

Conferences increase professionalism

State, regional, and national conferences give turf managers the opportunity to learn from educational sessions and workshops, network, and establish relationships with suppliers.

Top industry researchers and university educators, as well as by sports turf managers from around the world, conduct most sessions. Many sports turf-specific tracks at state and regional conferences are developed with input from area sports turf managers to meet specific needs. Of course, the STMA Annual Conference is totally focused on these areas.

Sports turf managers recognize the important role suppliers fill in providing the goods and services they need to do their jobs better. Conference-related trade shows create the ideal conditions for making these important connections. Suppliers can show their new products in an atmosphere that allows easy question-and-answer exchange without having managers under pressure to get back to the field. Every meeting of sports turf managers is filled with networking opportunities. These all-important relationships provide the basis for long-term idea exchange and problem-solving connections. **ST**



STMA Chapter News

Midwest Chapter STMA: The Chapter will hold an expanded 2-day Irrigation Workshop February 11-12 at Chevy Chase Golf Club in Wheeling.

For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter's website, <http://mcstma.org/>, or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will be co-sponsoring a Sports Turf Session as a portion of the program of the NCTLX EXPO. The EXPO will be held February 20-21 at the Santa Clara Convention Center.

The Sports Turf Session runs from 1:30 to 3:30 PM on February 20. Featured on the program are: "Overview of the Association and Introduction," by Bob Milano, University of California; "Synthetic Sports Surfacing: Options, Alternatives and Care," by Greg Weisbrich and John Burke, Southwest Recreational Industries; "Baseball and Softball Facility Care: Details, Details, Details," by Mark Lucas and Nick Cole, University of California; and "Equipment Evaluation and Selection for Sports Facilities," by Dale Getz,

CSFM, The Toro Company.

For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): The Seventh Annual KAFMO/STMA Athletic Field Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Grantsville on February 21. Take the opportunity to view exhibits and visit with the exhibitors. Featured on the program are presentations by Mike Andresen, CSFM, of Iowa State University Athletics, and Dr. Peter Landschoot of Penn State, and panel discussions. Also included are award presentations, the chance to win raffle prizes, and lots of great networking opportunities.

For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: The Chapter announces a special 10 percent discount for SFMANJ members attending the 3-Day Athletic Field Construction & Maintenance program presented

by Rutgers University February 25-27. For information on this event call 732-932-9271 or visit the website: www.cook.rutgers.edu/~ocpe.

For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Fred Castenschild at 908-722-9830 or email to mkc@blast.net; or call Eleanor Murfitt, at 908-236-9118; e-mail to HQ@sfmanj.org

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: The Kentucky Chapter will hold its Annual Meeting on February 26 in conjunction with the UK/KTC Short Course in Louisville.

For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Tom Nielsen at TNielsen@batsbaseball.com or Aaron Boggs at AVBoggs@netscape.net.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): OSTMA will be working with The Ohio State University to put on a sport turf short course at the Huntington Club Suite at The Ohio State Stadium on March 4-5. The registration deadline is February 14. Please contact 614-292-4230 to register. For more program information please contact Pam Sherratt at 614-