



SIDELINES

**Texas Sports Turf
Managers
Association**

txstma.org

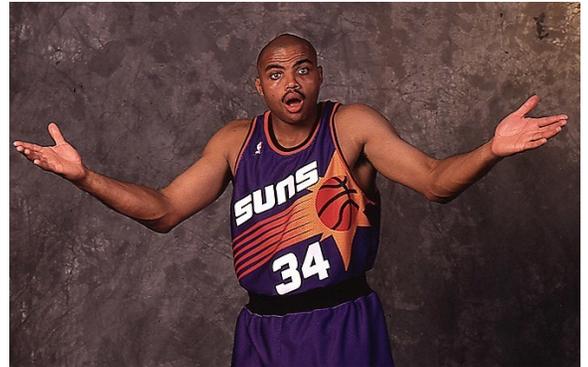
Summer 2017

Providing education and training for safer and healthier sports turf facilities



Wait, its SUMMER already!?!? The first half of 2017 has flown by so fast. We have had 3 amazing members open their facility doors to host field days and show us the behind the scenes along with an always fun Clay shoot to raise money for the three TXSTMA scholarships we will give out at the end of the year.

Now that schools are out, spring playoffs are over, we can all take a deep breath. **Like Charles Barkley said” the main thing to do is relax and let your talent do the work”.**



For a lot, summer is the time to let your talent shine through. We are between seasons, Bermuda is loving the sun and warmth and you can do more of those things you know need done....Talent.



Like I mentioned last issue, Texas is home to some very talented sports turf managers. It doesn't matter if you are managing the turf at Minute Maid Park or a small ISD, you are all talented.

Take pride in your talent. Take pride in your abilities. Most importantly, take pride in yourself. I encourage you to trust your knowledge and also seek advice from those in your network when you need “reassurance”. When you attend an event like a TXSTMA Field Day or TTA conference, don't just listen to the speakers. I encourage you to sit with people you don't know, get to know them, grow your network.

“Never confuse the size of your paycheck with the size of your talent.” Marlon Brando

As always, if there is anything I can do to help any of you, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.





SIDELINES

We love our Sponsors!

2017 Sponsorship Program

FIRST, we want to say a great big THANK YOU to our generous and wonderful sponsors who made 2016 terrific and helped have a great first half of 2017. Thanks to their generosity and support, we were able to host Field Days throughout the state and provide first class education, product and equipment demonstrations, yummy meals and refreshments, and outstanding networking opportunities.



We couldn't do it without you, and we can not do it without you in 2017!



Click the logo to the left to learn more about the 2017 Sponsorship Program. You can also contact Chapter Executive Carol Cloud or any board member for more information.





SIDELINES

2017 Event Schedule & Sponsors

TBD

R1 Fall Field Day

Oct TBD

**R2 Fall Field Day
FC San Antonio**

TBD

R3 Fall Field Day



**Texas Turfgrass Conference & Show
December 5-7, 2017
Arlington Convention Center**

Thank you to our 2017 Star Sponsors.

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Still plenty of time to have your company right here with our other great sponsors!

Contact the TXSTMA office for details!



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Region 1 – Spring Field Day MoneyGram Soccer Park, Dallas

April 6, 2017



We had a great day in Dallas at MoneyGram Soccer Park thanks to Troy Crawford and his outstanding staff!

And of course, we couldn't have done it without our great sponsors!



BBQ Lunch sponsored by Tri Tex Turf and Xstream Sports Fields! Thank you!

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Bronze Lunch Sponsors







Casey Reynolds Ph.D. appointed Executive Director of Turfgrass Producers International

Reynolds comes to TPI from the position of assistant professor and turfgrass extension specialist at Texas A&M, where he coordinated statewide turfgrass research and extension programs. He was the creator and editor of the program’s website, AggieTurf.tamu.edu, and developed much of its educational content. Prior to joining Texas A&M, he served as a turfgrass research and extension associate for North Carolina State University (NCSU) from 2003-2013.

Reynolds is a passionate advocate of the benefits of turfgrass and intent on delivering the message of their usefulness in urban environments. His professional career has been rooted in science, combined with the curiosity of a researcher and the ability to communicate with people on multiple levels. In the positions he’s held, he’s proven to be equally effective as a speaker in formal presentations; a leader and contributor on boards and committees; and an informative resource for groups, businesses and individuals. He’s at home in an office or in the field. He brings these strong assets to the TPI team.

Reynolds grew up in rural North Carolina, and although his family didn’t farm, they lived on a farm with livestock, pastures, and a huge garden. His summer jobs were all plant related and a golf course internship in 1996 prompted his interest in turfgrass. He says, “It’s amazing some of the things we ask turfgrasses to do—and they do them.”

He earned his BS in Crop Science, his MS in Crop Science and Business Management, and his PhD in Crop Science, all at NCSU.

He has been married to Diane Silcox Reynolds since 2013 and they happily anticipate the arrival of their first child, a little girl, in May. Diane has a PhD in entomology and works for Adama, an agrichemical company.

Asked what TPI members should know about him, Reynolds said, “I’ve heard so many great things about TPI, I’m excited to be working with them and eager to connect with them. I’m looking forward to supporting them on all fronts, especially in making sure their voice is heard on the issues TPI sees as most important to the turfgrass industry and beneficial to the membership.”





**Friday
May 12
BBVA
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**Region 3
Spring Field Day**
Education, Tours, Field and
Products Demonstrations,
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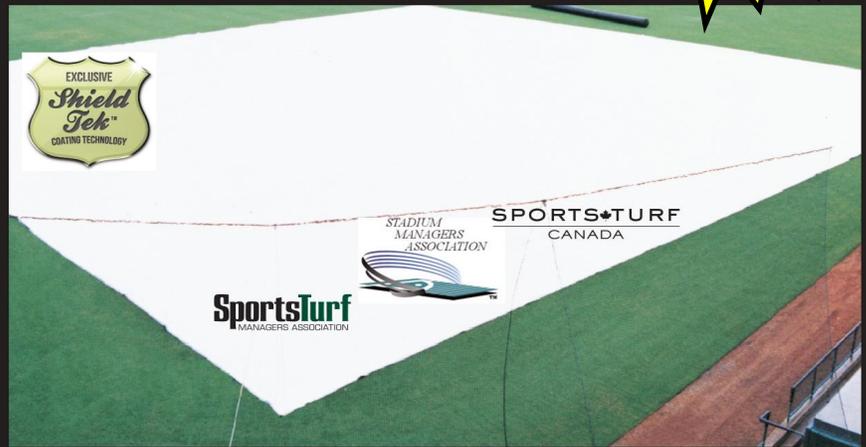
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We had a fantastic day at BBVA Compass Stadium, home of the Houston Dynamo.

Dan Bergrstrom CSFM and his staff did a great job hosting the event. Dan has contributed greatly to the TXSTMA with his service and is always a great host.

Thank you Dan!

And thank you sponsors for your continued support. We had a great day, but our photographer was unable to make the trip! If you have any good shots from the day, please send to

txtstmainfo@yahoo.com and we will get them posted.

Thanks!



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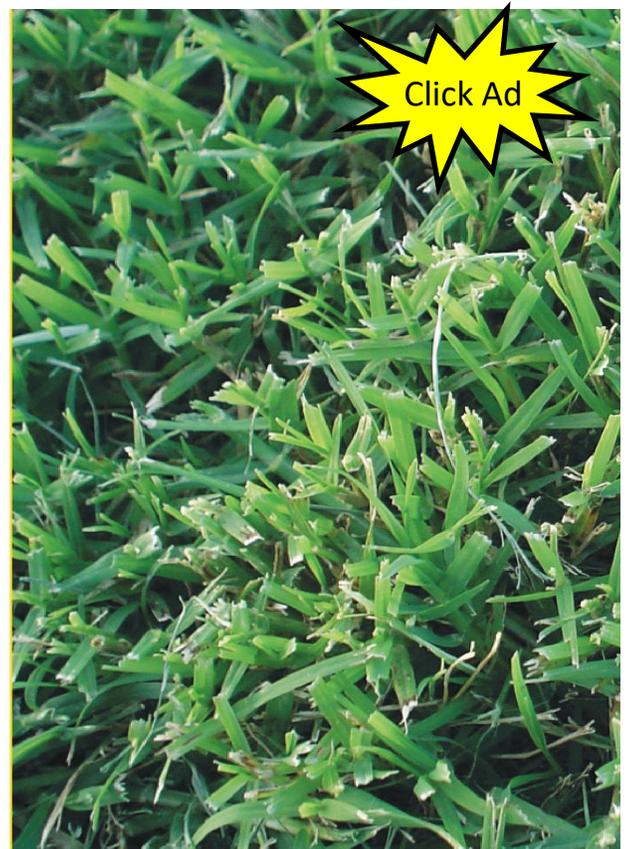
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Texas A&M University Turfgrass Program Highlighted

SportsTurf

From time to time, Toro Grounds for Success newsletter talks to turf schools around the country to get a snapshot of current research and how it could shape tomorrow's practices. [Toro] talked with Ben Wherley, Ph.D., of Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Wherley is an associate professor of turfgrass science and ecology in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences.

According to Wherley, hands-on experience outside the classroom is a big part of the turf program at Texas A&M. One opportunity is the Aggie Turf Club, which allows students to interact with industry professionals and guest speakers, go on site visits and connect with internships.



The turf program also has a strong relationship with the university's campus athletic department. Students who are interested in sports turf careers can work closely with athletic field manager Craig Potts and assistant athletic field maintenance manager Nick McKenna.

In addition, Texas A&M is in a prime location to take advantage of volunteer opportunities at PGA tournaments and other events. Last year alone, groups of students volunteered at the AT&T Byron Nelson Tournament in the Dallas area, the Dell Match Play event in Austin and the Shell Houston Open.

The university even hires several undergraduate student researchers each year. These students help collect data and oversee research trials, which opens their eyes to future opportunities in graduate school and the turf industry.

Beyond work experience, Texas A&M strives to provide students with other ways to gain exposure to the turf industry. Students attend the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) conference each year, as well as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) show. Wherley also credits a strong Texas A&M alumni base for providing valuable networking connections.

The hands-on learning doesn't stop inside the classroom, either. Wherley and soil physics professor Dr. Kevin McInnes co-teach a new course called Sports Field Construction, in which students build an actual sports field. Right now, Wherley's students are building a 5,000 sq. ft. USGA putting green, doing everything from surveying the site to installing drainage and irrigation to planting grass.

The course also has a lab component in which students run physical soil testing to understand how various types of sand will perform in an athletic field or putting green — not only in terms of water management, but also in terms of playability. It's intended to give students a fundamental grasp of soil physics in sand-based root systems.

Another high-impact learning experience is the Turf Management Systems course, in which students are given a facility case study and must develop a management plan that includes both agronomic and budgetary considerations.

Regardless of the course, there is strong faculty involvement with students both in and out of the classroom. It all adds up to a solid agronomic knowledge base in soil fertility and physics, as well as plant physiology and water usage.

On the research side, Wherley notes that Texas A&M has a multidisciplinary turf program, meaning that there's a lot of collaboration among various disciplines. Researchers on turf pathology, turfgrass breeding, water quality and environmental quality issues all work together to solve turf problems.

Staff recently moved into a new 12,000 sq. ft. research facility, called the Scotts Miracle-Gro Facility for Lawn and Garden Research. Texas A&M works with Scotts on developing sustainable nutrient management programs for southern landscapes.

University researchers also work closely with the United States Golf Association (USGA). In fact, they are currently working on a three-year project for the USGA to develop construction specifications for the depth and composition of sand-capped fairway systems.

In this method, a layer of sand is placed over existing native soil prior to establishment, allowing turf managers to better manage salts and create more playable conditions after heavy rain events.



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Texas A&M is also working with the USGA on a multi-year shade study for determining minimal light requirements for zoysiagrass and bermudagrass cultivars in fairway and rough situations. Plus, the university is part of the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI), a multi-state collaborative project with four other universities. This initiative is sponsored by the USDA with the goal of developing new warm-season grass cultivars that can tolerate prolonged drought and salinity.

One of the projects Wherley is most excited about is a partnership with Texas A&M's engineering department to develop a new technology for conserving water in the landscape.

Urban landscape irrigation runoff is a growing problem, not only wasting potable water but also potentially causing water quality issues by carrying bacteria, excess fertilizer nutrients, sediment and more into local bodies of water.

For the last two years, a team co-led by Wherley and Dr. Jorge Alvarado, associate professor in Texas A&M's Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution, have been working on a solution. The result is the patent-pending Landscape Irrigation Runoff Mitigation System (LIRMS).

LIRMS is built from two main components: a sensor that can detect when runoff is happening, and a connection to either the main sprinkler system controller or individual sprinklers so that irrigation can be temporarily paused or stopped when runoff occurs.

This non-invasive system can be installed into a curb, where it senses runoff and pauses landscape irrigation for a given amount of time. As a result, irrigation is applied in shorter, intermittent pulses, which allows a more efficient and complete soaking of the soil to take place.

The current focus for this three-year project is testing and perfecting LIRMS to be even more efficient. But so far, the results have been extremely positive. Tests show the system has the potential to save 50 to 75 percent of runoff, dramatically improving soil moisture per gallon of water that's applied through irrigation systems. The system is expected to be available to the public within the next few years.

These examples are just a taste of the promising work going on at Texas A&M University. For more information about other research projects and the school's overall turf program, please visit soilcrop.tamu.edu.

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1. Educate customers about efficient water-use.
2. Grow demand for water-saving technologies, products and services.
3. Provide real solutions to today's water challenges.
4. Position your company as a leader in smart water-efficient practices.

Resources - The Irrigation Association has developed a library of free resources to help industry firms and professionals, green associations and water providers promote Smart Irrigation Month. Use the following resources to learn more:

March 2013 webinar, "Smart Irrigation Month — How to Run a Winning Campaign," where three 2012 Smart Marketing Contest winners shared their efforts (can be viewed on the [Smart Irrigation Month YouTube channel](#))

Smart Irrigation Month [logo artwork](#) for your website and marketing materials

The Irrigation Association store offers free Smart Irrigation Month [bumper stickers](#) and [labels](#).

[Articles](#) for customer and employee newsletters Sample [proclamation](#) for your local government to declare July as Smart Irrigation Month

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Welcome to the
2017 DFW Clay Shoot



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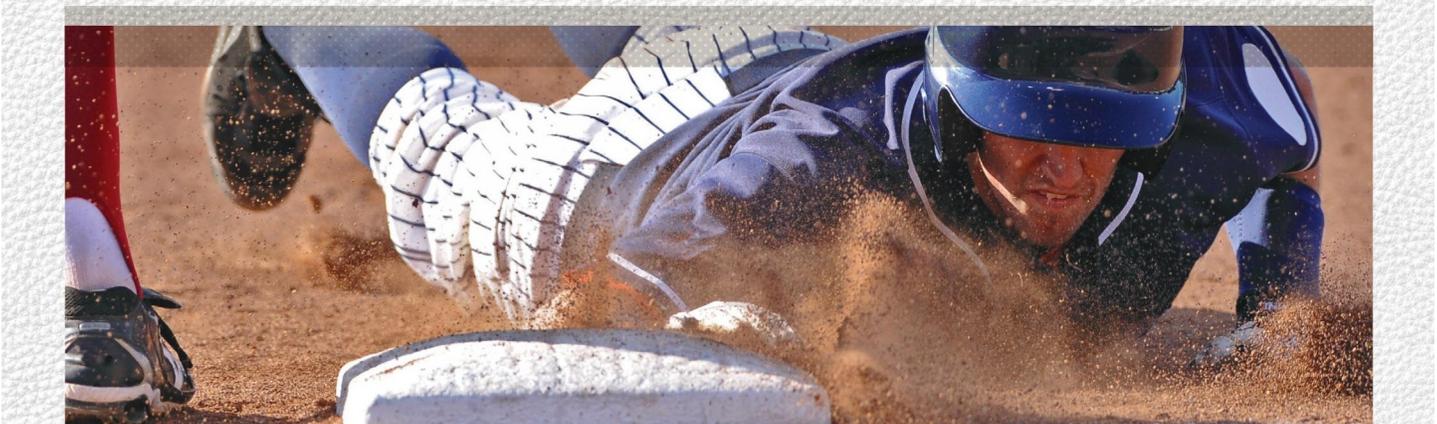
Thanks to all who participated in the DFW Clay Shoot. We had great speakers and lots of fun on the range! And we raised lots of \$ for scholarships! See you in 2018!



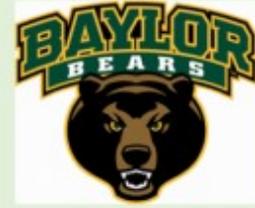
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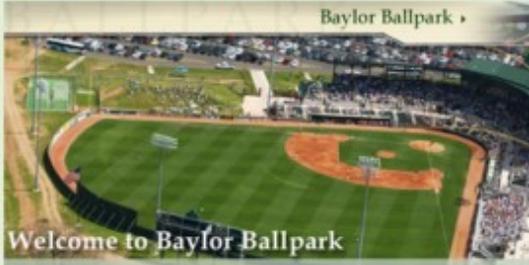


- Education
- Field Demos
- Product Displays
- Networking

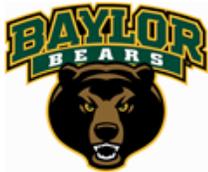
Region 2 Spring Field Day
Tuesday, June 6, 2017

- Lunch Included
- Door Prizes
- Tours

Tour Baylor Ballpark (Baylor Baseball)



Tour McLane Stadium (Baylor Football)



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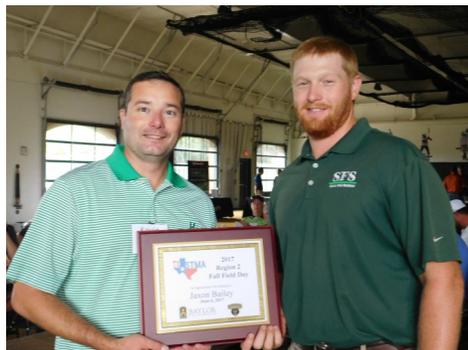
Bronze Lunch Sponsor



We had lots to tour at Baylor University! Thank you Jaxon Bailey and the entire Sports Field Solutions staff for your hospitality and outstanding field conditions. You all went above and beyond the call of duty! From serving BBQ, to setting up the meeting venue, and being great tour guides. We can't wait to come back to Waco!

Thank you speakers - Scott Dunham of BASF, Rusty Walker CSFM, and Kevin Lebanik.

We had outstanding sponsorship and a great mini-trade show. We love our sponsors and their continued support.



Are You Connected with TXSTMA?

We hope you are enjoying all of the new communication vehicles we are using to reach our members! Please make sure your email address

is current so you don't miss out.

Let us know at txstmainfo@yahoo.com

You can also "Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Twitter!



@TXSTMA

SportsTurf

MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

The 2018 STMA Conference and Exhibition will be taking place January 16-19 in Fort Worth.

Home to Cowboys & Culture, Fort Worth has seven different entertainment districts to explore.

[Learn more about the city here.](#)

What's New

New to STMA's Annual Conference: TopGolf! Replacing the traditional-style Golf Tournament, the SAFE Foundation is happy to welcome attendees to sign up for their TopGolf Event. Sign up with your registration in October!

Accommodations

Be on the lookout for Hotel Accommodations starting July 1! We will be opening one of the hotels July 1, with the second hotel opening August 1.



2018 STMA Conference Tracks now set

STMA's Conference Education Committee is working hard to put together another fantastic education program. The 2018 Conference will have 8 tracks focusing on the different aspects of sports field and facility management.

- The Professional Development track focuses on self-improvement and successfully managing your team of employees.
- The Agronomic track offers sessions on cultural practices for cool-season, warm-season and transition zone turfgrass managers.
- Our Renovation track features sessions on cool-season renovation practices, as well as successfully resurrecting existing athletic fields.
- Pest control provides updates on current control measures for turfgrass weeds and insects. Sessions with your specific budget in mind provides solutions to K-12 managers for addressing pest problems.
- The Synthetic track will update managers on synthetic base system guidelines, as well as address crumb rubber infill recycling procedures.
- Industry Developments provides updates to sports turf managers on what is new in the industry. New research on field performance testing and athlete to surface interactions, as well as new products and services are featured in this track.
- The Facility Management track helps you run your program more efficiently. This year features sessions on legal issues, budgets, and leasing.
- Our new educational track for 2018 is Soils. The Soils track will focus on soil science and discuss various issues including soil moisture, drainage, and soil pH modification.

The Conference Education Committee has created a program that has something for everyone. Don't miss all that the 2018 Conference has to offer!

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SIDELINES



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Texas Sports Turf Managers Association

*Providing education and training for
safer and healthier sports turf
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Txstma.org

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Spring 2017 Issue

**Congratulations to Allen Reed and your great staff!
STMA #Stadiumoftheweek !!!!**

