

# A Great Day in Stevens Point

Ninety-eight people turned out on a beautiful day in Wisconsin July 22, for the first meeting of the newly forming Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association. Thirty-eight attendees signed the on-site petition to become charter members, increasing the total to 56.

The day started with coffee and donuts, and a brief rundown on how the meeting came about. Rich Riggs, formerly of the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Stevens Point, and now site maintenance consultant for R.H. Rettler & Assoc., introduced those who were instrumental in putting the meeting and chapter together.

Chris Brindley, Riggs' replacement as buildings and grounds supervisor at UW, welcomed the group and talked about some of his responsibilities. Chris had been on the job only two months, but he and his crew were excellent hosts.

Later in the meeting, Chris and his staff provided a training session on each piece of equipment used in campus maintenance. He focused on each machine's use in the sports turf program. The staff also discussed some possible new equipment purchases.

STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty talked to the group about the benefits of chapter and national membership. He discussed ways the local and national organizations work together to benefit all who maintain sports turf.

Trusty explained that by working together, exchanging ideas and information, visiting other people's fields, and relaying positive information to those in control of the purse strings, budgets can be increased. He said, "What you do is very important and worthwhile, you just need help in getting that information out. STMA is assisting in getting that word out through publications and contact with specific and the general news media."

Dr. John Stier, UW-Madison present-

ed a "Sports Turf Research Update." He talked about what was going on in Wisconsin, and introduced international research. He provided information about a number of new products, new processes, and new ideas available to sports turf managers.

Stier asserted, "The field of sports turf management is expanding rapidly. Interest continues to grow. Sports turf managers need to continue to work together to make the strides in their profession that the golf course superintendents have made in theirs."

After a very satisfying lunch, the group split in two. One half went over to the game field to hear Rich Riggs talk about how the school worked with the Jacksonville Jaguars to build its first training facilities. He went through the ongoing maintenance program, and spoke about field use. Chris Brindley took the other half of the group for equipment discussions. The groups switched to complete the afternoon.

Michael Mayer, director of maintenance & operations for Lodi Schools, summed up the feelings of many of the attendees by stating that it was a very worthwhile day. He added, "I picked up a number of ideas that I'm going to put into practice right away, and [I'll] bring more of my people to future meetings."

## Chapter news

**KAFMO Chapter:** The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization is planning an Oct. 13 Field Day at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, PA. Don Follett, head groundskeeper of the Washington Redskins' home field, Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, will demonstrate football field layout and logo placement. The program will include field layout demonstrations for soccer and lacrosse, tips on late-fall field repairs, a tour of the turf plots, a Products on Parade demonstration by industry suppliers, and a trade show.

For information, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club: (610) 375-8469, ext. 212.

## Southern California Chapter:

The Southern California Chapter will hold a Football-Soccer Seminar at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, CA, Nov. 5.

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

**Great Lakes Chapter:** GLSTMA will hold its annual Dinner and Awards Banquet 6:30 pm, Nov. 5 at Baldwin-Wallace College.

The next GLSTMA Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Oct. 27.

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

**Iowa Chapter:** ISTMA encourages members to take part in the professional seminar, "Dealing with Jerks," presented by Patt Schwab, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Nov. 10 at Willow Creek Golf Club in West Des Moines.

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

**Florida Chapter #1:** The chapter will meet Nov. 17 at the City of Parkland Parks and Recreation Department. The Rain Bird sponsored event will cover irrigation, and will include a tour of the completed field construction project which the chapter viewed in progress last year.

For more information, contact John Mascaro: (954) 938-7477.

**Nor-Cal Chapter:** The Northern California Chapter's Fall Seminar will be held Nov. 18 at the Simpkins Center, San Jose State University Stadium, San Jose. Morning sessions will include a presentation by Rich Genoff, sports turf manager for the San Francisco 49ers. Afternoon activities will move to the field for demonstrations and a lawn mower competition.

For more information, contact Sal Genito, UC Davis: (530) 752-1691.

**Minnesota Chapter:** As part of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation, the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association will participate in

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