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 meets regularly 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 having 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

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

Gold Level Sponsors

JOHN DEERE

Silver Level Sponsors

Alpine Services, Inc.   Hunter®

syngenta   stabilizer SOLUTIONS

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: chris@pecoriaaz.com or call 623/412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdaleaz.us or 480/312-7966.

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 Owings 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 301/495-5622.

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
Coral Springs Sportsplex in Coral Springs. For more information on the Florida #1 Chapter visit the Florida #1 Chapter page on STMA’s website or contact John Mascaro at 954/341-3115 or STMA@turf-tec.com.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: The Gateway Chapter will be hosting a Field Day June 22 from 10am-2pm at St. Louis Youth Soccer Association Park (SLYSA) and a Field Day July 12 from 8am-3pm with the Missouri Valley Turf Grass Association at MU Turf Research Farm in Columbia. For information on the Gateway Chapter or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College at 314/392-2328 or e-mail krone@mobap.edu.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Skip Kirby at 770/928-1580 or e-mail skip@sportsturfmanagement.com.

The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The Greater LA Basin’s next general meeting will be held June 16 at Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) from 11 am-2 pm. The cost for non-members is $10. For information and reservations or for more information on upcoming events call Emilio Avalos at 949/824-8243 or e-mail ecavalos@uci.edu.

Turf Managers Association: The Greater LA Basin’s next general meeting will be held June 16 at Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) from 11 am-2 pm. The cost for non-members is $10. For information and reservations or for more information on upcoming events call Emilio Avalos at 949/824-8243 or e-mail ecavalos@uci.edu.

Illinois Chapter (formerly Midwest Chapter) STMA: June 30 is the inaugural Vendor Expo Field Day at the College of Lake County, Grayslake. Join members and vendors for a day of education and equipment demonstrations. Lunch will be included. For more information on the Field Day or on the Illinois Chapter call chapter secretary Libby Baker at 847/263-7603 or e-mail Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: On June 24 and 25, the Iowa/Minnesota Sports Turf Chapter Challenge is being held in St. Paul, MN, beginning with golf on Friday, June 24 at Keller Golf Course (two person, best shot format), and continuing on to tailgating and tickets for the St. Paul Giants baseball game (free tailgating and discounted tickets) that evening. On Saturday, June 25, there will be softball tentatively set at Midway Stadium and lunch to follow the game. For more information on the Chapter or upcoming activities, contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at ph. 515/232-8222 or fax 515/232-8228 or e-mail Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.
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 or email Enovy Hunter at emhunter@usa.net.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, call Loren Humphrey at 402/461-2356 or e-mail lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: The South Carolina Chapter will have a meeting July 19 at Citizens Park in Aiken. The focus of the meeting will be sports field construction. Contact Trent Hale at 843/632-3526 ext. 206 or by e-mail at txhale@clemson.edu for more information or visit our website at www.scsidma.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): The Tennessee Valley chapter will be holding a Field Day July 21 at the University of Tennessee football stadium, in Knoxville. For more information on the Field Day or information on the Chapter or other upcoming events, call Chapter President Chris Pearl at 615/242-4571 or visit the Chapter’s website at www.tvstma.org.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: The VSTMA Field Day is scheduled for June 28-29 at Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville. For registration and sponsorship information, or more information on the Virginia Chapter please contact VSTMA President Bob Studholme of the Fairfax County Park Authority at 703/324-8590 or robert.studholme@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Wisconsin Chapter or other pending events, contact Chris Brindle at 715/346-3622 or cbrindle@uwsp.edu.

Forming Chapters:
North Florida STMA Chapter: For information on the newly forming North Florida Chapter, contact Mark Clay at 904/633-6116 or Jay McCord at 904/448-2583.

New York Sports Turf Managers Association: Contact - Mike Albino by phone at 315/468-6225 or (c) 315/427-1214 or email him at mikealbino@earthlink.net.