

# STMA in action

## STMA Chapter News

**Colorado Chapter:** CSTMA will hold a Mid-Summer Seminar on July 12 at Suplizio Field in Grand Junction, CO. A flyer will be sent with further information.

Make plans now to take part in "The 1996 Lawnmower-Man Open" Golf Tournament set for July 23 at the West Woods Golf Club in Arvada, CO.

For information on this seminar or the golf tournament, the Colorado Chapter or other 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 meet on August 6 at the Orange Bowl Press Box. Meeting host Dale Sandin, Orange Bowl sports turf manager, will give a slide presentation on Olympic Trials Soccer. A stadium tour will complete the day's activities.

Plan to 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. This event allows your crews to showcase their skills and provides a great opportunity for networking.

Chapter dues notices will be going out soon. This is a super time to invite others to join the chapter.

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

**Minnesota Chapter:** MSTMA's second Workshop on Wheels has been set for Tuesday, July 16. Participants will meet at Midway Stadium in St. Paul at 8:00 a.m. Facilities included in the tour are the new athletic field construction at Bethel College, the recently completed fields at the Woodbury Athletic Complex, a new maintenance building facility at the City of Burnsville, a tour at Peterson Seed Company and a tour of the Dred Scott field complex at the City of Bloomington. The tour concludes at 4:00 p.m. back at Midway Stadium with tailgating provided prior to the Saint Paul Saints baseball game. This year, touring turf managers will have the opportunity to



**Colorado Rockies Groundskeeper Mark Razum gives Summer Seminar students an up-close look at Coors Field. Photo courtesy: Steve and Suz Trusty.**

assist hands-on with field preparation for the evening's game.

MSTMA also is planning a Fall Workshop to be held in mid-September. Further details will be announced soon.

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

**Midwest Chapter:** Training with the Bears is planned for Wednesday, July 24, at the Chicago Bears Training Facility in Lake Forest, Illinois. The meeting will include a tour of the new state-of-the-art training facility.

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

**Iowa Chapter:** The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will hold a Football Workshop on July 9 at ISU's Cyclone Stadium, Jack Trice Field. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m., with the program running from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Aspects of the ISU rug-to-turf renovation project are the meeting's focus. Bob Soddors, Story Construction project manager, will detail the mechanics of the renovation project from initial planning to completion. Dave Minner, ISU Horticulture Department, will discuss the project's materials selection and testing, and the characteristics of the drainage system. Mike Andresen, ISU athletic turf manager, will focus on project-driven changes in maintenance, including equipment, the fertilizer and pesticide programs and irrigation. Attention will then shift to the practice facility, with Soddors

detailing considerations and progress. The various components of the renovated field will be outlined during a walking tour. Steve Trusty, STMA executive director, will present news from national — including an update on the annual conference.

The Iowa Turf Institute/ISU Field Day will be held on July 18 at the ISU Turf Farm.

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

**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.

For information on this event, the Southern California Chapter and upcoming activities, contact: Chris Bunnell, (619) 432-2421.

### STMA Chapters on the Grow

**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.

**Kansas:** The newly forming Kansas Chapter is meeting regularly on the last Wednesday of each month. The July 31 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 organization, contact: Mark Schimming of Wichita Baseball Inc., at (316) 292-2907, extension 205.

### CSTMA's Summer Seminar

Blue skies, bright sun and crisp mountain air greeted 180 people at Denver's Coors Field on June 5. Though it would





Attendees are shown the step-by-step processes of home plate maintenance. Photo courtesy: Steve and Suz Trusty.

have been a great day for a baseball game, this group was far from the "traditional" ballpark fans. These were sports turf managers from the Colorado area devoting a day of their time to honing their skills through focused information sessions and hands-on demonstrations.

CSTMA's Summer Seminar offered something for everyone. Registration started the day-long opportunity for networking. Attendees chatting over coffee and doughnuts exchanged friendly greetings and informal "updates" on their own fields and facilities.

Colorado Chapter President Dave Rulli opened the general session with a positive report of chapter business and activities. STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty was next on the program with news from headquarters on STMA, the chapter-national connection, and updates on the Annual Conference plans. Colorado Springs will be a spectacular setting for the educational sessions and trade show, and the Colorado Chapter is working up some great tours and fun events.

Morning educational sessions "hit" all aspects of sports turf maintenance, from the equipment overview from L.L. Johnson Dist. Co. and the mowing efficiency and productivity presentation by Rick Cairns of the Toro Company, to the topic "How to Build Safer and More Durable Athletic Fields" by Jim Tanner of Aimcor, to the "What's New in Turf?" presentation by Dr. Tony Koski of Colorado State University. Whether an individual sports turf manager focused on the nuts and bolts of growing grass, mowing grass, skinned area care and maintenance or a combination of all these, there was something new, something thought provoking, something "worth a try" to take home and use.

Mark Razum, head groundskeeper for the Colorado Rockies' Coors Field, invited everyone to get an up-close and personal look at the field following the lunch

break. The group split in two for the afternoon sessions, alternating between the stadium tour and the field demos.

The guided stadium tour worked from the dugouts through the visitors locker room, press box, and even the party and luxury suites of this sparkling new facility. With a seating capacity of 50,249 (including 874 seats that are "mile high"), this \$215.5 million stadium-ballpark is a winner with the public and the finances. Sell-out crowds are the norm.

Down on the field, the results of the work of Razum and his ten-person crew were obvious. In the bullpen, separate stations focused on daily maintenance of the mound and home plate. Attendees were shown the step-by-step processes. It's here that the message of "look" and "feel," the "art" side of field maintenance, can come across. At the mound and the home plate stations, the construction of these two vital areas was detailed, also.

Stringed-off sections of the infield showed the various stages of skinned area preparation. The groups moved from stage to stage as crew members explained the procedures that had occurred and the "look" that resulted. An especially "artful" demonstration on using the mat drag even earned a round of applause.



Colorado Chapter President Dave Rulli opened the general session with a positive report of chapter business. Photo courtesy: Steve and Suz Trusty.

Along the right field line, Razum demonstrated field painting procedures. Equipment from L.L. Johnson was displayed along the left field line.

And throughout the day, the friendly chats and networking continued, as attendees shared ideas on what they heard and saw and how it all fit in to their individual programs. As Rulli says, and chapter seminars emphasize, "Sports turf managers do the same things. Whether you have six-year-old players or million-dollar players, they need quality fields." □

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