

# The McFarland Experience

BY CHRIS BRINDLEY

**M**cFarland School District was the host of the June 12 Wisconsin STMA Chapter Meeting. The weather cooperated and the educational demonstrations were superb, providing the 60 attendees with an outstanding day.

Rich Miller and Paul Buchholz opened the meeting with greetings and introductions. The first speaker was Patricia Kandziora, the IPM programs specialist from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Her topic was the legal requirements for pesticide use at Wisconsin schools. Two of the issues that became mandatory as of August 2001 are: 1) a person has to be certified in the appropriate category to apply pesticides to school grounds, and 2) posting of treated school areas at the time of application and 72 hours thereafter. Patricia also was available throughout the remainder of the day to answer questions for the attendees.

Dr. Wayne Kussow introduced the next speaker, Kevin Hensler. Kevin is new to the staff of the University of Wisconsin Extension and has many exciting things in the works for the turf industry. His main objective is to form an integrated turf management program for individual sites. This entails evaluating the site and developing a turf program tailored for that site. Kevin also is working on a monthly Internet newsletter to inform people about turf issues.

After Kevin's talk, the group split up into two groups to better view the demonstration



sessions. One group started with an excellent presentation by the duo of Paul Zwaska and Craig Schlender on how to properly build a pitching mound. Both brought great tools to make the job easier and more efficient. Paul demonstrated his idea of grinding down a garden rake to form a sharp edge. It was unbelievable to see how it raked in clay and how it cleaned where lips were forming along the infields. It's amazing to see the improvement a simple change to a tool can make. Craig brought a template to form the flat area around the pitching rubber, a simple but very useful tool.

The second group started with a demonstration geared toward football field improvements. Vince Johnson and Rich Miller brought and demonstrated the equipment that included core aerifiers, topdressers, a verti-drain, and a verti-cutter. They showed how aeration will open thatch areas, allow for better water infiltration, reduce compaction, and increase rooting into the underlying soil. They also demonstrated topdressing and discussed the functions of a topdressing program to maintain a high quality turf. Some of these functions include smoothing the turf, filling in damaged areas, reducing thatch, and filling in holes left by core aeration. After an hour, the groups switched so all could get the full benefit of both demonstrations.

Once again, WSTMA had a successful meeting with each person learning or seeing at least one new thing. The Chapter expresses special thanks to Jim Crawford and his crew at McFarland School District for being such great hosts. The Chapter's next event is the summer field day at the Noer Center on August 13.

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## STMA Chapter News

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** The Michigan Chapter will participate in the MSU/MTF/MiSTMA field day which will be hosted by the MTF at Michigan State University August 13. This event will team sports turf managers and business managers with a focus on the business end of maintaining sports fields.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, University of Michigan, at [fouty@umich.edu](mailto:fouty@umich.edu), or go to [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org) to visit the chapter's new website.

**MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:** The MO-KAN Chapter will hold a Fall Turf Management Field Day at the Pembroke Hill High School Football Stadium August 14. The program will cover maintenance and repair on high use football fields, including topdressing and renovation. There will be a field painting seminar with tips and shortcuts to get fields painted accurately and efficiently. "Hands-on" practice painting custom field logos also will be offered. Instructors include: Chuck Dixon, J.L. Bruce & Assoc.; Brad Fresenburg, University of Missouri; Jim Wilson, Blue

Valley Schools; and Field Paint and Equipment sales professionals.

For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121; Gary Custis at 816-460-6215, or Mike Green at 913-208-6158.

**Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):**

The OSTMA chapter will participate in the OSU/OTF Research Field Day in Columbus August 14. The OSTMA Fall Field Day will be held at Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy in Cincinnati August 20. Morning educational sessions include: "Picking the Correct Seed for the Job," presented by Randy Heilman of Central Farm and Garden Center, and "Maintenance of High School Complexes," presented by Michael Bell, director of facilities for the school. Bell also will conduct a tour of the school's athletic facilities. The Vendor Showcase will be the focus of the afternoon events. The Chapter also will participate in the Paul Zwaska Ball Field Workshop to be held September 10 at the OSU Intramural complex off Lane Avenue in Columbus. For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 740-452-4541 or

Boyd Montgomery at 419-885-1982; or visit the chapter's website at [www.ostma.org](http://www.ostma.org).

**Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:** PNWSTMA is in the process of planning a Field Day at the Mariners for August 19. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact in Washington, Jay Warnick at [JayW@Seahawks.com](mailto:JayW@Seahawks.com) or in Oregon, Mike Wagner at [MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu](mailto:MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu).

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Colorado Chapter will meet at Shea Stadium/Highlands Ranch on August 21. A meeting at Coors Field is being planned for late September or early October.

For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website, [www.CSTMA.org](http://www.CSTMA.org), or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Iowa Chapter will hold a workshop August 28 at the Muscatine Soccer Complex and Kent Stein Park in