

## Athletic Directors

## Sports Turf Managers

# & Team Up

by *Connie Rudolph*

**T**eamwork does make a difference. This definitely turned out to be the case when the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association joined forces with the Minnesota Athletic Directors Association for a spring workshop May 6. The joint meeting was billed as "Turf Day."

Seventy-five attendees gathered at 9:00 am at the high school campus in Farmington, MN, eager to cash in on the promise of quality field-care information. That promise was fulfilled in presentations based on practical, down-to-earth information, and in demonstrations packed with ideas to take home and put to use.

John Hopko of Professional Turf & Renovation opened the program by discussing how to get the most out of fields on a tight budget. He focused on the practical aspects of preparing and maintaining native-soil fields to withstand today's typical heavy-use schedules. Hopko combined examples from his company's renovation experience with questions from attendees.

Next, Mike Kelly of the Glenn Rehbein Company covered examples of field renovation projects. He included information on the costs of building different types of fields.

Dr. Don White from the University of Minnesota closed the classroom portion of the workshop. He used slides to illustrate different types of fields,

soil-related problems and developing strategies to combat them.

The workshop proceeded with demonstrations of field-care equipment. Attendees saw groomers, mowers, and aerators in action on the Farmington High School baseball field.

The groups were buzzing as the networking and idea exchange continued during a great lunch.

This joint event grew from our chapter's annual spring membership drive. Shannon Hendrickson, our immediate past president, had suggested that we contact Pete Veldman, executive secretary of MADA, about the possibility of including an advertisement or a flyer promoting our spring workshop in the organization's newsletter. Once Hendrickson explained the type of event we were planning, he and Veldman began discussing common problems, and Veldman suggested bringing the two groups together in a joint workshop.

Hendrickson had already offered his school's facilities for the spring workshop. The MSTMA Board agreed to come up with the speakers, recruit companies for the demonstra-



**Pictured left to right: MSTMA joint workshop attendees Tom Rudburg, University of St. Thomas (seated); Lori Gislason, University of Minnesota; and Shannon Hendrickson, Farmington Independent School District.**

*Courtesy: Connie Rudolph*

showing both good and bad examples and explaining the details of each. He used the examples to help attendees work through the basics of diagnosing

tions, and make arrangements for lunch. We put together the promotional flyer, included it in our newsletter to members, and sent it to our extended mailing list. All of this was standard procedure for organizing a regular chapter workshop.

MADA covered the costs of copies and the mailing costs of including the flyer in its newsletter. MSTMA handled the registration duties, and the chapter retained the funds generated by the workshop.

This successful outreach to one of our targeted groups was far easier and more successful than we'd anticipated. The enthusiasm was so great that plans were already brewing for the 1999 joint workshop before the end of the session.

*Connie Rudolph is groundskeeper for Midway Stadium, St. Paul, MN.*

#### Chapter news

**Colorado Chapter:** The Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association will hold its "Mountain Seminar" July 17, at Steamboat Springs. CSTMA's annual golf tournament, "Lawnmower Man Open," will be held Monday, July 13, at West Woods Golf Course in Arvada.

For more information on these events, the Colorado Chapter, or other upcoming activities, call the 24-hour CSTMA chapter hotline/fax: (303) 438-9645.

**Minnesota Chapter:** The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association will hold its "Workshop on Wheels" July 15, starting at Midway Stadium in St. Paul. Events begin with groomer demonstrations. The tour then moves to Canterbury Park, a horse racing facility. Following lunch at Canterbury Park, the group heads to Lakeville for a tour of the high school athletic fields, including the new football field. A tour of the Apple Valley Park Sports Complex follows. The group then heads to Turf Supply for the last tour of the day. The workshop wraps up back at Midway Stadium for tailgating, networking, and a St. Paul Saints game.

The chapter is also planning a workshop in September. For information on the "Workshop on Wheels", the September event, the Minnesota Chapter, or other pending activities, contact Connie Rudolph: (612) 646-1679.

**KAFMO Chapter:** Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization joins PGMS, the Penn-Del Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, Westtown School, and Penn State Cooperative Extension in sponsoring "Grounds

browsing, refreshments, and door prizes. The traditional picnic supper will be held from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

For information on this event, other upcoming activities, or the KAFMO Chapter, contact Dan Douglas of the Reading Phillies Baseball Club: (610) 375-8469 ext. 212.

**Iowa Chapter:** The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will participate in the "Iowa Turfgrass Field Day" July 16, at the ISU Horticulture Research Station in Ames. ISTMA will also participate in the "Iowa Turf Institute (ITI) Golf Tournament" September 14, at Glen Oaks Country Club in West Des Moines, IA. Further details will be announced soon.

For more information on these events, the Iowa Chapter, or other upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum at The Turf Office: (515) 232-8222, or (515) 232-8228 (fax).

**Midwest Chapter:** The Midwest Chapter will hold its "Athletic Field Construction Seminar" July 29, at the Carol Stream Park District, Carol Stream, IL. The seminar will highlight Panther Football Field.

For information on this event, the Midwest Chapter, or other pending activities, call the chapter hotline: (847) 622-3517.

**Southern California Chapter:** The chapter is

planning its annual community service project for early August at Mount San Antonio College in Walnut, LA County. Further details will be announced soon.

For information on the service project, the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, contact the chapter hotline: (888) 578-STMA (toll free in Southern California).

**Mid-South Chapter:** The Mid-South Chapter STMA is planning a tour of the new Redbird Stadium now under construction in Memphis.

For more information on this event, the chapter, any of the regions, or other pending activities, contact Chip Houmes: (901) 377-5081, or Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305.



Attendees take advantage of field demonstrations at MSTMA's joint workshop.

*Courtesy: Connie Rudolph*

Managers Field Day" July 15, at Westtown School in Westtown, PA. Registration and trade show both open at noon.

A triple offering of grounds, tree, and turf tours run from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Attendees choose one of three selections: a grounds walk with Dr. Jim Sellmer, horticultural specialist at Penn State; an arboriculture program with Penn-Del ISA Chapter leaders, which will feature a discussion of lightning protection for large trees; or a focus on athletic field management topics with Multi-County Turfgrass Agent Nancy Bosold and KAFMO members.

Following the tours, attendees return to the trade show for more