

Membership Application

SportsTurf MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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Sports Turf
Managers Association
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Membership Category:

- Sports Turf Manager \$110
 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 _____

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*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

Take advantage of recorded Conference Education sessions!

STMA PARTNERED WITH PEACH NEW MEDIA again this year to bring you recorded education sessions. Log on to the STMA website to access the recordings in the Knowledge Center under Conference Education. The 2013 Conference had an exciting lineup of speakers and topics. Twenty different sessions of varying topics were recorded in their entirety to meet the diverse needs of Sports Turf Managers. The presentations available for purchase include:

Environmental Issues:

- Strategies for Maintaining Turfgrass in Response to “No Pesticide” Legislation
- Phosphorus - Environmental Issues
- Maintaining Sports Fields the Natural Way

Synthetic Turfgrass Surfaces:

- Tackling the Issues with Synthetic Turf - What Does the Research Say?
- Tale of Two Fields; Synthetic vs. Natural

Facility and Field Management:

- Athletic Field Use and Maintenance Planning
- 3 Keys to Providing High Quality, High Traffic Athletic Fields
- Building it Right for all the Right Reasons
- Converting from Cool Season to Warm Season Grass
- Managing Turfgrass Soil Physical Properties
- Turf Equipment Care and Maintenance

Cultural Practices:

- Making Plant Growth Regulators Work for You
- Back to Basics: Getting the Most from Your Granular Fertilizers
- Fertility Management for Sand-based Systems
- Water Management to Improve Turf Performance

Pest Control:

- New Strategies for Annual Bluegrass Control in Cool-Season Turfgrass
- New Options for Weed Control in Athletic Field Turf
- Common Diseases of Sports Turf

Baseball:

- Applying MLB Practices to Low Budget Facilities
- K-16 Baseball Field Maintenance & Renovation with Limited Resources

Professional Development:

- New Challenges, Take Risks, and Achieve Goals
- Communication and the Art of Conflict Resolution

In addition, nine quick tips for success in sports field management are also available for FREE! All recordings are available online only. These recordings benefit conference attendees unable to make it to concurrent sessions and sports turf managers unable to make it to the conference. The recordings are also valuable as a refresher throughout the year for sports turf managers to stay current and educated in the industry.

2013 Conference attendees receive a special discounted price of \$10 to purchase all of the recordings from this year's conference. But hurry this special pricing only lasts 60 days! Select “Full 2013 STMA Conference,” click purchase, and select “Conference Attendee” to apply the discount. Regular prices apply to non-conference attendees. Make sure to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to enhance your education and stay current with industry trends and research!



Correction

Last month we mistakenly ran the wrong photo of SAFE Scholarship winner Andrew Wilhelm of Purdue University. Here is Andrew, right, being congratulated by Boyd Montgomery of Toro at the STMA Conference Awards Banquet. We regret the error.

Join STMA for a webinar on fertility management

STMA WILL BE FEATURING one of the most popular education sessions from the 2013 Conference. On Thursday, March 21 from 11 am – 12 pm EST, Dr. Nick Christian's presentation “Fertility Management for Sand-based Systems” will be rebroadcasted online. The presentation includes basic information on the soil chemistry of sand-based sports fields and a discussion on how to manage these areas most effectively. The session will provide attendees with an expanded knowledge of soil chemistry, the ability to relate basic concepts to sand-based soil media, and options to manage sand-based sports fields. This session will be available to anyone for one low price of \$10. Registration will be available on the STMA website (www.stma.org) starting in March. STMA is committed to providing relevant educational content to help take you and your facility to the next level.

Are your bases covered

YOUR HEAD GROUNDSKEEPER and crew need to negotiate rigorous and often unpredictable issues regarding the playing surface at your stadium.

That's where the Sports Turf Managers Association comes in. STMA members are expertly equipped to deal with these issues and are up-to-date on all the latest information in the industry. Their expertise in resource utilization, operations management, and agronomics allow you to protect your players on the field and reduce your expenses while doing it.

Support your grounds crew's STMA membership for access to the latest information, education, and industry developments. For more than 30 years, STMA members have ensured their fields are among the safest, most playable and most beautiful around.

Are your bases covered? Is there an STMA member on your grounds crew?

To become a member, go online to www.stma.org or call 800-323-3875.

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: www.azstma.org

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.

Indiana -FORMING - Contact Clayton Dame, Claytondame@hotmail.com or Brian Bornino, bornino@purdue.edu

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.

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

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

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu

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 okstma@gmail.com

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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March 2013 - Expires August 2013 - RS1303

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)

- F Over \$1 million C \$50,001 - \$100,000
E \$500,001 - \$1 million B \$25,001 - \$50,000
D \$100,001 - \$500,000 A \$25,000 and under

5 Please also send a free subscription to the following people at the same location

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Continued from page 32

the field. By collecting this data we can use the information to concentrate cultural practices, such as aeration if needed and watch how the soil changes over time with traffic and organic matter build up, i.e., be most efficient with our time and resources.

Another area of interest in regards to the use of moisture sensors would be in our softball and baseball infield skins. Is it really necessary to flood your infields before a game or to apply smaller amounts building up to game day? Is it possible to obtain optimum playing conditions for your infield while maintaining consistent moisture content? This consistent moisture content would be based around infield materials, evaporation rates, weather and the optimum conditions you've established for your infield.

We have always felt it was important to continue to use as many "tools in the tool box" as possible. Expectations for field use go up each year and finding balance between usage time and down time becomes more challenging each season. Any edge we can find to become more efficient with time, resources, and staff is needed for use to continue to be successful in our business.

We have been very fortunate in the Midwest to have an ample supply of fresh irrigation water through lakes, river, and groundwater supplies. Many areas of the country have not been so fortunate, and over the next 2 decades fresh water will inevitably become a precious resource. As professionals we must prepare for the future by incorpo-

rating the technology available to us today in our best management practices. Though these programs and equipment can be a little intimidating at first, it will save you money, time, and resources in the long run if we take the time to use them. Whether it is a home yard, fairway, tee, green, or athletic field the investment in the future should be made today. ■

Brian McDougal is the Athletic Fields Manager for the Fisher County Park District, Fisher, IN and 4-year graduate of the turfgrass management program at Michigan State University, mcdougalb@fishers.in.us. Amy J. Fouty, CSFM, is Athletic Turf Manager for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at Michigan State University, fouty@ath.msu.edu.

Q&A

Making better decisions



BY DR. GRADY MILLER

Professor, North Carolina State University

Questions?

Send them to
Grady Miller at

North Carolina State University,
Box 7620, Raleigh, NC 27695-
7620, or email
grady_miller@ncsu.edu

Or, send your
question to

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

Q: One of our more common reasons to close a field is because it is too wet. Do you have any experience with the Lincoln Moisture Meter? I'm thinking it would be a good tool for me to use for making "field use" decisions and someone else could also use it if I am not on site at the time. What do you think?

Tommy Walston, East Carolina University

A: Sports turf managers are often innovators . . . and Tommy is one that is always thinking of ways to do things better . . . and asking the hard-to-answer questions! First, let talk about soil moisture meters. I have spent the past 10 years doing irrigation research so I have needed to use soil moisture meters on numerous occasions. But I have not specifically used the Lincoln Moisture Meter. That does not mean it would not be good for Tommy's proposed application.

Portable soil moisture devices that are commonly used in turf applications typically measure water content in the soil using a volumetric basis. Most of the meter types work based on the dielectric constant of the soil. Or in other terms, how easily an electrical charge can pass through the soil profile.

Soil is a composite material consisting of water, air, and minerals. Each of these affect the dielectric constant in the soil, but water in the soil is generally the most significant factor of influence. The best sensors use volumetric estimation via time domain reflectometry (TDR), time domain transmission (TDT), amplitude domain reflectometry (ADR), and frequency domain reflectometry (FDR). These technologies are usually stated in the descriptions for high-end soil moisture sensors.

I did a little searching around the internet looking for more in-

formation on the Lincoln Soil Moisture Meter. It is readily available for under \$100, simple to use, requires only one AA battery, and is compact in size. According to the product information it can be adjusted to soil type. But I could not find any information related to what technology it uses. Since it has only one probe it is not using one of the high-end estimation technologies, but with a metallic probe it surely uses some type of conductivity resistance measurement. To quote from the ads, "the meter reads in a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being completely dry and 10 indicating full saturation."

I have seen other soil moisture testers also use a scale rather than actual percentage soil moisture. Those devices that use scales tend to be lower cost, lower accuracy devices. The question then becomes do they work well enough? And I do not know the answer to that question.

As a researcher, I strive for accuracy in measurements. But accuracy is not always important, particularly when it comes at a high cost. For example, in a sand-based soil, the difference between dead and living turf may occur over a 5% soil moisture range. In a clay-based soil the difference in field capacity and permanent wilting could be over a 15% range. So, the heavier your soil, the more margin of error you have in evaluating soil moisture. Why spend \$1,000 on an accurate soil moisture device if an \$85 device is accurate enough?

Second, can the device be used to suggest a field closure due to excess moisture as Tommy proposed? Using a device that can repeatedly give an indication of soil moisture can be a very valuable management tool. Soil moisture meters are frequently used to help manage irrigation events. By finding a turf's

lower soil moisture threshold (just before wilt), then one could easily monitor the soil moisture status and determine when to add additional water. If the device will allow it, then one could just as easily evaluate saturated soils that would be too wet for activities. The literature on the Lincoln device suggests that a 4 to 6 range on their scale is sufficient water for average plants, implying that anything over a 6 could be excess.

We know that playing on a wet field is more likely to cause damage to the turf and the soil surface. The field may also provide less surface traction to the athlete and therefore increase the risk of injury to the athlete. So, knowing that the soil is saturated with water could be very beneficial. And since the information is coming from a device, not from just one person's opinion, many people may not be as skeptical with the decision to close a field.

While a seasoned turf professional usually has no problem making that call, a less experienced assistant, student worker, referee, etc., may appreciate a device that can provide additional information, and in some respects re-enforce decisions. Some of the human judgment has been removed or at least deferred to the turf manager's soil moisture experience calibration with a soil moisture device.

So, the work will be on turf manager to field test the device over soil moisture conditions to get comfortable with correlating the values on the device's scale to saturated soil conditions. It also may be helpful to test the accuracy of one of these simpler devices with a more sophisticated model. That may provide assurance to the field manager that the device is reliable and has suitable accuracy to evaluate a field. ■

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