

Synthetic and natural turf experts collaborate

BY **ABBY MCNEAL, CSFM**

As chairperson for STMA's Synthetic and Natural Turf Task Force, which was appointed this year by President Mike Trigg, CSFM, I want to report on the group's excellent progress.

The task force was formed in early March to help clarify the many questions surrounding turf selection. The group is composed of 10 members in the industry with very diverse viewpoints, representing natural turf, research and education, synthetic turf, and the sports turf management profession. As needed, additional experts are being asked to participate on subgroups to address specific topics.

The group regularly meets by conference call. Although each member of the group brings a unique perspective, the task force is singularly focused on providing facts. Their initial goal is to provide factual information in a Question and Answer White Paper format to help non-sports turf managers, such as school board members, coaches, the media and the general public, to understand why/when synthetic turf should be selected and why/when natural turf is appropriate. STMA believes that hav-

ing a 360-degree review on this subject is critical to the publication of unbiased information.

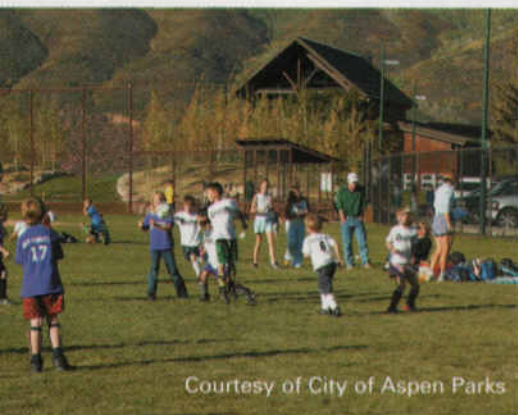
Topics that will be addressed include heat, maintenance activities and equipment, player considerations, installation, health and environmental questions, and longevity. This white paper resource should be ready later this summer. A longer-term goal of this task force is to develop a kit with detailed technical information and documentation for those who are actually ready to make purchase decisions.

It is refreshing to work with such a collaborative group who take their appointment to this task force seriously and are committed to publishing a fair and balanced white paper.

Task Force members include:

Abby McNeal, CSFM, Chair, sports turf manager
Mike Boekholder, sports turf manager
Darby McCamy, synthetic turf representative
Mike McGraw, synthetic turf representative
Andy McNitt, Ph.D., researcher and educator
James Newberry, sod grower/Turf Producers International
A.J. Powell, Ph.D., researcher and educator
Trey Rodgers, Ph.D., researcher and educator
Tony Strickland, CSFM, sports turf manager
Dave Wallace, sod grower/Turf Producers International **ST**

Abby McNeal, CSFM, is assistant turfgrass manager for the Denver Broncos.



Courtesy of City of Aspen Parks

chapter news

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Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:
The Arizona Chapter and the City of Flagstaff Parks

& Recreation present the "Turf in the Pines Seminar" on June 10 at Knoles Elementary. For more information on the seminar or information on the Chapter or other upcoming events, contact Chris Calcaterra at e-mail: chrisc@peoriaaz.com or call 623/412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or 480/312-7956.

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly called Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization - MAFMO Chapter STMA):

Chesapeake Chapter STMA is planning a regional meeting with the Virginia STMA, SFMANJ and KAFMO to be held at the new Ravens Practice Facility in Owens Mills, MD in July. Our meeting at RFK Stadium in Washington, DC will be scheduled at a later date at which time we will see the change over from baseball's new team the Washington

Nationals to MLS Soccer 2004 Champions DC United. For more information contact Graham Davis at gdavis@american.edu or call 301/495-5522.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:

The CSTMA will be having a field renovation seminar at Fort Carson on June 8. The infamous LMO Golf Tournament is scheduled for July 17 at The Heritage at Westmoor, for information on the golf tournament please contact Phil McQuade at 303/237-7188. For information on the Chapter or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website at www.cstma.org or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954, or contact President Richard Buelter at 303/233-2922 or dbuelter@jeffco.k12.co.us.

Florida #1 Chapter: The Florida #1 Chapter is holding a Chapter meeting on July 26 at the City of