

Category Blast Service

Use this new Category Blast Service to get FREE information on the products or service categories listed below which you are planning to purchase within the coming nine months. You will receive information, and possibly other follow up contact, from appropriate companies advertised not just in this issue, but throughout the year in *sportsTURF*. Just circle the number(s) on the reader service card (opposite) corresponding to the product or service categories below and drop the card in the mail!

9001 Aerifiers**9002 Baseball field grooming equipment****9003 Drainage****9004 Fertilizer/soil amendments****9005 Field covers****9006 Field marking paint/equipment****9007 Infield mixes****9008 Irrigation supplies****9009 Mowers****9010 Seed****9011 Sight amenities****9012 Sod****9013 Turf equipment**

While checking out possibilities for Seminar on Wheels tours, some Conference Committee members took in some of baseball's pre-season activity at Baseball City USA. Photos courtesy: Trusty & Associates.

STMA Goes to Disney World!

The STMA Board and Conference Committee are "In Action," and plans are well underway for STMA's 9th Annual Conference and Exhibition, which will be held on Disney properties in Florida on January 14-18, 1998. Much of the time at the March board meeting was spent checking out two key facilities: the conference's headquarters hotel, Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, and the new Walt Disney World Sports Complex, site of several other conference activities.

This may have been the first "hard hat" meeting session in STMA history, because parts of both of the two major facilities were still under construction and hard hats were mandatory for the inspection tours.

The Coronado Springs Resort's impressive meeting facilities and guest rooms are just part of the overall picture. Though the complex is large, it's designed to allow various conference groups to cluster their activities, combining the feel and convenience of a smaller hotel with all the advantages of a major Disney property. Beyond the

welcoming entry lies a central lake, encircled by a walking trail. There are several swimming pools, a white-sand beach, both casual and formal dining areas, and lots of great spots to relax for that networking that is always a conference highlight.

Then there's the awesome Walt Disney World Sports Complex. There are venues for over 30 sports on this 200-acre site, all with top-notch facilities that reflect the Disney dedication to quality.

The STMA Board took a short form of the tour that will be part of the conference. The ballpark field was looking great and was nearly ready to host the March 28th Atlanta Braves pre-season game. From the top level of the 7,500-seat ballpark stadium, you can catch a glimpse of the major Disney attractions and oversee the expanse of the complex itself.

Next to the ballpark is the field house, which houses six full-size, hardwood basketball courts with main-floor seating for 5,000 spectators. Just outside the ballpark is the baseball quadruplex with major league size fields. Next to it is the expanse of turf

that makes up the "town green" and includes a 5,000-square-foot pavilion. On the opposite side of the town green are two youth baseball fields, with the softball quadruplex on the far side of them. The site also includes four multi-purpose fields with international soccer dimensions. And then there are the tennis complex, the track and field complex, and the beach volleyball courts and ... so much more! (Watch for an article featuring the Walt Disney World Sports Complex in next month's issue.)

Another segment of the facility check was a stop at Disney's horticultural center to check out possibilities for Seminar on Wheels tours. Some of the Conference Committee members also headed out and about the surrounding area to view other possible tour sites. They just happened to take in part of baseball's pre-season activity, including the chance to see Deion Sanders at bat at Baseball City USA.

There are so many exciting things in the works for the 1998 Conference that the committee just had to share a few of them here. So mark your calendar right now — and stay tuned for more details coming soon.

Welcome, KAFMO!

STMA welcomes its newest affiliated chapter: Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO Chapter STMA), which has completed all requirements for affiliation and was officially recognized as an affiliated chapter by the STMA Board at the March 14-15, 1997, board meeting.

KAFMO's next event, "A Field Day with Floyd Perry," sponsored by the chapter, will include members of Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society. One field day will take place on May 15 in central Pennsylvania at Hampton Township on Harrisburg's west shore. A second field day will be held on May 16 in western Pennsylvania at Slippery Rock State University. Registration for each field day will begin at 8:30 a.m., with clinic sessions running from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more details on these field days, contact Don Fowler at (717) 485-4709.

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

STMA Chapter News

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter's next meeting will be an aerification and thatch seminar — with equipment demonstrations and educational classes. This seminar will be

held June 4 at Miami Dade Community College, South Campus, in conjunction with the Dade County Cooperative Extension Service.

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

Midwest Chapter: The Midwest Chapter will meet on June 12 at Demaree Stadium of Merrillville High School, Merrillville, Indiana. STMA's 1994 Football Field of the Year. Activities will include a tour of the facility and sessions on field construction and maintenance.

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

Colorado Chapter: The Colorado Chapter will hold its next meeting on Friday June 13 at Sky Sox Stadium. The meeting will open with Dave Rulli's President's Message and an introduction by Mark Leasure. Activities will include vendor talks, a session on infield mix presented by Ken Norkosky, and a tour of the stadium. Attendees will also enjoy a cook-out and the Sky Sox baseball game.

The chapter also will hold a meeting on Friday July 18 at Wagner Park in Aspen, Colorado, the home of the World Rugby Tournament. Further details on this meeting will be announced soon.

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

Minnesota Chapter: The Minnesota Chapter will hold its 3rd Annual Seminar on Wheels on July 16. While the complete site list is yet to be announced, the schedule already includes ending the day with a tailgate party and St. Paul Saints game.

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

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: The Iowa STMA 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-germi-



The Walt Disney World Sports Complex features venues for over 30 sports, all reflecting Disney's dedication to quality.

nation, sod and plugs.

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

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

STMA Chapters on the Grow

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

MAFMO will team up with Toro for an irrigation seminar to be held on Wednesday May 21 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cedar Lane Park in Columbia, Maryland. Sessions will cover how to assess your irrigation needs, design your system, calculate cost, install the system and troubleshoot problems. The seminar will include both classroom instruction and hands-on demonstrations and troubleshooting. Space is limited to ensure top-quality instruction, so act now.

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

Arizona: For information on the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona or upcoming events, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954.

Great Plains STMA: For information on the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association or upcoming events, contact Mark Schimming, City of Wichita, at (316) 337-9123.