The NFL and MLB, minus players, visit Disney

Last year, the National Football League and Major League Baseball Sports Turf Managers combined forces to provide a great educational opportunity for attendees at the STMA Conference and Exhibition. This Offsite Seminar and Workshop, conducted by MLB and NFL Sports Turf Managers, will take place Saturday, January 21, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the William R. Boone High School, about 20 minutes from Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort. The baseball, softball, and football fields are adjacent to each other and will be a great location for this hands-on seminar.

Before the STMA Conference, the 2006 Professional Sports Turf Symposium, hosted by Turface Athletics, Toro, and Covermaster will take place. The symposium provides a venue for MLB and NFL professionals to exchange ideas and discuss the ever-changing industry challenges. The program concludes Tuesday at Boone High School with the MLB/NFL “adopt a field” event. A local field from the host community in need of repair and renovation is selected. Using their combined expertise the newly formed “MLB/NFL grounds crew” donates their time and efforts to help improve the field conditions and make for a safer playing surface.

“This is a way the turf managers chose to give back to the industry that supports them,” said Charlie Vestal of Turface Athletics.

After the Symposium, the STMA Offsite Seminar and Workshop begins and the new field is used as an educational backdrop for conference attendees. Participants will spend the day with MLB and NFL sports turf managers who will show and tell key points of field maintenance. The instructors will focus on efficient methods to handle daily tasks and techniques to accomplish quality field maintenance.

“Each year, it has continued to grow and we anticipate another successful year in 2006. Last year, we had 147 people participate in this great hands-on learning experience,” said Bob Christofferson of the Seattle Mariners, who has coordinated this program for the past 4 years.

This event is supported by Midwest Rake, Turface Athletics, Beacon Athletics, Toro, and World Class Athletic Surfaces. Attendees can register for this instructional and beneficial event through the STMA office by calling 800-323-3875 or online at www.sportsturfmanagers.org. Breaks and lunch will be provided at the field. An additional fee required.