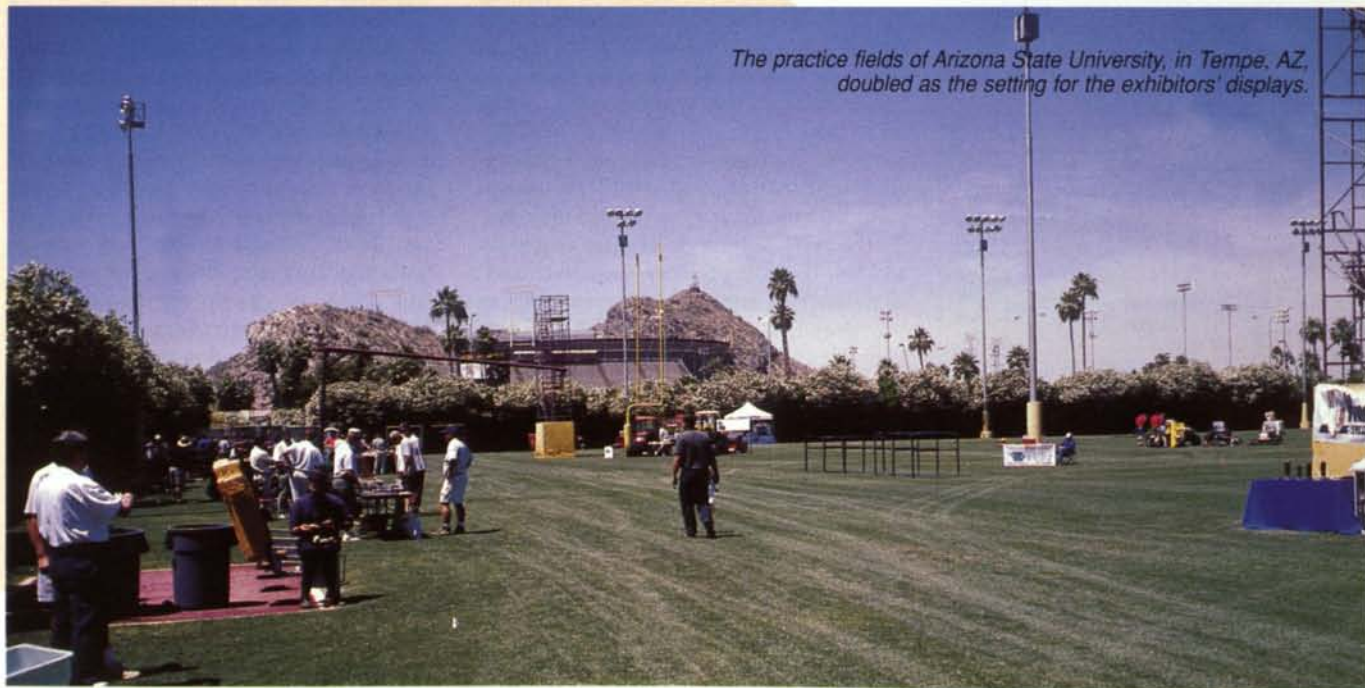


STMA in Action

STMA of Arizona Meets



The practice fields of Arizona State University, in Tempe, AZ, doubled as the setting for the exhibitors' displays.

Forty-five members of the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona met in the Press Box at Sun Devil Stadium of Arizona State University in Tempe on April 20th for the Chapter's Spring Kick Off Meeting. Chapter President, Bill Murphy, welcomed the group and outlined the day's schedule. He turned the program over to Dr. David Kopec who gave an excellent presentation on "Soil Aerification & Top Dressing for Sports Turf." His presentation was supplemented with very informative handouts.

Brian Johnson, ASU Director of Athletic Facilities was next on the program. His presentation centered on the factors he must deal with in accommodating a full schedule of games including ASU football along with the NFL Cardinals, sometimes on successive days. In season, he keeps ahead of the game by pre-germinating seed in wheelbarrows. These have proven very effective for him and they are easy to wheel out to where needed. The pre-germinated seed comes up much more quickly and fills in any thin or bare spots in the turf caused by excessive wear. Transitioning back to Bermudagrass in the spring after the perennial ryegrass of fall and winter has always been a special challenge. Brian stated that the new Bermuda seed varieties have been a real lifesaver for him. He seeds at the rate of three pounds per thousand square feet. He uses several different varieties and mows at 3/8 inch. The short height of cut helps mask the differences between the varieties. Brian does most of his field-painting (logos and lines) free hand. He maps out his designs on graph paper, with one inch equaling one foot. He explained the process during his



Attendees examine and discuss the results of one of the aerification demonstrations on the ASU practice fields.

presentation, using descriptions and pictures, and then demonstrated the process in the afternoon out on the practice field.

Arizona State Secondary Coach (football), Dan Findley, addressed the group. He explained what he likes in a football field and how, after several years at a school on artificial turf, he much prefers natural grass. He stated that artificial turf "is brutal, it is hard, causes bad burns and produces excessive



Brian Johnson, Director of Athletic Facilities for Arizona State University, is a recognized pro at free-hand field painting. Here, he demonstrates that art for attendees.

heat." He wants "the natural grass green, soft and no holes." Findley stated that he was extremely pleased with what Brian and his crew supplied. Since spring drills had just concluded, Findley also spent some time talking about this year's team and his thoughts on how they should do.

Through the Chapter Sponsorship program, STMA Executive Director, Steve Trusty, was able to attend and make a presentation on "Professionalism and Certification." He also answered questions about national STMA programs and what both chapter and national members can gain from participating.

Dr. David Kopec followed up with an "Herbicide Update." He provided data on University trials and noted how they provide information especially useful for Arizona sports turf managers.

Following a lunch out on the football practice fields, the group viewed exhibits from the area vendors and observed demonstrations on equipment and techniques.

This event—and similar ones held by local STMA Chapters around the country—provide an excellent opportunity for everyone involved with maintaining athletic fields to see fine facilities, learn from experts, share information and ideas with each other, visit with vendors, and see problem-solvers in action. Be sure to watch for events in your area.

STMA Chapter News

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): TVSTMA is planning its Summer Educational Seminar for June 20th at Neyland Stadium of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. Making presentations in the morning session are: Dr. Dave Minner and Mike Andresen, CSFM, both of Iowa State University; Darian Daily of the Columbus Crew Major League Soccer Club; and Dr. Tom Samples and Bob Campbell, both of the University of Tennessee. Afternoon Workshops will be conducted by Dr. Alan Windham, on "Turf Diseases and Weed Identification;" by Dr. Frank Hale, on "Insects;" and by Mr. Bill Marbet, on "Evaluating Infield Soils." Vendor exhibits will be on display on the University of Tennessee football field from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Also planned is a July meeting at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee.

For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): MiSTMA will meet on June 21 at Okemos High School in Okemos, Michigan. Morning educational sessions will include "Professionalism and Certification," presented by Steve Trusty, STMA Executive Director; "The Business End of Sports Turf," presented by Tim Moore, CSFM, Ballfield Coordinator for MNPPC and Secretary of STMA; "The Future for the MiSTMA with the MTF," pre-

sented by Tom Smith, President of MTF; "Effects of Cultural Practices for Athletic Fields," presented by Lisa Lundberg, MSU graduate student; and "Athletic Field Systems Study," presented by Jason Henderson, MSU graduate student. A tour of MSU Athletic Field Research and the Okemos High School Athletic Fields will take place in the afternoon.

For information on the Chapter or other pending events, call Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at 616-738-6974, or go to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's new website.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: The Colorado Chapter will hold its Annual Seminar on Wheels Tour on June 21 in Denver, with stops to include All City Stadium, All Star Park and North Area Athletic Complex. The Chapter's Mountain Seminar will be held on July 20 at Canyon View Park in Grand Junction. The 65-acre park is home to eight soccer fields, four softball fields and a baseball field. Watch for more details on the 6th Annual Lawnmower Man Open Golf Tournament, to be held on July 24 at Westwood Golf Course in Arvada. Another coming attraction to be held this fall is Turf Day At Invesco Field at Mile High, the new home of the Denver Broncos.

For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website—www.CSTMA.org—or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.