

Newly Affiliated MiSTMA Holds Meeting

The Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA) held its first meeting as an official STMA affiliated chapter June 25, at West Ottawa public Schools.

Sixty-eight attendees packed the room for the kick-off of the educational sessions. Meanwhile, several vendor attendees were on the field, wrapping up setup of displays for the trade show and outdoor demonstrations.

Chapter President Rick Jurries welcomed attendees, outlined coming events, and invited guests to take advantage of their final opportunity to sign up as charter members. He turned the program over to Chapter Secretary Kurt Brace, who served as MC for the day.

David Gilstrap of Michigan State University gave the first presentation. He addressed the topic: "Species Cultivar — Selection, Overseeding and Timing for Irrigated, High-Maintenance Sites." He spoke about working with Kentucky bluegrasses and perennial ryegrasses in athletic field seeding and overseeding situations.

Gilstrap noted that most sports turf managers begin the seeding process with 80-percent Kentucky bluegrasses (of at least three cultivars) and 20-percent perennial ryegrasses by weight. Because it takes 23 Kentucky bluegrass seeds to equal the weight of one perennial ryegrass seed, that translates to 95.7-percent Kentucky bluegrass and 4.3-percent perennial ryegrass by seed count. Essentially, the faster-germinating perennial ryegrasses create a light shade that aids bluegrass establishment.

Dr. Paul Rieke of MSU spoke next on the topic: "Timing is Everything."

His presentation included a list of prerequisites for quality sports turf: appropriate choice of grass, acceptable soil conditions, adapted maintenance programs, adequate budgets and equipment choices, reasonable scheduling of the field, and training of the field manager.

STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty welcomed the chapter, and spoke on the national organization and



Courtesy: Trusty & Assoc.

benefits of membership. He presented President Jurries with the official MiSTMA Chapter gavel.

Doug Coe, who retired after 30 years as a coach and was inducted into the Coaches Hall of Fame, took the floor with his topic: "Relationships with Pride." He pointed out the similarities between coaching and sports turf management. Both are in the public eye, both are evaluated every game, and both have no place to hide. People in the stands think that both coaching and sports turf management are simple — and they are if everything goes right. We all know that doesn't happen

often. As Coe said, "You can't always do it right, but you must always attempt to do it right."

Networking was in high gear during lunch and afternoon activities. Attendees moved outside for the trade show and outdoor demonstrations. Attendees were divided into groups for up-close viewing of techniques and question and answer exchanges. As they wrapped up the day checking out the exhibits, it was obvious that this first meeting as an official chapter had been a great success.

WELCOME TO STMA'S TWO NEWEST AFFILIATED CHAPTERS: The Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA) and the Great Lakes Sports Turf Managers Association (GLSTMA) have both completed all requirements for affiliation. They were officially recognized as affiliated chapters by the STMA Board at the June 19-20, 1998, Board Meeting.

Chapter news

Great Lakes Chapter: GLSTMA closed charter membership enrollment at the end of its July 10 workshop, the first meeting as an official affiliated chapter. As with all chapters, new members are always welcome and can sign up anytime.

GLSTMA is now accepting entries from active members for the '98 Sports Facility Awards. Categories include Professional Facility; College Facility; and School, Municipal, or Park Facility. All entries must be submitted by September 1.

The annual dinner and awards banquet will be held at 6:30 pm, November 5, at Baldwin-Wallace College. Executive board meetings are