STMA in action

STMA Northwest Regional Conference features top sports turf professionals

SEATTLE HOSTED some sports turf VIPs July 21-22 as the Sports Turf Managers Association partnered with the Intermountain, Northern California, Oregon, and Pacific Northwest chapters to produce an STMA Northwest Regional Conference that featured sports turf specific education, a trade show, hands-on demonstrations, and tours of some of the city’s major league facilities.

The sponsors handed out Seattle Mariner tickets to the more than 175 attendees who enjoyed a beautiful evening at the ballpark while watching the home team beat the Chicago White Sox in extra innings. Attendees earlier that day had walked on the field (outside the lines of course!) while meeting with head groundskeeper Bob Christofferson and his crew during a tour of Safeco Field.

Another highlight was a drop-in visit from new Seahawks coach Pete Carroll during the group’s visit to the Virginia Mason Athletic Center, the team’s practice facility and office in Renton. Carroll snuck up on an unsuspecting Seahawk fields & grounds manager Sean Vanos as he was leading a tour of the cool site on the shores of huge Lake Washington and told the crowd how much he and his team appreciate the turf care.

On another stop the group visited and lunched at Starfire Sports, a non-profit soccer complex in Tukwila, which was most impressive. The facility is open 24/7 and sees action from Major League Soccer’s Seattle Sounders and every other level imaginable. Here the group had a chance to meet with vendors and their number included several nationally known sports turf advocates, including Lynda Wightman of Hunter Industries, Boyd Montgomery of Toro, Christiaan Arends of Barenbrug USA, Jay Warnick of World Class and Charlie Vestal of Turface Athletics.

Starfire also allowed some painting demonstrations on one of their synthetic surfaces. Scott MacVicar from the University of Washington painted some logos while John Wright from the Seahawks and some of his guys showed how to remove those logos from the carpet.

This regional event featured two other nationally recognized bigwigs in sports turf, Dr. Dave Minner from Ames, IA and Dr. Andy McNitt from State College, PA. Minner held court on repairing high traffic areas and presided over a lively give and take panel discussion on natural turf, while McNitt led the group covering synthetic turf issues.

The event included a chance to get on the FieldTurf at Qwest Field and see some of the equipment the crew led by Jason Kingrey use on a surface that now serves as home of the MLS Sounders as well as the 12th Man-led Seahawks. Kingrey also presented on converting his field from synthetic to natural back to synthetic in a matter of days.

STMA’s 22nd Annual Conference & Exhibition will be in Austin, TX January 11-15, 2011. For information see www.stma.org

Innovative Awards deadline is October 1

THE DEADLINE for STMA’s new Innovative Awards Program, October 1, is approaching. This program will recognize those member companies that have a product, piece of equipment, a service or technology that advances the profession. Specifically, entries will be judged on how well the effectiveness of the sports turf manager is enhanced or if the playing surface is made safer or more playable. The STMA Awards Committee will judge the entries and the winners will be announced during the opening of the STMA Exhibition Thursday, January 13, 2011 in Austin. For a complete description of the program and to access the on-line form, go to STMA’s home page, www.STMA.org.
Terry Mellor Grant to be presented by SAFE, Turface Again this Year

Again this year the SAFE Foundation, STMA’s philanthropic arm, will award the Terry Mellor Continuing Education Grant, sponsored by Turface Athletics. This $1,000 grant is intended to fund a portion of the winner’s attendance at the STMA Conference in January. In addition to the $1,000 grant, STMA will provide a complimentary conference registration to the winner, and the winner will be recognized at the Association’s annual Awards Banquet.

The deadline to apply for the Terry Mellor Continuing Education Grant is November 15. All members of an STMA affiliated chapter are eligible to win, and must be nominated through a letter of recommendation by a National STMA Member. Last year’s winner, Eddie Atherton of the City of Owensboro, KY was selected from a highly qualified and very active pool of applicants for his “outstanding dedication, efficiency and attitude.” Atherton was also featured in the February 2010 issue of this magazine.

The STMA Scholarship Committee, who judges the SAFE Scholarship winners each year, will be involved in the selection of this grant’s winner. Go to www.stma.org/professionalism/schol to download the form. The form includes the criteria for eligibility and guidance for writing your nomination. If you have any questions about the SAFE Terry Mellor Continuing Education Grant, sponsored by Turface Athletics, please contact STMA headquarters at 800.323.3875 or STMAinfo@stma.org.

Ask a CSFM Jeff Salmond, CSFM, Athletic Turf Manager, University of Oklahoma

Benefits of certification verified

Editor’s note: This is the third of six installments on how becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) can benefit turf managers professionally as well as improve their facilities.

How did you prepare for the CSFM Exam?

Salmond: I got together all my turfgrass and soils books and notes from college and just began going through them as a refresher. I acquired a few pesticide books and studied from books in the library. I also used the CSFM exam guidelines, competencies and practice exam that are online on the STMA website. Discussing the exam with other CSFMs along with a seminar at the Annual Conference was very helpful.

How did you approach your employer to support your certification, both financially and in the time needed to prepare for the exam?

Salmond: My employer understood the professionalism of the certification process and supportive in my advancement to pursue certification. A lot of the preparation for the exam took place in the evening hours away from work. Since I decided to take the exam at the STMA Annual Conference, there was a little more time to prepare for the exam over Christmas during a less hectic work schedule. My employer now is very supportive in maintaining certification and having a CSFM on staff.

Why did you decide to pursue certification?

Salmond: I received a graduate degree, but was not in my nature to pursue an academia career. Becoming a CSFM at the time was fairly new, but was a personal and professional goal of mine if I wanted to get to that next step in the industry. Becoming certified was a great way for me to advance what I had learned in my schooling and use that education along with my past work experiences to help invoke professionalism across our industry and in the daily workplace.

How has certification helped your career?

Salmond: Attaining certification has helped get me to where I am today. Employers are now more familiarized with the CSFM and use certification as a preferred requirement when hiring. With having to maintain certification, it has allowed me to stay active in learning new things each and every day, staying current with the industry through CEUs and ISPs and helping me serve with the STMA.
Meet the Members who missed the Directory Printing

STMA’S ANNUAL PRINTED DIRECTORY is current through May 20. Any member who joins STMA or renews a membership, regardless of the date, is always included in the real-time on-line directory. Following are those who joined as new members or renewed their memberships after the May cutoff date. This list is current through August 4. For full contact information, please go to the member-only side of www.STMA.org.

STMA thanks all of its members for their continued support of the association!

Affiliate
Jim Hermann, Annandale, NJ
Darren McCormack, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY
Joshua Sells, Charlotte Country Club, Indian Trail, NC
Zola Short, U.S. Soccer Foundation, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Michael Bean, Airfield Systems, LLC, Edmond, OK
Scott Bills, CSFM, Northern Nurseries, Somerset, NJ
Robert Blum, Lakewood, OH
Thomas Burger, Superior Turf & Landscape, Furlong, PA
Dustine Callahan, Kroer Co., LLC, Pacifica, CA
Bruce Dees, Bruce Dees & Associates, Tacoma, WA
Sharon DeWolfe, Jacobsen, A Textron Company, Charlotte, NC
Jeff Fisher, Eco Chemical, Inc., Seattle, WA
James Goebel, Landscapes Unlimited, Lincoln, NE
Raul Gonzalez, Ewing Irrigation Products, Phoenix, AZ
Kenneth Hopkins, Tropic Designs, Jonesboro, GA
Neal Hornbeck, Pacheco Brothers Gardening, Hayward, CA
Clayton Hubbs, Stabilizer Solutions, Phoenix, AZ
Chase Kirby, Championship Field Construction, Inc., Woodstock, GA
Skip Kirby, Championship Turf of Florida, LLC, Woodstock, GA
Stuart Kruger, Enviro Turf, Madison, MS
Casey Kyle, Carolina Green Corp. Ft. Mill, SC
Malcolm MacDougall, Armacell LLC, Mebane, NC
Patrick Maguire, Jacobsen, A Textron Company, Charlotte, NC
Mike Schrader, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN
Joshua Alleman, Holt, MI
Mark Duzenski, Southern Pines, NC
Matthew Elmore, Knoxville, TN
Daniel Estel, Boyd, TX
Joshua Evans, Ft. Collins, CO
Davis Fisher, Lenoir, NC
Joshua Edgerton, Homewood Parks & Rec, Homewood, AL
Mike Echols, Clemson University, Clemson, SC
Petey England, Vista Soccer, Springfield, VA
Tim Fleming, City of Cooper City, Cooper City, FL
David Fortier, Pace Academy, Atlanta, GA
Matt Fortier, Pace Academy, Atlanta, GA
Wes Fortier, Pace Academy, Atlanta, GA
Patrick Francisco, Smith River Sports Complex, Martinsville, VA
Peter Fusco, Bristol Public Schools, Bristol, CT
Paul Greenwell, Gwinnett County Public Schools, Lawrenceville, GA
Jason Hilderbrand, Inland Empire 66ers, San Bernardino, CA
Tom Dick, City of Scottsdale Parks & Rec, Scottsdale, AZ
Jim Osborne, All Saints Episcopal School, Ft. Worth, TX
Eric Owens, Homewood Parks & Rec, Homewood, AL
Walter Parker, Mansfield Public Schools, Mansfield, MA
Reed Pryor, City of Scottsdale Parks & Rec, Scottsdale, AZ
Tim Purdy, University of Tampa, Tampa, FL
Ryan Radcliffe, Lakewod Blueclaws, Lakewood, NJ
Rusty Reese, City of Plainview, Plainview, TX
Matt Rogers, Holly Springs, NC
William Rudominka, California State University/Long Beach, Montebello, CA
Roger Russomanno, City & County of Denver Parks & Rec, Denver, CO
David Schilling, Paradise Valley SD #69, Phoenix, AZ
Edvard Sherman, Snohomish School District, Everett, WA
James Smith, San Antonio, TX
Athanasios Souvlis, Anaplasi Topiou Ltd, Athens, Greece
Brian Stallings, Durham Bulls Baseball Club, Raleigh, NC
David Stuhlsatz, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
Bill Tabor, City of Rifle, Rifle, CO
Nathan Torres, Goodyear Ballpark, Goodyear, AZ
Jason Waldron, City of Scottsdale Parks & Rec, Scottsdale, AZ
Tom Whitmore, City of Rifle, Rifle, CO
Alfred Williams, City of Coolidge Parks & Recreation, Coolidge, AZ
Thomas Williams, Township of E Brunswick, East Brunswick, NJ
Michael Wilson, Professional Turf Specialties, Inc., Fullerton, CA
Tim Wilson, Seattle Mariners, Seattle, WA
Robert Yau, Ware County BOE - Memorial Stadium, Waycross, GA

Research, Teaching, Extension
Tom Bidart, Northern Lakes College, Slave Lake, AB, CAN
Jason Henderson, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
Harold Howard, Ph.D., Turfscience, Inc., Phoenix, AZ
Jason Kruse, Ph.D., University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Scott McElroy, Ph.D., Auburn University, Auburn, AL
David Minner, Ph.D., Iowa State University, Ames, IA
Mike Schrader, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN

Students
Joshua Alleman, Holt, MI
Mark Duzenski, Southern Pines, NC
Matthew Elmore, Knoxville, TN
Daniel Estel, Boyd, TX
Joshua Evans, Ft. Collins, CO
Davis Fisher, Lenoir, NC
James Garrett, Prince Frederic, MD
Brett Johnson, Hickory, NC
Daniel Mathews, Xenia, OH
Gerin Meissen, Winter Garden, FL
James Michaels, Lenoir, NC
Michael Moss, Lancaster, PA
Nathan Reddell, Martinsville, VA
Zachary Reed, Spencer, WV
Kelly Rodier, Lake Ozark, MO
Marcus Sheppard, Ft. Worth, TX
Frank Smith, Myrtle Beach, SC
Martin Volz, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Profile: Oregon STMA

July was a busy month for the Oregon STMA. In addition to helping make the STMA Northwest Regional Conference a strong success, more than 25 chapter members participated in the chapter’s first-ever field make-over. The chapter is less than two years old yet has 90 members and is growing.

The field make-over was at Alpenrose Dairy in Portland, which hosts the Little League Softball World Series. During the series, the Softball World Series Challenger Game is played. This game helps mentally and physically challenged youth enjoy the full benefits of Little League participation in an environment structured to their abilities.

The many hands of the Oregon chapter were able to sod cut high areas, re-grade and sod the back edges, foul base lines, home plate mound circle and coaches boxes.

The field that this game is played on is primarily for practice and often gets overlooked for consistent maintenance, so the goal of the field day was to get the field in excellent shape. The many hands of the Oregon chapter were able to sod cut high areas, re-grade and sod the back edges, foul base lines, home plate mound circle and coaches boxes. The chapter also worked on the game day fields, primarily on the irrigation system.

In addition to the chapter’s volunteers, the field day was directed by Little League Softball World Series Tournament Groundskeeper Mike Hebrard, Athletic Field Design, and had the commercial support of Ewing Irrigation, Oregon Turf and Trees, Pro Turf Solution, Profile Products, Target Specialty, EnviroLogic Resources, Portland Parks, Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation, Willamalane Parks, and other local citizens. Alpenrose hosted an ice cream social at the end of the work day. The Chapter was recognized for its field makeover during the Challenger game August 14.