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1974



1977

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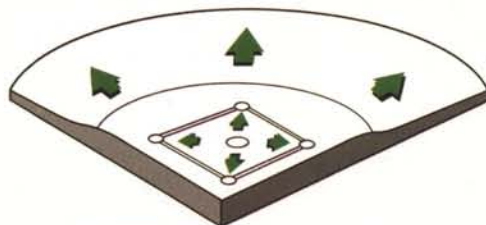
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VOLUME 15, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 1999

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STMA's Colorado Chapter tours Mile High Stadium during a recent Seminar on Wheels tour. Courtesy: STMA

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### Stubborn Pests



**E**ven as I read through Colleen Heraty's tree care article (page 20), trees are making headlines in my own backyard once again. In April, I told you about the destructive Asian long-horned beetle infestation that surfaced in Chicago last year. I watched as the City systematically removed whole blocks of beautiful trees in an aggressive push to exterminate the pests.

Since then, the infestation has expanded beyond the original quarantine area. The number of trees removed has swelled from 450 to 925, and this figure continues to rise. Still, the City insists that its tactics have been highly successful, and that the problem is under control.

On the nightly PBS program, *Chicago Tonight*, a panel of City and County officials described their long-term strategy in the war on Asian beetles. The initial quarantine and disposal of affected trees was designed to strike at the heart of the problem, but it was simply the first step in a broad plan.

With the beetles' core population eliminated, officials will continue to monitor trees in areas surrounding the quarantined Ravenswood neighborhood for signs of further infestation. Outbreaks are being handled on a case by case basis, and affected trees are being removed immediately on detection. While beetles have been found in two other communities in Chicago's suburbs, officials maintain that they are isolated incidents that are being watched carefully.

The *Chicago Tonight* panel suggested that total extermination could take years. However, panel members lauded early successes, and attributed the results to an extensive public awareness campaign and solid cooperation with the City of New York, another area that has felt the devastation.

Since they have no natural predators in this country, and effective insecticide programs are not available, public awareness is our best defense against the Asian beetles. In a *Chicago Tribune* commentary, New York State Department of Agriculture Commissioner Nathan Rudgers asserts, "The Asian long-horned beetle is thought to possess the greatest destruction potential of any plant pest previously introduced into North America." This is not a small bug problem, and it's not simply a concern for Chicago and New York.

Government regulations now prohibit China's use of untreated-wood shipping crates, which are believed to be the original source of the problem. However, the beetles are thought to have arrived in Chicago up to seven years ago, and they may have been in New York for a decade. We've got to do more than cross our fingers and hope the pests haven't spread any further.

Facilities in and around Chicago and New York should closely monitor trees for the beetles' characteristic quarter-sized bore holes. At the same time, facilities around the country must remain alert to prevent the problem from spreading.

At the first sign of a possible infestation, contact the Department of Agriculture immediately. Do not attempt to take on the beetles alone.

For further tree care information, visit *Arbor Age* at the Green Industry's comprehensive Web site: [www.sportsturfonline.com](http://www.sportsturfonline.com). Take a minute to complete the *sportsTURF* reader survey while you're there.

**Steve Berens, Editor**  
(773) 755-4611

## Tip o' the Month

### First Defense

by Floyd Perry



**A**thletic facility safety issues extend beyond the fields of play. Management teams must alert all facility users, including visitors, spectators, and athletes, to potential dangers that surround them.

Well-placed, clearly marked signs can help protect your facility users, while protecting your facility from liability at the same time:

- Alert facility users to your rules and regulations as they first enter the grounds.
- Place your foul ball signs in key positions to keep facility users alert and aware of the danger.
- Remind individuals that they are personally responsible for their actions.
- Ask the community to help police the area to prevent destruction, vandalism, and inappropriate behavior.

Effective signs respectfully remind people to act responsibly. They can help keep your department out of the newspapers and away from the courtroom.

*Floyd Perry is author of three books: The Pictorial Guides to Quality Groundskeeping: I - Covering the Bases; II - There Ain't No Rules; and III - Maintain It Easy, Keep It Safe. He also produces two videos: The ABC's of Grounds Maintenance: Vol. 1, Softball; and Vol. 2, Baseball. For more information, call: (800) 227-9381, or visit: <http://gms.simplenet.com>.*



#### September 19-23

Floyd Perry's Groundskeepers Management Academy, Denver, CO. Other date(s) and location(s): Oct. 10-14, Davis, CA. Contact Grounds Maintenance Services: (800) 227-9381.

#### September 20

Northeastern GCSA Poa Annual Tournament, Mohawk Golf Club, Schenectady, NY. Contact New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA): (800) 873-8873.

#### September 27

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's (OTF) annual golf outing, Eaglesticks Golf Club, Zanesville, OH. Contact Kevin Thompson: (888) 683-3445.

#### October 28

Southeast Texas Grounds Maintenance Conference, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Conroe, TX. Contact Patti Jones: (409) 539-7822.

#### November 9-11

Turf and Grounds Exposition: "Committed to Excellence: Plants, people, the environment, and you," OnCenter, Syracuse, NY. Contact NYSTA: (800) 873-8873.

#### November 13-16

Green Industry Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. Contact Eleanor Ellison: (770) 973-2019.

## 2000

#### January 12-16

STMA 11th annual Conference & Exhibition, St. Louis. Contact STMA: (800) 323-3875 or (712) 366-2669.

## STMA MESSAGE

Sports  
Turf  
Managers Association



## Things Are Heating Up

I have spoken to numerous STMA members throughout the country over the past few months. One topic always comes up in our conversations — the heat and drought this past summer has been a bear to handle.

Members in the Midwest and in New England states attempted to keep their fields covered with green, healthy turf while water supplies dwindled, and cities and states issued water use restrictions. Water shortages are a 911 for any city.

The first resources to be restricted are always the obvious and highly visible ones — landscaped areas. Landscape irrigation accounts for a great deal of water volume for any city. In some areas, athletic fields automatically fall into this category, and water use is severely restricted. This effects sports turf managers on many different levels.

Even with excellent existing field cover, uniform irrigation coverage, and highly efficient irrigation systems, restricted water during high-stress periods weakens turf. Reduced irrigation on fields with poor distribution causes severe heat stress and death to large areas of turf.

These areas are rapidly reduced to soil fields through extensive summer use. Occasional thunderstorms only exasperate the problem, turning bare areas to mud and increasing that unwanted summer sport: "mud football."

Most of our budgets don't include emergency funds for projects such as rejuvenation or complete renovation of fields and landscapes following a drought. The rebuilding process can take months, and in some cases, years.

- Switching to an upbeat mode, it's refreshing to see that this month's issue includes an article that focuses on trees. Trees are a vital part of an athletic facility's overall look. They add to the aesthetics of the property, and serve multiple, functional purposes.

Trees may screen athletic field areas from unappealing views, or create walls of serenity within busy urban neighborhoods. Well-placed trees in a park provide shade for parents, family, and fans that come out to athletic fields to watch the events of the day. Trees serve as a frame; our sports fields are the picture.

Over the past few years, I've learned that trees play a vital role in sports field design, and that the size of trees installed is vital to their success rate. This is very important when young children frequent a sports complex. Kids love trees! They love to climb them, swing around them, break branches off them, and see how far they can bend them. My advice to any architect is to specify large shade trees for sports parks.

- As you're planning your 2000 budget, now is the time to include funds to attend the 11th Annual STMA Conference & Exhibition in St. Louis, MO, January 12-16. Take advantage of the event's central location to meet and greet your STMA friends, and to make new networking contacts as you fine-tune your skills to face the new millennium. It's going to be great!

**Stephen Guise, STMA President**  
(714) 704-0403

# Colorado Chapter Holds

## First Seminar on Wheels



On June 23, 128 attendees boarded three buses for the first Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association (CSTMA) Seminar on Wheels. The group rolled into Denver for up-close, behind the scenes tours of the city's three top sports facilities: Mile High Stadium, Coors Field, and the Denver Broncos Practice Facility.

Mile High Stadium Groundskeeper/Maintenance Technician Jose Palma presented attendees an unfamiliar view of the field, which was set up for soccer instead of football. Following the tour, Palma gave an informative and entertaining presentation on the hows and whys of the facility's maintenance program.

At Coors Field, the group found Head Groundskeeper Mark Razum and his crew in the middle of pre-game preparations. Razum had specifically requested that the tour be held on a game day, so participants could catch the action in progress.

As activity whirled around them, attendees learned the details of pre-game set-up as they watched the procedures unfold.

Following the tour and presentation, the group stopped for lunch at Dove Valley Park, just across the road from the Broncos Practice Facility. Keeping their tradition of raising scholarship funds, CSTMA closed the lunch session with a raffle.

At the Broncos Training Facility, Turf Manager Ross Kurcab and Assistant Sports Turf Manager Troy Smith split attendees into two groups for facility tours, browsing sessions in the trophy room, and educational classroom sessions. The fields were obviously set up for football.

The fields handle approximately 9,000 team plays between August and January each year. That's equal to about 60 games worth of play during the fall football season. The goal is to have the practice fields — and the team — in play through mid-January.

As attendees rode away from the Broncos practice facility, the group declared the first-ever CSTMA Seminar on Wheels a great success.

### Chapter news

Mark your calendars now for STMA's 11th Annual Conference & Exhibition, "Gateway to the 21st Century," January 12-16, 2000, at the Regal Riverfront Hotel in St. Louis, MO.

**KAFMO Chapter:** The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization will team up with Penn State Cooperative Extension to host three on-field, one-day clinics in western Pennsylvania this fall: Sept. 20, Walker Room, Campus Center, Allegheny College, Meadville; Sept. 21, Cranberry Township Building, Cranberry Township, Butler County, PA; and Sept. 22, Trinity Middle School, Washington, PA.

Each clinic will open with registration at 9:30 am, and will wrap up at 2:30 pm. Topics will include: communication between ADs, coaches, associations, and parents; basic turf maintenance; and field safety. On-field afternoon sessions will include: fall renovation tips, and pre- and post-game field tips.

For information, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club: (610) 375-8469, ext. 212.

**Florida Chapter #1:** The Florida Chapter will hold its 8th annual Turf Rodeo Sept. 22 at Lake Ida Park in Delray. Events will include educational sessions, Bobcat Basketball, and mower relays.

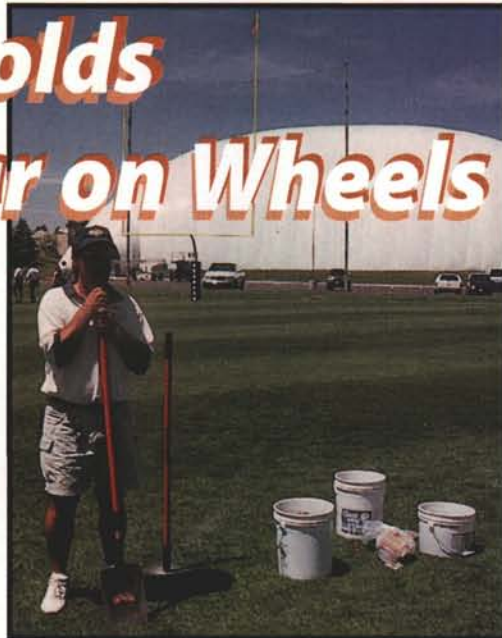
Nov. 19, the Chapter will hold a meeting in Ft. Lauderdale. The meeting will focus on "Sports Turf Equipment Demonstrations for Maintaining Athletic Fields."

For information, contact John Mascaro: (954) 341-3115.

**MAFMO Chapter:** The Mid-Atlantic Field Managers Organization will hold a Design and Spec Workshop Oct. 8 in Annapolis, MD. Featured speakers will include Don Campbell of French & Assoc., Columbus, GA; and Paul Zwaska, head groundskeeper for the Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards.

For information, contact the hotline: (410) 290-5652.

**Iowa Chapter:** ISTMA will hold a Fall Workshop Oct. 6 at North Scott Community Schools in Eldridge, Iowa.



**Turf Manager Ross Kurcab shows attendees the Denver Broncos Practice Facility during CSTMA's Seminar on Wheels.** Courtesy: STMA

The event will open with an overview of the North Scott athletic fields and maintenance program. Presentations will include: "Infield Dirt," by Luke Yoder; "Seed Establishment," by Mike Grooms; "Fertility," by Gary Peterson; "High-Traffic Turf Repair," by Kevin Vos; and "Workshop Summary," by Dr. Dave Minner. There will also be equipment displays, demonstrations, and time to visit with vendors.

For information, contact Lori Westrum at the Turf Office: (515) 232-8222, or fax: (515) 232-8228.

**Indiana Chapter:** An October event is in the planning stages. More details will be announced soon.

For information, contact Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer: (219) 356-8424, or Pat Hickner: (800) 672-4273.

**Great Lakes Chapter:** GLSTMA will hold its second annual Awards Presentation and Meeting Dec. 7 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus.

In cooperation with Profile Products, GLSTMA will again sponsor Field of the Year awards. Members can obtain application materials at the Web site, or by calling (419) 885-1982. Award entries are due Oct. 1.

For general information, contact Joe Zelinko: (800) 897-9714, or Boyd Montgomery: (419) 885-1982, or visit the Web site: <http://members.tripod.com/~glstma>.

**Colorado Chapter:** The Colorado Chapter will again participate in the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association Annual Conference Dec. 8-



10 at Currigan Hall in Denver.

For information, visit: [www.cstma.org](http://www.cstma.org), or call the hotline: (303) 346-8954.

**Minnesota Chapter:** The Minnesota Chapter will again participate in the Minnesota Turf & Grounds Conference and Trade Show Dec. 8-10. The theme will be "Beyond the Millennium: Education for the 21st Century." Several Conference sessions will focus on sports turf management.

For information, contact Connie Rudolph: (651) 646-1679.

**Wisconsin Chapter:** WSTMA will join with the Wisconsin Turf Association to present the annual Winter Expo Jan. 11-12 at the Marriott West in Madison, WI.

For information, contact Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates, Inc.: (715) 341-2633.

**Tennessee Valley Chapter:** TVSTMA will hold a meeting Sept. 17 in conjunction with the City of Portland.

For information, contact Tom McAfee, Nashville Sounds: (615) 242-4371; Bill Marbet: (931) 380-0023; or Bob Hogan: (888) 224-6426.

**North Texas Chapter:** For information, contact Rene Asprien, Diamond Pro: (800) 228-2987; or Tom Welch, CSM, Central Garden and Pet: (800) 788-9581; or visit the Web site: [www.ntstma.org](http://www.ntstma.org).

**Michigan Chapter:** For information, contact Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools: (616) 395-2364.

**Midwest Chapter:** For information, call the hotline: (847) 622-3517.

**Mid-South Chapter:** For information, contact Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305, or Robert Bodi: (901) 383-2414.

**Northern California Chapter:** For information, contact Janet Gift: (530) 758-4200.

**Southern California Chapter:** For information, contact the hotline: (888) 578-STMA.

#### Chapters on the grow

**Arizona Chapter:** For information, contact Bill Murphy, City of

#### Colorado Chapter Seminar on Wheels attendees visit Coors Field.

Courtesy: STMA

Scottsdale Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 312-7954; or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 786-2728.

**New Chapter:** For information on the new chapter forming in the Kansas City, MO/KS area, contact Trevor Vance: (816) 504-4271, John Cundiff:

(816) 525-7600, Bill Tritt: (816) 941-4424, Jody Gill: (913) 681-4121, Gary Custis: (816) 468-6215, or Jay Sutton: (816) 795-8873.

**Nevada Chapter:** Contact Ibsen Dow: (702) 649-1551; or Alan Paulson, Clark County School District: (702) 799-8724.



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