

Cold, Rainy Weather Won't Keep Us Down

STMA in Action

On May 5, 28 people came to Saint Albert High School in Council Bluffs, IA for a workshop sponsored by Iowa STMA. Unseasonably cold weather and nearly steady precipitation prevented some of the planned outdoor demonstrations, but the rain could not dampen all of the day's activities.

Participants did get to see a new piece of equipment for skinned area preparation used on the softball field. They also received some excellent on-site tips from "Q&A" Columnist Dr. David Minner of Iowa State University. He reported on some of his research with infield mixes, and demonstrated why the one in use on Saint Albert's field was performing so well. He answered questions on drainage and on avoiding rain outs.

At the start of the meeting, attendees introduced themselves and told the group what they hoped to gain from the event. Two high school baseball coaches were there to get field maintenance pointers. A high school athletic director came to get information to pass along to coaches and the janitor. Several parks and recreation department personnel wanted to learn from their peers and share information on their experiences.

Approximately half of the attendees traveled across the river from Nebraska to attend. During the meeting, some attendees expressed interest in getting a chapter started in Nebraska.

Presentations

- Julie Smith of Big Bear Equipment (formerly assistant groundskeeper with the Iowa Cubs) talked in detail about the various

steps of skinned area care. She discussed pre-game prep and post-game procedures. She stressed moisture management, and discussed the use of covers to control moisture levels.

- Dr. Roch Gaussoin of the University of Nebraska discussed weed control. He cautioned that using some of the new, long-lasting pre-emergents on athletic fields may require reseeding, and that the seed will be wasted on areas that are still protected by an active weed-control barrier.



Unseasonably cold and rainy weather couldn't keep attendees inside at an ISTMA Workshop at Saint Albert High School in Council Bluffs. *Courtesy: STMA*

He suggested doing a pot test before reseeding. Take some soil from the top inch of the test area and place it in a Styrofoam cup. Sprinkle some ryegrass seed on top, and keep it moist for five to seven days. If the seed doesn't germinate as it should, don't waste your dollars by applying any seed on that field.

Gaussoin also discouraged using broad spectrum products when only one or two species of weeds are present. These problems can be better controlled with less expensive products specially designed for specific weeds.

- Rohm and Haas Co.

Representative Bruce Bates gave a presentation on grub control. He detailed different grub life cycles in the Midwest, and explained methods of control.

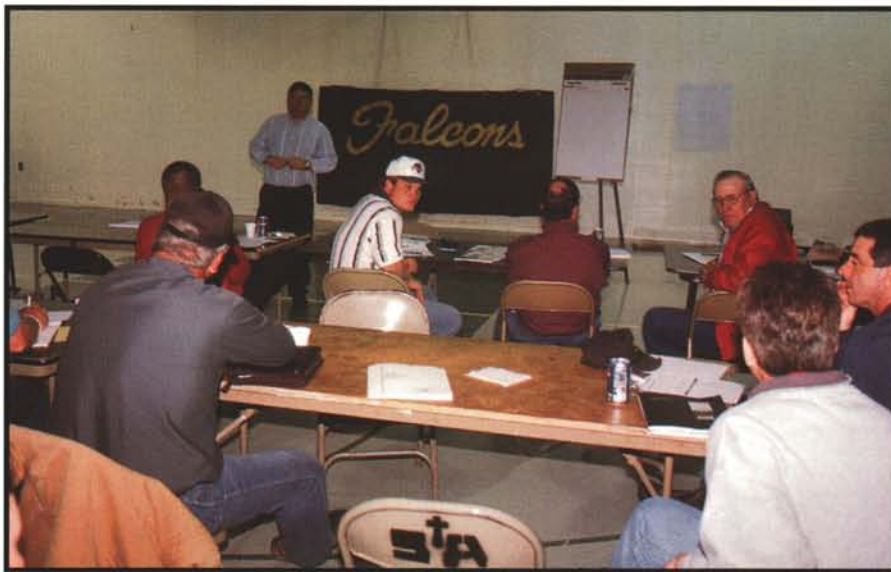
- Mike Grooms of United Seed talked about selecting seed. He cautioned against looking at price over quality, and provided information on how to determine seed quality.

- Dr. David Minner talked about quick fixes, aerification, and top-dressing. He also suggested that those who are on very tight budgets, or who need certain pieces of equipment very sporadically, should get acquainted with their local Golf Course Superintendents. A good working relationship can lead to equipment loans or cost sharing.

Minner also provided information on an infield mix database he's developing. He asked that attendees complete and return a form along with samples of their infield mixes. He offered to analyze and identify each mix and to log the provided information into his database. Eventually, Minner plans to rate mixes in terms of percentages of people who like and dislike them, and to explore their reasons.

This project is not limited to Iowa. Anyone who would like to participate should contact Dr. Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture, Ames, IA 50011; phone: (515) 294-5726.

Despite the weather, those questioned felt it was a very informative day. Attendees said they had gotten as much or more out of the experience as they had expected, and that they looked forward to more sessions like this one. ISTMA plans to hold two more of these workshops in other parts of Iowa.



ISTMA Workshop attendees freely contributed and received answers to pressing questions. *Courtesy: STMA*

Chapter news

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter will meet at the Orange Bowl in the City of Miami Jun. 15. Meeting Host Dale Sandin will conduct a tour of the facility. The meeting will focus on sports field fertilization, and Dr. George Snyder will be the featured speaker.

An Aug. 17 meeting at Rodger Dean Stadium in Palm Beach is in the planning stages.

For information, contact John Mascaro: (954) 341-3115.

Great Lakes Chapter: GLSTMA will sponsor a Family Fun Day Jun. 15. Participants will tour Munson Stadium in Canton, OH, and will head to Canal Park for a tour and an Akron Aeros game. Children of GLSTMA members can attend free of charge.

GLSTMA will hold an Athletic Field Day at Ohio State University 9 am - 3 pm, Jul. 7. Head Groundskeeper Brian Gimbel will lead tours of the grounds and maintenance facility. Speakers will include Dr. John Street, OSU Agronomy; and Steve Trusty, STMA.

GLSTMA will hold a general meeting for the membership along with the Jul. 27 Board Meeting. This event is in the planning stages.

A Fall Field Day at Sylvania Pacesetter Park, 9 am-3 pm, Sept. 14, will feature equipment manufacturers, turf product manufacturers, and speakers.

GLSTMA has introduced a \$250 scholarship program for students

pursuing a career in turf. For application materials, contact: (419) 885-1982.

In cooperation with Profile Products, GLSTMA will again sponsor Field of the Year Awards. Interested members can obtain application materials at the web site, or by calling (419) 885-1982.

For general information, contact Joe Zelinko: (800) 897-9714, or Boyd Montgomery: (419) 885-1982, or visit <http://members.tripod.com/~glstma>.

KAFMO Chapter: The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization will hold a Grounds Seminar at Hershey Stadium Sat., Jun. 19. Morning educational sessions will include presentations by Bob Hummer of Hummer Turfgrass Systems; John Tshudy, Director of Buildings and Grounds for Hershey Park; and Steve LeGros, Superintendent of Hershey Stadium. To help make this a family day, KAFMO has put together a package that includes full-day reduced admission to Hershey Park and admission to a Hershey Wildcats Soccer game.

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

Iowa Chapter: ISTMA will hold a Seminar on Wheels tour in the Ames area Jun. 23. Sites will include Iowa State University, Ames Youth Complex, Reiman Gardens, and Ames High School. Speakers will include Dr. Dave Minner, Richard

Moore, and Mike Andresen of Iowa State University; and Don Larson of Ames High School. Registration begins at 9 am.

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

Tennessee Valley Chapter: TVSTMA will hold a workshop Jun. 23 at the University of Tennessee. Featured speakers will include Bob Campbell, Dr. Gil Landry, Dr. Jim McAfee, Dr. A. J. Powell, Dr. Tom Samples, and Dr. Coleman Ward.

For information on this event, contact Bob Campbell: (423) 974-2977, or call the chapter contacts listed.

For general information, contact Tom McAfee, Nashville Sounds: (615) 242-4371; or Bob Hogan: (888) 224-6426.

Colorado Chapter: The Colorado Chapter will hold its first-ever Seminar on Wheels tour Jun. 23. Sites will include Coors Field, Mile High Stadium, and the Denver Broncos Practice Facility. Participants will attend a Colorado Rockies game that evening.

CSTMA's annual golf tournament, the Lawnmower Man Open, will be held Jul. 20 at Westwoods Golf Course.

An August event in Grand Junction, CO, and a Sept. 15 event at Jackie Robinson Field of Lawry Air Force Base are in the planning stages.

For information, call the **NEW** chapter hotline: (303) 346-8954.

Mid-South Chapter: A joint meeting this spring between the Mid-South Chapter and the Tennessee Valley Chapter is in the planning stages. The date and a mid-state location will be announced soon.

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

Wisconsin Chapter: The Wisconsin Chapter's Summer Meeting will be held Aug. 10, during the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association's Summer Field Day at the O. J. Noer Facility in Verona. Highlights will include research, demonstrations, equipment, and products designed specifically for athletic field use.

Sept. 14, WSTMA will meet at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Field Supervisor Pete Bemis will conduct a tour of his facility.

For more information, contact



Despite the weather, some of the equipment demonstrations continued as planned. Courtesy: STMA

Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates: Inc.: (715) 341-2633.

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

Michigan Chapter: For information, contact Rick

Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools: (616) 395-2364.

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

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

Minnesota Chapter: For information, contact Connie Rudolph: (651) 646-1679.

Nor-Cal Chapter: For information, contact Janet Gift: (530) 758-4200.

North Texas Chapter: For information, contact Rene Asprion, Diamond Pro: (800) 228-2987; or Tom Welch, CSM, Central Garden and Pet: (800) 788-9581.

So-Cal Chapter: For information, contact the chapter hotline: (888) 578-STMA.

Chapters on the grow

New Chapter: A new chapter is taking shape in the Kansas City MO/KS area. For information, contact Trevor Vance: (816) 504-4271, John Cundiff: (816) 525-7600, Bill Tritt: (816) 941-4424, Jody Gill: (913) 681-4121, Gary Custis: (816) 468-6215, or Jay Sutton: (816) 795-8873.

Arizona Chapter: For information, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 312-7954; or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 786-2728.

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

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