

Training with the Bears

On July 24, Midwest STMA Chapter members converged on the Chicago Bears Training Facilities at Lake Forest, IL, to check out the new state-of-the-art practice field in the works for "Da Bears."

Ken Mrock, superintendent of grounds, opened the program in "McBubble," a tent-like structure supported by hot air that houses the Bears' indoor, Astroturf practice facility. Mrock gave a slide presentation "walk-through" of the new practice field's construction.

The 200,000 square foot area was cleared and materials brought in during December of 1995. The field base includes 6,700 tons of gravel and 12,600 tons of growing medium, which incorporates sphagnum peat moss, USGA specification sand and 300 tons of Profile (a porous ceramic material).

Mrock had drain tile installed to blow heat or pull air to control the temperature of the field. An additional heating system was installed, comprised of 17 miles of one-inch rubber hose, to maintain a soil temperature of 50 degrees. The intent is to keep the field "always" playable, despite the Midwest's changeable weather conditions.

A blend of Kentucky bluegrasses, Athletic Super Pro, was seeded in March and mowed for the first time in June.

The field design could be a precedent-setting model blueprint for other sports fields. The first public presentation took place on June 27.

The workshop closed with a raffle for prizes donated by the Chicago Bears, the Chicago White Sox, Northwestern University and the Kane County Cougars. The funds generated from the raffle were added to the MC:STMA Scholarship Fund.

For information on the Midwest Chapter, call The Chapter Hotline, (847) 439-4727.

STMA Chapter News

Colorado Chapter: CSTMA continues to focus on preparations for hosting the national STMA Conference & Exhibition, which will be held in Colorado Springs January 15 to 19, 1997. Those interested in lending a hand during this opportunity for CSTMA to "show our stuff" are invited to call the Chapter.

Besides the excellent educational sessions and trade show, CSTMA has planned

two of the best ever Seminar on Wheels tours, one to Colorado Springs sports turf venues on Wednesday and one to Denver sports turf venues on Sunday, along with an optional trip back to the Old West with the Friday night Cripple Creek visit, and a spouse trip to one of the nation's top outlet malls. CSTMA even has special plans in the works for the Wednesday night Welcome Reception.

For information, 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 December 3 at the Homestead Stadium in Homestead, FL. Jose Sota will host the meeting. Baseball field maintenance and preparation will be the focus, and a hands-on mound building demonstration will be included.

For more information, contact John Mascaro, (305) 938-7477.

Southern California Chapter: The Southern California Chapter will hold a pesticide workshop in December.

For information, contact Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

Minnesota Chapter: The Minnesota Chapter's annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation (MTGF) Conference, December 11-13 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Topics will include "Construction with Washed Sod for Golf Courses, Parks and Athletic Fields," presented by Mike Kelly on December 12 from 2:20 to 3:05 p.m.

The Sports Turf Track — Concurrent Session IV — is scheduled for Thursday afternoon, December 12, starting at 1:30 p.m. Mike Trigg will present "Maintaining Fields with Limited Budgets," Dr. Roch Gaussoin "The Science of Aerification" and Mike Trigg "New Field Construction Methods."

Friday morning's concurrent Session II by Dr. John Ball focuses on "The Turf-Tree Relationship," Session III by Dr. Roch Gaussoin on "Organic Residue Management in Turf and Ornamentals," and Session IV on "Safety/Liability Considerations."

For more on the MTGF, contact Scott Turtinen at 612/473-8169. For information on the Minnesota Chapter, contact Brian Deyak at (320) 255-7223.

Iowa STMA: The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will hold its next meeting at the Des Moines Convention

Center on January 27-29, 1997, in conjunction with the 63rd Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show.

On Monday, January 27, the Sports Turf Workshop runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Topics are: "Sports Injuries," Frank Randall, ISU Trainer; "Planning for Construction," Bob Sodders; "Painting, Mixing, Marking and Graphics," Jon Graves; "Late Season Maintenance for Football Fields," Gary Peterson; "Multiple Use of Facilities," Steve Wightman; "Creating a Tough Bluegrass Base," Dr. Doug Brede; and "Irrigation," Lynda Wightman.

The Tuesday morning general sessions begin at 8:00 a.m. The afternoon Sports Turf sessions begin at 1:30 p.m. Topics are: "Make the Best of What You've Got," Steve Wightman; "Safety Liability," Doug Struyk; and "ISTMA/STMA: It's Your Function & Responsibility," Steve Trusty, Gary Peterson and Mike Andresen.

Wednesday morning general sessions begin at 8:00 a.m. Sports Turf sessions start at 10:00 a.m. Topics are: "Weather Systems," Jay Ferguson; "Maximizing Your Equipment," Mike Andresen; and "Plant Growth Regulators for Athletic Fields," Dr. Mike Agnew. Continuing pesticide instructional courses start at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Lori Westrum at The Turf Office, (515) 232-8222 (phone) or (515) 232-8228 (fax).

STMA Chapters on the Grow

Great Plains STMA: The Great Plains STMA will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, November 27.

For site and further details, contact Mark Schimming, of Wichita Baseball Inc., at (316) 292-2907, extension 205.

Arizona: The STMA of Arizona will hold a meeting on December 6 with the Yuma Parks and Recreation Association. The morning's educational events will begin at 8:00 a.m., with the field day portion of the program running from 11:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Field day events will include demonstrations by vendors and hands-on demonstrations of baseball infield maintenance procedures.

For more details on the Yuma meeting, contact Larry Munoz, parks supervisor, City of Yuma, at (520) 329-2824.

For more details about the Arizona Chapter, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954. □