



With its artificial surface replaced, Iowa State University's football stadium enjoys the look and feel of all natural turf. Photos courtesy: Mike Andresen.

Colorado Chapter: The Colorado Chapter's next meeting will be held on August 15 at Colorado State University's Hughes Stadium in Fort Collins, CO. The meeting will concentrate on football and soccer field management. Sonny Lubick, CSTMA member and head coach of CSU football, will be the keynote speaker at this meeting.

For information on the Colorado Chapter or upcoming events, call the 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/FAX: (303) 438-9645 and leave a message, or contact: Troy Smith, Denver Broncos, at (303) 649-9000.

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter will assist with the STMA booth at the Florida Turfgrass Association show to be held August 24 and 25 at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, FL.

The Florida Chapter also will participate in the "Turf Rodeo" on August 29 held in conjunction with the Florida Parks and Recreation Association (FPRA) activities at the Rolling Hills Country Club in Ft. Lauderdale. Crews will showcase their skills. Join in the fun. It's a great opportunity for networking.

For more information on these events, the Florida Chapter, and other pending events, contact: John Mascaro (305) 938-7477.

Southern California Chapter: The Southern California Chapter's next meeting is planned for August 31 at the Epicenter Stadium in Rancho Cucamonga. Activities include a stadium tour, a dinner and camaraderie break, and the opportunity to attend the game between the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes ball team and a worthy opponent.

The Southern California Chapter will "do it again," adopting for its 1996 field renovation project the combination field-hockey/soccer/football field of Rancho



In the final stages of its conversion, sod is laid on Jack Trice Field.

Buena Vista High School in Vista, CA, on October 25 and 26. The chapter will meet at the school on October 25. The group will finalize the renovation plan, then move outdoors for hands-on demonstrations of the tasks that will be involved. Then, on October 26, the volunteers will converge on the field for the renovation work day. Plan now to join in this hands-on experience of learning and giving, one more example of the Southern California Chapter's concentration on demonstrating the STMA focus on better and safer sports turf areas.

For information on these events, the Southern California Chapter and other upcoming activities, contact: Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

Minnesota Chapter: The Minnesota Chapter is planning a Fall Workshop to be held in mid-September. Further details will be announced soon.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter or upcoming activities, contact: Brian Deyak at (612) 255-7223.

Midwest Chapter: The Midwest Chapter's next meeting will be held on September 11 at the Inwood Recreation Center of the Joliet Park District in Joliet, IL. The meeting will focus on integrated pest management techniques, checking out the latest techniques and products available to keep insect and disease problems under control. This program will discuss the difference between natural and chemical control methods. A top group of turf management professionals will lead the discussion. The meeting also will include a tour of the Inwood Center complex.

For more information on the Midwest Chapter or upcoming events, call: The Chapter Hotline (847) 439-4727.

STMA'S Rug to Turf Review

Cool air, low humidity and bright skies greeted the Iowa STMA chapter members who converged on Iowa State University's Cyclone Stadium-Jack Trice Field in Ames, IA. Though July 9 was the date, football weather and a football focus were the highlights of the day.



The foundation for Jack Trice's new turf is prepared.

They'd pulled the rug on Jack Trice Field this spring, as yet another college football field was converted to natural turf.

Registration opened at 8:30, giving attendees time to network over coffee — and compare notes on meeting the challenges of athletic field preparation and maintenance.

The meeting opened in a VIP section of Cyclone Stadium as Mike Andresen, ISU athletic turf manager, welcomed attendees to his new turf, and ISTMA President Rick Simpson, of South Tama Schools, added his own words of greeting.

Bob Soddors of Story Construction in Ames — whose company had served as construction manager for the renovation project from design to finish — filled in the details of the mechanics, coordination and quality control segments of the project. Soddors gave an in-depth discussion on the bidding process, costs and scheduling. The architectural firm HOK, Inc., designed the field and oversaw its construction. Denver-based RBI, Inc., was the surface installer. Dave Minner, Nick Christians, John Newton and "the entire ISU community" helped put it all together.

Soddors noted that attendance at weekly coordination meetings was mandatory for all contractors and necessary with such a complex project.

Dave Minner, of the ISU Horticulture Department, filled in details of the project's materials selection, sampling and testing, and of setting the "margins of acceptability." He also covered the characteristics of the sub-surface drainage system, noting the cost savings of being able to "tie into" the perimeter drainage already in place to serve the artificial turf field.

Coordination was vital, from the start in early March of "tearing out" the old surface and underlying materials, through preparing the sub-grade and underground drainage network; installing the 12-station irrigation system; and finding, testing, mixing and installing the 12-inch layer of 95 percent sand, five percent peat that would become the rootzone mix, to wrapping the installation of the big roll sod in early May.

Andresen picked up the story with a focus on the project-driven changes in maintenance. Making the move from artificial to natural turf requires different equipment, products and staffing. Andresen noted that good communication is key, with the contractors and within the many involved departments at ISU.

Andresen addressed the steps taken to "baby" the new sod, noting the development of roots into the sand-based medium from a one-inch root depth on May 12, to the early July five- to six-inch sand-holding depth. He was making his own move from a baseball field built on an old landfill to a state-of-the-art, sand-based football field during its grow-in process and expressed his appreciation for the advice and support he received from other STMA members. Freely shared information is key to advancing this profession.

Andresen started a daily journal on April 4, the day he joined the ISU staff. It noted weather details, field maintenance procedures, and field progress. He shared this journal with attendees.

Andresen and Sodders then shifted attention to the ISU football practice

facilities, still in a state of recovery following late-spring flooding. Construction is yet to begin on the new practice fields. Andresen noted that a good practice facility helps keep practices off the game field and credits the ISU Athletic Department for respecting the "special status" of Jack Trice Field, even when practice fields are less than ideal.

STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty spread the news from headquarters on STMA, the chapter-national connection, and updates on plans for the Annual Conference to be held in Colorado Springs, January 15-19, 1997.

The group moved out on the field for an up-close inspection and tour. They then gathered for a hearty lunch, grilled to perfection by Michael Grooms. These activities provided more opportunities for the questions and answers and idea sharing that marked the spirit of the meeting.

For more information on the Iowa Chapter or upcoming activities, contact: Lori Westrum at The Turf Office at (515) 232-8222 (phone) or (515) 232-8228 (fax).

STMA Chapters on the Grow

Kansas: The newly forming Kansas Chapter has adopted a name: The Great Plains Chapter. It is meeting regularly on the last Wednesday of each month. The August 28 meeting will be held at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium. It begins at 4:00 p.m. and will last approximately two hours.

A Mid-September Seminar is in the planning stages. The same seminar format will be repeated during the designated week at different sites across the state — starting in east Kansas and then moving on to central and west Kansas locations.

For more information on the monthly meetings, the September Seminars, or the chapter, contact: Mark Schimming of Wichita Baseball, Inc. at (316) 292-2907, extension 205.

Arizona: For information on the newly forming Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona, on upcoming events or to find out how you can get involved, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954. □

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