

In the News.....➔



Toro and Disney host Sports Turf Pro Club

Turf managers from across the nation recently gathered at Disney's Wide World of Sports in Orlando, FL, for the first-ever Sports Turf Professionals Club. The three-day conference, sponsored by the Toro Company, allowed sports turf managers to learn and share the latest techniques in the industry.

Steve Cockerham, superintendent of agricultural operations at the University of California-Riverside, acted as the keynote speaker for the event. He's chiefly responsible for developing and growing turf for Bank One Ballpark, the new retractable-dome stadium in Phoenix. His presentation discussed the work that went into researching and design-

ing the project, and the installation itself.

The Sports Turf Managers Association sent several members to Orlando to participate in the event. Executive Director Steve Trusty explained, "Events like Toro's Sports Turf Pro Club help bring the industry together and raise awareness of how professional the industry and the STMA have become, and create opportunities for our members' future growth."

According to STMA officials, that growth has been extraordinary of late. Membership has doubled over the past two years, and there's no sign that that trend will slow down anytime soon. The demand for professional sports turf managers has never been higher.



Jody Gill, grounds manager for Blue Valley School District in Overland Park, KS, tests the turf at Disney's Wide World of Sports NFL Challenge.

Courtesy: Toro

Sports turf contractors launch new association

At the recent Sports Turf Managers Association Conference in Orlando, FL, a group of 12 people representing eight sports field contractors met to discuss the feasibility of establishing a new association specifically directed to sports turf contractors. Discussions went well, and the Sports Turf Contractors Association (STCA) was born.

The group determined that it would continue to take an active role in the STMA, and that it would compliment rather than compete with its parent organization. STMA Board members threw their support behind the initiative, and the new STCA appointed a committee to act as a liaison between the organizations.

The following will serve as the STCA's initial board of officers:

- Aaron McWhorter, Sports Turf Company, Inc. *President*
- Paul Franks, S.W. Franks Construction Co. *Vice President*
- Charlie Hendricks, Woerner Sports Turf *Secretary/Treasurer*

The STCA will work to promote sports field construction standards, and to improve the overall construction quality and safety of fields at all

levels. A mission statement is currently in the works, and the organization is actively seeking prospective members.

Initial annual membership dues have been set at \$500, and the STCA

will most likely hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the STMA Conference.

For more information, call Aaron McWhorter or Dan Wright: (800) 273-8608.

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