

STMA in Action — Chapter News

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: A meeting on football and baseball post-season repairs is planned for a mid-October meeting at Upper Iowa University, Fayette, IA.

A meeting on football and soccer post-season repairs will be held November 5 at Iowa State University and Ames High School in Ames, IA.

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

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

MSTMA will meet in conjunction with the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation Annual Conference, scheduled for December 11-13 at the Minneapolis Conference Center.

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

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter will meet on October 24 in conjunction with the Dade County Extension Office educational program. The meeting will be held at Miami-Dade Community College in Kendall, FL. Further details will be announced soon.

A meeting is being planned for December 3 at Homestead Stadium in Homestead, FL. Baseball field maintenance and preparation will be the focus of this meeting.

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

Southern California Chapter: The Southern California Chapter will "do it again," adopting for its 1996 field renovation project the combination field-hockey/soccer/football field of Rancho Buena Vista High School in Buena 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.

Colorado Chapter: 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.

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

STMA Chapters on the Grow

Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association: The Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association is planning a mid-September seminar. 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 September seminars, or other pending events, contact: Mark Schimming of Wichita Baseball, Inc. at (316) 292-2907, Extension 205.

Arizona: The Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona is planning a seminar/workshop session tentatively scheduled for October in the Scottsdale area. Also in the planning stages is a December meeting to be held in conjunction with a Yuma Parks and Recreation Association event.

For more details on these upcoming events or the chapter, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954.

Workshop on Wheels

Sunny skies and moderate temperatures greeted the 55 participants who gathered at St. Paul's Midway Stadium shortly before 8:00 a.m. on July 16 to kick off the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association's second annual Workshop on Wheels. Coffee, juice and bakery "goodies" added to the friendly camaraderie of registration. Chapter President Ken Dehkes welcomed attendees and got the meeting underway.

Grounds Manager Connie Rudolph and her crew coordinated the program at Midway Stadium, a heavily used, city owned and operated facility. It's home for baseball's St. Paul Saints (Northern League), key site for the city schools' baseball and football programs, a concert arena, and host to multiple other events.

This was the "working" part of the workshop, with hands-on, demonstration, ask-questions and try-it-out stations set up to tackle the preparation for that evening's Saints game. Stations ran simultaneously and included field-grooming and dragging equipment on the skinned area and warning track; mound and batters box construction, including the use of MoundMaster clay bricks around the pitchers mound; several different triplex mowers for cutting the outfield turf; and chalking and foul line painting options.

Participants then boarded the bus to Woodbury Athletic Complex, east of St. Paul. It's the primary baseball, softball, soccer field complex for this upscale suburb. Field construction, the focus here, was at the rough grade stage last year. Due to a combination of circumstances, the irrigation and turf are still not installed. Parks Manager Dick Riemscheider explained the problems encoun-

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tered and steps taken to move ahead. He also gave a tour of the ice rink and air-bubble-covered year-round sports field.

The bus load moved on to the Burnsville Maintenance Facility, this Minneapolis suburb's new "state of the art" public works garage, maintenance and office complex. This \$6 million facility is the headquarters of the crew leaders, secretaries and front-line workers of four city departments, including both parks maintenance and fleet maintenance.

Facility designers, architects and engineers were joined by worker representatives from every department in developing the plan — and it shows. Work space reflects strict compliance with all governmental regulations in a way that efficiently meets the multiple needs of the various departments.

Computerized systems control and monitor parts ordering and inventory, vehicle records, mechanic entries and combined or separated costs. A complex, computerized system even controls and monitors fuel use and tracks the driver and vehicle entry data.

Participants next wheeled to Petersen Seed Company in Prior Lake. This family-owned business is an international supplier of forage, as well as turf seed. Sales representative David Gamez led the tour of the storage, handling and packaging facility, noting the polymer coating process that allows such materials as fertilizers or fungicides to be "bonded to" individual seeds.

More camaraderie accompanied the box lunch enjoyed in the Petersen Seed Company lunchroom and meeting room facilities.

Then the bus headed for Dred Scott Fields in the suburb of Bloomington. This 25-acre complex was built in 1975 and includes softball, baseball, touch football and soccer fields. Paul Edwardson, parks supervisor, gave the tour. The native sandy soil had been modified somewhat during field installation. Total field irrigation and a good maintenance program allow the facilities to remain in good shape despite the high degree of use. The fields are on elevated ground, and the sandy soil and desiccating winds make irrigation a necessity.

Next came Bethel College in Roseville.

On the bus, attendees again took advantage of the time to compare notes and share ideas.

Reconstruction of the school's original heavy-clay-soil football/soccer field and construction of an adjacent practice field were the focus of the tour given by Mike Kelly of the Glenn Rehbein Company, the primary contractor.

Despite weather setbacks, this project was moving ahead, with irrigation installation taking place on the game field and rootzone placement on the practice field. Kelly noted that both fields have subsurface drainage, but at different spacing, and both have a sand content over 90 percent, with soil, rather than peat, as the organic content. Washed sod will be installed following the final grading. The fields will see limited play this year.

Next, the bus load headed to the Midway Stadium parking lot for a tailgate barbecue and more networking. Most of the group wrapped up the day at the Saints' evening ball game. This jam-packed event was such a hit Workshop on Wheels III is already on the 1997 agenda. □

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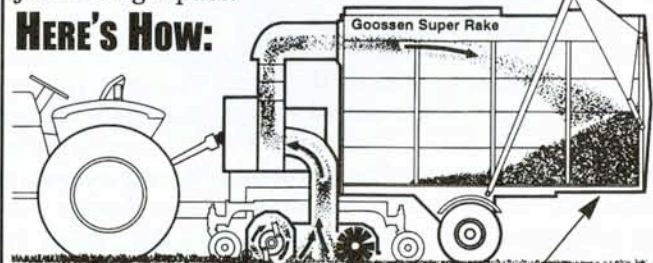
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