

STMA 2011 Innovation Award winner, g2 turftools

STMA Commercial Vice President Rene Asprion, Diamond Pro/TXI, presented the 2012 STMA Award for Commercial Innovation to g2 turftools during trade show hours at last month's STMA Conference. The award was for their 84-inch Turfplaner, a product judged by the STMA Awards Committee to substantially enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Sports Turf Manager, and make playing surfaces safer and more playable for athletes.

Lindsay Merkt of g2 reported:

"g2 turftools, inc. was incorporated 5 years ago to develop and manufacture precision turf equipment to enhance the ability of turf managers to produce and maintain high quality playing surfaces. This year we added the Patent Pending 84-inch Turfplaner to our existing patented product line of turfrollers, turffloat and turfslicer, and turfrack.

"The number one problem all turf managers have is how to deal with high spots on their fields. All fields seem to suffer from high spots, whether caused by infield washes on baseball fields that create lips, topdressing and redistribution of aerification cores, or just poor construction from the beginning.

"The low spots have been relatively easy to manage, since they just need to be filled in, but high spots have been a completely different problem. High spot removal requires removing the turf, removing the excess soil, re-grading, re-compacting, and finally replacing the turf. After many hours of operating a flail mower set to zero to remove minor high spots after new construction, we decided to manufacture a device that would automatically remove high spots while automatically adjusting to grade, through the use of laser or AutoGrade controls. When the recession hit in 2008, we decided to take the chance that a better, faster, cheaper alternative to surface renovations would be accepted by turf managers.

"In January 2008 we started designing the 84-inch turfplaner and by April 2008 we had developed our Patent Pending prototype to start testing. By November 2011, we had turfplaned more than 3 million square feet and produced 2 more BETA versions for additional testing. Other advancements made to the turfplaner have included integrated controls that include Manual, Auto-Grade, and Laser Controls. In December



2011 we sold our first production to our Licensed Service Provider in Louisiana.

"With such new technology we decided early on that the best way to guarantee quality work and the best service possible to the turf managers was to create a network of Licensed Service Providers that would be trained and supported by g2 turftools. These Licensed Service Providers are regional turfplaning experts that can provide all of the necessary equipment and personnel to remove and restore existing turf to a pre determined grade or simply remove surface irregularities to increase the playability and safety. Turfplaning has been performed on baseball, softball, soccer, football fields, polo fields, golf tees and fairways, and has even been used to remove lips from cart paths and roadways. Whether preparing an existing turf surface for new sod, restoring grade, or simply removing surface irregularities, turfplaning promises to be the new standard for turf resurfacing and renovation." ■

Barenbrug USA introduces HGT Kentucky bluegrass

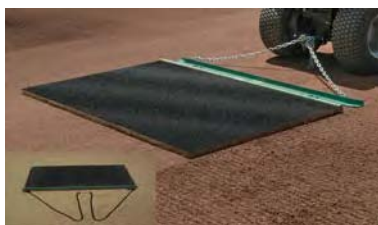
With the development of Healthy Grass Technology (HGT), Barenbrug has developed a hearty bluegrass which is easy to grow, fast to establish and resistant to disease. These tremendous benefits combined with a remarkable tolerance to heavy traffic making HGT the ideal choice for any bluegrass application. All of these benefits add up to significant reduction in chemical usage, saving time, money and reducing environmental impact. Barenbrug scientists took over a decade to develop HGT. They researched and propagated only the most rugged Kentucky bluegrass plants in a variety of challenging environments. Once HGT passed Barenbrug's rigorous research program, it was released for independent evaluation. Extensive trials at universities and by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program found Barvette HGT far exceeded other top bluegrass varieties in resisting Summer Patch, billbugs, white grubs, tolerating traffic and spring green-up.

Barenbrug USA

Beacon Cocoa Mat Drag

Get a highly professional finish without displacing soil! Unlike steel mat drags the Beacon Cocoa Mat Drag rarely leaves a pile of material to disperse after you pick up the drag. The 6' x 4' drag is available with or without the Beacon Leveling Bar to drag an infield with a tractor. The 6' x 2' hand drag is great for in-game between-inning manicuring, and the 4' x 2' hand Cocoa Drag is good for smoothing baselines, cutouts, mounds and home plate areas. No matter the area, there is a Cocoa Mat Drag for you!

Beacon Athletics



New electric lift on TurfTime infield groomer

Raise and lower the Triple Play Infield Groomer without leaving the driver's seat. TurfTime Equipment's electric lift kit lowers the groomer into working position with the flip of a switch. Big pneumatic tires add even more maneuverability to this sturdy little workhorse. The bolt-on kit can be factory installed, or ordered as the ideal upgrade for units already in the field. From aggressive ripping and grading to leveling and final finishing, the Triple Play is designed to out-perform more expensive groomers.

TurfTime Equipment



Toro San Pro 5040

With an 18-horsepower engine and hydraulic power steering, the Sand Pro 5040 offers the perfect combination of precision and power. Also featuring the new Quick Attach System (QAS), which allows operators, in less than a minute, to switch from among 14 different attachments without the use of any tools.

The Toro Company



PR72-E Pro Groomer

Heying Company produces a full line of quality infield groomers that repair and maintain skin infields. Quickly and easily keep your infield playing surfaces level and in optimal playing condition. Machines available with remote controlled electric lift and manual lift. Adjustable implements perform numerous tasks including breaking up hard infields. Pull with a variety of towing machines. No tools needed to adjust.

Heying Company





» **CHAD LAURIE**, head groundskeeper for the Buffalo Bisons, (left) won an iPad at the STMA Conference from exhibitor Barenbrug USA. At right is Christiaan Arends, Barenbrug USA's turf product manager.

towards helping SAFE advance its mission of education, scholarship and research in the sports turf industry.

The Conference and Exhibition is supported through the sponsorship of the following companies: Barenbrug USA; Carolina Green Corp.; Covermaster, Inc.; Diamond Pro/TXI; DuPont Professional Products; GreenONE Industries; Hunter Industries; MUSCO Sports Lighting; Rain Bird Corp.; The Toro Company; and World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

FOUNDERS AWARDS

The week's events were capped off by STMA's Annual Awards Banquet on Friday evening, where the association's highest honors

are presented. The Founders Awards for 2011: Dr. William H. Daniel Award – **Dr. Leah Brilman**, Seed Research of Oregon; George Toma Golden Rake Award – **Tom Nielsen**, Louisville Bats; Dick Ericson Award – **Darian Daily**, Paul Brown Stadium; Harry C. Gill Memorial Award – **Mike Andresen**, CSFM, Iowa State University

SCHOLARSHIPS

SAFE was created to provide research, educational programs, and scholarships geared to sports field specific endeavors. The level of scholarship funding has steadily increased since the scholarship program's inception in 1999 and since the scholarship program's beginning, SAFE has awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarship and travel to the STMA Conference and Exhibition.

A panel of seven judges independently scored each entry based on each student's academic preparation, experience in the sports turf management industry, professional goals, extracurricular activities, and input from academic advisors and employers. Each student also wrote an essay describing his or her background and career aspirations.

Scholarship recipients had their financial aid

mailed directly to their university, with a check made out jointly to them and their schools financial aid office.

Graduate Scholarships: Dr. James Watson Scholarship - \$1,500 Matthew Williams, Ohio State

SAFE Graduate Scholarship - \$1,000 Matthew Elmore, Tennessee, & Matthew Holan, Tennessee

Four Year Scholarships: Dr. James Watson Scholarship - \$1,500 Evan Sears, Kentucky

SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship - \$1,000 Nicholas Fisher, Ohio State; Travis Hohlbein, Ohio State; Logan Horne, Virginia Tech; Stephen R. King, Penn State; Zachary Peterson, Purdue; Steven Vonderheide, Purdue

Two Year Scholarships: Dr. Fred Grau Memorial Scholarship - \$1,500 Chris Romo, Mt. San Antonio College.

SEMINARS ON WHEELS

"The STMA Seminar on Wheels committee put together two great days of tours and more than 300 attendees enjoyed them," said Jeff Salmond, CSFM, director of athletic field management for the University of Oklahoma. "With the support of the Greater LA Basin Chapter of STMA, attendees were able to get

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

STMA installed its 34th affiliated chapter during the Chapter Officers Training Session held at the STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Long Beach last month. The Oklahoma Chapter STMA met all of the requirements to become an affiliated chapter. Its steering committee includes Jeff Salmond, CSFM, Justin Moss, Monte McCoy, Todd Tribble, Sergio Lopez and Jeff Gazaway. Welcome to STMA, Oklahoma!

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.kystma.org.

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

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

Mid Atlantic Sports Turf Managers Association (MASTMA) (formerly the Chesapeake Chapter STMA) Ph. 410-704-2197 www.mastma.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.oregonsportsturf-managers.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.sc-stma.org.

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

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.txstma.org

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.wstma.org.

Chapter Sponsors





>> KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE TEAM:

L to R: Lynda Wightman, Luke Perkins, Tyler Dean, Tim Sims, Tyler Timmerman, and Troy McQuillen (coach).

an up close look at facilities that are seen on television and have always wished to be able to go to. The tours were a mix of different fields and facilities that all member groups of STMA were able to enjoy. The Tuesday tours consisted of Hollywood Horse Race Track, the Home Depot Center, the MLB Urban Youth Academy and Blair Field. The Wednesday tours were the Rose Bowl, Los Angeles Dodgers Stadium, Loyola Marymount and University of California State Long Beach.”

STUDENT CHALLENGE

The STMA Student Challenge is presented in partnership with the SAFE Foundation and Founding Partner Hunter Industries. The Challenge consists of several parts; the exam is formatted to include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, reading passages, and short answer sections. Some questions may require physical or visual identification of plant materials, pests, supplies, tools, equipment, irrigation components, ballfield soils and materials, synthetic turf components, soils, or other sports field related items.

This year's winners were:

Two-year colleges:

1st place—Kirkwood Community College, Team 204

2nd place—Mt. San Antonio College, Team 209

3rd place—Mt. San Antonio College, Team 211

Four-year colleges:

1st place—Purdue University, Team 402

2nd place—University of Maryland, Team 404

3rd place—Virginia Tech, Team 405

Mt. San Antonio College won the 2-year contest a year ago, and Purdue repeated as 4-year champs from 2011.

Kirkwood CC coach Troy McQuillen said, “All are students are 2nd year in the Golf



>> MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE TEAM #211:

L to R: Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries, Raquel Zepeda, Fleur Nooyen, Danielle (Dani) Booth, Kelly De La Peza, and Brian Scott (coach), who asked that we also recognize adjunct professor Chaz Perea, a 2x Challenge champ, who put in many hours to help train the students



>> VIRGINIA TECH TEAM: L to R: Lynda Wightman of Hunter Industries, George Aschmann, Robert Estienne, Logan Horne and Jeremy Atkins.

Course and Athletic Turfgrass Management Program. They raised \$6,000 to attend STMA through lawn aerations, sodding projects, and baseball field edging activities. The students started studying for the test back in October meeting every Wednesday night. The students also worked over Christmas Break studying for the exam. This is the first time we place 1st in the competition. We are very proud of the group, it's a huge accomplishment for the program and the college.”

The students will be using the \$4,000 from winning the competition to fund specific tools and additional lab areas for the Athletic Field Maintenance Course.

INNOVATION AWARD

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>> MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE TEAM #209:

L to R: Chris Romo, David Plascencia, Kay Hoevel and Kevin Marsh, and Brian Scott (coach).



>> PURDUE UNIVERSITY TEAM: L to R: Lynda Wightman of Hunter Industries, Zak Peterson, John Thackery, Ben Baumer, Joey Gerking, and Tracy Tudor (graduate assistant/coach).

safer and more playable for athletes.

G2 turf tools received an award on the trade show floor, signage to be placed in their booth, and will have use of the 2012 Innovative Award logo with the winning product ad infinitum. See full story on the product on page 41.

INNOVATIVE SESSIONS

There was a nice early morning crowd for Friday's Innovative Sessions. Jason Kruse from the University of Florida covered nicely the progress in remote sensing technology's role in sports turf management, and Dr. “Trey” Rogers from Michigan State followed up with research and insights into growing Kentucky bluegrass in a monostand versus blend. Gerard van't Klooster from The Netherlands reviewed progress made with use of additional light on sports turf, including its use in Lambeau Stadium (see article page 34 in November issue of this magazine).

The 2013 STMA Conference and Exhibition, which will be the association's 24th annual event, will be January 15-19, 2013 in Daytona Beach, FL. The Exhibition will be at the Daytona Beach Convention Center and the official hotel of the event is the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. ■



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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
T ☐ School, College or University P ☐ Park
H ☐ Other (please specify) _____

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
B ☐ MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor
C ☐ GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
D ☐ SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
F ☐ COACH E ☐ Other (please specify) _____

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)

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E ☐ \$500,001 - \$1 million B ☐ \$25,001 - \$50,000
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Q&A



BY DR. DAVID MINNER

Professor, Iowa State University

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Grady Miller at
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Box 7620, Raleigh, NC
27695-7620, or email
grady_miller@ncsu.edu.

Weeds in my infield dirt

Is there a good chemical strategy for control of unwanted vegetation on baseball infields? We are currently using Glyphosate and Surflan. Is Casoron an option?

Central Minnesota

This is a good question where careful consideration should be given when herbicides are being used. Yes, there are herbicides labeled for use in turf, ornamentals, and non-cropland that can effectively remove and prevent weeds on skin infields; however, none of the products are specifically labeled for use on skin infields.

Remember that pesticides are granted registration partially on how they are used. I have yet to find a pesticide specifically used for baseball skin infields. From my perspective I suggest that you do not use any pre or post emergent herbicides, except glyphosate, on the infield skin because of the intimate contact that players have with the infield dirt surface. Glyphosate offers a quick burn down with no residual soil affects so I still consider it a low-risk pesticide for use on infield skin areas.

Even though preemergence herbicides like oryzalin, prodiamine, or imazapyr are often recommended in turf, ornamental, and non-crop areas they are not specifically cited for use on baseball infield skin areas. The same product used in a turf area may react differently in a baseball skin because there is no organic matter in the infield dirt to tie up the herbicide or to break it down by feeding microbes.

Another group of herbicides that provide total vegetation control are often considered for skin areas but should be avoided. Casoron (dichlobenil) can move with surface water so I would also exclude it from my baseball infield skin list because of its potential to run off the skin area and damage the surrounding turfgrass. Pramitol (prometon) is labeled for use around buildings, storage areas, roadways, airports, highway medians, lumberyards,

pipelines, fences, recreational areas, and similar areas where total weed and grass control is needed. It is described as a bare ground herbicide and it will allow nothing to grow for a year. It has a danger signal word and has the potential to be washed from the dirt area and damage the surrounding grass. It is another one I would eliminate from my infield skin management program.

So what can you use to keep weeds out of the infield skin? For existing weeds use glyphosate herbicide. As an alternative vinegar and essential oil-based products seldom have a place for weed control in lawns, but they are ideally suited to quickly burn down the bare soils found on baseball infields. A 20% vinegar solution applied during the heat of the day will kill just about any plant it touches.

The real key to keeping weeds out of the infield is to not neglect field grooming. Unfortunately, many fields are abandoned at summer's end and weeds take over. Field grooming once a week until frost begins is a good way to keep the fields from turning to weeds. More silt and clay equals more weed growth. Avoid blowing weed seeds into the infield skin. Infields in the Midwest constructed with 4 inches of ag lime help reduce weeds because of the unfavorable alkaline growing condition, but when grooming completely stops weeds like crabgrass, goosegrass, foxtail and knot weed can establish. Young weeds can be rouged out by the tines of various dragging and ball field rakes, however once the weed is past the seedling stage and begins to tiller or make a more aggressive root then it is more difficult to remove with a light weight nail drag. As weeds mature and begin to flower they are extremely difficult to remove.

Grass like weeds such as goosegrass and nutsedge, and broadleaf weeds such as knotweed and purslane are especially troublesome on skin infields; don't let them get big or you will be spending the better part of a day

cleaning them out of the infield. A few large weeds can be removed by hoeing or hand pulling; they are easier to pull by hand when the infield is wet. If the field has totally gotten away from you and it is full of weeds then consider killing the weeds with a non-selective herbicide such as Roundup. Scalp mow the dead weeds to minimize plant debris. Try the most aggressive infield groomer you have on hand to see if it will remove the clumps of dead weeds.

Some groomers such as the Infield Rascal are designed to remove overgrown infields by cutting the grass clumps and raking them into piles. I prefer cutting the weeds off about a half inch below the surface so the crown and top of the weed is dislodged from the roots. When the roots stay attached to the top of the plant it creates clumps that dislodge a lot of infield dirt making the operation more difficult and just removes dirt during clean up.

If your equipment can't do the job then try a sod cutter followed by a York or Harley rake. It takes about 6 hours to clean up an overgrown infield and I prefer doing the operation when the field is totally dry and powdery. Sometimes a little moisture helps remove the weeds but don't schedule this type of work when the field is wet. Operate the equipment slowly to windrow weeds for easy clean up. Many high school coaches that have to manage their own fields are switching to grass between home and first and home and third; less dirt to manage and fewer lips in the critical section of the field.

Players come into intimate contact with the dust and wet soils found on baseball/softball infields. Unnecessary exposure of players to pesticides is what causes mistrust among concerned parents. If you think you are doing something wrong then you probably are! Some vinegar and a good grooming machine go a long way to making safe and attractive infields. ■

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