

## Recent interns should apply for SAFE Gary Vanden Berg Internship Grant

**LAST YEAR**, the SAFE Foundation presented the inaugural SAFE Gary Vanden Berg Internship Grant, named in honor of the long-time Director of Grounds for the Milwaukee Brewers who passed away in October. The grant reflects Vanden Berg's commitment to creating an excellent learning experience for interns. He was recognized throughout MLB and the entire sports turf industry for his enduring legacy in creating opportunities for students.

This grant will be awarded this fall for an internship completed during the spring or summer of 2012. STMA Student Members in good standing who are currently enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours or were enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours in the semester just prior to the internship are eligible to submit for the \$1,000 grant. Thus, recent graduates who completed an internship after graduation are eligible. The winner will be introduced at the 2013 STMA Annual Conference in Daytona Beach in January.

The grant is intended to offset the costs a student may have incurred while interning including, but not limited to, transportation, lodging, and food, or as a subsidy to wages. In addition to receiving the \$1,000 grant, the winner will also receive a full conference registration and three nights lodging at the STMA National Conference and Exhibition.

The deadline to submit is October 15. To apply, go to [www.stma.org/awards-program](http://www.stma.org/awards-program).

Interested in helping support SAFE and continuing Gary's legacy? Please contact STMA Headquarters, 800-323-3875. ■

## Terry Mellor Continuing Education Grant gets non-national members to Conference

**THIS GRANT** awards \$1,000 to a member of an STMA affiliated chapter in honor of Terry Mellor, deceased brother of long time professional groundskeeper David R. Mellor of the Boston Red Sox. Funded by TURFACE Athletics, the grant recognizes professional development through continuing education, a philosophy shared by the Mellor brothers and TURFACE. The grant will fund the winner's attendance at the STMA Conference in January.

To nominate an individual, a national STMA member must write a letter of recommendation. Self nominations are not accepted.

In addition to the \$1,000 award, STMA will provide a complimentary conference registration to the winner, and the winner will be recognized at the association's annual Awards Banquet held at the conference.

Go to [www.stma.org/awards-program](http://www.stma.org/awards-program) to download the guidelines and nomination form. The deadline is October 15. ■

## Students, start putting together SAFE Scholarship applications now!

**STUDENTS** in two-year and four-year collegiate turfgrass programs are strongly encouraged to apply for a scholarship, which is funded by The SAFE Foundation, STMA's charitable arm.

Applications are due October 15, 2012. In the past, SAFE has awarded more than \$12,000 in scholarships annually to students who are planning for a career in the sports turf industry; the Foundation plans to award again this amount for 2012. Previous undergraduate winners are not eligible to win again, unless they advance to a graduate program.

Go to [www.stma.org/scholarship-program-0](http://www.stma.org/scholarship-program-0) to download the SAFE Scholarship Criteria and Application. All materials must be submitted together, and STMA does not accept faxed applications.

The STMA Scholarship Committee independently scores the applications and the winners will be notified in mid-November. In addition to the financial award, each winner receives a complimentary registration to the STMA Annual Conference, which is January 15-19, 2013, in Daytona Beach, three night's hotel accommodations, and recognition at the STMA Awards Banquet. ■

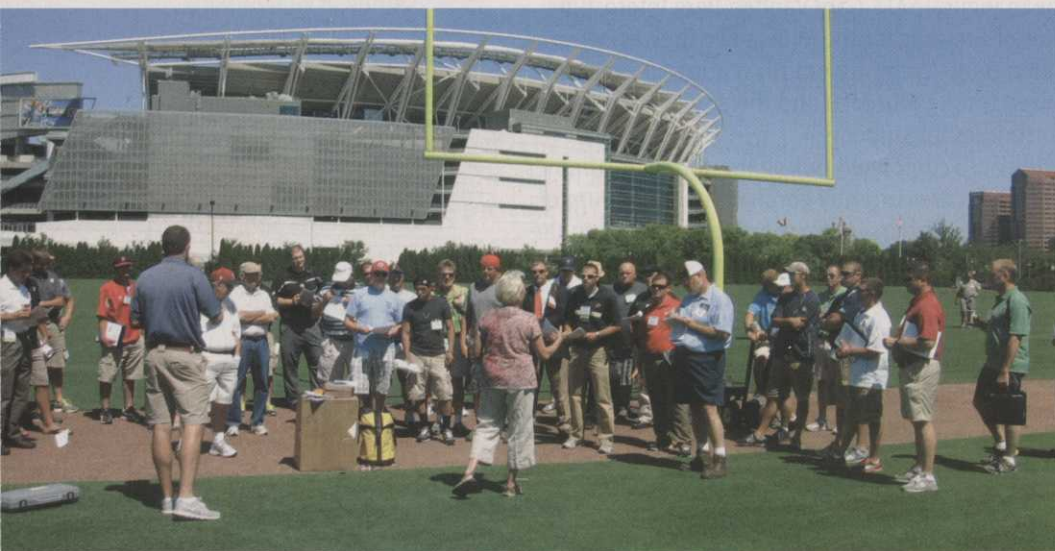
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STMA would like to thank the following companies for their generous sponsorship of the Mid-American Regional event: Fairmount Sports+Recreation, Hunter Industries; Pioneer Manufacturing; Pennington Seed; Turface Athletics; UBU Sports; World Class Athletic Surfaces; Central Farm and Garden; Century Equipment; Oakwood Sod Farm; Redexim North America; Reynolds Golf and Turf; SportsEdge; TurfNet; and TurfTime Equipment.



## Cincinnati proves great venue for STMA Mid-American Regional Conference



**PERFECTLY TIMED** before the Midwest experienced a late June heat wave, the 2012 STMA Regional Conference drew more than 120 attendees and 33 exhibiting companies from as far away as Florida to Cincinnati, the Queen City on the Ohio River. Registrants enjoyed the vibrant downtown with the host hotel just minutes from legendary Fountain Square, while the main attractions, Great American Ballpark and Paul Brown Stadium, were an easy walk down the hill to their riverside locations.

Historically these STMA regional events feature tours of some of the USA's best-known stadiums and the aforementioned professional facilities fit the bill perfectly. Highlight of the first day was visiting Great American Ballpark, home of the country's oldest professional baseball franchise, and meeting Doug Gallant, the Reds' head groundskeeper. Gallant said his field features a blend of five perennial ryegrasses in a hybrid system that features an artificial stabilizer. The TS2 system, developed by The Motz Group, has a stabilizer mat or carpet that is rolled out and backfilled with sand. The carpet comprises polypropylene fibers weaved into an open-weave mesh backing and biodegradable jute. Once the carpet has been topdressed with sand, it is seeded with your choice of grass.

Gallant said the current field is in its sixth, and final, season, and that his new

sod is currently growing in Indiana. Though very happy with the field's performance, he said the field has a few high and low spots now and the re-grading and re-sodding is necessary. Because of the low-humidity, breezy day the attendees were enjoying, Gallant had to water his in-field mix every 45 minutes that day to keep moisture in the clay.

An attendee asked Gallant what kind of weeds he saw and he replied, "I don't believe in weeds" and added if you grow a good stand of turfgrass, you shouldn't have that many weeds. "The strongest plant's going to win," he said.

Rich Apuzzo, a meteorologist with skyeyeweather.com in Cincinnati, gave an interesting presentation that he began by saying, "Climate change is a hoax!" He shared his model of forecasting longer range climate trends, including how important the amount of energy being produced by the sun affects our weather, and how our oceans' 20 to 30-year cycles between warmer and colder affect weather (think El Nino).

Apuzzo said both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans are getting colder now and the solar cycle is now putting out less energy, which means shorter growing seasons, colder winters and cooler summers for "at least the next two decades," he said.

Along with the cooling, he expects more droughts as well, and he reminded the audience that drought conditions don't nec-

essarily correlate with higher temps; climate can be dry and cool as well. Therefore, water will continue to be an increasingly valuable commodity, and research into drought-resistance turfgrasses will be that much more important.

Other educational sessions on Day 1 included Dr. Aaron Patton of Purdue on controlling *poa annua* in both cool and warm-season grasses; improving native soil fields by Ohio State Extension Turf expert Pamela Sherratt; troubleshooting small air-cooled engine repairs, with Carl Osterhaus of Toro; and a live irrigation audit led by Hunter Industries' Lynda Wightman on the Cincinnati Bengals' practice fields outside Paul Brown Stadium.

Part of the package for the event was a ticket to the Brewers v. Reds game that night, preceded by a networking event at Great American Ballpark. The hometown Reds won the game with a homerun in the bottom of the 8th inning, and many attendees followed that up with a night-cap (or two) at Toby Keith's nearby watering hole.

Highlights of Day Two included the trade show in the shaded parking lot for Bengal players, and education sessions featuring Wes Ganobcik on baseball field maintenance practices; Brian Bornino on "Using Bermudagrass on Athletic Fields in Colder Climates"; Dr. David Gardner of Ohio State on pesticides and athletic fields; and Jeff White and Kenny Nichols on "Safe, Playable, and Pleasing Fields on a Limited Budget – What Can You Do?"

The day concluded with a tour of Paul Brown Stadium, led by Darian Daily and James Hlavaty.

### Sponsors

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## MO-KAN Chapter aids All-Star effort

**WITH THE HELP OF A \$50,000 GRANT** from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF), the MO-KAN Chapter of STMA devoted more than 150 man hours to move 900 tons of material, improve drainage, fix irrigation, and provide an overall facelift to the baseball fields at Cleveland Park in Kansas City. The field work was done with the help of the Boys and Girls Club of Kansas City (BGCKC) in order to bring the facility up to par as the host for the Jr. RBI Classic, a Reviving Baseball in the Inner Cities (RBI) baseball and softball tournament, which was played there in conjunction with the 83rd MLB All-Star Game festivities throughout Kansas City, July 6-10. Teams from as far away as Canada and Florida braved the scorching heat to participate.

The ribbon cutting on was on July 6, where Dave Smith of BGCKC, Cathie Bradley of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, Kim Heck of STMA, representatives from

the Kansas City Royals, including some former players, the Kansas City Council, KC Parks and Rec, and the MO-KAN Chapter were on hand to celebrate the renovations. BGCKC and BTF were effusive in their praise for the hard work of the local STMA Chapter over the preceding weeks to get the fields in top shape to host this nationally recognized event. Chapter President Vance Rzepka of VSR Design was there and said, "I couldn't be prouder of the work done by our Chapter."

STMA put BGCKC in contact with the MO-KAN Chapter early in 2012 to begin evaluating the needs of the fields. Rzepka and Kansas City Royals Head Groundskeeper and STMA member Trevor Vance then worked through what they thought the site needed and provided a scope of work to BGCKC. With the help of Kissick Construction and LeRoy's Sports Fields out of Kansas City, the project

wrapped up just in time for the first pitch and fields are poised to host many other games and the BGCKC's 800-player league for years to come. ■

**The MO-KAN Chapter devoted more than 150 man hours to provide an overall facelift to the baseball fields at Cleveland Park in Kansas City.**

## STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:**  
Chris Walsh [cwalsh@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:cwalsh@scottsdaleaz.gov)

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.cstma.org](http://www.cstma.org).

**Florida #1 Chapter (South): 305-235-5101**  
(Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran [CTomSell@aol.com](mailto:CTomSell@aol.com)

**Florida #2 Chapter (North):**  
850-580-4026, John Mascaro, [john@turf-tec.com](mailto:john@turf-tec.com)

**Florida #3 Chapter (Central):**  
407-518-2347, Scott Grace, [scott@sundome.org](mailto:scott@sundome.org)

**Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.gatewaystma.org](http://www.gatewaystma.org).

**Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.gstma.org](http://www.gstma.org).

**Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.stmalabasin.com](http://www.stmalabasin.com).

**Illinois Chapter STMA:**  
[www.ILSTMA.org](http://www.ILSTMA.org).

**Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.imstma.org](http://www.imstma.org).

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org).

**Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.kystma.org](http://www.kystma.org).

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

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org).

**Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.mpstma.org](http://www.mpstma.org)

**MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.mokanstma.com](http://www.mokanstma.com).

**Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu)

**New England STMA (NESTMA):**  
[www.nestma.org](http://www.nestma.org).

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org).

**Sports Turf Managers of New York:**  
[www.stmony.org](http://www.stmony.org).

**North Carolina Chapter of STMA:**  
[www.ncsportsturf.org](http://www.ncsportsturf.org).

**Northern California STMA:**  
[www.norcalstma.org](http://www.norcalstma.org).

**Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):** [www.ostma.org](http://www.ostma.org).

**Oklahoma Chapter STMA:**  
405-744-5729; Contact: Dr. Justin Moss

**Oregon STMA Chapter:**  
[www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org](http://www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org)  
[oregonstma@gmail.com](mailto:oregonstma@gmail.com)

**Ozarks STMA:**  
[www.ozarksstma.org](http://www.ozarksstma.org).

**Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.pnwstma.org](http://www.pnwstma.org).

**Southern California Chapter:**  
[www.socalstma.com](http://www.socalstma.com).

**South Carolina Chapter of STMA:**  
[www.scstma.org](http://www.scstma.org).

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** [www.tvstma.com](http://www.tvstma.com).

**Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.txstma.org](http://www.txstma.org)

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org).

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.wstma.org](http://www.wstma.org).

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**1 What is your company's primary business? (check ONLY ONE)**

- F ☐ Sports Complex G ☐ Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer  
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**2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)**

- A ☐ EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR — President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director  
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**3 Do you have the authority to buy, specify or recommend products and/or services for your business or organization?**

- Y ☐ Yes N ☐ No

**4 Yearly operating expenditures (excluding salaries)**

- F ☐ Over \$1 million C ☐ \$50,001 - \$100,000  
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This year, three controllers consistently irrigated in excess of ETc even though more than 5 inches of rainfall occurred during the study. The causes of such excessive irrigation volumes are likely due to improper ETc values and/or insufficient accounting for rainfall.

Three controllers were equipped with tipping-bucket rain gauges which measure actual rainfall and six controllers were equipped with rainfall shutoff sensors as required by Texas landscape irrigation regulations. Rainfall shutoff sensors detect the presence of rainfall and interrupt the irrigation event. During the 2011 evaluation period, below average rainfall occurred as the result of a historic drought. The spring period had the most rainfall (2.83 inches), and no major differences in performance observed between controllers using rain gauges and those using rainfall shutoff devices.

This is in contrast to the 2010 study during which over 17 inches of rainfall occurred and controllers using rain gauges applied irrigation amounts much closer to the recommendations of TexasET.

For a controller to pass our test, it would need to meet plant water

requirements (TexasET recommendations) for all six stations. Of the nine controllers tested, none successfully passed the test during all three irrigation season. However, one controller passed for the fall irrigation season. Results over the past 3 years have consistently shown that the majority of controllers over-irrigate (i.e., apply more water than is reasonably needed).

Generally, controllers with on-site sensors performed better and more often irrigated closer to the recommendations of the TexasET Network than those controllers which have ET sent to the controller.

Current plans are to continue evaluation of controllers into the 2012 year. For the 2012 study, three controllers will be replaced with newer models to reflect upgrades in software or sensor technology.

While water savings shows promise through the use of some smart irrigation controllers, excessive irrigation is still occurring under some landscape scenarios. Continued evaluation and work with the manufacturers is needed to fine tune these controllers even more to achieve as much water savings as possible. ■



# Q&A



BY DR. DAVID MINNER

Professor, Iowa State University

## Questions?

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

Or, send your  
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# 7 inches from the midday sun

**T**HAT'S BEEN MY NEW ADDRESS for most of July and it doesn't look like there's any relief in sight for August and the Midwest. It's actually a Rob Thomas lyric smoothed out by Carlos Santana... Man it's a hot one, like 7 inches from the midday sun. With several days over 100 degrees most of the states neighboring Iowa are also experiencing D2-Severe to D3-Extreme Drought according to the US Drought Monitor. So as we close out baseball and head toward football I've been fielding several woe-is-me and what-to-do type questions.

Voluntary water restrictions have been occurring in a few cities and some small towns have been restricting water to Iowa golf courses and athletic fields. It is important to ask the local water authority for their written "Drought Contingency Plan." If you use city water contact the local city water, power, and light company.

When drawing water from a stream or river you should have a permit from the state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who will be able to also tell you when the stream reaches a critical "low flow" for aquatic life that requires you to stop pumping water. Either way it's time to ask questions about possible water restrictions. It will be interesting to find out what priority your facility has among all the water users, golf courses, home owners, car washes, and other businesses.

To receive water during restrictions most water authorities want you to have a water reduction plan that quantitatively shows that you are meeting their targets of water reduction based on the level of drought, i.e. alert 20% reduction, critical <40% reduction, emergency >40% reduction. Guess

work generally won't suffice, you need meter reading from previous years showing what your normal water use would be and then you will need to meet their targeted percent water reductions.

Be sure to make the case for your facility as an important economic enterprise in the city but be prepared to show how much you will cut back on water use or you might get completely cut off. Communicate to water suppliers that athletic fields, like golf courses, use a lot of sand for construction and topdressing making

dressing, sod repair, lips, mound work etc., so we can put the baseball field to bed and have it ready for spring ball.

I can't wait for the first crisp cool morning in September to put on the pullover and walk amongst the seedlings dripping from the hiss of irrigation.

Summer seeding and topdressing of high school football fields is never ideal but between soccer, track and football, it's the only time some of us can get on the field. We've been able to keep seedling turf of Kentucky bluegrass

Even though the season is over they have learned the importance of seeding, topdressing, sod repair, lips, mound work etc., so we can put the baseball field to bed and have it ready for spring ball.

it critical that water supply continues in some capacity.

Many irrigated high school baseball fields are simply abandoned in late July and August since the season has ended and that's just about the time that summer patch really gets cranking. I have been dealing with summer patch on my high maintenance Kentucky bluegrass infields over the past 3 years and our best success comes with monthly fungicide applications May-July followed by just enough post-season irrigation to keep the grass out of dormancy until September. When we abandoned the field in late July drought stress and summer patch nearly took out the entire infield.

I can tell that my communication skills have gotten better because the coaches from the three local teams we work with have been all over me about making the August/September plan to spruce up the baseball field. Even though the season is over they have learned the importance of seeding, top-

and perennial ryegrass alive through summer's heat and drought but the plants are weak and barely growing in height. We skipped our July nitrogen fertilizer because of the heat but regardless of the temperature we will make our next application in mid-August.

It's Ragbrai time again and 20,000 young and old hippies and I spend a week riding our bicycles 500 miles across Iowa; it's the closest thing to Woodstock I've ever seen. We've got a bunch of turf types in our converted coed school bus with a solar shower tank on the roof. Check out Ragbrai online and mark your calendar for next year if you want an adventure you won't forget and then ring my bell at STMA's national conference; we've got room for a sports turf manager or two on the tour.

So with three Days of Ragbrai predicted to be over 100 F, I've got fear in my heart and a question for you—what is the melting point of spandex? ■



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☐ Sports Turf Manager Associate\* (Additional member(s) from the same facility) \$75

Please select the primary facility type where you are employed:

- ☐ Professional Sports ☐ Higher Education ☐ Schools K-12 ☐ Parks and Recreation
- ☐ Academic \$95  
☐ Student (verification of enrollment) \$25  
☐ Commercial \$295  
☐ Commercial Associate\* (Additional member(s) from the same commercial company) \$75

- ☐ Affiliate (Person who is indirectly or on a part-time basis, involved in the maintenance/management of sports fields) \$50

- ☐ Chapter Dues (contact headquarters for amount)  
Chapter name) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Contribution To SAFE Foundation (research, education and scholarship): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Method:

- ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Purchase Order #: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\*There must already be a national sports turf manager from your facility or commercial member from your company before you may sign up in the Associate category.

"I know I am a better sports turf manager because of this association. As sports turf managers, we take the challenge seriously to make our fields the best possible for the next game. The resources I have access to through STMA helps me do it."

— Bob Campbell, CSFM  
Higher Education  
Membership Segment

Phone: 800-323-3875

www.STMA.org