

Midwest Chapter's "Tour on Wheels"

BY MIKE TRIGG, SUPERINTENDENT
OF PARKS, WAUKEGAN, IL

MIDWEST CHAPTER MEMBERS AND GUESTS had an enjoyable day touring outstanding Chicagoland facilities and fields on August 24.

The tour began at Alexian Field, home of the independent Schaumburg Flyers of the Northern League. Eric Fasbender spoke about his first year as head groundskeeper and field maintenance practices on the 3-year-old field, and members toured the facility, which opened in 1999.

Next stop was Soldier Field, home of the Chicago Bears and the Chicago Fire professional soccer team. Head groundskeeper John Nolan gave a field tour, describing field preparation and line painting for both football and soccer. John also spoke of the major renovation the stadium will undergo in 2002 and 2003.

Lunch stop was Northwestern University, where participants toured Ryan Field,

STMA 2000 College/University Football Field of the Year (see ST Aug 2001, p. 8). Eric Adkins, CSFM, led the tour and later discussed his turf maintenance practices with the use of natural and organic fertilizers.

The "Tour on Wheels" then made its final stop for the day, at New Trier High School. Jules Lande, field manager, discussed his football field maintenance and game preparation practices. This field won the STMA Midwest Chapter's 1999 Field & Facility Award. Later, Tour on Wheels sponsor representatives presented equipment demonstrations and discussed their products.

The tour returned to Alexian Field in the western suburbs to view batting practice and pre-game warm-ups, enjoy a picnic dinner, and then watch the Flyers game.

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Opened in 1999, Alexian Field is home to the independent Northern League Schaumburg Flyers.



Venerable Soldier Field is due to undergo a renovation next year; selling its naming rights is causing controversy already, since the field is a memorial to the country's war dead.

STMA Chapter News

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter is planning an Irrigation Seminar in at Holiday Park in Ft. Lauderdale on October 16. The Chapter will again take part in the annual Turf Rodeo. This year's event will be held at Deerfield Beach on November 7. A meeting in the Village of Pinecrest is scheduled for December 5. For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): KAFMO will hold their Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Outing on Monday, October 22, 2001, beginning at 12 noon at the Overlook Golf Course in Manheim, PA. For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter, the golf outing or other upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: The MO-KAN Chapter is planning a Sports Facilities Tour for October 24. Details will be announced soon. For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Trevor Vance at 816-504-4271; Gary Custis at 816-460-6215; or Jody Gill at 913-239-4121.

Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO/STMA): The

MAFMO Chapter will hold its 2001 Design and Construction Seminar from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm on October 25 at the Radisson Hotel Annapolis in Annapolis, MD. On the program are: Don Campbell, French & Associates, speaking on Field Design; Dan Shaloo, Musco Lighting, speaking on Lights; Tim Cleary, Turf Equipment & Supply Company, on Irrigation; Murray Cook, Brickman SPORTSturf Services, on Fixtures/Amenities; Dr. Dave Minner, Iowa State University, on Soil/Grading; and Larry French, French & Associates, on Storm Water Management related to the Clean Air & Water Act. For information on the MAFMO Chapter, or pending activities, call the Hotline at 410-290-5652.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: The Nebraska Chapter is planning an October meeting at Haymarket Park in Lincoln, the new home of the University of Nebraska Huskers Baseball Team and Northern League Saltdogs. For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at 308-385-5426.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: The Colorado Chapter is planning a Fall Turf Day at the new Invesco Field at Mile High. More details will be announced