

CSTMA's Spring Irrigation

CLASS 2000: ANOTHER SUCCESS

by Ross Kurcab

Once again, the Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association's (CSTMA) Spring Irrigation Class was marked by good attendance, great speakers, plenty of interactive learning and good fun. It was held on March 2, 2000, at the Denver Broncos Training Facility. A wet spring snow dusted the landscape but didn't dampen the spirits of the CSTMA's membership. As we often say in Colorado: "Rain or snow, it'll go."

As registration took place, the group of 60 attendees settled into the Broncos team meeting room and were treated to the NFL Films video presentation of the greatest games ever played.

The program kicked off with Cita Berthelsen of Hunter Industries guiding us through the various aspects of efficiency in the application of water. Cita's comprehensive talk covered literally all areas of irrigation efficiency from climatic/environmental concerns like plant material, soil type, evapotranspiration and site evaluation, to the irrigation system itself in terms of hydraulics, design, precipitation rates, etc. Bolstered by some wonderful slides and her years of experience in the field, Cita's presentation left everyone with a much better understanding of irrigation efficiency. She also provided attendees with a nine-page review of her talk to take back to work as a reference.

After a short break, we were back at it with a

"If you missed it, you missed out, great program, great conference."

presentation by Dave Cooper of CPS Distributors. Dave's outstanding talk, "Spring 2000 Tune-ups and Troubleshooting," was full of helpful strategies based on his 20 years of experience serving the Colorado irrigation industry. A long time supporter and member of the CSTMA, Dave took us through every part of our irrigation system from the tap through the piping and control systems and all the way out to the furthest head, detailing the many things that typically can go wrong during a system's winter slumber. Dave has literally seen it all in his experience all over the Rocky Mountain region, and he gave us a great approach to charging up our irrigation systems this spring. He also provided a written review of his talk to take home with us.

Finally, attendees were given a hands-on look at the Broncos practice fields and shop operations. The Broncos have been working with vented evergreen turf covers for the last two winters, and attendees all saw some thick, green grass in the middle of winter!

Our thanks go out to the Denver Broncos, as well as

Cita, Dave and all who attended. If you missed it, you missed out. "Great program, great conference," was the overwhelming response of and all who attended. If you missed it, you missed out. "Great program,



Courtesy of Ross Kurcab



Ross Kurcab, turf manager for the Denver Broncos, shows some dramatic results from his work with winter field covers.

Chapter News

Florida #1: The chapter is scheduled to meet the third week of May at the Miami Dolphins Training Facility in Davie, Fla. The meeting will be held in conjunction with Kilpatrick Equipment Company. Featured on the program will be a discussion of equipment maintenance and a presentation titled, "Weed Control for 2000 and Beyond," by Dr. Phil Busey of the University of Florida. CEUs will be issued. For information on the Florida Chapter or pending activities, contact John Mascaro at (954) 341-3115.

Colorado: The chapter will hold a Baseball Seminar on May 17 at Larry Walker Field in Aurora, Colo. The seminar will include speakers from Clement Park, adjacent to Columbine High School, and will detail their renovation of the park following the thousands of visitors last spring. Among other Seminar speakers will be representatives from Metro State College, 1998 College Field of the Year. In the planning stages are the second annual Seminar on Wheels and an Aug. 3 Football Seminar at Folsom Field on the University of Colorado campus. For information on the Colorado Chapter or upcoming activities, log on to the chapter's Web site—www.cstma.org—or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline: (303) 346-8954.

Minnesota: The chapter is planning a Spring Workshop at Elk River, Minn., for mid-May. The annual Tour on Wheels is also in the planning stages. For information on the Minnesota Chapter or upcoming events, contact Ron Werner at (507) 634-1176.

Midwest: The chapter will meet on May 18 at the Kane County Cougars Stadium in Batavia, Ill. Events will begin with a pre-game preparation demonstration by Head Groundskeeper Sarah Martin. This will be followed at 4 p.m. by a picnic social. Attendees are welcome to stay for the Cougars' evening baseball game. July 11 is the date of the Multi-chapter Meeting to be held at the University of Notre Dame campus. The morning's educational sessions will be followed by lunch and an afternoon tour of the athletic fields and facilities conducted by Dale Getz, CSFM. For information on the Midwest Chapter or pending activities, call the chapter hotline, (847) 622-3517.

Great Lakes: The chapter will hold a Field Day with the Columbus Crew on May 20. Activities will include a tour of the facility, educational sessions and attendance at the game between the Crew and the Dallas Burn. GLSTMA and MiSTMA will hold a joint Tour on Wheels on July 18. Sites will include the new Comerica Park and two high school locations with Birmingham Public Schools. Attendees will end the day by catching the game between the Detroit Tigers and Cincinnati Reds. The chapter will participate in two August events: the Ohio State University Extension Day at Owens Community College on Aug. 2, and the Ohio Turf Foundation Research Day at the OTE Research Center in Columbus on Aug. 9. For information on the GLSTMA Chapter, the chapter's Field of the Year Program or upcoming events, contact Joe Zelinko, at (800) 897-9714, Boyd Montgomery, at (419) 885-1982 Ext. 50, or click on your computer to www.glstma.org to visit the chapter's Web site.

Iowa: The chapter will hold their Wheels Tour 2000 on June 8 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Registration begins at 9 a.m. at Vets Memorial Stadium, with the tour of that facility beginning at 9:30 a.m.. Other tour sites include Kingston Stadium, Twin Pines Golf Course for a top-dressing demonstration, Bluegrass Enterprises for lunch and a sod demonstration and Xavier High School. ISTMA will hold a Vendor Workshop at Iowa State University on June 21 with registration beginning at 8 a.m. Four concurrent sessions are on the morning program, each discussing principals and demonstrations: Dr. Dave Minner with mowing; Mike Andresen with aer-

ation; Don Larson with topdressing; and Dale Roe with painting. Next on the program will be lunch with the "Vendors on Parade." During the afternoon session, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., 30 minute presentations at five separate stations will be repeated five times, allowing participants to visit each station. The stations are: Calibrating Spreaders, Calibrating Sprayers, Irrigation Repairs, Renovation Seeding Principles and the Vendor area. The chapter also will participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Field Day on July 13 at the ISU Horticulture Research Station in Ames, Iowa. The Iowa/Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Chapter Challenge will be in Des Moines, Iowa, with the Golf Challenge on July 14 and the Softball Challenge on July 15. For information on the Iowa Chapter or upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum at The Turf Office at (515) 232-8222 (phone), (515) 232-8228 (fax) or e-mail: Lori@iowasturfgrass.org.

Michigan: The chapter will hold its Annual Summer Conference on June 22 at the West Ottawa Public Schools in Holland, Mich. GLSTMA and MiSTMA will hold a joint Tour on Wheels on July 18. Sites will include the new Comerica Park and two high school locations with Birmingham Public Schools, with the tour ending with the game between Detroit and Cincinnati. For information on the chapter or pending events, contact Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at (616) 395-2364 or click on your computer to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's new Web site.

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North Texas: The chapter is planning a June meeting to be held at the Ballpark in Arlington, home of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club. For information on the North Texas Chapter or pending activities, contact Rene Aspiron, Diamond Pro, at (800) 228-2987 or Dr. James McAfee, Texas A & M University, at (972) 952-9220, or log onto www.ntstma.org to check out the chapter's Web site.

Gateway: The chapter is planning a June meeting at John Burroughs School. Irrigation management will be the meeting focus. More information will be announced soon. For information on upcoming events or on the chapter, contact Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University, at: (314) 977-3228.

Indiana: The chapter will meet on May 16 at the Indiana Purdue University Fort Wayne Campus. The meeting will include a tour of the soccer fields that were installed in 1999 and are being readied for play. July 11 is the date of the Multi-chapter Meeting to be held at the University of Notre Dame campus. The morning's educational sessions will be followed by lunch and an afternoon tour of the athletic fields and facilities conducted by Dale Getz, CSFM. For information on the Indiana Chapter or pending activities, contact Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at (219) 356-8424 or Pat Hickner at (800) 672-4273.

KAFMO: The chapter will help sponsor a Summer Field Day on Aug. 9 at the Brandywine Picnic Park in Pocopson,

Pa. More details will be announced soon. For information on the KAFMO Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469 Ext. 212 or via the chapter e-mail address: kafmo@aol.com.

MAFMO: For information on the MAFMO Chapter or pending activities, contact the chapter's hotline: (410) 290-5652.

Arizona: For information on upcoming chapter events, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department, at (480) 312-7954, or by e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us.

Wisconsin: For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter or pending events, contact Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates Inc., at (715) 341-2633.

Northern California: The next chapter event, following their May 11 Seminar on Wheels session, is the annual Fall Seminar, "The Greatest Show on Turf." It will be held on Aug. 8 at the San Jose Municipal Stadium, home of the San Jose Giants, a San Francisco Giants farm club. Scheduled activities include: sports field maintenance demonstrations, vendor exhibits and attendance at the ball game between the San Jose Giants and the Stockton Ports. For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter or pending activities, contact Janet Gift at (530) 758-4200.

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

Mid-South: For information on the Mid-South Chapter or upcoming events, contact Robert Bodi by e-mail at Turf419@aol.com or call Jim Calhoun at (901) 755-1305.


Tennessee Valley: For information on the TVSTMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields Inc., at (913) 380-0023 or Bob Hogan at (888) 224-6426.

Chapters On The Grow

New York: A chapter is taking shape in Central New York. Interested? Want more information? Contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, via e-mail at Kevin@wpe.com or by phone at (607) 432-2953.

Kansas City, MO/KS: For information on MO-KAN, the newly forming chapter or on upcoming events, contact Trevor Vance at (816) 504-4271; Gary Custis at (816) 460-6215; Jay Sutton at (816) 795-8873; or Jody Gill at (913) 681-4121.

Nebraska: A new chapter is taking shape in Nebraska. For information on the Nebraska Chapter or upcoming events, contact Greg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at (308) 385-5426.

New Jersey: For information on this forming chapter or upcoming events, contact Jim Gavigan, Lesco, at (732) 248-8979 or Eleanora Pene, Director, Township of Clinton Parks & Recreation Department, at (908) 735-5999 

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