

# KAFMO Meeting Draws 250 Attendees

STMA in Action



Vendor demonstrations were part of KAFMO Extension field days. Courtesy: Dan Fowler



Chuck Leeds, Villanova University (right, whitecap) discusses crumb rubber as a topdressing with one of the field day groups. Courtesy: Dan Fowler



One vendor talking to a group during the field day. Courtesy: Dan Fowler

by Don Fowler, Penn State University Extension Agent (retired) and KAFMO Board Member

The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO) Chapter of STMA held its summer field day on August 11, 1999, at the Brandywine Picnic Park in Pocopson, PA. The program was jointly sponsored by KAFMO and Penn State Cooperative Extension, with Nancy Bosold, Penn State Extension Agent, serving as the Field Day organizer. Two hundred and fifty people attended the day-long event to learn how they might best manage their sports fields following the dry, hot summer. With the meeting focus maintenance of all-purpose fields and the timing just prior to the fall renovation period, attendees were eager to tap into equipment demonstrations, and sessions covering topdressing, irrigation, seeding, and soil preparation.

Demonstration sites were spaced around the meeting area. Attendees were divided into groups and the groups rotated among the various demonstration sites.

George Hamilton of Penn State University was the presenter for "Techniques for successful renovation from soil preparation to seeding." Mike Hartley from the Philadelphia Turf Company presented, "Irrigation from A to Z: Understanding water use and delivery systems." Chuck Leeds of Villanova University focused on "Topdressing and aeration products and procedures, including composts and crumb rubber."

Networking among attendees was another highlight of the day with the combination pig roast and barbecue providing a great forum to keep those conversations flowing.

The August Field Day was just part of another very active season for KAFMO. They once again provided volunteer field maintenance assistance at the Little League World Series in August. This was

followed by another joint venture with Penn State Cooperative Extension—three, one-day field maintenance seminars. The seminars were held at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, on September 20; the Cranberry Township building north of Pittsburgh on September 21; and the Trinity Middle School in Washington, PA, on September 22. Each seminar covered the following topics: dealing with communication between field user groups and field managers; basic turf management and field safety; fall renovation practices; and pre- and post-game field maintenance tips.

## Chapter news

Mark your calendars now for STMA's 11th Annual Conference & Exhibition, "Gateway to the 21st Century," Jan. 12-16, 2000, Regal Riverfront Hotel, St. Louis, MO. For information, contact STMA Headquarters by e-mail: SportsTMgr@aol.com, or by phone: (800) 323-3875.

**KAFMO:** The Eastern PA Turf Conference and Trade Show will be held Jan. 11-13 at the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, PA. The Western PA Turf Conference and Trade Show will be held Feb. 9-11 at the ExpoMart/Radisson Hotel in Monroeville, PA. KAFMO will hold its annual Athletic Field Conference at the Holiday Inn at Grantville Feb. 24. The meeting will feature nationally recognized speakers and vendor displays. For information, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club: (610) 375-8469, ext. 212.

**Wisconsin:** WSTMA will join the Wisconsin Turf Association to present the annual Winter Expo Jan. 11-12 at the Marriott West in Madison, WI. For information, contact Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates, Inc.: (715) 341-2633.

**Iowa:** The Chapter will participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show Jan. 24-26 at the Convention Center in Des Moines, IA. A special sports turf track will again be offered. Featured speakers include: Pete Taylor, the radio voice of the ISU Cyclones; Dale Getz, University of Notre Dame; Connie Rudolph, Midway Stadium; Dr. Dave Minner, ISU. Dr. Minner will also host a "show and tell" session titled, "Your idea