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On the cover: Jordan Treadway leads the crew that maintains Roger Dean Stadium, main spring training home to the St. Louis Cardinals and Florida Marlins as well their Advanced A affiliates and 2011 STMA Professional Baseball Field of the Year winner.

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From the Sidelines



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Top 10 facts you need to know about ticks

IN MY TIME I have picked a few deer ticks off my legs after unfortunate romps through areas of golf courses that don't appear on the GPS unit. A few years ago my oldest son had one on a testicle after a bike ride through a national park—I let the Mrs. handle that removal. Here's some info that might be helpful to you, courtesy of www.tickencounter.org:

10. Ticks crawl up. Ticks don't jump, fly, or drop from trees onto your head and back. If you find one attached there, it most likely latched onto your foot or leg and crawled up over your entire body.

9. All ticks (including deer ticks) come in small, medium and large sizes.

8. Ticks can be active even in the winter. That's right! Deer ticks in particular are not killed by freezing temperatures, and will be active any winter day that the ground is not snow-covered or frozen.

7. Ticks carry disease-causing microbes. Tick-transmitted infections are more common these days than in past decades. With explosive increases in deer populations, extending even into semi-urban areas in the eastern and western US, the trend is for increasing abundance and geographic spread of deer ticks and Lone Star ticks; and scientists are finding an ever-increasing list of disease-causing microbes transmitted by these ticks: Lyme disease bacteria, Babesia protozoa, Anaplasma, Ehrlichia, and other rickettsia, even encephalitis-causing viruses, and possibly Bartonella bacteria. Back in the day, tick bites were more of an annoyance but now a bite is much more likely to make you sick.

6. Only deer ticks transmit Lyme disease bacteria. The only way to get Lyme disease is by being bitten by a deer tick or one of its "cousins" found around the world.

5. For most tick-borne diseases, you have at least 24 hours to find and remove a feeding tick before it transmits an infection. Even a quick daily tick check at bath or shower time can be helpful in finding and removing attached ticks before they can transmit an infection. Lyme disease bacteria take at least 24 hours to invade the tick's saliva.

4. Deer tick nymphs look like a poppy seed on your skin. And with about 1 out of 4 nymphal deer ticks carrying the Lyme disease spirochete and other nasty germs in the northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and upper mid-western US, it's important to know what you're really looking for. They're easy to miss, their bites are generally painless, and they have a habit of climbing up (under clothing) and biting in hard-to-see places.

3. The easiest and safest way to remove a tick is with pointy tweezers. Using really pointy tweezers, it's possible to grab even the poppy-seed sized nymphs right down next to the skin. The next step is to simply pull the tick out like a splinter.

2. Clothing with built-in tick repellent is best for preventing tick bites. An easy way to avoid tick bites and disease is to wear clothing (shoes, socks, shorts or pants, and shirt) with tick repellent built-in.

1. Tick bites and tick-borne diseases are completely preventable. There's really only one way you get a tick-transmitted disease and that's from a tick bite. Reducing tick abundance in your yard, wearing tick repellent clothing every day, treating pets every month and getting into a habit of doing a quick body scan are all great actions for preventing tick bites.



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President's Message

Dr. Mike Goatley

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"Don't forget to remember"

I ACTUALLY SAID THIS AT A MEETING LAST MONTH, quite unintentionally, and soon after I had uttered such a thought provoking statement one of the attendees at the meeting told the moderator that he had a question for "Dr. Yogi Berra". Everyone laughed, and I told them that one had to be a deep thinker to truly understand what I was saying. The moderator, eager to chime in, quickly iterated that "deep" came to his mind too, but not in the context I was implying.

I start by remembering two great academicians: Kent Kurtz and Coleman Ward. Kent "Doc" Kurtz, who was remembered in the May issue of *SportsTurf* regarding the dedication of a field in his honor at Mt. San Antonio College in California field. Doc was a son of the Midwest, an internationally known academician, but I knew primarily of him from his prowess as a teacher and advisor of turf and ornamental horticulture students for more than 35 years at Cal Poly Pomona.

Dr. Kurtz played an important role as STMA's first executive director. Doc was cataloging the history of sports turf management and the STMA at the time of his passing in 2006, a task now undertaken by our Historical Committee. I never knew Dr. Kurtz the way that many of our "Founder's Generation" did, but when listening to STMA's early leaders, it does not take long to realize the impact Doc had on their lives and this profession.

Coleman Ward was an iconic figure in southern United States turf management and his research and outreach programs were the basis for many bermudagrass sports turf management programs. Dr. Ward started the turf program at Mississippi State, served as department head at the University of Florida, and went on to spend the majority of his professional career as Extension Turfgrass Specialist at Auburn University. There was no one who delivered a presentation like Dr. Ward—his distinctive drawl that drew upon his west Texas roots and all of his years in the south resulted in presentations that combined the best speaking traits of preachers, politicians, and educators.

As a young scientist, I found it thrilling and intimidating to share meeting platforms with Dr. Ward. Coleman continued to teach in his retirement years, and as presentations moved away from slides and overhead projectors toward PowerPoint, he called me asking if I would share my "modern" presentation notes. I was honored for his request. He sent me a hand-written thank you letter for the use of my notes that still resides on my bulletin board today. I lost track of Dr. Ward over the past few years and was saddened to recently learn that he had passed in February 2011. As indicated in his obituary, Dr. Ward was a "gentleman and a scholar".

The final thing to not forget to remember is the Regional Field Day in Cincinnati on June 26-27. The Ohio chapter and STMA HQ have developed another national-caliber educational program and exhibition at a regional level. Details are provided in this issue. Please join your peers in Cincinnati to renew acquaintances and make new friends.

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NO HORISING AROUND

Equestrian facilities are not easy to maintain

BACK IN THE **STORIED DAYS** of the Wild West, equestrian facilities were the open range or possibly the paddock outside the stables. There wasn't a lot of consideration given to the surface being ridden on, and as long as stalls were mucked out, there wasn't a great science to what went under the horses' hooves once they were inside a barn.

But just as sports surfaces have changed for human athletes, they've changed for horses as well. Now, what goes underfoot is at the top of an owner's mind and at the head of the list of a trainer's concerns. Equine veterinarians

dedicate years of study to ways of keeping horses' hooves in good shape, and farriers have chipped in with their insights as well. Footing, as the performance surface is called in equestrian circles, has become a science as well as an industry. And the facilities in which horses perform have evolved as well.

So for those who are working with equestrian facilities, much needs to be considered. And it all starts from the ground up, according to the pros.

ON THE SURFACE

"One of the biggest challenges with getting good equestrian footing is making sure

you have the right surface for the discipline that the rider and horse are doing, such as jumping, dressage, reining and simply pleasure riding," says Lori Douglass of Thor Turf Equestrian Surfaces in Sandusky, OH.

According to Douglass, each discipline has its own needs. "Jumpers like the footing to be more compacted but still have the ability to grab the surface on takeoff and landing. They also require some cushion for the protection of the horse's joints. Dressage riders like their surface to be somewhat compacted but the surface needs to have cushion and a little spring to it. Reining horses need the surface to be a little deeper and looser so the horse has the ability to slide and spin. English Equitation riders with high-stepping horses also like the surface a little more compacted; this creates more of a level surface which is good for balance. It is very hard to please all disciplines in one ring with one type of surface."

Many recreational horse shows are still held outside on grass, while others take place at fairgrounds, either inside or outside. Over the years, the latter events had taken place on sand, dirt, wood chips and a

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mixture of some or all of these. Over time, however, there arose a demand for equestrian-specific surfaces. After all, if the horse's feet aren't right, nothing is right.

"There have been many changes in surfaces over the past few years," Douglass notes. "Many facilities use a sand and clay mixture, sand and geotextile felt-like product, and also a manufactured synthetic footing made up of sand, fiber, wax or polymer coating. The surfaces that are not synthetic use water to get the consistency

that they need for the discipline they ride. Of course with a synthetic dustless surface, you do not have to ever water for compaction or dust issues because they stay compacted and you will have no dust issues. Typically, synthetic surfaces are the same whether they are used in indoor or outdoor installations. They may have to groom the surface a little differently for race tracks as opposed to riding rings. You also need to be sure that you have a base that drains very well for outdoor installa-

tions because of weather. The footing will drain if your base drains."

The preferences of the rider will depend a great deal upon what they have trained on, what they are used to riding on, and what is a traditional surface for that discipline. Polo riders, for example, because they generally compete on outdoor grass fields, are used to surfaces that do not produce dust, or do not produce much dust. As always, however, the climate of the area the rider generally trains will determine his or her comfort level.

THE FACILITY ITSELF

According to Jack Kamrath of Tennis Planning Consultants, Inc. in Houston, the design of an equestrian-specific facility is more than just enlarging upon a barn or refining a pasture. TPC discovered this upon embarking upon the design of a tennis, equestrian and polo complex in Richmond, TX in 2008. The need to balance all aspects of the project, and particularly, to design a horse-sensitive and rider-friendly environment, was a learning experience.

"We learned some fundamental design parameters," Kamrath noted, "which we followed at nearly all times including allowing the horses to live with and be near other horses, keep spaces safe for the horses, provide enough stall space to allow the animals to roll on the ground and be free to stretch and exercise, give horses good windows to allow them to smell and interact socially in their stalls, provide plenty of run out space according to land available and providing ample fresh air (without drafts) and as much natural light as possible. For the staff, safe and ease of access to boxes, open sight lines, dryness and warmth, easy access to water, feed and bedding material is important as a few of the basic design needs."

According to Kamrath, the covered indoor equestrian building needed to be a minimum of 300 feet long and 150 feet wide to accommodate the events planned for the facility. TPC went with a pre-engineered covered building that had a midpoint of 25 feet to allow for adequate air circulation from a fan system.

"In the south, summer heat and adequate air circulation is a major need which, as we discovered, was a major need even in northern latitudes of the United States