Over 50 members and guests of the Minnesota Chapter boarded a bus at Midway Stadium in St. Paul on the hot 16th day of July for the 3rd Annual Workshop on Wheels. The first stop was McMurray Park, where four vendors were set up to demonstrate various pieces of aerification equipment. Attenders could observe options in action to help determine what might work in their own situations.

The next stop was the Indoor Sports Training Center at Rice & Arlington Sports Dome, a facility with 100,000 square feet of artificial turf under a dome. Although the original plan was for the dome to be up only from late fall until early spring, it was still up during the tour, and there is speculation it will remain up. The tour was conducted by VP of Inside Sports Steve Winfield (yes, Dave’s brother). The facility is used year round for both slow and fast pitch softball, Little League baseball, and soccer. There was an excellent interchange of information between Winfield and members who have artificial surfaces. It was another example of how both attenders and hosts of an STMA event can benefit.

The next stop included an informative tour of the Turfco Manufacturing plant, where the visitors saw raw materials arriving through one door, finished goods leaving another, and all the steps in between. Several quality checks were pointed out, and it was fascinating to observe the modern robotics used in some of the manufacturing steps. Turfco also provided a picnic lunch on their turfed test area.

Bethel College’s athletic fields were the seventh stop. The main field was used for football last fall after washed sod was installed in July. Many questions about the field’s care were answered.

The bus buzzed with discussion between stops. Topics included irrigation, striping, fertilization and mowing practices.

The last stop of the day included a relaxing tailgate party at Midway Stadium and the St. Paul Saints evening game. Besides seeing an excellent playing field and watching a baseball game, the full house got to witness STMA’s first president, Dick Ericson, receive his Honorary Life Member cer-
tificate and card from STMA President Mike Schiller. Ericson was originally to be honored at the STMA banquet in Colorado Springs, but a rare absence due to his wife’s hospitalization prevented that. She is now fine and was able to witness the presentation along with all the MSTMA members and also demonstrate and display their products.

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

Colorado Chapter: The Colorado Chapter of STMA has set its combination Vendor Expo and Meeting for September 18 at Jeffco Stadium. This replaces the spring event that was canceled due to an April snow.

Just a few of the features of this event will include a presentation on the history of Jefferson County stadiums, a presentation on the STMA Certification program by Certification Committee member Ross Kurcab, a tour of Jeffco Stadium, and product demonstrations.

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

Iowa Chapter: The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association 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.

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

Southern California Chapter: Plans for an October meeting are in the works. Details will be announced soon.

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

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 at Minneapolis Convention Center. For more on this event, contact Scott Turtinen: (612) 473-8169.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter, contact Connie Rudolph: (612) 646-1679.

STMA Chapters on the Grow

Northern California: A budding chapter is taking shape in northern California. 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. News about the official “Grand Opening” and Charter Commercial Memberships will be announced soon.

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

Great Plains: The Great Plains STMA has its Fall Workshop in the planning stage. Details will be announced soon.

For information, contact Mark Schimming, City of Wichita: (316) 337-9123.