

STMA in Action

Getting into the Game

For STMA chapters, winter was a busy time. Most chapters held their annual elections, the new officers and board members held their initial planning meetings, and the wheels are rolling for 1997 events.

For those events, the behind-the-scenes activities take lots of time. Coming up with ideas, making the right contacts, and coordinating all the details must happen long before the event takes place. Then comes the actual work for the event itself.

If you can help, it would be a way of giving something back to "your industry." It's also a great way to get to know your peers better and gain a sense of accomplishment. Most of the time, it's fun, too! So, if you've been standing on the sidelines wondering if the game is worth playing, now is the time to ask the coach to get you into the game.

Besides planning events, your chapters have also used the winter season to increase the visibility of sports turf managers.

Now there are sports turf sessions at most state and regional turfgrass conferences. Those sessions are often planned with the help of STMA members and provide worthwhile information for other turf managers.

STMA chapters are offering scholarships and internship programs to sports turf students, and are contributing funds to university turf research programs to advance industry technology.

Besides those intra-industry efforts, STMA chapters are developing service projects to bring community sports



Iowa Chapter's president, Kevin Vos (right), presents a check for research on behalf of the chapter to Iowa State University's Dr. David Minner.

turf facilities to the best possible condition. Those hands-on work sessions include donations of materials and labor hours and often instruction for those who will maintain the improved fields.

Several recipients of STMA's Field of the Year Award have been honored by their communities during public ceremonies at sports events. This helps increase community awareness of what sports turf managers do and why it matters.

STMA Chapter News

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter's next meeting will be an aeration seminar — with demonstrations — held in June in conjunction with the Dade County Extension Service.

For more information, contact John Mascaro at (954) 938-7477.

Minnesota Chapter: The Minnesota Chapter's events schedule for 1997 is in the planning stages.

For information, contact Connie Rudolph at (612) 644-0639.

Colorado Chapter: The Colorado Chapter is developing plans for its 1997 special events.

For information, call the 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/FAX: (303) 438-9645.

Iowa STMA: The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association is working on the events schedule for 1997.

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

Southern California Chapter: The Southern California Chapter board is wrapping up plans for its 1997 special events.

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

Midwest Chapter: The Midwest Chapter is putting together the 1997 schedule of events.

For information, call The Chapter Hotline: (847) 439-4727.

STMA Chapters on the Grow

KAFMO: The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO) is currently working toward STMA affiliation.

Their next event, "A Field Day with Floyd Perry," will include members of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society. One field day will take place on May 15 in central Pennsylvania, a second on May 16 in western Pennsylvania. For more details on these field days, contact Don Fowler at (717) 485-4709.

For more information about KAFMO or other events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212.

MAFMO: The Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO) is currently working toward STMA affiliation.

MAFMO will hold a dinner meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. on April 17 at the Fireside Beef House in Greenbelt, Md. The featured speaker, Dr. Pete Dernoden of the University of Maryland, will give a presentation on broadleaved weeds.

MAFMO's next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 15. This "Irrigation Troubleshooting" seminar will be held at Cedar Lane Park in Columbia, Md., from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. A confirmed date and further details will be announced soon.

For more information, contact The Hotline: (410) 290-5652.

Arizona: On April 25, the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona will meet at Grand Canyon College, home of the NAIA Division I Soccer champions. Educational sessions will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The afternoon portion of the meeting will focus on field renovation with demonstrations on aeration, sprinkler systems, topdressing and renovation of soccer goals. For information on this meeting, contact Lonnie Danials at (602) 589-2888 or Bill Murphy.

For information on the STMA of Arizona or other upcoming events, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954.

Great Plains STMA: Attendance at this forming chapter's February meeting was over 50, despite a snow storm, and plans are in the works for a summer event. Want more information? Contact Mark Schimming, City of Wichita, at (316) 337-9123.