

Colorado Chapter Meets Come Sun—Or Snow

It takes more than 10 inches of snow cover to dampen the spirits of the Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association—or to keep members from attending a seminar.

Despite continuing snowfall on April 16, 84 people gathered in the United States Air Force Academy's (USAFA) Falcon Stadium. From the press box they looked out at a snow-covered field during the chapter's 1998 Spring Seminar.

If the turnout alone isn't enough to confirm this chapter's dedication to promoting better and safer sports turf areas, consider the fact that two Colorado facilities earned top field awards for 1997. CSTMA President Abby McNeal's facility, Pleasant View Sports Complex, was named STMA College Soccer Field of the Year. Chapter members Michael Sexton, Tony Madrid, and Richard Sandoval also earned top honors for their work at La Junta's Potter Park Field. The facility captured the STMA / sportsTURF / Beam Clay Municipal Baseball Diamond of the Year Award (See Field Focus: page 12).

USAFA Football Coach Fisher DeBerry opened the educational session with his presentation: "What a well-maintained field means." He noted that football is a mind game, and the condition of the field has a lot to do with the team's confidence, mental attitude, and pride. He added, "A field not in good condition is the greatest equalizer of a football game." Before every away game, DeBerry takes his team to the stadium so players can see what they will be playing on, and to set

the tempo for the competition.

Falcon Stadium Manager Mike Wehrmann followed with a history of the facility. The original field had been installed in 1965, but it was converted to a high-tech, sand-based field in 1996. Prior to the reconstruction, five crew members labored for three days prior to each game to whip the problem areas into playable condition. The antiquated irrigation system took six hours to adequately water the field.



Ten inches of snow covered USAFA's Falcon Stadium for CSTMA's Spring Seminar in April. Courtesy: Steve Trusty

Wehrmann told of the extra work created by secret service inspections when the President or Vice President attend games at the stadium. Even the irrigation system's valve boxes are checked out.

Richard McDonald, landscape architect for RBI, supplied details of the field reconstruction. Because the nine-foot high tunnel is the only entrance to the field, they could only bring in five yards of material at a

time. This becomes a long process when you're adding 5,000 tons of sand and 2,000 tons of gravel!

Mark Altman of Altman & Altman Consulting addressed the topic, "Understanding soils and soil test results." He gave a step-by-step review of how to gather, prepare, and send soil samples, and noted that if you only soil test once a year, you should be sure to do it in full.

Next Steve Yarish of American Pride Fertilizer covered "the basics of fertilizer varieties and their costs," giving a practical, easy-to-use overview of the steps necessary to match fertilizer products with field needs and budgetary parameters.

STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty addressed services provided by the national association and gave an update on the status of the certification program.

Ross Kurcab, turf manager for the Denver Broncos, kicked off the afternoon session with a presentation on "how to calculate fertilizer rates and spreader and sprayer calibrations." Kurcab gave a detailed walk-through of the basics and worked through some sample calculations.

Show-and-tell tours of Falcon Stadium, the fieldhouse, and athletic complex wrapped up the seminar with as much outdoor observation as the melting snow allowed.

Chapter news

The MAFMO Chapter STMA: MAFMO will hold a "Seminar on Wheels" on June 26. Tour stops will

include Byrd Stadium, home of the Maryland Terrapins; Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, home of the Washington Redskins; and Prince George's Stadium, home of the Bowie Baysox. The group will share a picnic dinner in the left-field pavilion of Prince George's Stadium, and will take in a game between the Baysox and the Portland Seadogs.

For information, contact the hotline: (410) 290-5652.

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: The ISTMA will meet on July 8, at Kinnick Stadium, University of Iowa - Iowa City. Featured speakers include Dale Getz of the University of Notre Dame, Ted Thorn of the University of Iowa, and Mike Andresen of Iowa State University. The chapter will also participate in the "Iowa Turfgrass Field Day," which will be held July 16, at the ISU Horticulture Research Station in Ames.

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

The Mid-South Chapter STMA: STMA's newest affiliated chapter will hold its next meeting July 8, in Millington, TN, in conjunction with Floyd Perry's Groundskeepers Management Academy.

Construction of the new Redbird Stadium in Memphis is underway. A tour of this facility is in the planning stages.

For information, contact Chip Houmes: (901) 377-5081, or Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305.

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

For information, call the 24-hour CSTMA chapter hotline/fax: (303) 438-9645.

Minnesota Chapter: The Minnesota Chapter will hold its "Workshop on Wheels" July 15, starting at Midway Stadium in St. Paul. After a stop at McMurray Field for groomer demonstrations; the tour moves on to Winter Park, the Minnesota Vikings' training facility; then 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, and then it's on to the University of St. Thomas. The Workshop ends at Midway Stadium for tailgating, networking, and a St. Paul Saints game. The chapter is also planning a September workshop.

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

KAFMO Chapter: The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization is planning a mid-July meeting. For information, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club: (610) 375-8469 ext. 212.

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

For information, call the chapter hotline: (847) 622-3517.

Florida Chapter #1: For information, contact John Mascaro: (954) 938-7477.

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

Southern California Chapter: The chapter is planning its annual community service project for early August at Mount San Antonio College in Walnut, L.A. County. Further details will be announced soon.

For information, contact the chapter hotline: (888) 578-STMA (toll free in Southern California).

Chapters on the grow

Arizona Chapter: STMAAZ is planning a July meeting in Show Low. For information, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department: (602) 994-7954; or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 786-2728.

Indiana Chapter: For information on this developing chapter, contact Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer: (219) 356-8424, or Pat Hickner: (800) 672-4273.

Michigan Chapter: A new chapter is taking shape in Michigan. It will be meeting from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm, June 25, at the West Ottawa Public Schools.

Recertification credit can be earned through this meeting's educational sessions: "Timing is Everything" and

"Putting an IPM Program to Good Use," presented by Dr. Paul Rieke of Michigan State University; and "Calibrating Spray Equipment," presented by David Gilstrap, also of MSU.

1998 Football Hall of Fame Coach Doug Coe and STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty will also speak at the meeting. Afternoon events will include outdoor demonstrations of equipment and materials for baseball and football field care.

Plans are also in the works for a July event at MSU, which will include a presentation on field marking and a tour of the athletic facilities; and an August event with presentations on football field compaction. More details will be announced soon.

For information, contact Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools: (616) 395-2364.

Great Lakes Chapter: The chapter has elected the following officers for the 1998 term:

Joe Zelinko, Athletic Field Services
President
Boyd Montgomery, Sylvania Recreation
President-elect
Dave Conover, Conover Supply
Vice President
Rick Wiegand, Medalist America Seed
Commercial Vice President
Karen Zelinko, Athletic Field Services
Treasurer
Duane Smith, Baldwin-Wallace College
Secretary

A June event, an August golf outing, and a November meeting in Toledo are all in the planning stages. A July 10 "Field Day" will be held at the Akron Arrows' Stadium. It will begin with a tour of the facility at 9:30 am. Events include on-field demonstrations, lunch, and an evening ball game.

Executive board meetings are scheduled for June 30, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 29, and Oct. 27.

For information, contact Joe Zelinko: (800) 897-9714, or Boyd Montgomery: (419) 885-1982.

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

Nevada Chapter: For information, contact Ibsen Dow: (702) 649-1551, or Alan Paulson, Clark County School District: (702) 799-8724. □