Teamwork 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-
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 Hounes: (901) 377-5081, or Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305.