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Welcome to KAFMO’s new look! Our newsletter is now a news magazine. For years we have been encouraging our members to take their fields to a new level. Well, the KAFMO board of directors has taken the newsletter to a higher level.

A lot of time consuming work goes into each newsletter issue. Kudos to Jeff Fowler and Linda Kulp for their time and effort in editing, producing and distributing our newsletter in the past. Starting with this issue, KAFMO has teamed up with Brainerd Communications, Inc. to produce this quality Between the Lines magazine. While KAFMO still provides the copy that is included within these pages, Brainerd Communications, Inc. will publish, distribute and be responsible for the advertising.

On behalf of the KAFMO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the companies that have advertised in this issue. This new format brings with it an opportunity for our organization’s sponsors to advertise in ways that weren’t available with our old newsletter. Sponsors can now choose to promote their company in color with advertisements that range from 1/8 page to a full page. Distribution has increased from 350 to over 1,000 recipients.

Look forward to these publications 3 times a year but continue to refer to KAFMO.org for up-to-date info.

The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization was formed in 1994 by a small group of individuals who were concerned about the quality of the athletic fields in Pennsylvania. In 1997, KAFMO became incorporated as a chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association.

Today, KAFMO is over 300 members strong and each individual is committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers in the Keystone State.

Our goals are to improve the safety, playability and appearance of all athletic fields in Pennsylvania. As an organization we strive to accomplish our goals through seminars, field days, publications and networking with other professionals in the sports turf industry.

Any individual, institution, organization, vendor or supplier who has sincere interest in athletic field maintenance is welcome to become a member. Our members represent a wide range of professionals in the sports turf industry. From high school, collegiate and professional athletic facilities, to parks and recreation departments, municipalities, educators, youth leagues, contractors, and commercial vendors, our membership base is made up of a broad range of individuals who pool their knowledge together for the good of our craft.

Annual Events include:

- Summer - Field Day(s)
- October - KAFMO Cup Open golf tournament – proceeds benefit the Awards Fund
- January - Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference
- January - Northeastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference
- February - Annual KAFMO conference featuring seminars, exhibits and the annual awards program
- February/March - Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference
- March - Northwestern Pennsylvania Turf Conference

Educational Grants and Research

KAFMO has donated over $47,000 for educational grants and sports turf research since 2001. KAFMO provides scholarships for sports turf education and sponsors collegiate teams in the Sports Turf Managers Association’s Collegiate Challenge at their annual national conference. Research beneficiaries include: Sports Turf Managers Association’s Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE); Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council’s fund for sports turf research at Penn State University and the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Research Fund, Inc.

2008 KAFMO/STMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<td>Phil Shirk, Milton Hershey School (1 year)</td>
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<td>Recreation and Parks</td>
<td>Bobby Piccolo, Derry Township (2 year)</td>
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<td>Chris Lessig, Manheim Township (1 year)</td>
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<td>Education/Extension</td>
<td>Jeff Fowler, Penn State Extension (2 year)</td>
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<td>Nancy Bosold, Penn State Extension (1 year)</td>
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<td>College/University</td>
<td>Kevin Bevenour, Millersville University (2 year)</td>
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<td>Keith Evans, Lebanon Valley College (1 year)</td>
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<td>Professional Sports Facility</td>
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<td>Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies (1 year)</td>
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<td>Commercial</td>
<td>Steve LeGros, Turf &amp; Dirt (2 year)</td>
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<td>Dave Bomberger, Tolinson Bomberger Landscaping (1 year)</td>
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<td>Mike Dickert, Manor Township (2 year)</td>
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<td>Jim Koontz Jr., Cumberland Valley School District (1 year)</td>
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2008 KAFMO OFFICERS

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<td>President</td>
<td>Dan Douglas</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Phil Shirk</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mike Dickert</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Chris Lessig</td>
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<td>Executive Secretary</td>
<td>Linda Kulp</td>
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MEMBERSHIP

Our brochure can be downloaded at: http://www.kafmo.org/membership.htm

The magazine will be free to KAFMO members.

On the Cover...

Lincoln Franklin Financial Field
Photo by Tony Leonard.
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Andre Aymar

Andre Aymar is in the 2-year Turfgrass Management program at Penn State. Andre is a native of Nova Scotia. He first learned of a career in turf management from his father who is a golf course superintendent. While attending Penn State, his passion turned from golf turf to sports field management. In January, Andre represented Penn State in the student challenge competition in Phoenix at the STMA annual conference. Andre and his teammates took first place in the 2-year student category.

Robert Galdieri

Robert Galdieri is a 4-year Turf student at Delaware Valley College. He is from Scranton, PA. Robert began his turf experience at a golf course near his home, but as his college career progressed, he knew that sports turf was where his true interest lay. Last summer he was able to get a job at PNC Field, home of the AAA Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees, under the direction of Mr. Steve Horne, a three-time STMA field-of-the-year recipient. On his application, Robert indicated that for him there is nothing more gratifying than providing a quality playing surface for professional athletes.

Mitch Tracey

Mitch Tracey is a 4-year Turfgrass Science major at Penn State. Mitch is from Schuylkill Haven, PA. He became interested in sports turf management from working on the grounds crew at Beaver Stadium. Last summer he completed an internship at the Reading Phillies under the direction of our president, Dan Douglas. Mitch has been described by Dr. Andy McNitt as an excellent student, one who definitely has the sports turf “bug.”

Upcoming Events

Details about the events will appear on www.KAFMO.org

June 27, 2008
Field Day at Lincoln Financial Field

August 6-7, 2008
Penn State University Field Days

October 13, 2008
KAFMO Cup golf tournament

January 6-8, 2009
Eastern PA Turf Conference and Trade Show

February 13, 2009
KAFMO Athletic Field Conference

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### Traffic Scenario

**A.** In the best case scenario there is 100% cover from grass shoots with approximately 3/4 inch of thatch. Below the thatch is approximately a 1-inch mat layer containing crowns and rhizomes mixed with soil, surface roots, and thatch.

**B.** Wear affects the grass part of the field system. At the beginning of a traffic scenario the grass leaves are worn by crushing, tearing, and abrasion from foot traffic. Growth slows on injured shoots and eventually there is insufficient leaf elongation to produce grass clippings.

**C.** Continued traffic removes most of the green leaves and exposes the thatch.

**D.** Removing traffic at this time will allow leaf regeneration from crowns that are protected in the thatch and mat.

**E.** Continued traffic leads to removal of the thatch and exposure of the mat.

**F.** This is the beginning of “breakthrough” since some of the soil contained in the mat is exposed. Note that the soil still contains stable aggregates and soil structure remains sufficient.

**G.** Removing traffic after the thatch is removed still allows for vegetative recovery from the crowns and rhizomes that are in the mat. However, the system does not immediately recover to produce both green vegetation and thatch as described above (A). Thatch does not regenerate itself.

**H.** First the mat layer must produce new shoots.

**I.** As recovery continues thatch is produced when shoots mature and die, and that takes time, possibly one growing season (A).

**J.** Traffic that occurs on a system without thatch (H) quickly wears away the green shoots and once again exposes the mat (F).

**K.** As traffic continues the mat is removed and the soil is exposed. Compaction affects the soil.

**L.** Exposed soil leads to wet, soft, and muddy conditions.

**M.** Continued traffic leads to breakdown of soil structure.

**N.** Particle aggregation is destroyed by the physical grinding and shedding of the soil, especially near the surface. Organic matter decreases since there is no new production of roots, shoots, and thatch. Organic matter is a key binding agent in the process of soil aggregation.

---

**Important Layers of the Athletic Field Profile**

**Green Vegetation** – This is the most visible portion of the sport field profile. It is primarily composed of the sheath and blade from the grass plant.

**Thatch** – An intermingled layer of living and dead grass stems, roots, and other organic matter, found between the soil surface and the grass blades. A half to 3/4 inch layer of thatch is beneficial in high traffic areas because it provides cushion and keeps the player separated from direct contact with the soil.

**Mat** – A tightly intermingled layer, composed of living and partially decomposed stem and root material and soil from topdressing or other sources, immediately below the thatch. The mat contains crowns, rhizomes, and surface roots that quickly initiate new shoot growth. The protective layer of thatch is only regenerated as shoots die following a cycle of active shoot growth. Divots smeared with soil are an indication that the mat has been penetrated.

**Soil** – In this scenario soil represents the exposure of the sand, silt, or clay root zone material. Soils high in silt and clay become soft and muddy when wet and are easily compacted. Breaking through the thatch and mat of sand-based fields results in poor stability.

**Compacted Soil** – Continued traffic on bare soils results in aggregate destruction and soil compaction.
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wrote Chip Baker, Asst. Baseball Coach, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

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Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization

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Membership Information

What is KAFMO?
The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization is a group of individuals committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers in Pennsylvania. The organization’s main goals include:

- Improving the Safety, Playability, and Appearance of all athletic fields in the state.

These goals will be achieved through seminars, field days, publications, and “networking” with those in the sports turf industry.

Who should be a member of KAFMO?
Any individual, institution, organization, and vendor/supplier who has sincere interest in athletic field maintenance. Members of KAFMO represent high school, college, and professional facilities, parks, and recreation departments, educators, youth leagues, contractors, and commercial vendors.

Subjects Addressed by KAFMO
- Grass species selection
- Fertilization
- Pesticide use
- Soil amendments
- Baseball infield mixes
- Pitcher’s mound/batter’s box repair
- Grass cuttings
- Drainage
- Irrigation
- Aeration
- Top dressing
- Equipment demonstration
- Various other management techniques which improve playability, safety, and appearance of athletic fields.

Annual KAFMO events include:
- Athletic Field Conference in February
- Sports Turf School in June
- Symposium in October
- Various other KAFMO sponsored events are conducted throughout the year.

Member Benefits
Each new KAFMO member will receive a 3-ring binder which includes: technical materials, a vendor resource guide, and a membership roster. Scholarships and Meeting Grants are available. New members also receive a subscription to SPORTSTURF magazine and KAFMO’s quarterly newsletter.

What is STMA?
KAFMO is the Pennsylvania Chapter of the national organization known as the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), www.sportsturfmanager.org.

Annual Membership Dues

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Call for more information
(717) 921-8803

Annual KAFMO Awards
- “Field of Distinction” and “Founder’s Award” for outstanding work along with scholarships to turf students and funds for sports turf research are presented each year at the annual conference.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization
1451 Peters Mountain Road
Dauphin, PA 17018-9504  (717) 921-8803
kafmo@aol.com
www.KAFMO.org
### Membership Registration Form

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**Affiliation (Check one)**

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- [ ] Education/Extension
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South Middleton Township
Earns Field of Distinction honors

By Clyde Baker

Originally named Holly Woodcrafters Field when it was built in 1970, Bowman Memorial was renamed the field in memory of an active volunteer for the township’s Youth Baseball Association who lost a battle with cancer. Mr. Bowman spent countless hours grooming the infield, mowing the outfield, lining the field, as well as coaching. It features Hagerstown loam soil and Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass turf mix. It does not have an irrigation or drainage system.

The field is now leased to the township’s youth baseball organization and continues to be maintained by organization volunteers. The field provides annual seeding, fertilizing, aerating, and weekly mowing, while the volunteers prep before and after games and practices, and mow if needed. This cooperative effort provides players with the best field possible.

The field hosted 60 games last year, and practices were conducted 5 nights a week for 3-5 hours per day from late March through July, as well as baseball camps and Teener fall ball. The field also is home to the Boiling Springs High School junior varsity squad and Carmen Fusco’s Baseball Camp.

Uhler is responsible for more than 300 acres of park land ranging from athletic fields to wildlife conservation areas for the 15,000-resident township, which is south of Carlisle. Included in his charge are nine baseball and softball fields, seven soccer fields, two football fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, walking trails as well as other recreation facilities. He is responsible for supervising employees, budgeting, and maintaining these areas.

Employed by the township since 1996, Uhler was named supervisor in 2004. His full-time staff includes Paul Martin, Paul Smith and Bill boxer.

“I am able to balance my duties with my personal life because I have a very supportive wife, Stacey, who is very flexible regarding my job require-

(Continued on page 14)
ments,” says Uhler. “A lot of our family time is spent at the township parks for activities that my children are involved in.”

Uhler says he challenges himself every year to provide quality and safe facilities for the residents of South Middleton. “It makes my job, exciting, challenging, and fulfilling,” he says.

“This year we are purchasing another 15-foot, pull-behind flex mower that will assist us with our mowing needs as we open 5 new acres of athletic fields.”

**Pleasure and pain**

“The biggest pleasure is that my position allows me to give back to the community. Other departments in local government tell residents what the can and can’t do,” Uhler says. “Parks and recreation gives a return of enjoyment, relaxation, and competition to residents and athletes of the township.”

On the other hand, “The biggest obstacle is having the manpower to get everything done. That’s not a ‘headache,’ just a speed bump,” he says. “We all owe thanks to our men and women of the armed forces who provide us with the freedom and opportunities to live our lifestyles as we do.”

*Clyde Baker is a free lance writer based in Harrisburg.*

---

**2007 Maintenance Program**

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- April 1: Overseeded with 700 lbs. of Champion GLS turfgrass mix perennial ryegrass
- May 5: Used 18-3-6/25% sru, 0.125% Dimension at 150 lbs/acre
- June 20: Used 18-4-7/50% Uflexx, sop, organic fertilizer. Rate was 150-200 lbs/acre
- July 15: Used Submerge 0.5g insecticide. Rate 70-80 lbs/acre
- July 30: Used 46-0-0/100% Uflexx. Rate 75-80 lbs/acre
- August 4: Used Drive 75 DF with Triplet Lo-dor, Quicksilver, and 18-3-6 liquid fertilizer
- Sept. 6: Used 46-0-0/100% Uflexx. Rate 75-80 lbs/acre
- Oct. 10: Used Pell lime at 500 lbs/acre
- Oct. 27: Core aerator bidirectional
- Nov. 25: Aerified with Earthquake

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