

A Seminar and a Challenge



The Northern California Chapter of STMA held its Fall Seminar at San Jose State University November 18.

STMA President Steve Guise attended the meeting as the National representative. He welcomed attendees and briefly addressed the services provided by National.

Rich Genoff, field manager for the San Francisco 49ers, addressed challenges faced by his crew at the 49ers' training facility in Santa Clara, CA. Rich has a hands-on management style, which keeps him in touch with every aspect of the program. He walked attendees through the process of conversion from an artificial turf field to natural turfgrass.

Rich's presentation emphasized proper disposal of the old surface and underlying materials. He noted methods used by the local independent contractor to recycle as much of the material as possible. These include breaking down and recycling the concrete, which help the environment while benefiting the contractor financially.

The afternoon session began with a lawn mower competition. Participants maneuvered the machines through a series of pylons. Speed was the object, but proper operating techniques and safety proved crucial in the end.

As Steve Guise reported, it was obvious who really knew how to operate the mowers.

Winners of the competition were:

First Place

Raul Bueno
Lead Groundskeeper
Spartan Stadium
San Jose State University

Second Place

Cutberto Santana
Grounds Division Sports Crew
UC Davis

Third Place

Helder Vieira
Cambrian School District
San Jose, CA

Brief field tours of San Jose State University and an Equipment Show brought the seminar to a close.

The Northern California Chapter challenges any chapter to a mower competition at next year's STMA

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Conference Jan. 12-16, 2000, in St. Louis, MO.

Chapter news

Mid-South Chapter: The Mid-South Chapter will hold a field day in January. The date and location will be announced soon.

For information, contact Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305, or Robert Bodi: (901) 383-2414.

Iowa Chapter: ISTMA will again participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference Jan. 25-27, at the Des Moines Convention Center. A special sports turf track of educational sessions will be held 8:30 am-4:00 pm, Jan. 25; 1:30-3:00 pm, Jan. 26; and 8:00-11:45 am, Jan. 27.

ISTMA will hold its annual meeting 3:00-4:00 pm, Jan. 26. The general session will feature Keynote Speaker Gerry Sweda of Sweda



A lawn mower competition highlighted Nor-Cal's Fall Seminar. *Courtesy: STMA*

Training, 10:15-11:30 am, Jan. 26. He'll address the topic: "How could a job that felt so good in the past, feel so bad today." A two-hour Continuing Pesticide Instructional Course begins at 1:30 pm, Jan. 27.

this event, contact Jeff Fowler: (814) 437-7607.

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

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

KAFMO Chapter: Feb. 19, KAFMO/STMA will sponsor an athletic field conference in Grantville, PA. The event will feature seminars and vendor displays. Presentation topics include: drainage, liability, sprayer calibration, low-budget turf care, innovative establishment systems, and more.

Mar. 23, KAFMO/STMA is co-sponsoring the Northwestern Pennsylvania Athletic Field Turf and Ornamental Conference in Meadville, PA. For details on

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