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company before you may sign up in the Associate category.

\*There must already be a national sports turf manager from your facility or commercial member from your

## Collaboration advances STMA's strategic goals

The Sports Turf Managers Association's strategic plan for 2012 through 2014 has a recurring theme: collaboration. Each of its four distinct platforms: membership growth and retention, taking a leadership role in education, garnering recognition and respect for members and the profession, and creating value for our commercial partners, have relationship building identified as a means to achieve these platforms. STMA is pleased to announce three new

partnerships that align with its strategic plan and helps to advance the association's goals.

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), a 75-year-old association that serves the grounds care industry in the United Kingdom, and STMA signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. STMA President James Michael Goatley, Jr., PhD and IOG Director of Professional Services Ian Lacv. who stood in for IOG's Chief Executive

Geoff Webb, signed this memorandum while at the STMA Annual Conference in Long Beach in January. The memorandum outlines a mutual commitment to be leaders in advancing the profession of sports field management by sharing information and working together on issues and opportunities of common interest.

Goatley sees similarity in the two organizations' visions. He says, "We both seek to be leaders in the profession and gain recognition for the excellent work of our respective memberships. As partners, we can be even stronger advocates and make a greater impact on the industry."

The IOG has also officially become STMA's second International Affiliate Organization (IAO). To be recognized as such the IAO must be a business entity in its own country and operate under bylaws and with a board of directors/officers. The primary purpose of an IAO is to share information and education. STMA and

the IOG will offer its education to the other's membership at member prices. STMA also includes its certification program at member prices in this opportunity. Goatley believes that on the different practices in field management will help advance the profession. "STMA members who attended our annual conference had the opportunity to hear Ian present some innovative drainage techniques that are being used

sharing information between the two countries



in the UK. Our members can take this information, apply it to their practices, and really improve the playing surfaces," Goatley says.

STMA's first IAO is the Sports Turf Association in Canada.

Supporting STMA's focus on education is its new partnership with the Plant Management Network (PMN). PMN is a nonprofit publisher of applied, online plant science resources for researchers and practitioners, including turf professionals. Key resources now available to STMA members through PMN include Applied Turfgrass Science, Plant Disease Management Reports, Arthropod Management Tests, the PMN Image Database, PMN's Plant Science Database, and PMN's Partner Extension Search. STMA members receive access to PMN as a benefit of belonging to the association, and there is no additional cost for this subscription. STMA Academic Director Jeff Fowler sees PMN as an exceptional tool for STMA members. "The quality

of information available through PMN is excellent. It's applied and peer-reviewed information will really help our members in the practical aspects of sports field management."

Sports turf managers have been using sound environmental practices long before protecting the environment moved to the forefront of human consciousness. However, this stewardship goes largely unnoticed, and many outside of the profession believe just the opposite.

> Rather than seeing sports turf managers as protectors of the environment, they see their work as poisoning the environment. The STMA Environmental Committee is working to shift that perception. In addition to developing the environmental mission, vision, goals and guiding principles for STMA that were recently adopted by the STMA Board of Directors, it is recommending specific part-

nerships that support STMA's environmental stewardship philosophy.

### **Green Sports Alliance**

One of those partnerships is with the Green Sports Alliance. STMA has become a Community Partner with the Green Sports Alliance (GSA), a non-profit organization with a mission to help sports teams, venues and the leagues enhance their environmental performance. As a Community Partner, STMA will participate in GSA's annual Green Sports Summit that will be in Seattle on September 5-7. This 3-day summit is designed for leaders from the sports community. Attendees will be introduced to best practices around sustainability that also produce bottom line benefits. STMA members receive \$50 off of registration fees by using the discount code: STMA. For more information, go to GSA summit website at http://www.green sportssummit.org/.

# 2012 Regional Conference set for Cincinnati June 26-27

The 2012 Regional Conference, June 26-27 in Cincinnati, OH hosted by STMA with the support of several chapters including the host, Ohio, and Illinois, KAFMO (Pennsylvania), Kentucky, Michigan, Tennessee Valley, and Virginia chapters, is a must attend educational event for anyone who deals with athletic turf. While focusing on sports turf managers, STMA encourages attendance by crew, coaches, parks and recreation professionals, athletic directors, school business officials, and others,

and will be providing education for all levels of sports turf experience.

Attendees will be treated to more than ten hours of education presented by nationally recognized sports turf researchers and academics, as well as professional, college and high school sports turf managers from the region and across the country. They will lend their expertise to presentations and panel discussions on natural turfgrass, irrigation, smallengine repair, synthetics, weather, safety,

pesticide management and managing bermudagrass. There will also be behind-thescenes tours of Great American Ballpark and Paul Brown Stadium, home to the Reds and Bengals, respectively. There will be an exhibition held at the Paul Brown Stadium on June

Registration will include all education, entrance to the exhibition and most meals. The group will also be taking in a night at the ballpark, watching the Reds take on the Milwau-

Who you are	Your rate	Cost to join us at the Reds game (optional). All ticket orders must be received by June 11.	Your Total	Last Day to Receive this Rate
Individual STMA or Chapter Member Registering Online	\$95.00	\$14.00	\$109.00	6/18/2012
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Individual Non- Member Registering via Mail/Fax	\$125.00	\$14.00	\$139.00	6/18/2012
Any Person or Persons Registering On-Site	\$149.00	Reds tickets not available to any on-site registrants. Tickets in our section may be available for pur- chase through the Reds Ticket Office for \$22 apiece. Seats in STMA group not guaranteed	\$149.00	On-Site
Any two or more people registering at the same time (contact STMA for instructions on how to obtain group pricing)	\$75.00	\$14.00	\$89.00	6/18/2012

kee Brewers on Wednesday night.

Registration costs for the event start at \$95 for a national member of STMA or one of the participating chapters and \$125 for a nonmember. Group rates start when registering two people at the same time. Tickets to the Reds game may be purchased at the STMA group rate of \$14 per ticket, but must be purchased in advance. See the chart for more information on registration rates for the event and ticket prices.

Online registration is open, and there are discounts for registering online! STMA has also negotiated an \$80 rate at the Millennium Hotel in downtown Cincinnati, within walking distance of the events, stadiums and nightlife. Keep checking www.STMA.org and your email inbox for the most up to date information regarding the event.

Put June 26-27 on your schedule and start talking to your employer about attending this incredible educational opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact STMA at 800.323.3875 or STMAInfo@STMA.org.

Is your company is interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at this event? Please contact Patrick Allen, STMA Manager of Sales and Marketing at 800.323.3875 or pallen@stma.org. ■

# STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:** Chris Walsh cwalsh@scottsdaleaz.gov

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: www.cstma.org.

Florida #1 Chapter (South):

305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran CTomSell@aol.com

Florida #2 Chapter (North):

850-580-4026, John Mascaro, john@turf-tec.com

Florida #3 Chapter (Central):

407-518-2347, Scott Grace, scott@sundome.org

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

**Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:** www.gstma.org.

Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: www.ILSTMA.org.

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.imstma.org.

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:** www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: www.kvstma.org.

**Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org.** (KAFMO/STMA): www.kafmo.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers
Association: www.mpstma.org

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mokanstma.com.

**Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:** 402-441-4425.

**New England STMA (NESTMA):** www.nestma.org.

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** www.sfmanj.org.

**Sports Turf Managers of New York:** www.stmony.org.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.ncsportsturf.org.

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): www.ostma.org.

Oklahoma Chapter STMA:

405-744-5729; Contact: Dr. Justin Moss

### **Oregon STMA Chapter:**

www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org oregonstma@gmail.com

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter:

www.socalstma.com.

**South Carolina Chapter of STMA:** www.scstma.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com.

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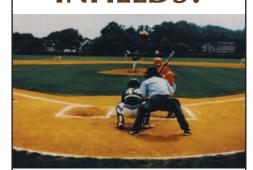












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### Continued from page 13

turf managers should realize that some individuals do show pyrethroid (bifenthrin) skin sensitivity. The neonicotinoid insecticides used for grub control have very low mammalian toxicity while being very effective grubicides. During dry weather the turf should be irrigated prior to treatment to help the insecticide penetrate grass blades and dry thatch.

Armyworms, which are caterpillars of moths, are greenish when small, but become brown with several length wise stripes when fully grown at ½ inch. The adult is a mottled brownish-gray moth with a wingspan of nearly 1 ½ inches.

Irritant sampling with dish soap is particularly useful in detection and monitoring of armyworm, as well as mole crickets,





>> IMAGE 8: Irritant sampling, using dish soap mixed in water (top), and mature, final instar, fall armyworm (botom) collected in early September. Photos courtesy of Alec Kowalewski.

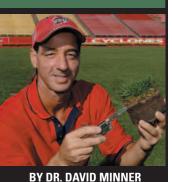
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cutworms, or sod webworm infestations (Image 8). The soap irritates sensitive soil-inhabiting pests causing them to quickly come to the surface. When using this monitoring method mix one ounce liquid detergent per gallon of water and apply to one square yard. For best results apply insecticide in the early evening when caterpillars are actively feeding on turfgrass.

Alex Kowalewski, is an assistant professor at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Tifton, GA. Aaron Hathaway is a research assistant, Crop and Soil Science, Michigan State University. A. Martinez-Espinoza is an associate professor of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia-Griffin Campus. S. Kristine Braman is a professor of Entomology, University of Georgia-Griffin Campus.

www.stma.org SportsTurf 45



Professor, Iowa State University

### **Questions?**

Send them to **David Minner at** Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames. IA 50011 or email dminner@iastate.edu.

Or, send your question to **Grady Miller at** North Carolina State University, Box 7620, Raleigh, NC 27695-7620, or email grady\_miller@ncsu.edu.

# Smooth world

My name is Doug Schryver and I work for the Park District in Sterling, IL. I've been involved with turf management for the past 2 years and I have a question about rolling my baseball fields to smooth them out. I've been reading that soil compaction is detrimental to good turf so what's the best way to smooth out my native soil fields, rolling or something else? It seems that rolling would be contradictive to what the turf needs. Any opinions on the subject would be greatly appreciated.

Like you, Doug, I once was completely afraid of rolling native soil athletic fields because of the potential for excessive compaction. So I became a "closet roller" preaching fear of compaction to the masses while smashing fields flat in some situations because ... well, it just made for a better playing surface. And that is the first message, your job as a sports turf manager is to make the field as safe and playable as possible.

Rolling can definitely make a field smoother. At the same time if no one is complaining about field smoothness then there may be no reason for you to start rolling. I'm not alone in this. Professional baseball field managers have shown me several of their tricks to using rollers. They started using rollers to perfect skin areas, where tightening up the soil surface is needed, and then moved to rolling turf when it presented a bumpy surface. Additional references for rolling are provided at the end of the article.

Just so we are on the same page let me try and give a better visual idea using some of the terms we use when discussing this issue. Compaction implies a negative situation where the soil has been compressed to a depth and density that makes the field hard enough to reduce root growth, injure players, cause excessive ball bounce, and limit cleat penetration that alters footing. I'm sure there are other negative examples of field conditions that you associate with compaction.

On the other hand we sometimes use terms like firm, stable, tight, and fast to describe a desirable surface that maximizes player performance. I know it is semantics but what's the difference, it's all compaction, right? For me, the difference between good and bad rolling on native soil grass surfaces comes from how deep into the soil the compression actually occurs. And that is a function of the roller weight, soil texture, and soil moisture. A heavier roller, finer texture, and wetter soil all increase compaction. Desired traits such as firm, tight, and fast can be improved by rolling that impacts only the top inch of the soil profile. This level of compaction can always be quickly loosened if needed with many excellent aerification and spiking machines on the market today.

To summarize, deep compaction bad, shallow compaction not so bad and manageable. We all have experienced those heavily trafficked fields that are so compact that a solid tine aerifier won't even go into the ground. It's a depressing sight and sound to see a heavy aerification machine bouncing across the ground you are trying to grow grass in. Those conditions are not what we want out of field rolling and that fear is what probably keeps many managers from ever considering rolling. Infield dirt areas are different, sometimes we need to use 1 to 3 ton rollers to tighten the ground enough to provide the desired consistent ball bounce and cleat penetration needed for baseball and softball skins.

Specially made turf rollers with rounded edges to avoid

gouging weigh in at 300 to 1000 lbs and apply pressure similar to heavy mowers (3-7 lbs/sq in). The maximum size roller I suggest for turf is one ton. If water is squishing out from under the roller then it is way too wet to be rolling. If it is too dry then you are only flatting the grass. The art of rolling is to try and do it when the soil is moderately moist.

I usually start the baseball season by rolling because my high school team begins spring ball in April before grass even begins to grow. The fields are usually a little bumpy from frost heaving and the unevenness of different grass species. I prefer using 100% Kentucky bluegrass because it presents a more attractive, uniform, and smoother surface for the infield mown at a 1 inch cutting height. Clumps of perennial ryegrass start growing sooner in the spring and the roller helps to temporarily smooth them out until enough growth has occurred that repeated mowing evens out the grass surface. I am a big fan of mowers with solid rollers because they also give a light rolling that helps keep the surface smooth. Reel or rotary and riding or walking mowers are available with solid rollers.

Worm casting and ant mounds unnoticed in taller infield grass mown with decks having only wheels often leads to bumpy fields. Large rollers are not an effective way to change surface grade. High and low areas the cause water pockets will not be improved with a roller; grading is needed. Topdressing, coring, and dragging can help fill depressions that make the field smoother. A 16-ft aluminum screed used to smooth concrete is an excellent inexpensive tool to show surface aberrations. Mow the field at 0.5 to 1.0 inches, hand topdress in front of the screed, and level depressions to provide a really smooth surface. That's a lesson from George Toma that gives me 16 feet of absolute truth every time I plunk it down on the field.

Sometimes I find myself faced with just days before the fields need to be used and things are just uneven; lips are higher than I want, grass edge and skin are too uneven, winter heaving has left the skin loose and bumpy, and there is no time to aerify or topdress. I can usually save the day by using a heavy roller, in this case a 1-2 ton roller works best. Roll the skin base paths first and then straddle the grass/skin edge in the center of the roller and just smash everything together. I guess smash is one of those negative words but it works. It makes for a really smooth transition between the grass and skin and so far I have never overly compacted the soil such that it causes turf loss. I like to close my eyes with heels on the grass and toes on the dirt and rock my weight back and forth; it should feel smooth and level.

Putting field "playability" from the coach's perspective, i.e. smoothness, ahead of some of the agronomical practices, i.e. compaction, can help you in other ways. This strategy puts me in good favor with the coach and I never really lose grass or have excessive compaction problems. If you don't have a good aerifier it's always a good time to practice your "quid pro quo." Lay that phrase on your coach, it means this for that, i.e., I will roll your field and suffer compaction if you will help me convince the athletic director to purchase a decent aerifier to relieve said compaction. I've already got a good aerifier so this year for rolling I'm asking to get the guys off the outfield foul line during warm up... they all think they're pitchers and need to toe the line; drives me crazy and makes the foul line look crooked. Give a little, get a little, it smooths out the world.

References: Minner D., "Just Rolling Along," Sports Turf, September 2005, p.50. Also, search buckeyeturf.osu.edu/index for "rolling athletic fields."

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