

Rolling Stones Help

Kickoff Nor-Cal

When the Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association held its first ever meeting at the Alameda County Complex, its 170 members were greeted by a massive six story stage built for the Rolling Stones' "Bridges to Babylon" tour. Throughout the day, stage hands and construction crews assembled the intricate steel-rigging using cranes, forklifts, tractors and trucks. It was easy to see the challenges the extravagant show presented the turf manager, who was expected to grow a high-quality professional sports field under those conditions.

Attendees of the grand opening had a chance to observe activities on the field from the country-club-like setting of the Coliseum's West Side Club, where Nor-Cal STMA President **Sal Genito** opened the day's activities. He introduced

and thanked the chapter's 17 commercial sponsors, who made a strong commitment to the group by providing seed money to establish the chapter. Without these commercial supporters' willingness to get involved, the chapter would not exist.

Next came presentations by **Bob Milano**, sports turf manager, University of California, Berkeley, on sand-based field technology; **Steve Trusty**, STMA executive director, on the national association and its services; and **Steve Wightman**, turf manager, Qualcomm



As Nor-Cal's meeting progressed, so did construction of the six-story-high stage for the Rolling Stones tour.

Stadium, on sports turf management "then and now."

Wightman focused on how our profession has changed over the last 20 years, and how professional associa-

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tions are critical in such a specialized industry. He illustrated his point by reading a job opening from a past newspaper for a stadium turf manager, and it required "a high school education, reliability, and *some* experience with turf maintenance." He then read a job opening for a stadium manager today: "must have a four-year degree in turf management or related field, must be proficient in computer irrigation management and personnel management; and must work cooperatively with decision-makers such as stadium manager, team presidents, owners, etc." Clearly, the industry and expectations have grown.

The day concluded with walking tours of the Coliseum and the New Arena in Oakland, the rebuilt home of the Golden State Warriors. Oakland A's head grounds-keeper **Clay Wood** answered questions and described how he planned to resod the entire football playing surface for the remaining Raiders home games after the four — yes, four — Rolling Stones concerts. (He did a superb job, in a very short window that was complicated by rain almost every day.)

The Nor-Cal Chapter is off to an unprecedented start, and already it's planning for a community service project and a field day in 1998.

STMA Chapter News

Midwest Chapter: The Midwest Chapter held its annual meeting December 3 at the Pheasant Run Resort & Expo Center in St. Charles, Ill., in conjunction with the Sports Turf Track of the North Central Turfgrass Exposition. Elected for 1998 are the following officers: president, **Scott Pippen**, Village of Lincolnshire; vice president, **Jim Lewandowski**, Hinsdale Central High School; past president, **Marc Van Landuyt**, Van's Enterprises; treasurer, **Donald Michaels**, Conserv FS; and secretary, **Tom Breier**, National Seed Co.

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

Iowa Chapter: The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will again participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference, held January 26-28 at Des Moines Convention Center.

The Monday, January 26, Sports Turf Workshop morning sessions include: "Winning Fields = Winning Teams," by **Duane Banks**; "Setting Up for Practice," **Mike McDonald**; "Pattern Mowing," **Luke Yoder**; and Round Table Discussions: "Dealing with Soccer/ Football on the Same Field and Heavy Use Fields," led by **Gary Peterson**; "Football/Soccer Painting (Rules, Techniques and Logos)," **Mike Andresen**; "Fertility/Soil Sampling," **Ron Crooker**; "Baseball/Softball Mound & Homeplate Maintenance," **Luke Yoder**; "Picking an Infield Mix," **Jesse Cuevas**; "Football/Soccer Goalmouth Maintenance," **Kevin Vos**.

The afternoon session offers a combined golf course/sports turf session, "Selecting Sands and Soil Modification," presented by **Dr. Jim Crum**.

The sports turf session on Tuesday afternoon includes: "Using Crumb Rubber to Improve Wear Tolerance," presented by **Dr. Jim Crum**; "Landscaping Your Complex," **Ron Crooker**; "Aeration: Not Just for Compaction Relief," **Jesse Cuevas**.

The ISTMA Annual Membership Meeting is at 3 p.m., and will be followed by an informal social time with hors d'oeuvres, raffles and networking.

The sports turf session on Wednesday morning includes:



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"Conversion from Artificial to Natural Turf — Kansas City Fields," presented by **Gary Custis**; "Ten Tips for Managing Fields on a Limited Budget," Dr. **Dave Minner**; "I'm Not the Boss — What Are My Responsibilities?" **Jeff Salmond**; "Managing and Its Role," **Mike Burt**.

For more information, contact Lori Westrum at The Turf Office: (515) 232-8222 (phone) or (515) 232-8228 (fax).

KAFMO: On February 19, the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization will hold seminars in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society. Further details will be announced soon.

For information, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club: (610) 375-8469, extension 212.

Florida Chapter #1: Florida Chapter #1 is planning a meeting for March 18 at Pro Players Stadium. The meeting's focus will be field and equipment safety. Further details will be announced soon.

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

Northern California Chapter:

The Nor-Cal Chapter of STMA is planning its 1998 schedule of events and will announce details soon.

For more information about the Nor-Cal Chapter, contact Gail Setka at the UC Davis Grounds Office: (916) 752-5035 or fax to (916) 752-9631.

MAFMO: For information on the MAFMO Chapter or upcoming activities, contact The Hotline: (410) 290-5652.

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

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

Southern California Chapter: For more information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact The Chapter Hotline: (1-888) 578-STMA (toll free in Southern California).

Chapters on the Grow

Arizona: For information on the

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona or upcoming events, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department: (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: (901) 377-5081; or Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305.

Nevada: Plans are moving forward on the formation of a Nevada Chapter of STMA. For information on this developing chapter, contact Ibsen Dow: (702) 649-1551.

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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