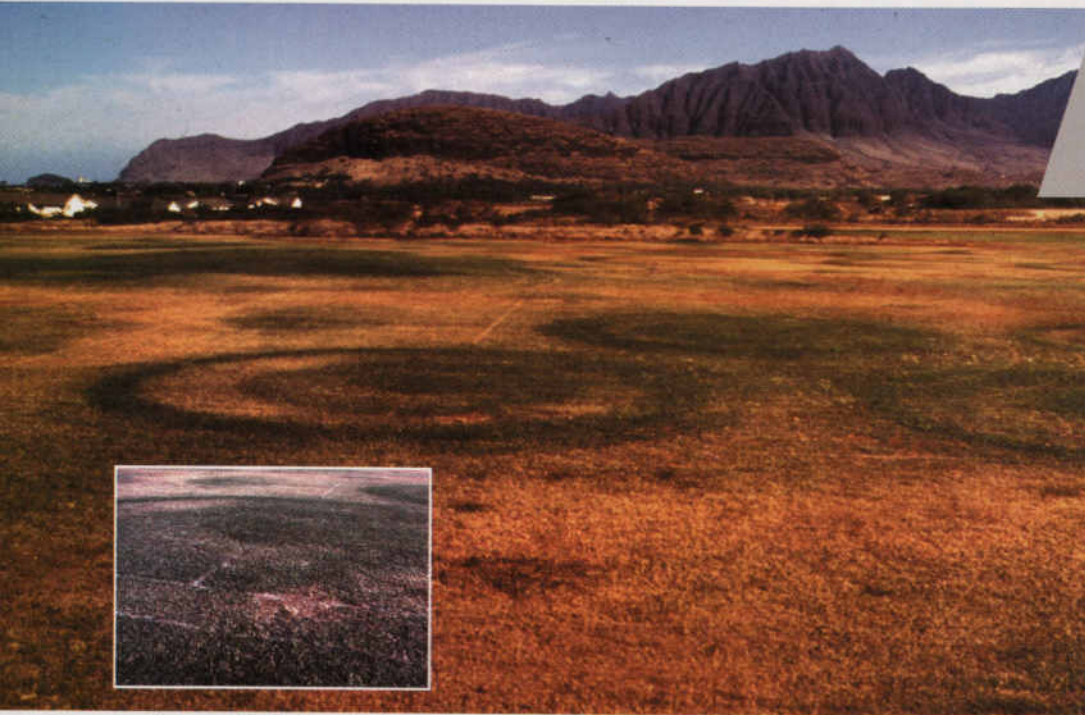
TORO'S Z MASTER DIESEL MOWERS

At the heart of Toro's new Z Master Z593-D zero-turn riding mowers is a high-torque diesel engine with added horsepower. The new 52- and 60-in. machines with 23-hp Kubota liquid-cooled diesel engines answer the growing need for fuel efficiency. Compared to gasoline, diesel fuel burns slower, produces more power from a given amount of fuel, and can be less expensive to purchase, all of which can contribute to a noticeable reduction in operating costs.

The Toro Company/800-348-2424

For information, circle 081 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-081>

John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

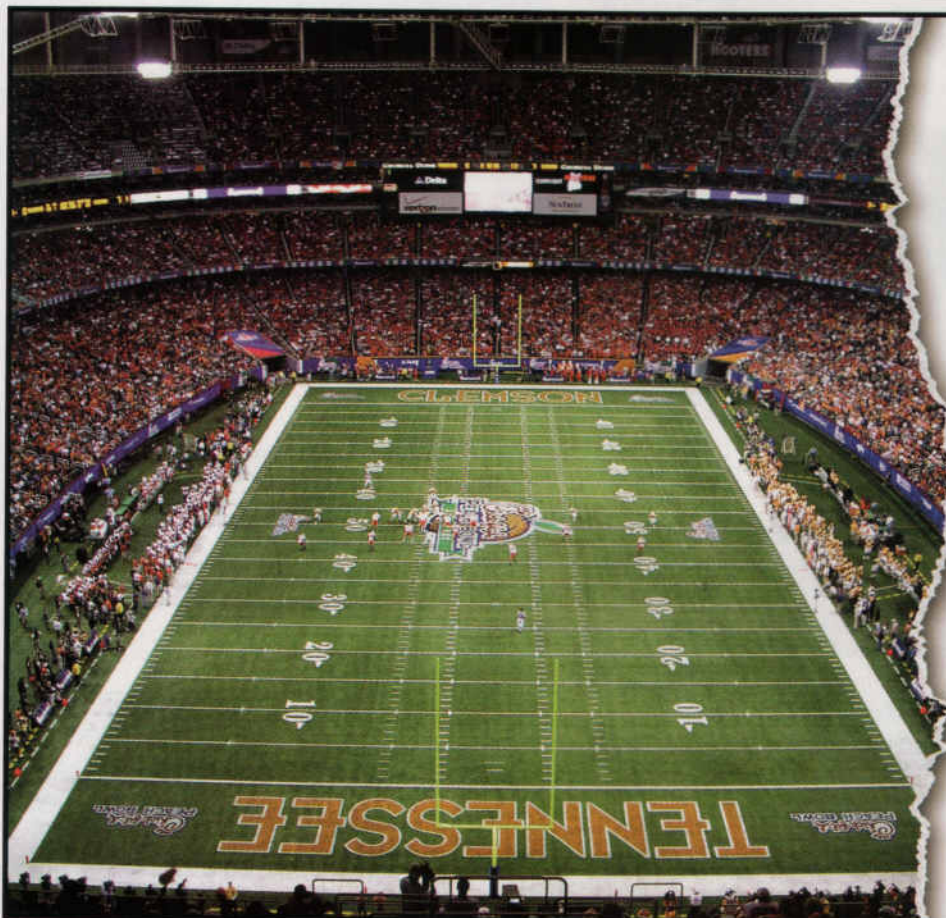


If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 3669 NW 124th Avenue, Coral Springs, FL 33065 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of SportsTurf and the Sports Turf Managers Association.

Answer: from page 26

The green circles were caused by a sprinkler. The photograph taken from a distance shows the actual athletic field and the irrigation coverage with the lack of uniformity. The green rings are the areas where the sprinkler is watering and the brown areas are drought stressed turf. Too often, athletic field irrigation is not tested on a regular basis when rainfall is plentiful. When drought conditions strike and you have to rely on irrigation as the only means of plant survival, you want to be sure the system is up to standard. Often, pipes, valves, nozzles and heads break and are replaced in haste with improper sizes or brands. Coverage may seem fine until the turf is drought stressed, then the problems with uniformity really stand out.

These photos show that a proactive approach to sprinkler maintenance can go a long way to insure when it is needed, your irrigation system will perform properly and your sports turf field will not look like an alien spacecraft full of nitrogen landed on it. ■



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- Irrigation Association (IA)
- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
- Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA).

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SAFE

SAFE awards 10 Scholarships



The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) has awarded \$12,500 in scholarships to 10 students who are pursuing sports field management or research at a college or university.

Taking top honors in the graduate student category is James Brosnan, The Pennsylvania State University, who was awarded the Dr. James Watson scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.

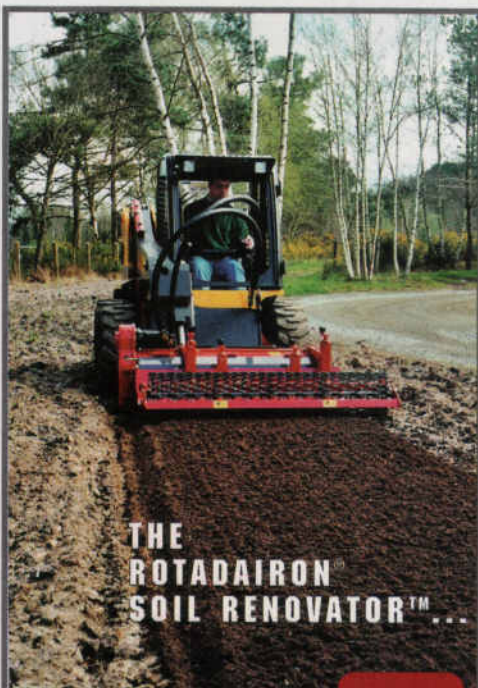
The top winner for the 4-year Dr. James Watson scholarship is Wendy Walsh from the University of Florida, who also received \$2,000. These two awards are funded by The Toro Company Giving Program and are named in honor of Dr. James Watson, a long-time green industry researcher and consultant.

The Fred Grau scholarship went to Preston Stensrud from Southeast Technical Institute. This scholarship award honors the late Dr. Fred Grau, who was the first turfgrass extension specialist in the US. This \$1,250 scholarship goes to an undergraduate student in a 2-year turf program. Another \$1,250 scholarship was awarded to Weston Appelfeller from The Ohio State University. Six \$1,000 scholarships were awarded:

- Nathan Bickerstaff, Penn State
- Noah Snyder, University of Massachusetts
- John Koenig, Ohio State
- Gregory Yeich, Penn State
- Theresa Bayrer, Virginia Tech
- Noel Brusius, Anoka Tech (MN)

Each student will be recognized during the STMA annual awards banquet, held in conjunction with the STMA Conference and Exhibition. The banquet is Friday, January 20 at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center in Orlando. In addition to the scholarship, the scholarship winners receive a complimentary conference registration and up to \$500 in travel or lodging expenses.

The SAFE Foundation (The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments) is the charitable arm of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). It was formed to provide funds for research, scholarship, and education to help sports turf managers with the challenges they face in managing athletic fields. ■



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TURF FOOD



Color

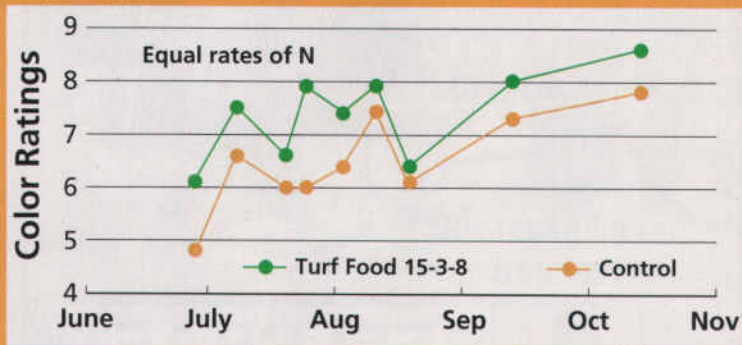
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STMA Synthetic/Natural Turfgrass Task Force finalizes Guide

An 11-month project is nearing completion as the STMA Synthetic/Natural Turfgrass Task Force finalizes its publication, "Q&A to Guide the Selection, Construction and Maintenance of Synthetic and Natural Turf for Sports Fields."

The guide is written for a non-technical audience, targeting athletic directors, school boards, community sports organizations, coaches, parents, athletes and the general public.

It is divided into seven sections with each section equally addressing information for synthetic turf and natural turfgrass. The areas covered include:

- Field construction
- Management and cultural practices
- Special events

- Equipment
- Heat
- Health & safety of athletes
- Warranties

The guide also includes a glossary and resources to access for additional information. The guide will be available on the STMA web site at www.sportsturfmanager.org in later this month and copies will be available at the annual Conference. The Task Force members include: Chairman Abby McNeal, CSFM, Mike Boekholder, Darby McCamy, Mike McGraw, Andy McNitt, Ph.D., James Newberry, A.J. Powell, Ph.D., Tony Strickland, CSFM, and Dave Wallace.

The task force plans to develop a more technical guide targeted to sports turf managers during 2006. ■

STMA Calendar

Jan. 5-7 American Baseball Coaches Association, Chicago, IL (STMA President Mike Trigg, CSFM, to attend)

Jan. 12-14 IAAM International Stadium Managers Conference (ISMC), Tampa, FL (STMA President-Elect Mike Andresen, CSFM, and Board Member Jay Warnick, CSFM, are presenting).

Jan. 18-22 STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition, *Disney's Coronado Springs* Resort and Convention Center, Lake Buena Vista, FL

Feb. 6-11 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Conference and Show, Atlanta, GA. (STMA exhibits)

March 6-9 New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show, Providence, RI (STMA President Mike Trigg, CSFM, to present)

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