

SportsTurf

MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Information of
Interest to the
Sports Turf
Managing Industry

**Summer
2007**

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Message from the President

Leadership is the heart and soul of any successful organization and at NCSTMA that is also true. I want to begin this message by thanking the Board of Directors and the Committee Chairs for all of their hard work this inaugural year. In less than a year, we have not only re-started the chapter but grown it to almost 200 local members. The credit for that goes to the dedicated people who hold those positions. Thanks for your dedication and tenacity to make this organization work.

We have a vision that as NCSTMA continues to grow we will provide field days, quality education and connectivity for Sports Turf Management professionals, vendors and design professionals. We envision at least two field days each year. The previous field day at Big League Dreams and the City of Tracy and the upcoming day at Davis this week are examples. In the future, we are looking to visit Raley Field in Sacramento, the 49ers headquarters in Santa Clara and AT&T (Pac Bell) park in San Francisco. We realize that these are lofty expectations, but feel secure that with the proper leadership and the solid support and enthusiasm of the membership, these can be achieved in 2008 and 2009. Do you have a project that would interest our membership for a Field day? If so, please let us know!

Education is another of our goals. We are currently working to establish opportunities for an annual Northern California Sports Turf Managers Institute. It is our vision that this

will begin as a half day event and grow into a two day event. As you might imagine, this type of event takes leadership and tremendous planning, but also resources to accomplish. We are currently looking into how we can obtain CEU's for our member's upward growth and advancement. Look to the spring for the first half day event. In the mean time, both Sacramento Area and the Bay Area will be testing the waters with a breakfast or luncheon meeting to share ideas. Look for the announcement and please plan to attend.

The leadership has also aligned NCSTMA with other organizations that share our passion for developing and managing quality facilities. Don Scholl and I, as the Park Operations Directors for Districts IV and II respectively, have worked with NCSTMA to provide access and co sponsor Education Sessions where CEU's will be available for our members. Ron Edwards is putting together similar program for the Education community and we are reaching out to CLCA, NCTLC and others to further expand opportunities. See the "UPCOMING EVENTS" in Modesto, Elk Grove and Marin County.

If we are doing a good job and you are enjoying what is provided, we can use more help. We still have open positions for Membership, Vendor and Turf Manger Committee Chairs. This message began with "leadership is the heart and soul of the organization". We still need help and a commitment in these positions, maybe you are the one?

I look forward to seeing you at the Summer Field Day at UC Davis!

Coming up...

SUMMER FIELD DAY

The Sports Turf Crew at UC Davis is looking forward to hosting Northern California Chapter of STMA next field day on August 22, 2007. You will learn about many different innovations in sports turf management. The day will begin with coffee and pastries at the Soccer Baseball Complex, which was recently converted to hybrid bermuda grass. The new football stadium will be our second stop of the day. This facility features a synthetic turf system that is a monofilament and has a state of the art irrigation system. We are using Rainbird's new 115E which has a capability of covering up to 115 feet. Eco Chemical



will be demonstrating a new machine for paint removal on synthetic surfaces.

Our next stop will be Toomey Field, the Aggie's old game field. Here we will examine one of the older sand-based fields in the United States. Getting back on the bus we will head to lunch at the new campus dining commons. You might find this to be above the average dining experience with many choices and chef's on hand at several different food stations. Following lunch we will conclude the day at the Soccer Baseball

Complex with demonstrations on turf maintenance and in-field management. Please join us for this day of interaction with other sports turf managers and help us continue to build a strong organization.

RAIN BIRD SUPPORTS U.C. DAVIS... by Scott Warr

My name is Scott Warr with Rain Bird. I work with all the sports turf managers in Northern California. I have been on the Board since the re-incarnation of the Northern California Chapter of the STMA. There are many knowledgeable turf managers out there and I believe there needed to be a forum for Turf Managers to network with each other and share best practices.

I am excited about our second field day at UC Davis because I have worked closely with them to provide a synthetic field "flushing/cooling system" that is safe, effective and easy to use. Synthetic fields are becoming more popular among professional sports teams, colleges, high schools, and park departments. Because synthetic fields are relatively new, there are many maintenance questions that need to be discussed.

Rain Bird has decided to sponsor this field day because we feel that we have a great solution for washing and cooling these fields. The sports turf management team at UC Davis, headed by Mark Lucas, is on the cutting edge of many of these best practices. I hope you will all find time to attend the Field Day on August 22nd.



Reports from the Board of Directors

FROM THE TREASURER...

by Mike Smith

To borrow an old saying, "money makes the world go 'round". Fortunately, outstanding support from the National Chapter, our new members and the success of our Spring event has kept the Northern California Chapter of STMA spinning along quite nicely. From the Treasurer's point of view, the revival of NCC/STMA involved reinstatement of our status as a Non-profit Corporation, reinstatement of federal and state tax numbers, opening our checking account and paying various dues and fees. Funds for the initial efforts of the chapter came from monies held in escrow for our chapter by STMA National and in a local account. It has been, however, the outstanding success of our Membership Drive/Spring Function at the City of Tracy Sports Complex and Tracy Big League Dreams that is carrying us forward. This event alone netted the chapter over \$4,400.00. The Northern California Chapter has aggressive goals for providing educational opportunities for our local members and promoting the development and maintenance of superior sports facilities in our region. The continued support of our event sponsors and the growth of our membership base will ensure that we have the funds to fulfill these goals.

FROM THE BAYAREA...

by Ed Dempsey

The biggest news is that the STMA National Conference is coming to San Jose in 2009. It will be very exciting to be the host chapter for the event, and to see more people from our local area get to attend and benefit from all the programs offered. It will also give us the opportunity to show off some of the great work we are doing in Northern California. For the near future in the Bay Area portion of the chapter we are planning to have a small scale breakfast or lunch meeting. This will be hosted by one of our local cities and will allow local Sports Turf Managers to network together and share ideas on how they have solved problems common to all of us. We will be sending out further details on this soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 22

NCC/STMA Summer Field Day
UC Davis

Contact: Christiana Tjhin, 916-290-5988

September 14

CPRS District II, In Association with NCSTMA
Landscape & Equipment Expo

Elk Grove
Contact: Jerry Fox, 916-947-6794

October 12

Jay Beals Speaking @
CPRS District I Event
Marin

Contact: Samantha Holland-Wagner
707-825-2150

Sessions:

Introduction to Synthetic Turf
Installation Case Studies
Lifecycle Costs; Synthetic vs. Natural Turf

Reports from the Committee Chairs

COMMUNICATIONS

by Tony Wood

While we have enjoyed an exciting start to the rebirth of The NorCal STMA Chapter, the www.norcalstma.org web site remains in it's infancy. Currently it serves as a source for retrieval of past meeting agendas, minutes, brochures, applications, and a link to the national STMA site. While that is a lot of good information, it barely scratches the surface of the wealth of our collective knowledge.

I enjoy talking with fellow professionals as much as the next guy, but the ability to share that knowledge via the internet has revolutionized most aspects of our life. Sports turf is no different. I would encourage each of our members to share a bit of their knowledge for the world to share by way of the www.norcalstma.org web site. Whether its a story of a real life problem solved, a long used often repeated bit of knowledge, or a hot topic that you find multiple clients facing, posting on our web site is the fastest and most efficient way to share that knowledge with the folks that need it.

We hope to continue to produce and distribute our newsletter on at least a bi-annual basis and are always looking for new ways to get the word out. Would it be great to respond to a question you've answered 100 times with, "Check out www.norcalstma.org, they have a ton of information about that."? So drop us an email and refer a friend to www.norcalstma.org knowing that it has the information that our clients and co-workers need.

DESIGN/SPECIFIERS

by Bill Fee

For designers, a membership in the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) provides an opportunity to develop expertise in the fine distinctions of athletic and recreation fields through sharing of knowledge and exchange of ideas. The national network of STMA members includes academics, turf managers, vendors, contractors and other designers. At the October 5-9, 2007, American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting and EXPO in San Francisco, and throughout 2007 and 2008, the Northern California Chapter of the STMA will be extending invitations to professional designers to join the Northern California Chapter of the STMA.

EDUCATION

by Ron Edwards

I have assumed the lead for the educational category for STMA because my past experiences as a coach, athletic director and district administrator have allowed me to see first hand the challenges that educational institutions face. By building a network of members we can address well designed, well constructed and well maintained athletic fields that provide a safe high performing venue for student-athletes and community members. The groups we are targeting are coaches, athletic directors, grounds and maintenance superintendents, district administrators and leaders in youth organizations that may joint use educational facilities. This strong support group will provide a network and contact base to insure success in meeting these challenges.

Board of Directors

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Ed Dempsey, Jensen Corporation
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Spring Field Day

BIG LEAGUE DREAMS IN MANTECA & TRACY SPORTS COMPLEX IN TRACY



Safe, playable, consistent and aesthetically pleasing sports fields are the goal of every sports turf manager. On May 23, 2007, the Northern California Chapter of the STMA played a roll in educating over 150 sports turf managers and affiliated industry professionals by hosting the first event of the new chapter. The day included a tour of the Manteca Big League Dreams sports park led by BLD Maintenance Supervisor Brandon Morgan. Jay Beals of Beals Alliance also facilitated discussions on sports facility design and synthetic turf maintenance while the attendees enjoyed the view of the mock up of Wrigley Field from the comfort of the overlooking restaurant.



After finishing the Big League Dreams tour, group traveled to the Tracy Sports Complex for a delicious tri-tip lunch prepared by Ewing Irrigation. After the meal, Tracy Parks Supervisor Don Scholl and his crew presented their approach to maintaining quality sports fields on a limited budget. The Tracy staff also conducted a mini equipment show during which the group was given the opportunity to try out some of the latest sports field maintenance equipment available.



Attendees of the kick-off event included landscape architects from the Bay Area and Sacramento, the San Francisco Forty Niners Head Groundskeeper, staff from grounds crews of various school districts, an Assistant Athletic Director and Grounds staff from Cal Berkeley, and UC Davis' Sports Maintenance Division staff as well as crews from various Northern California and Nevada cities.



Efficient Irrigation for Sports Turf Fields

BY SCOTT WARR, RAIN BIRD PUBLIC AGENCY ACCOUNT MANAGER

Irrigation has come a long way from the flood irrigation used decades ago. As a young man I was in charge of watering my uncle's alfalfa field with corrugated pipe. I would open some gates and wait for the water to flood to the end of the field. I would repeat the process of opening different gates until the entire field was watered (except for the small island in the middle that the water would not climb).

With the invention of the original impact sprinkler in 1933, we began increasing our distribution uniformity and efficiency. We are constantly looking for better and easier ways to apply the water to our fields without disrupting the playability of the field. Many are trying to sell the magic cure-all for our irrigation needs. No one product can solve all our irrigation needs. In order to achieve maximum efficiency, four key steps must be followed.

1. Proper irrigation system design
2. Use the most water-conserving products available
3. Proper system installation
4. Proper maintenance and usage

Let's take a look at each one of these.

1. Proper irrigation system design:

There is no generic irrigation design that can be used on all sports turf fields. There are many factors to consider before we begin slapping heads in the ground. For example, what type of turf will be used, water pressure, wind conditions, sun exposure, soil types, water windows, etc. A licensed landscape architect is trained and knowledgeable in understanding and designing for these various factors. Creating an efficient irrigation system that takes 12 hours to water may be unacceptable if the water window is from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am.



2. Proper irrigation products.

After the site conditions are determined, one must choose the proper product for the desired application. I recently visited a park where a large turf area was irrigated with 12" pop-up rotors! There have been many advances in irrigation products. These products, when used properly, can deliver water more precisely with greater uniformity than in the past. A landscape architect and turf manager should understand the products benefits and limits.

3. Proper system installation.

One thing that I consistently observe in the field is a disconnect between the landscape contractor and the turf manager. Many turf managers are not allowed access to the landscape contractor or project during construction and are "handed the keys" only after the project has been signed-off and the contractor has gone. Selecting a reliable contractor that has been trained, certified, and experienced in sports turf installations is imperative. A good contractor will install the system the way it was designed. For example, I have seen many new systems that have the same rotor nozzles on all the heads regardless of the pattern or zone.

4. Proper maintenance and usage.

This is one area that is often neglected due to limited resources. After the system is installed, there are periodic adjustments that must be made so the irrigation system can continue to perform at its optimum. For example, adjusting rotor arcs, adjusting head height, checking for leaks, etc.

Sprinklers that are not level can drastically reduce the distribution uniformity of the area. A good turf manager knows that a system works only as good as it is maintained.

The efficiency and quality of the sports turf is dependant on all 4 key steps of an irrigation system. If any one step is neglected, the health and quality of the turf is compromised. If a system is designed improperly, the best products will not irrigate properly. If the system is designed properly with the right products and installed properly, but then neglected and not maintained, efficiencies are lowered and turf quality suffers.

It is my hope that by reforming the Northern California Chapter of the STMA, we can work together to network ideas and best practices that will help all of us provide and maintain quality turf fields.

