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"The outfield had more peaks and valleys than the Asian economy, and the weeds were as plentiful as the thin, brown patches that passed for grass." Wow - what a description of an athletic field. But, this lead-in taken from *The Arizona Republic* newspaper is the introduction to a positive article - not a negative one.

The article is titled, "Community spirit wins turf war for benefit of kids in Chandler." The field described - in far from glowing terms - is located at the Chandler, Ariz., Boys & Girls Club. The positive side of the story is that this field was the focus of a massive renovation as the service project of the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona.

Mike Greene, the branch executive for the Chandler Boys & Girls Club was quoted as saying, "I've been here for seven years, and we've been talking about getting that field fixed up ever since I got here."

STMAAZ President Kris Kircher is the Chandler parks maintenance irrigation coordinator. One of his quotes in the article explains much about why the renovation wasn't happening: "We estimated it was going to cost \$100,000 to repair the broken (irrigation) line and fix up the field, and there just never seemed to be the money for it."

Trite as it may sound, where there's a will, there's a way. Unleash a bunch of dedicated individuals aimed at achieving a common goal, and anything is possible.

According to Kircher, response was overwhelming. Once the site was designated and the call for assistance issued in late January, more than 25 vendors kicked in with donations of various types of equipment and supplies to get the job done.

Individuals, sports turf managers

and local members of the community gathered at the field on Friday nights and Saturdays until early April. They rolled up their sleeves to pitch in and do whatever it took to transform the field to good, playable condition.

Most STMA affiliated chapters, and the groups in various stages of chapter formation, have made a commitment to give something back to one of their local communities in the form of a similar service-project outreach. The sites chosen for these service projects are always fields in need, often for a wide variety of reasons. They lack the funds necessary for renovation or repair - again, usually for a wide variety of reasons.

For vendors, donations of dollars, products, equipment, or equipment use could be compared to stripping profits off the bottom line. Nevertheless, they give. The field work is donated: freely and cheerfully given after the end of a long working day, or on a cherished day off. The professional sports turf managers know exactly what they're getting themselves into, and "just do it" anyway.

Another of Kircher's quotes from the *Arizona Republic* article sums up the motivation behind such ambitious projects and such dedication: "A lot of emphasis goes to Major League Baseball and colleges for having beautiful, safe fields," he said. "Our feeling is that everyone should have a safe, quality field to play on, from Little League on up."

Congratulations, Chandler Boys & Girls Club! We know you'll put that great field to good use.

Congratulations, STMAAZ! You've started the spring season with a wonderful glow of good feeling - and have given some great encouragement for others out there to get going on their own service projects.

Chapter news

MAFMO Chapter: The MAFMO Chapter STMA will hold an Irrigation Seminar with Toro from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., May 20, at Cedar Lane Park in Columbia, Md.

Plans are beginning for the chapter's first "Seminar on Wheels" event to be held June 9. The tour will start and end at the Bowie Baysox. Further details will be announced soon.

For information on these events, the chapter's pending Internet connection, the MAFMO Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact the Hotline: (410)290-5652.

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

For information on this event, the

Midwest Chapter or other pending activities, call the Chapter Hotline: (847) 622-3517.

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter #1 will meet May 19, in conjunction with the Miami Shores Parks and Recreation Department. This meeting will focus on all-purpose sports field maintenance.

For more information on this event, the Florida Chapter or other pending activities, contact John Mascaro: (954) 938-7477.

Nor-Cal Chapter: The Northern California Chapter announces its first "Summer Field Day", which will be held Thursday, May 28. The day-long seminar will be conducted in and around the athletic facilities on the campus of Stanford University.

The university boasts some of the finest athletic training, competition and spectator facilities in the nation, including: Stanford Stadium, Sunken

Diamond, Maples Pavilion, and the new Taube Family Tennis Center, to name just a few. Attendees will tour behind-the-scenes and hear about Stanford's entire sports turf and facilities management program.

In addition, an early bird technical session on sports turf will be offered, along with specific educational field demonstrations, and the latest in tools, equipment and supplies the sports turf industry has to offer.

For information about the program, vendor exhibits, or to be added to the Nor-Cal Chapter mailing list, contact Janet Giff: (530) 758-4200, or fax (530) 758-1488.

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

Iowa Chapter: The Iowa Chapter will hold a "Wheels Tour" of Des Moines June 18. Attendees will meet

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at Sec Taylor Stadium; tour Wakonda Club, Lincoln High School, Des Moines Soccer Facility, and Hoover High; and return to Sec Taylor Stadium for a tailgate party and the Iowa Cubs night game with the Tucson Toros.

July 8, the Iowa Chapter will meet at Kinnick Stadium at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. Featured speakers for this event are Ken Mrock of the Chicago Bears, 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 more information on these events, the Iowa Chapter or other upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum at the Turf Office: (515) 232-8222, or fax (515) 232-8228.

Colorado Chapter: The Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association will hold its "Summer Seminar" June 18, at Broomfield Community Park in Broomfield.

The CSTMA "Mountain Seminar" is planned for 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 upcoming activities, call the 24-hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/Fax: (303) 438-9645.

Mid-South Chapter: The Mid-South Chapter is STMA's newest affiliated chapter.

Chapter officers are:

- Robert Bodi, Bellevue Baptist Church
President
- Louis Jennings, City of Ripley
Vice President
- Jim Calhoun, BWI
Commercial Vice President
- Chuck Singer, Hardfour, Inc.
Treasurer
- Chip Houmes, Novartis
Secretary

Regional membership directors are:

- Bud Thigpen, Millsaps College
Southern Mississippi and Louisiana
- Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields
Middle and East Tennessee
- Kerry Page, City of Collierville
West Tennessee
- Harold Ross, City of Olive Branch
Northern Mississippi
- James Horton, City of Birmingham
Alabama
- Kenny Grant, Alliza Sod Farm
Kentucky

The Arkansas regional membership director position is open as of this date. For more information on the chapter, any of the regions or pending activities, contact Chip Houmes: (901) 377-5081, or Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305.


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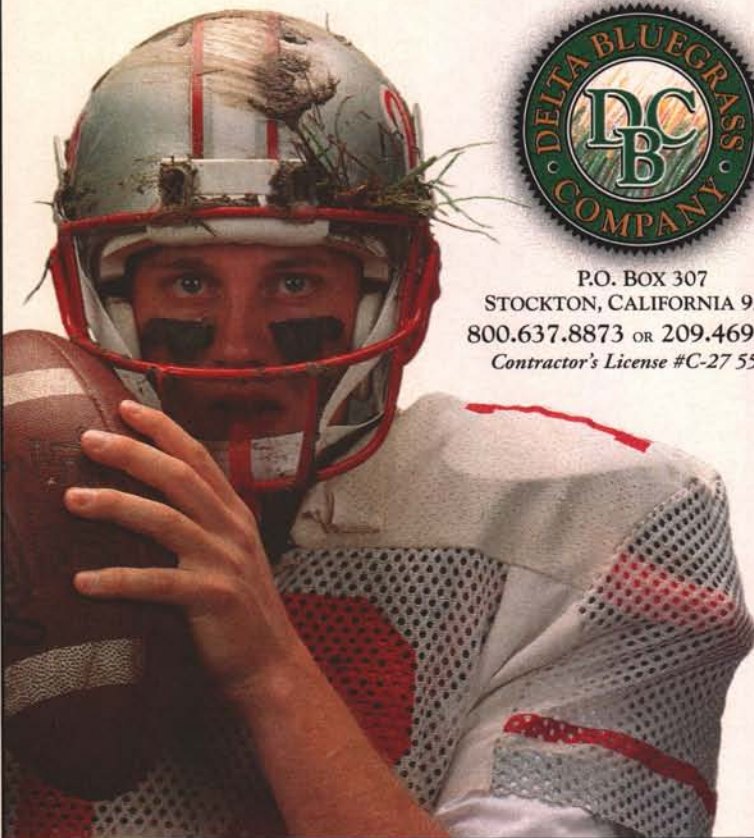
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KAFMO Chapter: The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization STMA has plans in the works for a mid-July meeting.

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

Minnesota Chapter: The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association will hold its "Workshop on Wheels" July 15. It will start and end at Midway Stadium in St. Paul.

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

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

Chapters on the grow

STMAAZ: The Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona will meet at 6:00 p.m., May 14, at A to Z Equipment Rental & Sales, 4050 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix. A summer seminar to be held in Show Low is also in the works.

For information on meetings, the Arizona Chapter or upcoming events, 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: Plans are moving forward for the formation of a new chapter in Indiana. For information on this developing chapter, contact Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer: (219) 356-8424, or fax (219) 356-8429.

Michigan Chapter: A new chapter is taking shape in Michigan. For information on this newly forming chapter, contact Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools: (616) 395-2364.

Great Lakes Chapter: The Great Lakes Chapter continues to move forward. For information on the newly forming chapter, contact Joe Zelinko of Athletic Field Services: (800) 897-9714, or Boyd Montgomery of the Sylvania Recreation Corporation: (419) 885-1982.

Great Plains Chapter: For information on the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association or upcoming activities, contact Mark Schimming, City of Wichita: (316) 337-9123.

Nevada Chapter: 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. □

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Send the information below to enter:

1. Age of baseball diamond (year of installation).
2. Geographic location (city and state).
3. Description of maintenance program.
4. Operating budget for baseball diamond.
5. Irrigation: None _____ Manual _____ Automatic _____
6. Total number of maintenance staff for field.
7. Does baseball field have lighting for night games?
8. Number of events on baseball diamond per year.
9. Types and number of events on diamond other than baseball?
10. How many months during the year is the field used?
11. Why you think this field is one of the best?
12. **IMPORTANT:** Send two sets of color slides or prints.

Deadline for entries: Entries must be postmarked no later than November 30. Selection of winners will be made by the Awards Committee of Four Major League Head Groundskeepers.

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