**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:*** A meeting on football and baseball post-season repairs is planned for a mid-October meeting at Upper Iowa University, Fayette, IA.

*Midwest Chapter*: The Midwest Chapter is planning a Fall Workshop for mid-September. Further details will be announced soon.

*Florida Chapter #1:*** The Florida Chapter will meet on October 24 in conjunction with the Dade County Extension Office educational program. The meeting will be held at Miami-Dade Community College in Kendall, FL. Further details will be announced soon.

*A meeting is being planned for December 3 at Homestead Stadium in Homestead, FL. Baseball field maintenance and preparation will be the focus of this meeting.*

*Florida Chapter,* other pending activities, contact: John Mascaro (305) 938-7477.

*Southern California Chapter:*** The Southern California Chapter will “do it again,” adopting for its 1996 field renovation project the combination field-hockey/soccer/football field of Rancho Buena Vista High School in Buena Vista, CA, on October 25 and 26. The chapter will meet at the school on October 25. The group will finalize the renovation plan, then move outdoors for hands-on demonstrations of the tasks that will be involved. Then, on October 26, the volunteers will converge on the field for the renovation work day. Plan now to join in this hands-on experience of learning and giving, one more example of the Southern California Chapter’s concentration on demonstrating the STMA focus on better and safer sports turf areas.

*For information on these events, the Southern California Chapter and other upcoming activities, contact: Brian Deyak at (612) 255-7223.*

*Colorado Chapter:*** For information on the Colorado Chapter or upcoming events, call the 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/FAX: (303) 438-9645 and leave a message, or contact: Troy Smith, Denver Broncos, at (303) 649-9000.

*Midwest Chapter:*** For information on the Midwest Chapter or upcoming events, call: The Chapter Hotline (847) 439-4727.

**STMA Chapters on the Grow**

*Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association:*** The Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association is planning a mid-September seminar. The same seminar format will be repeated during the designated week at different sites across the state — starting in east Kansas and then moving on to central and west Kansas locations.

*For more information on the September seminars, or other pending events, contact: Mark Schimming of Wichita Baseball, Inc. at (316) 292-2907, Extension 205.*

**Arizona:*** The Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona is planning a seminar/workshop session tentatively scheduled for October in the Scottsdale area. Also in the planning stages is a December meeting to be held in conjunction with a Yuma Parks and Recreation Association event.

For more details on these upcoming events or the chapter, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954.

**Workshop on Wheels**

Sunny skies and moderate temperatures greeted the 55 participants who gathered at St. Paul’s Midway Stadium shortly before 8:00 a.m. on July 16 to kick off the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association’s second annual Workshop on Wheels. Coffee, juice and bakery “ goodies” added to the friendly camaraderie of registration. Chapter President Ken Dehkes welcomed attenders and got the meeting underway.

Grounds Manager Connie Rudolph and her crew coordinated the program at Midway Stadium, a heavily used, city owned and operated facility. It’s home for baseball’s St. Paul Saints (Northern League), key site for the city schools’ baseball and football programs, a concert arena, and host to multiple other events.

This was the “working” part of the workshop, with hands-on, demonstration, ask-questions and try-it-out stations set up to tackle the preparation for that evening’s Saints game. Stations ran simultaneously and included field-grooming and dragging equipment on the skinned area and warning track; mound and batters box construction, including the use of MoundMaster clay bricks around the pitchers mound; several different triplex mowers for cutting the outfield turf; and chalking and foul line painting options.

Participants then boarded the bus to Woodbury Athletic Complex, east of St. Paul. It’s the primary baseball, softball, soccer field complex for this upscale suburb. Field construction, the focus here, was at the rough grade stage last year. Due to a combination of circumstances, the irrigation and turf are still not installed. Parks Manager Dick Riemenscheider explained the problems encoun-

*continued on page 22*
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On the bus, attenders again took advantage of the time to compare notes and share ideas.

Reconstruction of the school's original heavy-clover soil football/soccer field and construction of an adjacent practice field were the focus of the tour given by Mike Kraner of the Clinton Robinson Company, the primary contractor.

Despite weather setbacks, this project was moving ahead, with irrigation installation taking place on the game field and rootzone placement on the practice field. Kelly noted that both fields have surface drainage systems, but at different spacing, and both have a sand content over 90 percent, with soil, rather than peat, as the organic content. Washed sand will be installed following the final grading. The fields will see limited play this year.

Next, the bus headed to the Midway Stadium parking lot for a tailgate barbecue and more informal networking. Most of the group wrapped up the day at the Saints’ evening ball game. This jam-packed event was such a hit Workshop on Wholes III is already on the 1997 agenda.

STMA in Action

Continued from page 21

ter and steps taken to move ahead. He also gave a tour of the ice rink and air bubble-covered year-round sports field.

The bus load moved on to the Burnsville Maintenance Facility, this Minneapolis suburb's new "state of the art" public works garage, maintenance and office complex. This 86 million facility is the headquarters of the crew leaders, secre-

secretaries and front-line workers of four city departments, including both parks maintenance and fleet maintenance.

Facility designers, architects and engineers were joined by worker representatives from every department in developing the plan—and it shows. Work space reflects strict compliance with all governmental regulations in a way that efficiently meets the multiple needs of the various departments.

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STMA provides members with a variety of benefits, including: Education through regional institutes and conferences; support for sports turf research; facilities tours; a national awards program; access to the STMA National Conference & Exhibition; complimentary subscriptions to Sports Turf Manager and SportsTurf Magazine; and much more.

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All New Members Joining STMA Between September 1st and December 1st, 1996, will be eligible for a drawing for a free registration to the STMA 8th Annual Conference & Exhibition, January 15-19, 1997, in Colorado Springs, CO.

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That's right. If you sign up right now, your membership is in force through December 31, 1997.

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Participants' next wheel to Petersen Seed Company in Prier Lake. This family-owned business is an international supplier of forage, as well as turf seed. Sales representative David Greene led the tour of the storage, handling and packaging facility, noting the polymer coating that ensures seeds maintain moisture until they are loaded into trucks. More than 6 million cups are used to seed this grass, providing a healthy, sustainable soil for the plants. The Seed Company is headquartered in Portland, Oregon, and it has been in operation for over 40 years. It is committed to providing high-quality seeds that meet the needs of homeowners and landscaping professionals.

The Seed Company's facilities are located on 12 acres of land in the heart of Portland. The facility is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure to ensure that seeds are handled with care and precision. The company has a strong commitment to sustainability and is dedicated to minimizing its impact on the environment. It is one of the largest seed producers in the United States, and it has a reputation for producing high-quality seeds that are easy to grow and maintain.

The Seed Company's success is due in large part to its employees. The company has a dedicated team of professionals who are passionate about their work and committed to providing the best possible service to its customers. The company's success is also due to its commitment to innovation and excellence. It is always looking for new ways to improve its products and processes, and it is dedicated to staying at the forefront of the industry.

The Seed Company is a shining example of how one company can make a difference in its community. Its commitment to sustainability, innovation, and excellence is a model for others to follow. The Seed Company is a testament to the power of hard work, dedication, and a strong commitment to the quality of its products. It is a company that is dedicated to making a positive impact on the world, and it is one that should be supported by anyone who values high-quality seeds and a commitment to sustainability.
Demands are constantly put on sports turf managers to maintain uniform, quality turf no matter what environmental, cultural or financial conditions they encounter. Lack of uniformity on a playing surface can result in serious injuries to players and costly liability for managers and their employers. Maintaining a uniform playing surface is one of the greatest challenges during the summer months since sports turf managers are continually battling the weather, increased disease potential as well as increased play and traffic on fields.

There are many factors to address in order to achieve turf uniformity and effective turfgrass management. The proper application and correct amount of water and turf management chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides are critical. Sport turf managers must employ proper watering techniques so plant roots receive adequate amounts of water and turf management chemicals.

It is often assumed that, once water is applied to the turfgrass surface, it will uniformly penetrate the surface and percolate into the rootzone where it is available for absorption by the plant roots. Often water and water-soluble chemicals cannot uniformly infiltrate and penetrate a soil profile. This is normally caused by a condition known as water repellency (hydrophobicity). Hydrophobic soils cause a number of water movement problems that may contribute to other turfgrass problems. Symptoms of water repellent soils can manifest themselves in the form of localized dry spots, compacted turf and the inability for turf to effectively handle environmental stresses (such as drought and excessive heat).

Researchers have also found that, due to the variabilities in soils, water and solutes often flow in unpredictable pathways. This is especially true in water repellant (hydrophobic) soils. Infiltrating fronts of water often become unstable and break into narrow, quickly moving "fingers of flow." Fingered flow patterns of water infiltrate and percolate only a fraction of the soil, resulting in uneven distribution of water and turf management chemicals into the rootzone. This uneven wetting pattern increases the chances of localized dry spots, compaction and inconsistencies in soil conditions.

How do sports turf managers effectively apply water and turf management chemicals so they can eliminate soil inconsistencies and promote turf uniformity? Unfortunately, adding more water usually isn't the answer. However, incor
A computer enhanced photo shows “finger flow” water movement through the soil. Photo courtesy: Aquatrols, Cherry Hill, NJ.

Computer enhanced photo of the soil shows the even distribution (the “matrix flow”) of water that has been treated with a matrix-flow soil surfactant. Photo courtesy: Aquatrols, Cherry Hill, NJ.

Incorporating an effective soil-water management program will increase the chances for uniform movement of water, fertilizers and pesticides.

In some cases aerating the turf and/or a deep and thorough watering can help open turf pore spaces, resulting in improved distribution. This may be difficult to achieve when dealing with hydrophobic soils. Vertical mowers and thatch rakes are other devices used to make sports turf surfaces more uniform. Another option is the use of surfactants. Surfactants have been proven to reduce fingered flow and other water-related problems such as localized dry spots, wet spots, compaction and uneven wetting. Surfactants help establish and maintain a “matrix flow” — a downward and lateral water movement flow that ensures uniform movement of water and turf management chemicals throughout the rootzone. Matrix flow promotes healthy turfgrass since water and water-soluble chemicals penetrate deeper into the rootzone. Turf roots grow deeper to reach and utilize the moisture and nutrients. A deeper root structure means a healthier, denser uniform turf surface. A well designed irrigation system is also a plus. Poor irrigation patterns must be corrected in order to get the maximum effect from a surfactant.

Surfactants have many practical benefits for the sports turf manager, but it is suggested that caution be used when selecting a surfactant. Ask the manufacturer for valid, scientific performance data as well as a list of turf professionals who use the product. Turf professionals don’t usually purchase fertilizers or pesticides without examining the products’ credentials, and all other chemicals need to be treated the same.

Sports turf managers who incorporate effective soil-water management practices early in the season can maintain healthy, safe, uniform playing surfaces all season long. Effective, proven soil surfactants will aid in managing soil hydrophobicity and enhance penetration and infiltration of water and chemicals into and throughout the rootzone.

Call 1-800-257-7797 for information on Aquatrols' unique choice of surfactant chemistries that provide solutions to your soil-water management problems.
Olympic Softball’s Invisible Gold Medalists

By Floyd Perry

On July 30, 1996, a first time gold medal was awarded to the United States women’s softball team in a dramatic 3-1 victory over China in the 100th Olympiad. This victory celebration was shown nationwide on live television from Golden Park in Columbus, GA. It was a great day for the ladies who worked so hard and long to create a positive image for the softball players in future games and from various countries.

The other gold medal, which wasn’t seen by the 8,900-plus fans in the stadium and the TV audience, was the one awarded to Columbus Park’s maintenance staff, who under a multitude of conditions (rain, heat, foot traffic, sleep deprivation, and the stringent Atlanta Games Committee) accomplished a task that many groups wouldn’t have even attempted. They created a positive, outstanding playing surface daily that allowed Olympic performances without any player knowing the behind-the-scenes problems. The group of men had the desire and leadership generated for this task by their supervisors, Richard Bishop and Benji Brumbole, and never once lost focus of their goal.

As with other Olympic venues, the pressure of game performance was so great that even the smallest detail was magnified three-fold. Checks, double-checks and final walk-throughs were so common that they were accepted as ordinary before the first pitch. The respective department leaders all marched...
...to different beats, so everyone evaluated the venue differently. The venue’s owner, Richard Bishop, refused anything short of perfection when it came time to evaluate the playing surface, and his staff responded to his direction.

To prove that point, the one day off before the medal rounds when the top four finalists played for individual glory, his staff of 30 men put in a 16-hour-day resodding and painting the stadium turf, which was ruined from a previous day’s thundershower. This was the turning point of the softball event, and the comments that followed helped compensate the crew for all the sweat and physical anxiety.

One spectator from Australia who witnessed the whole tournament told the staff, “I thought I was at a different site! The picture perfect condition of the surface is night and day from Saturday’s last out. How did you do it?”

Another visitor who was in attendance during the Friday thundershower was likewise outspoken at the metamorphosis of the field: “When I left it was a mud puddle! I returned, and it was a lush pasture of dark green color! Simply amazing.”

The split teams of employees arrived at 6:30 a.m. for a 9 a.m. session start, and the second team left at 12:30 a.m. after the second session’s final out. On one occasion, day cots were used by some of the night staff because a rain delay set the ending time at 2:30 a.m. and sleeping at the park was easier than going home.

A list of items that were done by the group are as follows: six placements of base, mound and home-plate tarp; four roll-outs of the 120/120 tarp; placement and scarifying of three tons of Turface in the playing surface; painting of “fair” lines with aerosol five times; chalking of batter boxes 32 times; mowing turf eight times; cleaning bases 32 times; and packing mound and home plate 32 times. And so on.

These tasks only featured the Olympic game site, not the two practice fields that were used daily for warm-up and batting practice. That six-man staff also created a quality surface for the participating teams and visiting national delegations.

The park staff was truly a well-coordinated and well-greased unit that had the 1995 SuperBall tournament and 1996 NCAA Division I World Series under their belts, but saved their best effort for the July Gold Medal Series.

Few people appreciated the second gold medal performance unless they were in the stands and noticed the error-free performance of the players. The second medal was unceremoniously awarded to the park maintenance department located in “the pit” down the third-base line of Golden Park. My groundskeeping hat goes off to these men, and I will always be indebted to Columbus for allowing me the opportunity to volunteer my efforts.

Floyd Perry travels the country coordinating workshops and seminars on grounds maintenance and facility improvement. He has authored two textbooks: A Pictorial Guide to Quality Groundskeeping, Book I, Covering All the Bases and Book II, There Ain’t No Rules. His third book, Keep It Simple — Make It Safe, featuring softball maintenance, will be on the market in December 1996. For information call (800) 227-9381.

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HAPPENINGS

Lofts Acquired by Budd Seed

The Budd family of Winston-Salem has completed its acquisition of Lofts Seed, Inc., the world's largest marketer of turfgrass.

The New Jersey-based Lofts Seed, Inc., sells to golf courses, sod farms, retail stores, landscapers, lawn-care operators and municipalities. Lofts has been a leader in the industry since 1923, and it has developed and owns patents on more than 25 seed varieties.

Richard Budd, chief executive officer of Lofts Seed, said, "We are very pleased to welcome this outstanding group of talented professionals into our company family. This is a major milestone in our company's history and for the seed industry.

Ken Budd, president and chief operating officer of Budd Seed, has become president and chief operating officer of Lofts Seed Company. Richard Budd, chief executive officer of Budd Services and Budd Seed, has also become chief executive officer of Lofts Seeds. Gerald Chrisco, chief financial officer of Budd Services, has been named Lofts' chief financial officer.


The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) has published its fourth annual Sports Turf Topics: A Compendium of STMA Articles. Based on 12 months of published material, the booklet contains nearly 40 articles, divided into five subject areas: Cultural Management of Sports Turf, Special Sports Turf Management, General Sports Turf Management, Award Winners and Profiles.

Each article was authored by a member of STMA and was published in a green industry publication. Copies of the publication may be purchased by non-members for $30 each from STMA headquarters. Contact: STMA executive director Steve Trusty at (712) 366-2669 or (800) 323-3875. Fax: (712) 366-9119.

Now, STMA is also accessible on the World Wide Web. Services include a description of the organization, member benefits, the "STMA Message," and a membership application that can be sent directly to STMA Headquarters. Details of the upcoming 1997 STMA Conference & Exhibition to be held January 15-19 in Colorado Springs also will be available online soon. STMA's home page address is: http://www.aip.com/STMA.
Master the Tools to Compete.

Guide to Golf Course Irrigation System Design and Drainage, by Edward Pira. This book covers every important aspect of the subject in an easy-to-understand format. It is perfect for practicing turfgrass manager & superintendent, consultant, sales representative and student. Used in academic courses for years, this is the first commercially available version. Completely revised with new exercises, practical examples, numerous new figures, and expanded sections covering a wide variety of irrigation system components, Guides the reader through every phase of an irrigation program from design to construction - from program scheduling to operation and maintenance. Turfgrass managers and golf course superintendents will refer to this book often to plan effective irrigation systems, ensure appropriate capacity, easy installation and practical operation and maintenance. 400 pp. Available August 1996

4004 Price: $59.95

Color Atlas of Turfgrass Diseases, by Dr. Toshikazu Tani and Contributing Author, Dr. James B. Beard. Presents over 350 high-quality color photographs of all the major turfgrass diseases that occur on both warm and cool season grasses and it is international in scope. This book will become the standard color guide to disease diagnosis and pathogen identification for golf course superintendents and turfgrass practitioners. Maps are included to assist in disease identification by providing geographical locations where each disease/pathogen is likely to occur. It also provides color photos of step-by-step guidance on diagnostic techniques for laboratory analysis which can be used by practitioners. 140 pages. Available June 1996. 4005 Price: $79.95

The Surface Irrigation Manual, by Dr. Charles Burt. The text delves in-depth into the proper design and operation of surface irrigation systems. Also covers subjects such as soil types, salinity, surge flow and infiltration. Indispensable aid for farming, educators in agriculture; irrigation design professionals for government agencies working with the agriculture industry. 400 pp

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Management of Turfgrass Diseases Second Edition, Joseph M. Vargas, Jr. Completely revised and updated to provide the latest information on maintaining a healthy turf and identifying turf diseases. Covers cultural, genetic, biological and chemical approaches to turf management and provides practical solutions to everyday problems. Fungal, bacterial and viral diseases; black layer disease and diseases caused by nematodes are addressed for all major grasses. Tips on irrigation, fertilization, and grass culture w. 72 full-page photos and more than 100 figures. 320 pgs.

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