

STMA in Action

Arizona Fall 1997 Turf Seminar

Bright blue skies and comfortable temperatures added to the beauty of the Mesa, Arizona setting, as attendees gathered for the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona Fall 1997 Turf Seminar on November 13th.

The Chapter had put together a great program. Mesa's Hohokam Stadium was buzzing with early morning activity. Exhibitors set up table-top displays in the concourse, and equipment and irrigation system displays "on the turf" just across the entry area drive and adjacent to the stadium entrance. Smiling chapter members greeted the attendees at the registration table in between the display areas. They invited visitors to stop by the displays to visit with exhibitors before the kick-off of the educational sessions.

Everyone then gathered for coffee and pastries and the morning's sessions. Chapter President, Kris Kircher, Irrigation Coordinator - Parks Maintenance for Chandler, Arizona, opened the seminar with a welcome to attendees and a thank you to exhibitors. First on the program was Harold Gentry, City of Mesa. He gave an overview of Hohokam Stadium, complete with details of the field construction and the maintenance program tailored to the new characteristics of the field.

Next, STMA Commercial Vice President Dr. Henry Indyk of Turfcon spoke on "Basic Soil Profiles of the Southwest." Dr. Indyk illustrated the specifics of the soil profiles and addressed the special challenges Southwest soils present to sports turf managers.

Next came STMA President, Mike Schiller, Superintendent of Parks for

the Rolling Meadows (Illinois) Park District. Schiller showcased some of his experiences as an STMA member, Board member and STMA President. As an active member of both the national association and the Midwest Chapter, he emphasized the tremendous networking opportunities available to STMA members. He spoke of the extensive communication and sharing of information on new and innovative programs and facilities.

STMA Executive Director Steve

being fine-tuned. A show of hands among attendees indicated that the program is on the right track. Approximately 10 percent had achieved the projected levels of combined education and experience to qualify for application for testing. Another 10 to 20 percent were within a year or two of reaching that status.

Before the lunch break, Kircher introduced the other national board members attending the Seminar: STMA Secretary Eugene Mayer, Technical Training and Support Manager for The Scotts Company; and President-Elect Steve Guise, Business Development Director for Valley Crest in San Fernando, California.

Attendees moved outside to mingle, visit and pick up their lunch plates. They even had a chance to watch a little pre-game batting practice. The break gave attendees more time to circulate among the displays and visit more with exhibitors.

Following the break, the group gathered back at the meeting room for a presentation on "General Grounds Maintenance" by

STMA Board Member L. Murray Cook, Baseball Stadium and Sports Field Manager for Disney's Wide World of Sports complex in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Cook gave details from his national and international work in baseball, and described the construction and operation of the multi-field, multi-sport Disney facility.

Following Cook's presentation, attendees were invited to stay for the afternoon game. Mesa will be the site of STMA's 10th Annual Conference and Exhibition on January 13 - 17, 1999, and the Arizona Chapter used



Mesa's Hohokam Stadium hosted the STMA of Arizona Fall 97 Turf Seminar on November 13. Courtesy: Trusty & Assoc.

Trusty spoke next. Trusty noted the range of services provided by STMA, including the bi-monthly newsletter, Sports Turf Manager; the Jobs Hotline; the Web Page; the Membership Roster and Resource Manual; and the annual Compendium, a handy resource of articles by and about sports turf managers. He said the national Headquarters exists as an additional resource for members and can be easily reached by the 800 phone number, by fax or by direct e-mail.

Trusty also outlined the Certification program, which is still



Attendees were able to survey to field as they looked over new equipment on display. Courtesy: Trusty & Assoc.

the afternoon and evening following the Seminar to give national board members a preview of some of the probable sites for Seminar on Wheels tours. They were *extremely* impressive.

This super group of hosts and the combination of excellent tour sites, a great hotel, conference and exhibition facility, and the beauty of the Southwest all promise to rate next year's conference among the finest yet. Be sure to mark your calendars now for the 1999 Conference.

Chapter News

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO Chapter): On February 19, the KAFMO Chapter



Shown during its construction, BOB is a probable Seminar on Wheels stop for the STMA's 1999 Conference. Courtesy: Trusty & Assoc.



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will hold seminars in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society. Further details will be announced soon.

For information on this event, other upcoming activities or the KAFMO Chapter, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469

Florida Chapter #1: Florida Chapter #1 is planning a meeting for March 18 at Pro Players Stadium.

The meeting focus will be Field and Equipment Safety. Further details will be announced soon.

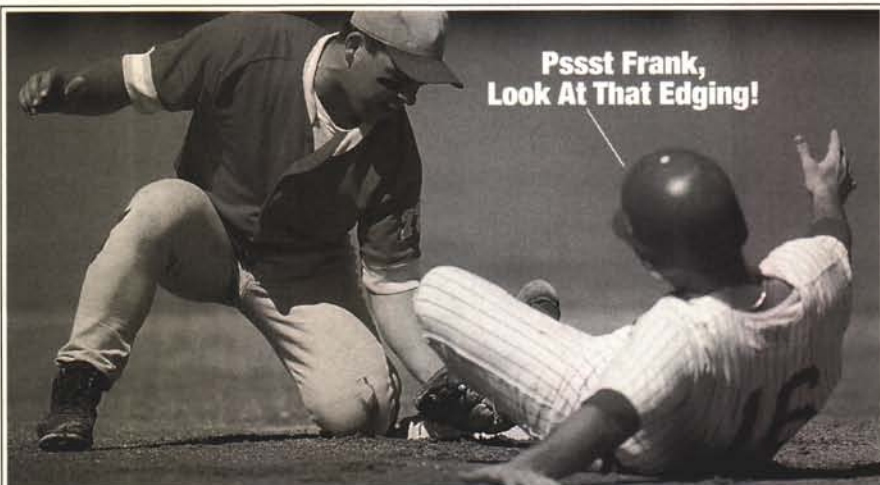
For further information contact John Mascaro at (954) 938-7477.

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

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: For information, call Lori Westrum in The Turf Office at (515) 232-8222 or FAX to (515) 232-8228.



Grant Trenbeath (center), Head Groundskeeper for the Arizona Diamondbacks, gives the STMA Board and Arizona Chapter members a tour of BOB (Bank One Ballpark). Courtesy: Trusty and Assoc.



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Northern California Chapter: For information, contact Gail Setka in the UC Davis Grounds Office at (916) 752-5030 or FAX to (916) 752-9631.

MAFMO Chapter: For information, contact the Hotline at (410) 290-5652.

Colorado Chapter: For Information, call the 24-hr CSTMA Chapter Hotline/fax at (303) 438-9645.

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

Southern California Chapter: For information, contact The Chapter Hotline at (888) 578-STMA.

Chapters on the Grow

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

Mid-South Chapter: The newly forming Mid-South Chapter of STMA will hold its next meeting in mid-February. More details will be announced soon.

The Mid-South Chapter serves Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and parts of Louisiana, Missouri and Kentucky. For more information, contact Chip Houmes at (901) 377-5081 or Jim Calhoun at (901) 755-1305.

Nevada Chapter: Plans are moving ahead for the new chapter. For information, contact Ibsen Dow at (702) 649-1551.

Great Plains STMA: For information, contact Mark Schimming of the City of Wichita at (316) 337-9123.

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