

# Las Vegas Warms up to STMA

A day of learning and sharing ideas greeted nearly 50 individuals who gathered at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) last summer on a typically hot desert day. Ibsen Dow of Las Vegas Fertilizer was instrumental in putting the program together and notifying turf managers of parks, schools and other facilities. Several industry suppliers gave presentations on a variety of topics: seed selection, irrigation, soil conditioners, fertilizers, and soil and tissue testing.

Those in attendance especially appreciated a presentation on sports and athletic field management by Floyd Perry of Grounds Maintenance Services. Perry showed numerous slides and described sports turf managers who used ingenuity to accomplish safer playing surfaces and to develop tools to aid in their field management. Some of those tools can be modified by others to fit their situations, and others may find their way to the marketplace someday. From the discussion during lunch, it appeared that everyone gathered ideas to put into practice.

UNLV's head baseball coach, Rod Soesbe, then led the group on a tour of the baseball facility and told how he used donations and volunteers to turn a less-than-average field into one of the best in the Southwest and one the team proudly plays on and helps maintain. Three members of the UNLV grounds crew belong to the national STMA, and the entire crew is responsible for all grounds and athletic fields on campus. They also are responsible for general mowing and maintenance. The team does all the pre- and post-game field preparation.

At the conclusion of the educational sessions, those interested in forming an STMA chapter discussed the necessary steps. STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty met with the group, answered questions and offered support to assist in the formation. Initial discussions indicate there is sufficient interest and facilities to support a Southern Nevada Chapter of STMA. Those in attendance agreed to meet in



At the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, a less-than-average field was turned into one of the best in the Southwest thanks to Coach Rod Soesbe and his team. Photo courtesy: Trusty & Associates.

a month to discuss incorporation and officer selection so the process can continue towards a chapter.

Anyone interested in joining a chapter in this area should contact Ibsen Dow at Las Vegas Fertilizer. His number is (702) 649-1551.

Chapter visits by the STMA executive director are made possible through the support of the Chapter Gold Level sponsor, Novartis, and the Silver Level sponsors, The Scotts Company and Hunter Industries.

### STMA Chapter News

**Florida Chapter #1:** The Florida #1 Chapter will meet at Ft. Lauderdale Stadium from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 21. The meeting will focus on and include demonstrations of aerifying and topdressing. Vendors are encouraged to participate. Please contact John Mascaro for details.

The chapter also will meet on December 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at the University of Miami in South Miami. The topic for this meeting is turfgrasses for sports fields.

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

**Iowa Chapter:** The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will hold a football workshop on October 25 at Iowa State University (ISU) in Ames. Attendees will meet at 11 a.m. outside Jack Trice Stadium for a 1 1/2-hour group discussion on the procedures and practices of painting, marking and mowing. From 1 to 4 p.m. they'll attend the homecoming football game as ISU takes on Baylor. Following the game, the group will meet in the north end-zone area to begin post-game repairs. The ISU stadium staff will go through the different procedures of preparing the field for the next game, including field sweeping, aerifying, overseeding with pre-germinated seed and topdressing. During this time, attendees will have a second opportunity to ask questions and discuss field

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maintenance issues. An information packet on football field maintenance also will be provided. Featured speakers include Mike Andresen and the Jack Trice stadium staff, and Jeff Salmond and Gary Peterson of ISU. Registration for this workshop includes a ticket to the game.

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 will hold a Fall Football Event in San Diego on October 18. Activities start at 2 p.m. with a tour of Qualcomm Stadium (formerly Jack Murphy Stadium). A tailgate party follows the tour. The group will then attend the game between San Diego State University and UNLV.

A December pesticide workshop to be held at Mira Costa College is in the planning stages. There will be 8 hours of CEUs offered at this event.

Plan now to attend a Super Bowl seminar in early January at Qualcomm Stadium, the site of the 1998 Super Bowl. Further details on these December and January events will be announced soon.

For further information, contact The Chapter Hotline: (1-888) 578-STMA (toll free in Southern California).

**Midwest Chapter:** The Midwest Chapter of STMA will hold its annual meeting on December 2 in conjunction with the North Central Turfgrass Exposition at Pheasant Run Resort and Conference Center in St. Charles, Ill. The annual meeting will wrap up that day's special sports-turf track

of educational sessions. The NCTG Exposition runs from December 1 through December 3.

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

**Colorado Chapter:** The Colorado Chapter of STMA will again participate in the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association (RMRTA) Annual Turf Conference and Trade Show. This event will be held December 10-12, 1997, at Currigan Hall in downtown Denver. For more information on this event, call (303) 770-2220.

For information on the Colorado Chapter and other upcoming activities, call the 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/FAX: (303) 438-9645.

**Minnesota Chapter:** As part of the Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation, the Minnesota Chapter of STMA will take part in the MTGF 4th Annual Conference and Trade Show, which will be held December 10-12, 1997, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. For more information on this event, contact Scott Turtinen: (612) 473-8169.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter's schedule for the conference or other activities, contact Connie Rudolph: (612) 646-1679.

**MAFMO:** For information on the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA) or upcoming activities, contact The Hotline: (410) 290-5652.

**KAFMO:** For information on upcoming activities or the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO Chapter STMA), contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club: (610) 375-8469, extension 212.

**STMA Chapters on the Grow**

**Northern California:** Touchdown! A Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association is now open for business. A grand opening is currently being planned for mid-November in the San Francisco Bay area. Become an active member today! Several Commercial Charter members are already on board and participating. Membership categories include Charter Commercial, Commercial, Professional, and Student. Be a leader in the industry and take advantage of the vast networking opportunities.

For membership and other information about the Nor-Cal STMA Chapter, contact Gail Setka at the UC Davis Grounds Office: (916) 752-5035 (phone) or (916) 752-9631 (fax).

**Arizona:** Mark your calendars for December 4 and 5 and join the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona in two major events in Yuma. Begin with the Second Annual City of Yuma Golf Tournament, which will be held at Desert Hills Golf Course in Yuma on December 4. Then take part in the Fifth Annual City of Yuma Sports Turf & Equipment Field Day on December 5. For more information on either of these events, contact Larry Munoz: (520) 329-2824.

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

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

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