

Chapter regional conference calls spark idea flow

The leaders of STMA's 23 affiliated Chapters and of many of the groups in the process of forming Chapters joined together to share ideas between March 26 and April 2. Abby McNeal, CSFM, Chair of the Chapter Relations Committee, and Dave Rulli, STMA Board Member Liaison to this Committee, have developed a nationwide network, grouping the Chapters within six regions, with a Regional Contact established for each region.

Regional Contacts are: Dan Douglas, Region 1; Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, Region 2; Connie Rudolph, CSFM, Region 3; Bill Marbet, Region 4; Tom McAfee, Region 5; and Bill Murphy, Region 6. Suz Trusty serves as the STMA Headquarters Chapter Contact.

The Chapters and forming Chapters within each Region meet in the spring and again in the fall by Conference Call with the Regional Contact, Abby, Dave, and Suz. This provides a forum for discussion of problems and a sharing of information and ideas. It's the second year for these Conference Calls. They were developed as a means of continuing the interaction between Chapters developed in the annual Chapter Officers Training and Idea Exchange Session (COTS) held in conjunction with the STMA Annual Conference in January each year.

Both the COTS gathering and the Regional Conference Calls are funded by the generous support of STMA Chapter Sponsors: Gold Level, John Deere; and Silver Level, Alpine Services, Inc; Hunter Industries, Stabilizer Solutions, and Syngenta.

Chapter leaders discuss ideas for trade shows, vendor field day exhibits, and equipment demonstrations; programs for seminars, field days and seminars on wheels; methods for developing better newsletters and websites; organizational ideas; and many other topics that fit the needs of those

involved. It's a networking bonanza!

During these spring calls, Abby and Dave also reported on the Chapter-related segments of the STMA Strategic Plan, including the progress made to date, and the initiatives to be undertaken in the future.

For example, one initiative from 2001, the STMA Speakers Bureau, has moved from an idea to a reality. Those interested in serving as a speaker at the Chapter, Regional and/or National levels are invited to fill out the form as posted on the STMA Website, or contact STMA Headquarters for a printed copy of the form. The information gathered will be compiled for use in program planning by Chapters, State and Regional Turfgrass Program Committees, other groups seeking sports turf related speakers, and the STMA Headquarters.

STMA Chapters are definitely in Action! Just check out the events listed below, or for even more detail, go to the STMA Website: www.sportsturfmanager.com. On the website, you'll find a master listing for Chapters, along with links to each chapter's STMA WebPages and, where Chapters have their own Websites, links to those as well.

STMA members report that the networking component of their participation in their Chapter and in the National (International) organization is one of the greatest resources they have. It's the best forum for sharing information, tracking down answers to tricky questions, solving difficult problems, and hundreds of other areas of support. Working together, sports turf managers are raising the level of professionalism throughout the industry, always striving to provide the best sports surfaces for all levels of play.

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STMA Chapter News

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): TVSTMA will hold an event on May 23 at the Franklin Road Academy in Nashville. Other upcoming TVSTMA Events are as follows: June 12: All Day Vendor Show in Jasper, TN; June 25: Joint meeting with Tennessee Turfgrass Association at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; and July 18: Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, TN.

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

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: The MO-Kan Chapter will hold a Summer Turf Management Field Day from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM on June 19 at a Blue Valley School District location to be announced. This event will focus on all aspects of Bermudagrass establishment and maintenance on sand

base and native soil fields and will contain a laser grading session which will include the mathematics of dual slope laser grading, laser grader setup and the opportunity for you to operate a grader blade with laser controls.

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.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The Minnesota Chapter is planning a spring workshop for May 14 at Bethel College and Seminary. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota at tel. 651-638-6075 or e-mail: j-hintz@bethel.edu.

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter will hold

a Sports Equipment Field Day and Demonstration at Parkland on May 14. The educational focus is on preventive maintenance for irrigation systems and equipment.

For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: The Arizona Chapter will meet on May 16 at the Tucson Parks and Recreation Hi-Corbett Field for morning educational sessions and a tour. The afternoon session will include a tour of the Karsten Turf Facility. The Chapter's Second Annual Golf Tournament will be held on June 7 at Sanctuary Golf Course at Westworld. For tournament information, contact Scott Yakel at 602-315-6500 or Brian Johnson at 480-965-3890. The Turf in the Pines educational seminar will take place on June 14. Contact Felip Garcia at 928-774-2868.