Between the Lines
Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization

Inside:
CONTINUING TURFGRASS EDUCATION
Opportunities in the Keystone State
TIPS
Training, Ideas, Professionalism, Solutions
...and more!

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization
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Play fall golf with KAFMO

The 2010 KAFMO Cup Golf Tournament will be held at Dauphin Highlands (www.golfdauphinhighlands.com) outside Harrisburg Monday October 11, 2010. This year’s event will benefit the Waddington/Harper Awards Fund and promises a good day of golf, food and beverages for all players and volunteers. Registration begins at 11 am with a 12 noon shotgun start, dinner, awards and the raffle will follow–lots of prizes and contests on a great golf course will help make this year’s tournament enjoyable and challenging for all. Hole sponsorships and registration are online at KAFMO.org and we will be mailing registration forms to you.

– Bobby Piccolo, Tournament Chairman

New tournament in western PA this year

For the first time KAFMO will be holding a scramble tournament in the western part of Pennsylvania. New Castle Country Club will host the event on Monday, September 27. Mark your calendars now! $400 per foursome with $150 Hole, Tee and Contest sponsorships available. All proceeds will benefit the KAFMO scholarships. For info contact Jeff Fowler, jtf2@psu.edu.

On The Cover...

Noel Davidheiser, Head Groundskeeper, and Exeter Twp. Little League President Russ Hart. They won a KAFMO Field of Distinction Award for their whole complex, which includes four Little League baseball fields, two Little League softball fields, two T-ball fields and one regulation playing field.

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MEMBERSHIP

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

The magazine will be free to KAFMO members.
TIPS: Training, Ideas, Professionalism, Solutions

Using flags for field availability

Notifying users of field conditions is a huge task when dealing with multiple sites and a long list of inside and outside users. One thing to consider is using colored flags to indicate the status of a field. We began this process about five years ago and it has become a tool that we are not sure how we lived without it. We began using standard golf flags of green and red on the tee poles and after enduring numerous thefts, users removing flags and the nuisance of having to carry flags from field to field we developed what we believe is a better system. Along with this system we have incorporated a yellow flag (a recommendation that came from our users) for all baseball and softball fields.

Flag colors are simple – Green – the field is 100% usable, Red – the field is not usable, Yellow – the infield is not usable but the outfield is usable. Each field has a set of flags that makes it convenient for the grounds staff to make the necessary changes, this is followed up via email to all users using a simple excel spreadsheet (see below) that we used to send daily and now we send only when we need to make users aware of field status changes. We have incorporated locks to the flags which has eliminated the theft and the chances of the dishonest user from removing the flags.

In addition we have all fields numbered and signage that we believe is clear and understandable.

Simple yet effective is what we all strive for to make our jobs easier, and this form of communication is invaluable.

— James F. Cornelius, CSFM, West Chester Area SD

Managing turf in dry conditions

Even though rainfall has been sporadic at best during May and June in Pennsylvania, we are still not close to drought conditions. However it might be a good time to review how to manage turf under dry conditions. One of the mistakes that many grounds managers make is overwatering. Irrigating too frequent, will allow the turf to remain green, but does not allow the turf root system to grow deeper in the soil. The deeper the root system the better the turf will survive in hot dry conditions. The best advice is to water infrequently and deeply. Irrigating athletic fields so that the entire field receives an inch of water every two weeks is more than enough to maintain and sustain your athletic fields throughout the summer. This will ensure green and safe fields for when fall sports begin in August. – Dave Anderson, Hempfield SD

Clover Control

The late spring – early summer growing season of 2010 was a bumper year for clover. The clover flowers looked like a sea of white around the perimeters of the athletic fields. Clover may be great in pastures but it is not desirable for safe playability on athletic fields. What can be done about an overabundance of clover? First of all, resist the urge to spray the clover with herbicide now. Herbicide sprays for clover will give at best a short-term solution and if done in the heat or dry conditions of summer may do more harm to fields than good. A fall application of herbicide would be more beneficial.

A better and more permanent solution should be to increase your nitrogen levels on your fields. An abundance of white clover in turf is a symptom of low nitrogen. Clover is a legume and thrives in low nitrogen conditions. By increasing your annual nitrogen fertilization by a pound, will, over a couple of years, greatly reduce clover populations. However, before you institute any change in your fields’ fertility programs, take a soil test to determine the exact needs of your fields.

— Dave Anderson, Hempfield SD

Plan fall renovation work NOW

Start planning fall field renovation work now. Field renovation during the fall and winter can save a lot of time later on especially for sports like baseball and softball. Often the playing surfaces are either frozen or too wet to get work done in the spring. We try to get all our spring sports fields “game ready” after the last football game of the season, including turf work. Getting work done before winter weather sets in can save time and work in the spring.

Now is the time to start planning and scheduling. Kevin Yaiser, Lebanon Valley College

10 Tips to Better Crew Training

You know that training is vital for the safety and productivity of your crew. Obviously, you instruct your staff about what tasks to do and train them on how to do them. You may pop in a training video occasionally on a rainy day. But, have you developed a formalized crew training program that will improve the effectiveness, efficiency and morale of your staff? If you do not have a program in place, consider these techniques to get the most out of your training time. Develop a cross training plan within your team and cross departmentally. Among life’s inevita-

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Using flags for field availability.
Trainees to more quickly grasp concepts and training is a successful method that helps the session each time. It is a fact that peer-taughting a different crew member teach a training bring forward ideas.

Cross training of your crew outside of your team has many benefits, too. It exposes your staff to the responsibilities of other departments, which creates a better understanding and appreciation for that department’s efforts. The end result is a lessening of “competitiveness”, an increase in camaraderie, an opportunity to share staff during vacations and illnesses, and a focus on achieving the facilities’ goals. Your employee retention will increase due to the satisfaction of your crew learning of new tasks. This also can create new job opportunities within your organization.

Consider developing a regular training schedule. Institutionalize a regular time for formalized training, i.e., the 3rd Monday of every month at 8 a.m. Putting it on the schedule and publicizing it helps you and your team to commit to it.

Seize the moment. Training is very effective when it occurs in quick response to a need. So even though you are elbow deep in something else, and you have formal training slated for a different timeframe, you should make every effort to satisfy an immediate need for information.

Involve your crew in planning. People gravi-tate to what they like and are more engaged if they are involved. Rather than selecting the training topics, ask your crew what they need to know. If you have a large crew, consider appointing a small subgroup to bring forward ideas.

Involve your crew in teaching. Consider having a different crew member teach a training session each time. It is a fact that peer-taught training is a successful method that helps the trainees to more quickly grasp concepts and apply the learning to their jobs. This is also an excellent professional development exercise for the trainer.

Use training time for non-technical improve-ment. It’s a simple fact that employees fail in their jobs because of an inability to develop a trusting relationship with you and others. Building good relationships is a direct result of being able to communicate well. Consider bring-in a speaker from a local community college, the Dale Carnegie chapter or a trainer from a large corporation in your area, to present tech-niques to your group about how to strengthen their communications skills. Other good topics to consider are improving your writing skills, improving your presentation skills, stress management, the importance of good ethics, etc.

Create a better work environment through diversity. Meeting your facilities expectations demands that you incorporate strategies to understand other cultures. Consider hosting brown bag lunches (provide lunch) and have discussion about the various cultures represented on your staff and by your constituencies. Do you have anyone on your crew who is Hispanic? Consider having lunchtime training on learning basic Spanish, taught by these crew members.

Use demonstration techniques. When training your crew on a new technique, product or piece of equipment follow this process:

Begin the process by having the trainees observe, from alongside, the trainer as the trainer actually performs the job.

Show the workers how to perform the task and explain the key elements. Be sure to explain why this task must be done, when it is done, why it is important that it be done correctly and the impact if it is not done correctly.

Allow the workers a second opportunity to watch the trainer to perform the task. The first time through, the trainer was probably not performing the task at the same rate of speed as normal because conversation is interspersed with the demonstration. This second time through, the workers are simply watching so that the trainer can perform the task at “production speed.”

Allow the workers to perform simple elements of the task. In this phase of the instruction, the trainer and trainees are performing the task together with the trainer performing at least some of the task and the trainer coaching as necessary.

Allow worker to perform the entire task with coaching as necessary from the trainer. Ideally, this is a one-try operation.

Observe the workers performing the entire task without supervision. For each task, this is the “final test.” When each worker can perform the task without supervision, he or she is considered trained.

Allow workers to perform task without continua-ted supervision. At this point the trainee’s train-ing for that particular task has been completed.

Use your equipment and product suppliers for industry insights. Of course this group provides a logical, ready-made cadre of trainers for your staff on products and equipment. But, these sales and technical representatives also have a wealth of industry insight. They visit many athletic facilities and see many different aspects of the indus-try. Invite them to provide an “Industry Insights” session, which should create a lot of discussion.

Leverage KAFMO, Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, STMA annual conference, and other sources of education. Everyone on your staff will likely not be able attend every educational session offered by KAFMO or STMA national. Hold a brown bag (provide lunch) session and have each person who was able to attend give a short synopsis of what they learned at the exter-nal educational event. by STMA Headquarters staff. ■

Wanted: Pictures

Send us pictures of the good, bad and even ugly of your fields, you and/or your crew working or anything else related to the sports turf industry. The pictures will be part of a GrasStains Production piece presented at the 2011 KAFMO Conference and may also be in the national production at the STMA Conference. Email pictures to KAFMO@aad.com.
Continuing Turfgrass Education Opportunities in Keystone State

Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council
Penn State Golf Turf Conference, November 16-18, 2010, Nittany Lion Inn, State College

2011 Eastern PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, January 11-13, 2011, Crowne Plaza Valley Forge, King of Prussia


2011 Western PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, February 22-24, 2011, Four Points by Sheraton Pittsburgh North, Mars

See www.paturf.org or call 814-237-0767 for more information.

Green Industry Education Committee for Southeastern PA
The Green Industry Education Committee (GIEC) is comprised of Extension Educators with skills and expertise in a wide range of subjects, including turfgrass science, horticulture, plant pathology, weed management and integrated pest management. We collaborate with faculty in Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences to provide current information that solves problems and serves as a foundation of knowledge that Green Industry professionals can use in their work. If you would like to subscribe to the GIEC email list to receive programming notifications send an email with your Name, County, Area of Interest (Landscape - Nursery, Turf, Arborist, Greenhouse, Garden Center) to njy1@psu.edu.

If you’re looking for resources to provide in-house pesticide safety training for your Spanish speaking employees, we’ve put together a collection of fact sheets, PowerPoints, and videotapes that you can use free of charge. [Video tapes are loaned on request, and you must pay postage for their return. For a complete listing of the materials available, please contact Nancy Bosold at 610-378-1327 or nfb1@psu.edu.

http://montgomery.extension.psu.edu/Horticulture/GreenIndustryEducation.htm

Online education via Penn State’s World Campus program
Penn State Online degrees and certificates are identical to those earned on campus and taught by the same faculty. The convenient online format allows students to balance work and family responsibilities while pursuing the education to advance their careers.

Basic Certificate in Turfgrass Management

Whether you work in golf course maintenance, professional lawn care, grounds maintenance, sod production, sales and service, athletic field maintenance, or research support, this program can help you excel in your craft. And the online courses in this 15-credit minimum course of study can be completed around your own schedule.

As a student in this program, you will build the knowledge and skill necessary to assess, treat, and manage turf in any climate or terrain. This program addresses pest management, turfgrass cultural systems, and turfgrass edaphology—and culminates in a series of case studies in turfgrass management.

The program has been approved by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) for 1.5 education points per college credit hour toward meeting entry and/or renewal requirements for Class A and/or Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) status. For more information and to review the Class A or CGCS Code of Standards visit, http://www.gcsaa.org/. All of the credits you earn in this program can be applied toward Penn State’s online advanced turfgrass certificate.

Bachelor of Science in Turfgrass Science
This 120-credit program is a comprehensive course of study that builds upon the advanced turfgrass management certificate and will allow you to deepen your expertise in agriculture and business management and earn a bachelor’s degree.

This program’s 86 major credits cover a wide range of topics essential to contemporary turfgrass management. In addition to covering pesticides, weed control, morphology, entomology, pathology, edaphology, and cultural systems, the program is designed to sharpen your skills in such areas as business management, speech communications, and organic chemistry.

The program has been approved by the GCSAA for 1.5 education points per college credit hour toward meeting entry and/or renewal requirements for Class A and/or Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) status. Completion of the advanced turfgrass management certificate portion of the program fulfills GCSAA’s education requirement as a 400-hour certificate program for Class A membership.

Advanced Certificate in Turfgrass Management
This 30-credit certificate program is a comprehensive course of study that builds upon the basic turfgrass management certificate program. It’s ideal for those who already have a bachelor’s degree in another field and for those who are working toward a bachelor’s degree in turfgrass. You can apply the credits earned in this program toward a bachelor’s degree in turfgrass science.

Completion of the program fulfills the education requirement for Class A membership in the GCSAA. The program has been approved for 1.5 education points per college credit hour toward meeting entry and/or renewal requirements for Class A and/or Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) status. Completion of the entire certificate program fulfills GCSAA’s education requirement as a 400-hour certificate program for Class A membership. For more information and to review the Class A or CGCS Code of Standards visit, http://www.gcsaa.org/.

Associate in Science in Turfgrass Science and Management
This program has been approved by the GCSAA for 1.5 education points per college credit hour toward meeting entry and/or renewal requirements for Class A and/or Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) status. Completion of the entire certificate program fulfills GCSAA’s education requirement as a 400-hour certificate program for Class A membership. For more information and to review the Class A or CGCS Code of Standards visit, www.gcsaa.org. You can apply the credits earned in this program toward a bachelor’s degree in turfgrass science.

Useful websites
http://extension.psu.edu/counties
Turfgrass Management http://turfgrassmanagement.psu.edu/
Vegetation Management and Research http://vm.cas.psu.edu/pubs.html
PSU Entomology Dept. http://www.ento.psu.edu/extension/fact_sheets.html
Artillery Fungus - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/d/d/dddd2/
Find pesticide credit meetings: https://www.paplants.state.pa.us/PesticideApplicator/MeetingSearch.aspx
Pesticide license information: http://www.pested.psu.edu/

Online master's degree in turfgrass management
The first-of-its-kind program offers professionals who manage golf courses

(Continued on page 14)


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TARP MACHINE VIDEO!
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“Great Service..., The Best...”
wrote Chip Baker, Asst. Baseball Coach,
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Chip’s comments confirm what we hear from the many groundskeepers who use a COVERMASTER® raincover to keep their fields dry and ready for play.
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Covers for football and soccer fields are also readily available. TARP MACHINE™ lets you roll the cover on and off in minutes. TARPMATE™ roller comes in 3 lengths with safety end caps.
Performing an irrigation audit

1. To obtain the most accurate results, perform the audit at the same time of day the system normally operates. Avoid extremely windy or rainy conditions.

2. Determine the square foot area of irrigated turf and record this value on the audit report. Draw the area on graph paper to scale.

3. Turn the irrigation system on and flag each sprinkler head in individual zones. Use a different color flag to represent separate zones to eliminate confusion. Plot each sprinkler head on the graph and label it with a letter (a-b-c).

4. Measure and record the distance between each sprinkler head (head spacing).

5. Use a soil probe to pull multiple soil samples from across the irrigated area.

6. Examine the soil samples and determine the effective rooting depth. The plant’s effective rooting depth is the depth of soil, in inches, that contains a large number of live, growing roots. Find an average rooting depth from all soil samples. Record the average rooting depth on the report form.

7. Determine the soil type using the “feel method.” A clay soil will feel sticky and form a ribbon when squeezed between the fingers. A sandy soil will feel gritty, and a loamy soil will be a mixture of sand, silt and clay. Record this information for later use.

8. Conduct the remaining steps of the audit individually on each irrigation zone, beginning with zone 1.

9. You will need 15 to 20 catch cans or devices to perform the irrigation audit (depending on the number of sprinkler heads in a zone). Straight-sided containers such as coffee cans, tuna and cat food cans work well, or rain gauges can be used.

10. Place the catch cans at each sprinkler head and halfway between heads. This simple placement pattern requires the least number of catch cans while providing adequate coverage of the tested area. When placing catch cans at each head, make sure the cans are far enough away from the heads so as not to interfere with the spray pattern. Plot the location of each catch can on the graph and label with a number (1-2-3).

11. Irrigate the zone for a short period of time. The run time should be long enough to allow for five to 10 rotations of a geared rotor or impact sprinkler head. Normally, testing run times range from 10 to 30 minutes for large sprinklers. While shorter testing run times permit faster auditing, running the system longer will lead to more accurate results. Record the run time.

12. While the system is running, use a pressure gauge to check and record the water pressure at each sprinkler head.

13. After the zone designated run time is completed, measure and record the depth of water caught in each catch can. A ruler can be used to accurately determine the depth.

14. Record all individual catch depths and head pressures to their appropriate locations on the graph.

15. Average all catch can depths for the zone. Record this value.

16. Look for distribution problems within the system. Keep in mind that other heads not on that particular zone could add to the depth of some catch cans, especially those cans near each head.

17. If problems exist, determine the cause (pressure, wind, head alignment, etc.).

18. Repeat steps 10 through 17 for the remaining zones.
# 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
- The KAFMO Cup Golf Tournament in October

Various other KAFMO sponsored events are conducted throughout the year.

## Member Benefits

Each new KAFMO member will receive a 3-ringed binder which includes: technical materials, 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.

## Annual Membership Dues

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## What is STMA?

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

## Annual KAFMO Awards

“Field of Distinction” and “Fowler Founder” awards along with scholarships to turf students and funds for sports turf research are presented each year at the annual conference.

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Take the anxiety out of giving presentations

By Roger Seip

W hat’s scarier to most Americans than spiders, heights, or even death? There hasn’t been a horror movie made about it yet, but more than 75% of Americans surveyed report that they suffer from “glossophobia,” a debilitating fear of public speaking. Statistically, far more of us claim that we would prefer death to giving a speech; even comedian Jerry Seinfeld used to joke that at a funeral, most people would rather be lying in the casket than delivering the eulogy.

Why is the prospect of trying to communicate information in front of even one person so horrifying? Most glossophobes fear looking bad, being criticized, suffering rejection, and losing business or friends, all because they are certain they will forget what they’d planned to say. Maybe you have had the experience of forgetting a speech or presentation, or you’ve seen it happen to someone else, and you don’t want it to happen to you. Ever.

Most people memorize speeches by word-for-word repetition and try to deliver it exactly as they’ve written it. You probably don’t realize that this method of learning is actually setting you up to forget what you’re supposed to say because it creates tremendous stress, which is in turn the number one killer of memory.

Or if you do manage to remember every single word you’d planned to say, the effort requires so much mental energy that you come off as a terrible communicator. You’re not really there while you’re speaking because all of your efforts go into remembering what comes next. If, heaven forbid, something distracts you, or someone interrupts you with a question during a memorized presentation, thinking about anything other than “What comes next?” can throw you completely off-track. Your mind may literally go blank, just as you feared.

And there’s one more problem with word-for-word learning: 93% of our communication happens non-verbally. The majority of the message your audience receives has very little to do with the actual words you say but with body language, tone of voice, gestures, and facial expressions. So you can’t expect to convey ease and expertise non-verbally if your mental and physical energies are completely preoccupied with delivering a verbatim speech. You’ll simply be too tense, and it will show.

What about the security blanket of an outline or notes? You may feel you need notes to stay on track when giving a presentation, but if you’re tied to those notes, you aren’t free to make eye contact, a key element of non-verbal communication. You’ll also be stuck behind a podium, and if people can’t see two-thirds of your body, that has a serious impact on the 93% non-verbal communication aspect of your presentation. Notes may make you feel a little better, but they also take away a crucial tool for your effectiveness.

If you’re fluent in your topic, you shouldn’t need to consult your notes, and your audience of one or many will sense this on a subconscious level. However, if you feel you must use notes, consult them very little or not at all, and you’ll gain huge credibility as an expert.

When you know what you’re going to say and that your presentation is strong, public speaking may be a little nerve-wracking, but it’s exciting, too. Try these tips to help turn that stomach-turning anxiety into the rush of great communication.

1. Know what you’re talking about. When you prepare an organized presentation of any kind, you must be knowledgeable about the company, product, or situation. Talk about things you actually know well. If you’re not confident that you know all that you need to, commit to doing thorough research and learn what you need to know to feel and look expert. If you truly don’t know what you’re talking about, it will show, and all the tricks and techniques in the world won’t help.

2. Decide on a few key points. Good keynote speakers typically don’t have more than three or four key things for the audience to take away from their presentations. The classic presentation formula is a story that makes the audience laugh in the beginning, a few key points for them to take away (usually illustrated with stories), followed by an emotionally moving story at the end.

Another basic formula for effective communication is to tell your audience what you’re going to tell them, tell them, and then tell them what you told them.  

3. Create visual triggers. Invent pictures in your mind and “store” them in various places around the room where you’ll deliver the presentation. The pictures then become your speech. For example, if one of your points is about achieving goals, you can envision a set of goal posts as a visual representation of that concept.

4. Relax, have fun and be you. People respond best to a message when the person delivering it is genuine. With sufficient preparation of the right type, you’ll feel comfortable enough to be yourself in front of a group. You can then demonstrate how much you believe in what you’re saying. When you can relax and be an authentic human being, you tap into powerful communication.

You’ve undoubtedly heard a few presentations both good and bad, so you know it’s a fact: you listen to and respect those speakers who talk to you, not at you. A conversation is always better than a lecture, isn’t it? When you are preparing to make a presentation, know that people don’t mind if you stumble over a couple of words; in most cases they don’t even notice. What they will notice, though, and mind a great deal, is being read to or BS’d. If your audience feels as if you’re insincere or unknowledgeable, they may give you real reason to be a glossophobe! But if you’re prepared, knowledgeable, and relaxed, you can expect to get the results you want.

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Webb Cook, a KAFMO member and Executive Vice President of Liberty Sports, LLC in Conshohocken, spoke on synthetic turf maintenance at this year’s Sports Turf Managers Association Conference in Orlando. Here are some notes from the discussion.

Cook said you need to let the infill settle in on a new synthetic field—don’t start brushing it right away. It takes 4-5 weeks to settle. You can’t water the field to accelerate this settlement!

He also said big topdresser machines move the carpet around; better to use a utility vehicle rather than moving it around all the time.

Cook said standard practice includes drag brushing once every 3 weeks; the idea is to get the infill material settled and staying settled rather than moving it around all the time.

Cook is not 100% sold that brushing helps keep carpet fibers upright. “Perhaps, but it’s possible these installations could use more infill material,” he said. “Manufacturers don’t like too much brushing; they view it as additional wear.”

Cook stressed the importance of removing debris from synthetic surfaces. “Don’t let it build up,” he said. “It’s imperative to get leaves off the field as soon as possible.”

Keep all contaminants off the field. He recommends using a pull-behind rotary brush that picks up some infill but then screens it back into the field.

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For field hockey, the first year playing on the carpet is the worst, Cook said. To re-level infill in spots, drag another piece of the synthetic carpet, fiber-side down. This helped settle infill for one audience member, who added that this method did not create any static, which of course just brings the rubber back to the top.

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For high-wear areas, such as the “short corner” in field hockey, you must keep infill levels up; these areas can become completely devoid of infill if they aren’t tended well.

It is still important to convince coaches to rotate practice areas just as you would on natural fields.

(Continued on page 14)
2010 KAFMO CUP

Save the date...
Monday October 11, 2010.

The 2010 KAFMO Cup Golf Tournament will be held at Dauphin Highlands (www.golfdauphinhighlands.com) outside Harrisburg Monday October 11, 2010. This year’s event will benefit the Waddington/Harper Awards Fund and promises a good day of golf, food and beverages for all players and volunteers. Registration begins at 11 am with a 12 noon shotgun start, Dinner, awards and the raffle will follow–lots of prizes and contests on a great golf course will help make this year’s tournament enjoyable and challenging for all. Hole sponsorships and registration are online at KAFMO.org and we will be mailing registration forms to you.

– Bobby Piccolo, Tournament Chairman

Upcoming Events...
Mark your Calendars!

September 27, 2010
For the first time KAFMO will be holding a scramble tournament in the western part of Pennsylvania. New Castle Country Club will host the event on Monday, September 27. Mark your calendars now! $400 per foursome with $150 Hole, Tee and Contest sponsorships available. All proceeds will benefit the KAFMO scholarships. For info contact Jeff Fowler, jtf2@psu.edu.

October 11, 2010
KAFMO Cup Golf Tournament, Dauphin Highlands Golf Course, Harrisburg.

February 18, 2011
15th Annual KAFMO Athletic Field Conference
Continuing Education...
(From page 6)

and sports complexes a convenient way to become leaders in their profession while remaining on the job.

“The turfgrass industry is a much more sophisticated enterprise today,” said A.J. Turgeon, professor of turfgrass management and director of Penn State’s online turfgrass programs. “It takes a new breed of turfgrass manager—one who is more astute about the advancing technologies—to be a proficient manager.”

Bob Ehrler of West Hills, NY, was the first graduate of Penn State’s online bachelor’s degree program, earning a bachelor of science in turfgrass science. Ehrler, a golf course consultant and builder of golf courses and sports fields, said this about the online program: “It allowed me to get a turfgrass science degree while still being able to work.” He appreciated the flexibility of online courses, noting, “You can work at your own pace to obtain a goal that might otherwise be unobtainable.”

That’s what Turgeon envisioned when he designed the courses he was teaching in the classroom for the Web. At first, the transmission speed of computer modems constrained what types of information he could send his students. Turgeon currently is upgrading the turfgrass courses to incorporate dynamic displays and other features to enhance the learning environment for students.

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Fax: 814-865-3290
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Web: www.worldcampus.psu.edu/turfgrass-management.shtml

Synthetic Turf...
(From page 12)

mixing into the synthetic surface is a dilemma, too, said Cook. “Dirt gets into the carpet and you just have to stay on top of getting it out,” he said. “If you let it get wet then it’s really tough to get out.”

Cook recommended having your synthetic field deep cleaned every 3-4 years, at a cost of $3,000-$5,000. This process, which one audience member said he could do in 6 hours on a football field, includes de-compacting the infill, freshening the carpet fibers, and cleaning out dirt and other contaminants. The audience member said the current trend is deep cleaning once a year after a field is 3 years old. He added that to keep dust and small particulates out of a field, management should “plug in upfront money” for these deep cleanings that eventually will be needed.

“Dead fiber” is a fact of life on synthetic fields, even on monofilament systems. You may collect 5-10 pounds of fiber in a trash can—this is normal, Cook said. Right now it is legal to put them in regular trash for landfills now, though he says the industry is working on other answers.

Please don’t drag soccer or other goals on the synthetic turf—pick them up. They can catch seams so they need to be lifted. Work with coaches to rotate, rotate, rotate.

Cook said he is not a fan of anti-microbial disinfectants that coat the carpet fibers and pointed to Dr. Andy McNitt’s study at Penn State showing staph doesn’t originate or live on synthetic fields. “If you use a disinfectant once a year for a few thousand dollars, any thing living will be killed and it can help clean the carpet,” said Cook.

Or, an audience member suggested managers could buy enzymes, which he recommended.

If you want a two-toned field, have alternate panels put in rather than relying on striping the field, which can wear the fibers and move too much infill around, said Cook.

Cook said gluing gives a flatter seam and a wider bond. He doesn’t see any benefit to gluing and sewing seams. In-lays are always glued and this is where you see problems with pieces coming loose. To repair, make sure and clean the carpet and you just have to stay on top of getting it out,” he said. “If you let it get wet then it’s really tough to get out.”

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When using a Terraplas or similar system to cover the field, watch how much weight you put on the field, you can still damage the fibers or the base.

Always ask for extra carpet and keep it outside so it stays the same “fade” color as what is on your field.
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