

# Florida Chapter #1 meets at FIU

BY JOHN MASCARO

The Florida #1 Chapter held an event November 12 at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. New arrivals signed in with Executive Director John Mascaro, President of Turf-Tec International, and Vice President Bud Nolder, City of Hialeah Parks and Recreation. Conversation flowed as more than 70 attendees gathered for coffee and donuts, viewed the exhibit tables of lunch sponsors, Pro-Grounds Products, Inc. and Southwest Recreational Industries.

Chapter President Tom Curran was delayed by a traffic tie up in which a lumber truck overturned. But Tom insisted that he was not "board" and joined the meeting later. Hosting the event were FIU Sports Turf Manager David Weyls, Director of Facilities Victor Citarella, and Associate Director of Facilities Boyce Level. The importance of sports turf management was emphasized by the words Victor Citarella, "Nobody knows what we do until we don't do it. We need to let people know we are professionals and allow our pride of performance to help others recognize the value of what we do."

FIU Football Coach Don Strock, a former Miami Dolphin, kicked off the educational session with giving reasons why FIU recently switched to artificial turf, including Florida weather extremes and field use scheduling that included 26 high school regular season and play-

off football games plus the 7 home games of the University team. Raymond Snyder of the University of Florida tackled the issue of "How to Grow Better Turf through Fertility."

Steve Trusty, STMA Executive Director, provided background on national programs and built on the theme of professionalism. He noted that every attendee has a common goal: to provide the best possible playing surfaces for their field users.

Tom Stanfield of Southwest Recreational Industries discussed the component selection process, the installation process, and the post-installation maintenance of the new infilled artificial turf field.

In his presentation, Bruce Bates of Pro-Grounds Products noted the various materials available for baseball field home plate, mound and basepath construction and maintenance. This too was expanded upon during the tour as the he and the FIU sports turf staff gave a mound repair demonstration and discussed preparing the field for play after a rain event.

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## STMA Chapter News

The Sports Turf Managers Association 14th Annual Conference & Exhibition will be held January 15-19, 2003, in San Antonio, TX. For information contact STMA Headquarters at 800-323-3875, email STMAHQ@st.omhcoxmail.com or visit [www.sportsturfmanager.com](http://www.sportsturfmanager.com).

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** VSTMA will hold its Annual Membership Meeting January 15 at the Richmond Marriott, during the Virginia Turfgrass Council Annual Conference. The 2003 Officers and Board Members will be announced at that Meeting. Chapter Officers for 2003 are: President - Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority; Vice President - Randy Buchanan, Henrico County Park and Recreation; Secretary - Melissa Reynolds, Dura Turf; Treasurer - Dave Runkle, Luck Stone; and Past President - Tim Swaim, Harmony Products. Directors for 2003 are: Category 1 - Professional Sports Facilities - Chad Mulholland, Richmond Braves; Category 2 - College and University Facilities - Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, University

of Virginia; Category 3 - Recreation and Park Facilities - Dan Sutherland, Fairfax County Park Authority; Category 4 - Public/Private School Facilities - Marc Moran, Atlee High School, Hanover Co.; Category 5 - Education/Extension - Adria Bordas, Virginia Cooperative Extension; and Category 6 - Commercial - Mark Roberts, Herod Seeds.

For information on the Virginia Chapter, or other upcoming events, contact: Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority via e-mail: [Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov) or at 703/324-8590.

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** The Chapter will hold a special sports turf track in conjunction with the Michigan Turfgrass Conference to be held January 20-23 at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing.

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.

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter also will participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show to be held January 27-29 in Des Moines. The Sports Turf Workshop, January 27, will be held at the Marriott Hotel. The program includes: Lynda Wightman - Hunter Industries, presenting "Irrigation Design;" Mike Mulvihill - Tri State Companies, presenting "Problems with Do-It-Yourself Projects;" Mike Burt, John Netwal, Rob Schulte and Gary Peterson, presenting "Project Case Studies;" Luke Yoder - Pittsburgh Pirates, presenting "Post-Season Maintenance Techniques for Baseball;" Nick Gow and Kevin Fitzpatrick - Hunziker Sports Complex, presenting "Management on a Limited Budget;" and Rob Schulte - Cedar Rapids Kernels, Mike Andresen, CSFM - Iowa State University, and Sean Crain - City of Ankeny, presenting "Management on Skinned Fields." Events on January 28-29 will be held at the Polk County