

Participants were prepared for a practical, down-to-earth learning experience on May 15 when the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO) held its first of two Field Days with Floyd Perry. The participants weren't disappointed.

This event, held in Harrisburg, central Pennsylvania, was followed by a second field day the next day in Slippery Rock, in western Pennsylvania. Members of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society were invited to attend either of these chapter-sponsored events.

Attendance at each field day was limited to 50, and 50 people turned out

STMA in Action!



STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty (right) presents a gavel to Dan Douglas, president of KAFMO. Photos courtesy: Trusty & Associates.

Field Day with Floyd Perry

on the cool, sunny morning of May 15.

Perry, *sportsTURF*'s 1996 Man of the Year, literally "wrote the book" — three of them in fact — on field maintenance techniques and vital issues of safety and liability. He also provides field-day training sessions across the country.

The May 15th session opened indoors as Perry moved through a series of topics to get the mental muscles working.

He talked of the importance of instilling pride in your facility, your people and the users and showed slides of various ways of doing that, including the use of logos on the field and putting up plaques thanking donors and special people and honoring the employee of the month. He emphasized the need for "curbside appeal," keeping everything the public can see looking sharp. He also pointed out that keeping the shop, office and other behind-the-scenes work areas clean helps employees remain enthused about keeping everything else in top shape.

He noted that every facility needs time for quality repair. It helps to communicate to the users upfront that there will be times when — to maintain the quality and good looks of the facility — fields must be taken out of play.

Perry brought up his "There Ain't No Rules" theme. While much in baseball is laid out in rulebooks, the bottom line is you do what you have to do to get the job done. You and your staff are the most valuable people at your institution. You need to believe that and in your actions show other people that you're valuable. Whatever the task may be, if you don't do it, and do it right, who will?

Perry pointed out that the ability to make do with what you have or can get — the ingenuity of the sports turf manager — always amazes him.

Next came "Ideas You Can Use," featuring slides of facilities from all over the country that provided suggestions worth sharing. These included lots of tool options, both purchased and homemade, old garden tools, farm implements, and pieces of this-and-that that could be adapted.

Before the morning session concluded, STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty addressed the audience.



Floyd Perry demonstrates multiple field-care hand tools.

KAFMO had recently completed its affiliation requirements and was approved and welcomed as an affiliated chapter by the STMA Board. During the morning session, Trusty officially presented the chapter gavel to the chapter's president, Dan Douglas.

After lunch, the group moved out to Creekview Park, part of the Hamden Township Parks and Recreation facilities. Parks Maintenance Supervisor Neale Magill was the host.

With the park's baseball field for a demonstration area, Perry showed field preparation techniques and various tools at work. Some of the atten-



Perry explains the steps of skinned area preparation.

dees also talked about things they had made, taking one of Perry's demonstration tools and pointing out how they had made something similar. Long-time member and retired extension specialist Don Fowler brought along an antique garden cultivator that he had made work for edging baselines and trimming grass encroaching on skinned areas.

Perry also urged turf managers to take lots of pictures of their facilities. The purpose is to create your own photo resumes to document conditions, both good and bad, and show what you are doing. Include things that are damaged, what happens if a field is overused and how you've been able to turn a bad situation into a good situation.

As the field day drew to a close, participants were buzzing with ideas they planned to take back to their own facilities — exactly what this event had planned to accomplish.

STMA Chapter News

Minnesota Chapter: The Minnesota Chapter will hold its 3rd Annual Workshop on Wheels on July 16. Participants will gather at Midway Stadium, then board the bus for McMurray Fields, where vendors will show their aeration equipment in action in a mini-aeration clinic. The group then reboards the bus for tours of the City of Plymouth Athletic Facility, Goodrich Field, Anoka, Minn., where they are constructing a high sand based field; Blaine Sports Center, the site of USA Cup Soccer; the Turfco factory; Bethel College; Urban Ventures; and the Rice and Arlington Sports Dome. The workshop

will wrap up with a tail-gate party back at Midway Stadium and a St. Paul Saints game.

STMA President Mike Schiller and Executive Director Steve Trusty will attend this event to make the formal presentation of Honorary Life Membership to Dick Ericson. Ericson was unable to attend the 1997 Annual Conference (one of the few he has missed),

when this honor was announced, due to the illness of his wife.

The Minnesota Chapter also will meet on August 11 at Winter Park, the Minnesota Vikings Training Facility, for a seminar and tour. More details will be announced soon.

Chapter contact: Connie Rudolph at (612) 646-1679.

Colorado Chapter: The Colorado Chapter of STMA will hold its Mid-Summer Workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, July 18, at Wagner

Park in Aspen, Colo., the home of the World Rugby Tournament. Workshop sessions will include field renovation and irrigation. STMA Certification Committee member Ross Kurcab will outline the developing certification program and give attendees an opportunity to add their input and ask questions.

Mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Lawn Mower Man Open golf outing. This event is scheduled for August 5, 1997, at West Woods Golf Course in Arvada, Colo.

A Soccer Field Renovation Seminar will be

held August 13 at South Suburban. Sessions will focus on renovation, field preparation and field use issues. Attendees also will tour the facility and fields.

Due to snow in April, the Spring Vendor Expo was canceled and has been tentatively rescheduled for September 18, 1997, at Jeffco Stadium. Further details will be announced in August.

Chapter contact: 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/FAX, (303) 438-9645.

Iowa Chapter: The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will hold a Baseball Workshop from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on August 8 at Sec Taylor Stadium in Des Moines. Sessions will cover daily and post-season maintenance of the mound, plate and infield; fertility; building your own low-cost equipment; and repair of turf areas, including overseeding, seed pre-germination, sod and plugs.

The Iowa Turfgrass Field Day will be held August 14 at the Iowa State University Turf Farm. More details will be announced soon.

continued on page 27

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STMA in Action*continued from page 23*

The chapter also will hold a Baseball/Football Workshop from 9 a.m. to noon on October 9 at Waldorf College in Forest City. Sessions will include general care of the baseball mound and home plate and general care of the football field.

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

Midwest Chapter: The Midwest Chapter of STMA will hold its first Seminar on Wheels Tour on August 12. Plan now to join this behind-the-scenes tour of the athletic fields of Northwestern University, Wrigley Field and Soldier Field.

Chapter contact: Chapter Hotline, (847) 439-4727.

KAFMO: The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization is currently planning the chapter's Fall Field Day. More details will be announced soon.

Chapter contact: Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212.

Southern California Chapter: For information on the Southern California Chapter of STMA or pending activities, contact Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

Florida Chapter #1: For information on upcoming events or the Florida Chapter, contact John Mascaro at (954) 938-7477.

STMA Chapters on the Grow

MAFMO: The Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO), an active group currently working toward STMA affiliation, will hold an August "Dinner and Game Meeting" at the Bowie Baysox Baseball Stadium. Date and time will be announced soon.

A Field Day will be held on September 18 at MacGruder High School in Rockville, Md. This will include a "Turf in Turf" stadium-turf renovation.

Chapter contact: the Hotline, (410) 290-5652.

Great Plains: For Information on the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association or upcoming

events, contact Mark Schimming, City of Wichita, at (316) 337-9123.

Nor-Cal News Flash!

Coming soon to a field near you!

A Northern California STMA Chapter is beginning to take shape as a core group of members have been meeting for several months to plan and discuss alternatives. The steering committee includes Sal Genito, UC Davis; Steve Abella, Delta Blue Grass; Sandy Jacobson, UC Davis; Bob Milano Jr., UC Berkeley; James Moore, B & B Concrete; Dave Patterson, Sierra Pacific Supply; Greg Roberts, Placer Union High; Tim Smith, Brown Sand; and Dennis Suit, San Jose State. Look for their "Grand Opening" and Charter Commercial Memberships later this summer.

For information, contact any of the committee members, or the UC Davis Grounds Office at (916) 752-5035. □

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