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 Citarrella, and Associate Director of Facilities Boyce Level. The importance of sports turf management was emphasized by the words Victor Citarrella, “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 Stock, 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 playoff 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.

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@sttexasmail.com or visit 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 Swain, 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 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 Fosny, University of Michigan, at fosny@umich.edu, or go to 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 Newall, Rob Schulte and Gary Peterson, presenting “Project Case Studies;” Luke Young - 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 Andrese, 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

For information on the Iowa Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.

Midwest Chapter STMA: The Chapter will hold an expanded 2-day Irrigation Workshop February 11-12 at Chevy Chase Golf Club in Wheeling. More details will be announced soon. For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter's website, http://mstma.org, or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60606060@aol.com.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): The Seventh Annual KAFMO/STMA Athletic field Conference will be held in Grantville February 21.

For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8809, 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 SFM/NJ 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/scope.

For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Fred Gasten slochiel at 908-722-9830 or email to mike@blast.net; or call Eleanora Murfitt, at 908-236-9118; e-mail to HQ@sfmnj.org.

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

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

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, contact Chris Calecaterra at e-mail: ctlei@peoriaaz.com or tel. 623-412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: bmurphy@ei.scottsdale.az.us or tel. 480-312-7956.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or pending events, call Steve Dugas, California State University - Fullerton, at 714-278-3929 or email sldugas@fullerton.edu.

Southern California Chapter: For information on the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, call Steve Wightman at 619-641-3106.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website, www.CSTMA.org, or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

Florida Chapter # 1: For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College, 314-392-2328 or email krone@mojup.edu.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, contact Lori Turek at 770-509-3663 or gstatma@earthlink.net.

Indiana Chapter: For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, call Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at 219-356-8424.

Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA): For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, call the Hotline at 410-290-5652.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota at tel. 651-638-6079 or e-mail: jhintz@bethel.edu.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121, Gary Cusin at 816-460-6215, or Mike Green at 913-208-6138 or e-mail to mokanstma@aol.com.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Loren Humphrey at: 402-461-2324 or email to.hhumphrey@cityofflying.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 888-824-9805 or Boyd Montgomery at 419-885-1982; or visit the chapter's website at www.ostma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact in Washington, Jay Warnick at JayW@Seahawks.com or in Oregon, Mike Wagner at MWagner@Oregon.OW Oregon.edu.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062 or visit the chapter's website: www.tvstma.org.

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, contact Rene Aspron at 972-647-3395, or visit the website at www.ntstma.org.

South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the South Texas Chapter, or upcoming events, call Craig Potts, Texas A & M University, at tel. 979-455-8841, or e-mail: CPotts@athletics.tamu.edu.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter, or other pending events, call Richard Miller at 608-756-1150.

Chapters on the Grow:

Las Vegas: For information on the chapter developing in Las Vegas, contact Red Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at email: rsm@lvcom.com or at tel. 702-586-7740.

New York: For information on the chapter forming in Central New York, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at email: Kevin@wpe.com or at tel. 607-432-2953.

News from Canada

The 2003 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium will be held January 21-23 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Designed for sports turf, golf course, lawn care, sod production and turf management personnel, this Symposium brings together industry professionals sharing a common need for the latest information about the turf industry in Ontario. Join in three days of educational session through concurrent seminars as well as presentations on issues of specific interest to individual sectors of the industry and the two-day trade show of industry suppliers. The 2003 theme is "Turf: The New Reality." For information visit the website: www.open.uguelph.ca/OTS or email Rita Walton at rwallton@open.uguelph.ca to receive a Symposium brochure and registration form.