STMA HOLDS CAROLINAS SPORTS TURF INSTITUTE

Sports turf managers from the southeastern United States gathered in early June at Clemson University in South Carolina for the second annual Carolinas Sports Turf Institute. The event was sponsored by the Sports Turf Managers Association and its South Carolina Chapter, in cooperation with Clemson University.

The institute focuses on athletic field weed and insect control, drainage, and maintenance. Speakers included Dr. Euel Coats, Mississippi State University; Dr. John King, University of Arkansas; Dr. Bob Carrow, University of Georgia; Dr. Bert McCarthy, University of Florida; and Dr. Clyde Gorsuch and Dr. Bruce Martin of Clemson University.

A special problem-solving seminar, which offered practical solutions for low-budget athletic field maintenance, was a particular hit with participants. The seminar focused on several topics including drainage, fire ant control, disease and weed control, and baseball field maintenance.

A tour of Clemson’s turfgrass research plots followed the seminar. Participants were shown a variety of tall fescue test plots, bermudagrass trails, and test plots with specialty grasses.

Les Jones, Clemson’s facilities and grounds director, led a tour of the varsity practice and playing fields. Jones showed participants the university’s championship soccer field and described how he recently improved drainage by installing drainage material. A tour of Clemson’s “Death Valley” football stadium revealed the intensive care the stadium receives before and during the football season.

The institute also included equipment displays, which gave attendees the chance for hands-on demonstrations of a variety of turf equipment.

LIBURDI TO HIGHLIGHT FIELD DAY

The Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association will hold its Professional Turfgrass Field Day on September 17 at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY. It will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will feature a turf and athletic field maintenance clinic held by John Liburdi, head grounds manager for the Eastern League Double A Affiliate New York Yankees-Heritage Park. A reel mower grinding clinic will also be held.

COVERMASTER TO BLANKET U.S. STADIUM MARKET FOR AKZO

Akzo Industrial Systems Company has appointed Covermaster, Inc., as its North American distributor for Enkamat Flatback and Enkaflex sports turf protection products for stadiums. Covermaster markets a variety of protective covers in the U.S. and Europe.

Sally Prusia has been appointed Maxicom sales specialist for the western United States by the Commercial Division of Rain Bird Sales, Inc. She will supply irrigation consultants and specifiers with detailed information about Maxicom, the company’s computerized control system for multiple-site irrigation projects. She will help current and prospective customers with setup, applications, maximizing the advantages of central control, and using Maxicom with sensor devices and other irrigation system components.

Prusia served as a Rain Bird area specifications manager for the past four years. Prior to joining the company, she owned a design business and taught agricultural irrigation at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in ornamental horticulture with a minor in agricultural engineering.