

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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