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NOVEMBER 2012 | VOLUME 28 | NUMBER 11

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On the cover: Daytona Beach welcomes the 24th annual Sports Turf Managers Association Conference & Exhibition. This year's event promises more education, more trade show hours and the best value for sports turf managers looking to improve their knowledge and skills, including new for this year, the STMA Academy, a series of pre- and post-conference workshops.



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From the Sidelines



Eric Schroder
Editorial Director

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The myths about drainage

I turn this month's space over to the British magazine, *Pitchcare*. In their June/July issue this year they ran this article on myths about drainage on soccer pitches. I trust you'll find it interesting:

A number of factors contribute to the success in a sports pitch drainage program. Installing and maintaining a system is an expensive undertaking. A complete system, incorporating slit drainage and sand dressing, can amount to in the region of \$40,000 to \$48,000. Negligence in just one area can jeopardize the entire investment. The following myths are worth considering:

Amelioration of clay loam topsoil by mixing in 1 3/16" to 2" of sand (400 to 600t) into the top 2" of the topsoil surface improves the drainage of the pitch.

False. Developing what amounts to a 50/50 mix of heavy loam soil with sand creates a still relatively impermeable layer of sandy loam material, which no longer expands and contracts as clay does. It compacts easily into a hard crust after play in wet conditions. To achieve satisfactory amelioration in a sand carpet or complete rootzone, the sand content must be at least 80% to create adequate non-capillary porosity, and so permit drainage to lower layers without the fear of compacting. Furthermore, unless the organic matter content is contained in these improved rootzones, the infiltration and consequent surface drainage potential will reduce.

Lateral drains spaced as close as 16' or 11', installed without slit drains, will overcome drainage problems.

False. Invariably, drains are installed before final leveling and seeding. Besides contamination at the surface with fine particles, even this spacing is too great to remove surplus surface water before it enters the surface and develops localized wet areas. Below the soil, surface water moves very slowly laterally, too slowly to reach drains at this spacing. Irrespective of the gradient of the pitch, low rainfall promotes little run-off, and the distance between laterals is too great for water movement to overcome the resistance of the grass growth and the micro-depressions that will retain surface water.

A pitch can be over-drained.

False. Only surplus water moves from saturated soil into trenched pipe drains. Water is held far more strongly by the clay loam topsoil and clay subsoil than the porous aggregate in the drains. There can never be an attraction/suction of soil water from soil to sand aggregate. The argument that retaining the surplus water makes it available at times of water shortage cannot be supported. Water lost downwards into the subsoil cannot move readily up through the topsoil during times of need.

Continued on page 39

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Schroder".

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The Official Publication Of The Sports Turf
Managers Association

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SportsTurf (ISSN 1061-687X) (USPS 000-292) (Reg. U.S. Pat. & T.M. Off.) is published monthly by m2media360, a Bev-Al Communications company at 1030 W. Higgins Road, Suite 230, Park Ridge, IL 60068. **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sportsturf, PO Box 4290, Port Jervis, NY 12771.** For subscription information and requests, call Subscription Services at (845) 856-2229. Subscription rates: 1 year, \$40 US & Poss.; 2 years, \$65 US & Poss.; 1 year, \$65 Canada/Foreign Surface, 1 year, \$130 Air-mail. All subscriptions are payable in advance in US funds. Send payments to Sportsturf, PO Box 4290, Port Jervis, NY 12771. Phone: (845) 856-2229. Fax: (845) 856-5822. Single copies or back issues, \$8 each US/Canada; \$12 Foreign. Periodicals postage paid at Park Ridge, IL and additional mailing offices. COPYRIGHT 2012, SportsTurf. Material may not be reproduced or photocopied in any form without the written permission of the publisher.

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Affirmation costs nothing

MY POSITION as Virginia's extension turfgrass specialist means I spend a lot of time in cars traversing the state. What makes my time pass more quickly is my portable satellite radio receiver (my extension peers refer to it as "Goatley's redneck radio") which means I rarely hear a commercial, and I listen to hours upon end of talk radio. You listen long enough and you are sure to hear things that catch your attention and give you pause to think just a little bit more.

In one day's random scanning of channels, I by chance landed on one of the religious channels, where I heard the host begin to read an anonymous letter from a Catholic priest bemoaning the fact that he really did not think he was making a difference in his ministry. The host opined that probably what this priest needed more than anything else was a little affirmation. He asked the audience, "When was the last time you had given any affirmation?"

I thought I knew what the host was talking about, but I figured I had better look it up later to be sure. The dictionary says that the root of the word (affirm) means "to declare one's support for; to uphold or defend." I frequently hear that employee satisfaction surveys indicate that affirmation is almost always more meaningful than financial rewards in maintaining employee morale. Given the current state of most budgets, I can't argue with anyone that says I would rather have some financial adjustments than affirmation ... you certainly can't eat or wear affirmation! However, there is a lot to be said about receiving some positive reinforcement, and the only cost is a little of your time.

The whole affirmation thing got me to thinking of a holiday movie classic that so many of us will watch for the umpteenth time over these next few weeks. In "It's a Wonderful Life," George Bailey gets the chance to see what a difference he made in others' lives. We probably won't have anything quite so dramatic as Clarence the angel affirm any of our lives, but think about how a letter of praise in support of a colleague might positively impact their life? What about that employee that works for you that always goes above and beyond? Have you given him or her the recognition they deserve? And don't forget family and friends, where affirmation might be the most critical element in being the best spouse, parent, or friend you can possibly be.

Affirmation is a big part of STMA's Annual Conference and Exhibition through our Founders Awards where we recognize some of our most dedicated peers for their service to the sports turf industry. This month's issue focuses on our conference and the myriad of programs and activities going on in Daytona Beach. And you might leave this issue somewhere your boss can see it, in hopes they might send some affirmation your way by sending you to Florida to gather with your peers. Take care! ■

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mike Goatley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



GET ON TRACK with STMA at the 24th Conference and Exhibition in Daytona Beach!

STMA heads to Daytona Beach,

Florida from Jan. 15-18, 2013 for the 24th Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition. The “World Center of Racing”, as Daytona Beach is known, welcomes millions of visitors every year to its varied attractions, sporting venues, restaurants, and 23 miles of beaches. Just an hour’s drive to the greater Orlando area, Daytona has found its success as a year-round tourist destination because of its temperate climate, proximity to other popular Florida cities, and hosting of locations and activities of interest that are unique to the area including the Daytona International Speedway, Florida Tennis Center, Ladies Professional Golf Association International (featuring two championship courses, The Legends and The Champions), Tomoka State Park, and Halifax Harbor Marina.

As STMA celebrates 31 years as the premier non-profit association for the men and women who manage athletic fields, it invests – more than ever – in its educational mission with the introduction of the STMA Academy and addition of several new tracks. The Academy was born out of member re-

quests for deeper educational opportunities pre and post conference; all sessions offer higher-level learning opportunities in hands-on, interactive workshop settings that can be built upon at future conferences and are included in the full registration price. Additionally, the total number of educational tracks available now at conference totals 11, up from nine in 2012; the addition of these two tracks raises both the number of sessions (up to 72 in 2013 from 64 in 2012) and the number of speakers (up to 74 in 2013 from 55 in 2012) for an even richer,

well-rounded experience. More than ever before, all conference attendees will be able to professionally capitalize on and benefit from the opportunities provided at the STMA conference.

The Exposition and Trade Show also provides excellent opportunities for networking with both STMA commercial members and leading industry vendors. Make sure and check out page 30 of this article for What to Do Next, to ensure that you and your crew are able to attend this invaluable investment in you, your staff and your facility.

Conference Highlights

The annual conference and exhibition in Daytona Beach has it all...Sessions. Sun. Seminars. Networking. Demonstrations. Ocean. Workshops. Expo. Beach...Everything you need in one location for the ultimate learning event of the year!

STMA REGISTRATION

TUES. JAN. 15 — 6:30 am - 6:30 pm
Hilton South Tower first floor lobby

WED., JAN. 16 — 7 am - 6:30 pm
Ocean Center

THURS., JAN. 17 — 7 am - 6:30 pm
Ocean Center

FRI., JAN. 18 — 7 am - 1 pm
Ocean Center

WHAT THE CONFERENCE INCLUDES:

- ⊙ All education sessions plus pre and post workshops inclusive of STMA Academy
- ⊙ More than 90 hours of education
- ⊙ Breakfasts & most lunches
- ⊙ Reception and Awards Banquet

24th Annual Conference & Exhibition
Tues., Jan. 15 - Fri., Jan. 18, 2013
Daytona Beach, FL

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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New This Year!

2 Keynote General Sessions



Ian Hill,
internationally
known speaker who
inspires change



Dr. Michael Mann,
climatologist and
Nobel Peace Prize
winner

Education Program starts one day earlier



**Introducing the
STMA Academy**
Higher level learning
opportunities included
in full conference
registration price

90+ hours of Education - Same Low Price

- **1 day education and trade show package available for \$140!**
- CEUs awarded by NRPA, NIAAA, ASBA, PLANET, GCSAA, IA, ASLA
- Florida Pesticide Recertification Credits also awarded
- Conference includes meals and one full day of pre-conference workshops
- **Now Featuring 11 Educational Tracks:** Industry Developments, Professional Development, Facility Management, Agronomic, Synthetic, Water, Sustainability, Baseball, Pest Control, Construction, and Research



**For the complete event and education schedule,
go to www.STMA.org or call 1-800-323-3875 for a brochure**

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS DEC. 15

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUES., JAN. 15

6:30 - 7:30 am	Continental Breakfast
6:30 am - 6:30 pm	Registration Open at Hilton
7 am - 5 pm	Full Day Seminar on Wheels*
11:00 am - 5 pm	SAFE Golf Tournament* NEW DAY & TIME!
1 - 5 pm	Half Day Seminar on Wheels*
2:30 - 5 pm	Academy-400 level education, certificate of completion, included in full conference price+ NEW!
3:30 - 7:30 pm	STMA Certification Exam*
6 - 9 pm	Chapter Officer Training (includes dinner)+

WED., JAN. 16

7 - 7:55 am	Women's Forum Breakfast
7 - 8 am	Continental Breakfast
7 am - 6:30 pm	Registration Open at Ocean Center
8 am - 12 pm	Conference Education (15 technical sessions)
1:30 - 2 pm	First Timers Reception
2 - 5 pm	Conference Education (7 in-depth sessions)
5:15 - 6:15 pm	Conference Networking Sessions
6:30 - 7:30 pm	Keynote Address: Ian Hill, internationally known speaker who inspires change NEW DAY & TIME!
7:30 - 10:30 pm	Welcome Reception & Casino Night^

THURS., JAN. 17

6:45 - 7:45 am	Certification Breakfast
7 - 8 am	Continental Breakfast
7 am - 6:30 pm	Registration Open at Ocean Center
8 am - 12 pm	Conference Education (21 technical sessions)
12 - 1:15 pm	Annual Meeting & Lunch
1:30 - 7 pm	STMA Exhibition with heavy hors d'oeuvres
2 - 6 pm	Committee meetings on the trade show floor NEW TIME!

FRI., JAN. 18

7 - 8 am	Continental Breakfast
7 - 8 am	Past President's Breakfast
7 am - 1 pm	Registration Open at Ocean Center
8 - 10:15 am	Conference Education (15 sessions)
8 - 10:30 am	Student Challenge
9 - 10 am	Commercial Member Meeting
10 am - 1 pm	Exhibition Open with Lunch, Innovative Sessions, Race Car Driver Autographs & Simulator
1:15 - 2:30 pm	Closing General Session with Dr. Michael Mann, climatologist - winner of the Nobel Peace Prize NEW!
2:45 - 5 pm	Academy-400 level education, certificate of completion, included in full conference price+ NEW!
6:30 - 10 pm	STMA Reception, Live Auction and Awards Banquet

SAT., JAN. 19

8 am - 12 pm	STMA Certification Exam*
8 am - 1 pm	ASBA Certification Exam*

*Preregistration and additional fee required
+Preregistration required
^ Additional fee required

STMA Networking Sessions

Wed., Jan. 16, 5:15 - 6:15 pm

Meet with your peers during this formalized networking session. Each category of membership meets separately to share issues and practical solutions.

Welcome Reception & Casino Night

Wed., Jan. 16, 7:30 - 10:30 pm

A must attend networking event! Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages courtesy of Welcome Reception sponsors Toro and Covermaster. For those who wish to gamble, there is a separate area for Casino Night and an additional fee to participate. All proceeds benefit the SAFE Foundation.

Annual Meeting & Lunch

(Members Only,
Registration Required)

Thurs., Jan. 17, 12 - 1:15 pm

All members are invited to enjoy lunch, hear about STMA's progress and meet your new Board of Directors.

Support SAFE



SAFE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tues., Jan. 15, 11:00 am - 5 pm

The SAFE Golf Tournament will be held at LPGA International, with two world-class four-star courses as rated by Golf Digest. The scramble format tournament will be played on the Arthur Hills Legends Course. The par-72 layout is a classic at 6,984 yards. It features wetlands, narrow pine corridors, small greens and strategically placed water hazards. Transportation, lunch, and prizes included.

SAFE CASINO NIGHT

Wed., Jan. 16, 8:30 pm

Gamble for a good cause! Set within the Welcome Reception, Casino Night is a fee-based event. There is no charge

to attend the Welcome Reception.

SILENT AUCTION

Thurs., Jan. 17 & Fri., Jan 18

Held during the exposition. Take home some great bargains. New items daily!

LIVE AUCTION

Fri., Jan. 18, 6:30 - 7 pm

Get some great technology, travel and gift items for great prices!

RAFFLES

Buy raffle tickets throughout the conference for a chance to win exciting items. The drawing will take place at the beginning of the Awards banquet (need not be present to win).

Last year's activities raised \$27,500.
This year's goal: \$35,000
STMA's charity, SAFE, will be holding many activities to raise funds for scholarship, education