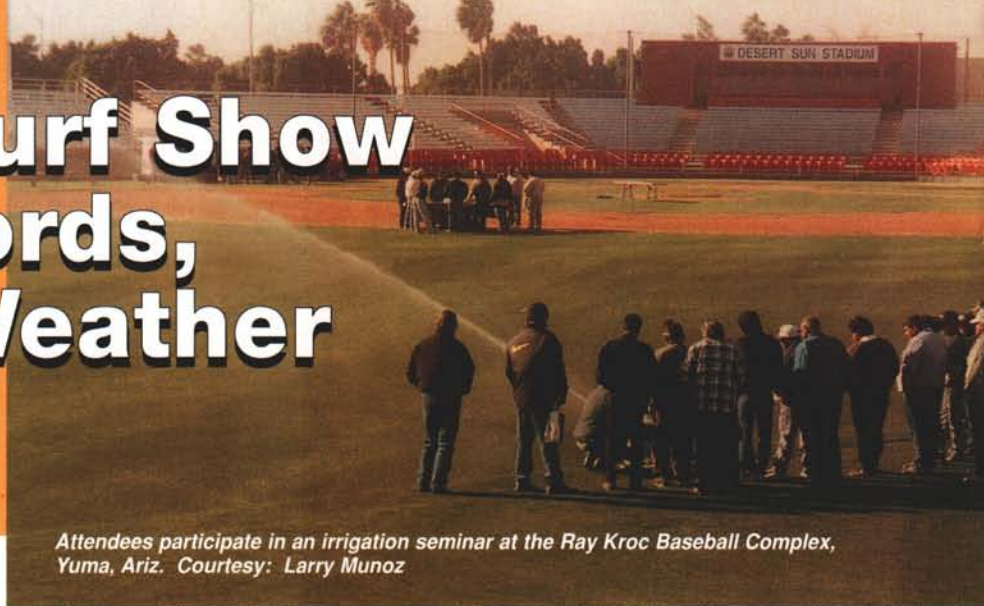


Arizona Turf Show Sets Records, Despite Weather

by Larry Munoz,
City of Yuma Parks Supervisor



Attendees participate in an irrigation seminar at the Ray Kroc Baseball Complex, Yuma, Ariz. Courtesy: Larry Munoz

The Seventh Annual Sports Turf Field Day was the biggest and best ever as 150 participants braved cold, windy conditions to gather at the Ray Kroc Baseball Complex, Yuma, Ariz., on Dec. 3, 1999. Attendees received an information packet and a City of Yuma Sports Turf T-shirt, sponsored by Coca Cola of Yuma.

Twenty-four vendors set up displays of their turf equipment, fertilizers, safety equipment and irrigation supplies,

giving everyone a chance to see their products and, in many cases, try them out. This equipment show was sponsored by RDO Equipment Co.

Dual educational sessions were featured for the first time this year. Ron Ramirez, city of Yuma Parks and Recreation crew leader, teamed with Officer Miguel Sanchez for a session on graffiti abatement. Bill Forden of Armadillo Horticultural Services presented a session

on "New Ideas in Horticultural Management." Al Herrera, city of Yuma crew leader, was joined by Mandy Cousins and Nick Demetras of Continental Leisure Sales for a presentation on play-ground safety. Dr. David Kopec, University of Arizona, Plant Science Department, addressed "The Principles of Aeration and Topdressing."

Attendees then had the opportunity to attend either the presentation by Roger Blakeley, parks superintendent, City of Yuma, on "Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Spot," or the presentation by Chris Bartos, supervisor, Kino Sports Complex, on "Maintenance of Facilities." Steve Trusty, executive director of STMA, gave an overview of the STMA program and where the organization is headed.

The day's special guest speaker was Jake Thrower from the Las Vegas Stars AAA baseball team, a minor league affiliate of the San Diego Padres. Thrower grew up in Yuma and played baseball there, progressing from the Little League and Babe Ruth levels through the high school program and then on to the University of Arizona, before signing with the Padres.

Thrower's presentation focused on playing field maintenance as seen through the eyes of a professional player. He noted such details as the impact on play made by the height of cut on the turf and by the dragging methods and degree of moisture in the skinned area. He talked about some of the fields he has played on and some of the techniques field managers have used.

A great lunch was prepared by the Parks and Recreation staff, with staff members doing all the cooking and

This was followed by an irrigation seminar on the main field, sponsored by Agricultural Supply Inc. This year, irrigation vendors didn't just set up their

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serving. Special thanks go to: Bryan Knight, Forrest Slaughter, Damon Chango, Karen Munoz, John Quintero, Ron Ramirez, David Villalobos and Richard Horcasitas for their contributions to this fantastic finish for an excellent event.

Thanks also go to the committee of employees from our Parks and Recreation Department: Joel Hubbard and the Complex Crew, John Quintero and the Athletic Field Crew, Ron Ramirez, Al Herrera, Roger Blakeley and all the other employees who make this the best show we've ever had.

Chapter News

Congratulations to STMA's Newest Affiliated Chapter: *The Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona*. For information on upcoming events, contact: Bill Murphy, city of Scottsdale Parks & Recreation Department, at (602) 312-7954, or Kris Kircher, city of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department, at (602) 786-2728.

KAFMO: KAFMO/STMA's 4th annual

Pennsylvania Athletic Field Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Grantville on Feb. 24, 2000. Along with vendor displays, the conference will feature nationally recognized speakers: Dr. Dave Minner of Iowa State University; Andy McNitt of Penn State University; and Steve Trusty of STMA.

KAFMO also will participate in the Northwest Pennsylvania Athletic Field Turf and Ornamentals Conference on March 21, 2000, at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa.

KAFMO's Officers for 2000 are: President - Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies; Vice President - Don Fowler, PSU Extension - retired; Secretary - Kevin Yeiser, director of grounds, Lebanon Valley College; and Treasurer - Jim Welshans, county agent, PSU Extension. Board members are: Nancy Bosold, Jeff

Fowler, Steve LeGros, Chris Lessig, Neale Magill, Kurt Nilsson, Wayne Schlosser, Tim Spangler, Rich Valentine and Stanley Weaver.

For information on the KAFMO chapter or upcoming events, contact: Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212, or via the chapter e-mail address: kafmo@aol.com.

Colorado: The Colorado Chapter elected officers and board members for 2000



Bob Schottke, a representative from Hunter Irrigation, describes his company's products at the equipment show. Twenty-four vendors displayed their products at the event. Courtesy: Larry Munoz

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