

The McFarland Experience

BY CHRIS BRINDLEY

McFarland School District was the host of the June 12 Wisconsin STMA Chapter Meeting. The weather cooperated and the educational demonstrations were superb, providing the 60 attendees with an outstanding day.

Rich Miller and Paul Buchholz opened the meeting with greetings and introductions. The first speaker was Patricia Kandziora, the IPM programs specialist from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Her topic was the legal requirements for pesticide use at Wisconsin schools. Two of the issues that became mandatory as of August 2001 are: 1) a person has to be certified in the appropriate category to apply pesticides to school grounds, and 2) posting of treated school areas at the time of application and 72 hours thereafter. Patricia also was available throughout the remainder of the day to answer questions for the attendees.

Dr. Wayne Kussow introduced the next speaker, Kevin Hensler. Kevin is new to the staff of the University of Wisconsin Extension and has many exciting things in the works for the turf industry. His main objective is to form an integrated turf management program for individual sites. This entails evaluating the site and developing a turf program tailored for that site. Kevin also is working on a monthly Internet newsletter to inform people about turf issues.

After Kevin's talk, the group split up into two groups to better view the demonstration



sessions. One group started with an excellent presentation by the duo of Paul Zwaska and Craig Schlender on how to properly build a pitching mound. Both brought great tools to make the job easier and more efficient. Paul demonstrated his idea of grinding down a garden rake to form a sharp edge. It was unbelievable to see how it raked in clay and how it cleaned where lips were forming along the infields. It's amazing to see the improvement a simple change to a tool can make. Craig brought a template to form the flat area around the pitching rubber, a simple but very useful tool.

The second group started with a demonstration geared toward football field improvements. Vince Johnson and Rich Miller brought and demonstrated the equipment that included core aerifiers, topdressers, a verti-drain, and a verti-cutter. They showed how aeration will open thatch areas, allow for better water infiltration, reduce compaction, and increase rooting into the underlying soil. They also demonstrated topdressing and discussed the functions of a topdressing program to maintain a high quality turf. Some of these functions include smoothing the turf, filling in damaged areas, reducing thatch, and filling in holes left by core aeration. After an hour, the groups switched so all could get the full benefit of both demonstrations.

Once again, WSTMA had a successful meeting with each person learning or seeing at least one new thing. The Chapter expresses special thanks to Jim Crawford and his crew at McFarland School District for being such great hosts. The Chapter's next event is the summer field day at the Noer Center on August 13.

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STMA Chapter News

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): The Michigan Chapter will participate in the MSU/MTF/MiSTMA field day which will be hosted by the MTF at Michigan State University August 13. This event will team sports turf managers and business managers with a focus on the business end of maintaining sports fields.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, University of Michigan, at fouty@umich.edu, or go to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's new website.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: The MO-KAN Chapter will hold a Fall Turf Management Field Day at the Pembroke Hill High School Football Stadium August 14. The program will cover maintenance and repair on high use football fields, including topdressing and renovation. There will be a field painting seminar with tips and shortcuts to get fields painted accurately and efficiently. "Hands-on" practice painting custom field logos also will be offered. Instructors include: Chuck Dixon, J.L. Bruce & Assoc.; Brad Fresenburg, University of Missouri; Jim Wilson, Blue

Valley Schools; and Field Paint and Equipment sales professionals.

For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121; Gary Custis at 816-460-6215, or Mike Green at 913-208-6158.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):

The OSTMA chapter will participate in the OSU/OTF Research Field Day in Columbus August 14. The OSTMA Fall Field Day will be held at Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy in Cincinnati August 20. Morning educational sessions include: "Picking the Correct Seed for the Job," presented by Randy Heilman of Central Farm and Garden Center, and "Maintenance of High School Complexes," presented by Michael Bell, director of facilities for the school. Bell also will conduct a tour of the school's athletic facilities. The Vendor Showcase will be the focus of the afternoon events. The Chapter also will participate in the Paul Zwaska Ball Field Workshop to be held September 10 at the OSU Intramural complex off Lane Avenue in Columbus. For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 740-452-4541 or

Boyd Montgomery at 419-885-1982; or visit the chapter's website at www.ostma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: PNWSTMA is in the process of planning a Field Day at the Mariners for August 19. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact in Washington, Jay Warnick at JayW@Seahawks.com or in Oregon, Mike Wagner at MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: The Colorado Chapter will meet at Shea Stadium/Highlands Ranch on August 21. A meeting at Coors Field is being planned for late September or early October.

For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website, www.CSTMA.org, or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: The Iowa Chapter will hold a workshop August 28 at the Muscatine Soccer Complex and Kent Stein Park in

Muscatine. Rich Klimes, assistant director of parks & recreation for the City, will open the Workshop at 8:30 am with a welcome to participants. Educational sessions will include: "The In's and Out's of the Construction & Maintenance of the Muscatine Soccer Complex," presented by Kevin Vos, CSFM, athletic facilities manager; "What's New in Athletic Field Grass Seed," by Dennis Christiansen of Williams Lawn Seed; "Layout & Design Tips for Painting Field Logos," and "Results of Primo Growth Regulator Program on a Soccer Field," both by Vos. Following lunch, Vos will present "Aeration Strategies for Soccer Fields." Next "Topdressing in Sports Turf," will be presented by Mike Embree of Acme Materials. The workshop will conclude with a tour of the Kent Stein Park Ball Diamond Complex.

For information on the Iowa Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Lori@iowaturfgrass.org.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:

The Arizona Chapter is again partnering with the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association for another packed day of educational sessions at the APRA 2002 Conference. The Conference will be held August 27-30 at Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort in Phoenix. August 29 will feature one breakout session focused on sports turf management and one on parks maintenance. The opening two hours, from 7-9 AM, are devoted to registration and Trade Show viewing. Educational sessions begin at 9 AM and run through 2:50 PM with the lunch hour beginning at noon. Topics and speakers for the Sports Turf Sessions are: "Chemical Elimination of Rye in Overseeded Bermuda," presented by Dr. Dave Kopec, University of Arizona; "Common Sports Turf Problems," by Dr. Gil Landry, University of Georgia; "High Profile Field Preparation," by Bob Campbell, CSFM, University of Tennessee; "A World Series Year," by Grant Trenbeath, Arizona Diamondbacks; and "Turf Nutrition," by Mike Pfeiffer, Pesticide Training Resources. Registration information for this event is available on the web at: www.azpra.org or by calling 877/443-2670.

For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, contact Chris Calcaterra at e-mail: chrise@peoriaaz.com or tel. 623-412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or tel. 480-312-7956.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): TVSTMA is planning an August event with the Tennessee Titans.

For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062 or visit the chapter's website: www.tvstma.org.

Midwest Chapter STMA: The Midwest Chapter will hold its Tour on Wheels in late August.

For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter's website, <http://mestma.org/>, or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Florida Chapter # 1: The Florida Chapter will participate in the Florida Turfgrass Association Show to be held in Tampa September 16-18.

For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will have a booth at the Turfgrass and Landscape Expo (SCTC) Fairplex in Pomona on October 9-10. In the planning stages is an October Field Day at Edison International, date and time to be announced soon. For information on the Chapter or pending events, call Steve Dugas, California State University-Fullerton, at 714-278-3929 or email sdugas@fullerton.edu.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The Minnesota Chapter's Fall Workshop is scheduled for October 17. More details will be announced soon. For information on the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, at tel. 651-638-6075 or e-mail: j-hintz@bethel.edu.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, email Loren Humphrey at: lhumphrey@city-ofhastings.org or call Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at 308-385-5426.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Fred Castenschiold at 908-722-9830 or email to mkc@blast.net; or call Eleanora Murfitt, at 908-236-9118; e-mail to HQ@stmanj.org.

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, contact Scott Piecha at 817-831-4505 or sspiecha@aol.com or Rene Asprien at 972-647-3393, or visit the website at www.ntstma.org.

South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the South Texas Chapter, or upcoming events, call Craig Potts, Texas A & M University, at tel. 979-458-8841, or e-mail: CPotts@athletics.tamu.edu.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Virginia Chapter, or other upcoming events, contact: Randy Buchanan, County of Henrico Recreation and Parks, via e-mail: buc06@co.henrico.va.us or at 804-261-8213.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter, or other pending events, call Richard Miller at 608-756-1150.



Southern California Chapter: For information on the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, call Ron Kirkpatrick at 858-453-1755.

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.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Gateway Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College, 314-392-2328 or email krone@mobap.edu.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Lori Turek at 770-509-3663 or gastma@earthlink.net.

Indiana Chapter: For information on the Indiana Chapter, or pending activities, call Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at 219-356-8424.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA): For information on the MAFMO Chapter, or pending activities, call the Hotline at 410-290-5652.

Chapters On The Grow

Kentucky: For information on the chapter forming in Kentucky, contact Tom Nielsen at TNielsen@bats-baseball.com or Aaron Boggs at AVBoggs@netscape.net.

Las Vegas: For information on the chapter developing in Las Vegas, contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: rms@lvca.com or at tel. 702-386-7140.

New York: For information on the chapter forming in Central New York, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: Kevin@wpe.com or at tel. 607-432-2953.

Across the Border Sports Turf Events

Canada's Sports Turf Association will hold their 15th Annual Field Day September 12 at River Oaks Recreation Centre in Oakville, Ontario. Educational sessions will include: "Intelligent Irrigation," presented by Gregory Snaith of Rain Bird International; "The Olympic Experience," presented by Becky Kellar, member of the Team Canada Women's Hockey team; "Introduction to Turf Covers," presented by Dr. Julie Dionne of the University of Guelph; and "The Ace of Diamonds Tour Athletic Field Maintenance Seminar," presented by Mel Lanford. For more information contact executive manager Ms. Lee Heuther, at the STA office at e-mail: sta@gti.uoguelph.ca or at tel. 519/763-9431. **ST**

STMA AWARDS PROGRAM



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2001 Awards Recipients:



2001 STMA Professional Baseball Field of the Year - The Dell Diamond of Round Rock, Texas - Dennis Klein, Head Groundskeeper

2001 STMA High Schools/Parks & Rec. Field of the Year - Patriot Field of the Putnam City Schools, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - Rick Newville, Baseball Coach

2001 STMA College/University Softball Field of the Year - Samford Field, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama - Joe Collins, Sports Turf Manager

2001 STMA High School/Parks & Rec. Softball Field of the Year - McInnish Softball Complex, City of Carrollton, Texas - Andy Babbitt, Athletic Manager; Mason Ward, Athletic Supervisor

2001 STMA College/University Soccer Field of the Year - Lebanon Valley College Soccer Stadium, Annville, Pennsylvania - Kevin Yeiser, Director of Grounds and Athletic Facilities

2001 STMA Parks & Rec. Soccer Field of the Year - Muscatine Soccer Complex, City of Muscatine, Iowa - Kevin Vos, CSFM, Athletic Facilities Supervisor

2001 STMA College/University Football Field of the Year - University of Virginia's David A. Harrison III Field/Scott Stadium, Charlottesville, Virginia - Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, Sports Field Manager

2001 STMA High School/Parks & Rec. Football Field of the Year - Rush/Henrietta Central Schools' Elmer Gordon Stadium Field, Henrietta, New York - John Gaffney, Head Groundskeeper

2001 Dick Ericson Award - Heather Nabozny, Head Groundskeeper, Detroit Tigers Baseball Club, Detroit, Michigan

2001 George Toma Golden Rake Award - Terry Nance, Horticulture Instructor, Cape Fear High School, Fayetteville, North Carolina

2001 Dr. William H. Daniel Award - Dr. Coleman Y. Ward, Professor Emeritus, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama

2001 Harry C. Gill Memorial Award - Dan Douglas, Stadium Grounds Superintendent, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, Reading, Pennsylvania

Call for 2002 Applicants

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) recognizes that you make personal and professional contributions to our industry and the organization you serve. Both members and non-members are encouraged to participate in the STMA Awards Program. If you are currently not a member of STMA, please join us.

This year, the following awards will be bestowed at the STMA Annual Awards Banquet, Friday, January 17, 2003, in San Antonio, Texas.

- STMA Baseball Field of the Year Award
- STMA Softball Field of the Year Award
- STMA Football Field of the Year Award
- STMA Soccer Field of the Year Award
- STMA Founders Awards: The Dick Ericson Award, The George Toma Golden Rake Award, The Dr. William H. Daniel Award, and the Harry C. Gill Memorial Award

All Award recipients will be selected by an Awards Committee made up of five highly-regarded STMA professionals.

For a copy of the Awards Booklet contact STMA Headquarters by phone: 800/323-3875, fax: 800/366-0391 or

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Old school networking

Who will win the Minnesota/Iowa Chapter Challenge?

Mike McDonald, CSFM
University of Minnesota

I like questions that have a definitive answer. After 3 consecutive years of defeat Iowa is now the reigning champion. Just for the record, Minnesota has won the softball tournament 3 out of 4 years and Iowa has won the golf tournament 3 out of 4 years. Since sportsturf rules, it is the softball tournament that the corn-fed Iowans coveted.

Minnesota captain Mike McDonald offered up the broom in the 7th inning as Iowa made a clean sweep with a 37 to 7 softball victory. Bragging rights aside the real winners are all those who get involved with the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). This unofficial event was conceived in 1999 during a de-turfing session. We play golf one afternoon and softball the next morning with a cookout or ballgame tailgate and a few beverages in between.

This year we played Bocce on one of the putting greens during the cookout at the ISU Turf Research Station. Scoring was optional and play was halted as darkness swal-

lowed the paullina or "pea ball" as we called it. Thanks to Iowa captain Mike Andresen for broadening our experience with a new game, Bocce, which is kind of like horseshoes played with croquet balls and the little pea ball can be rolled anywhere as the target.

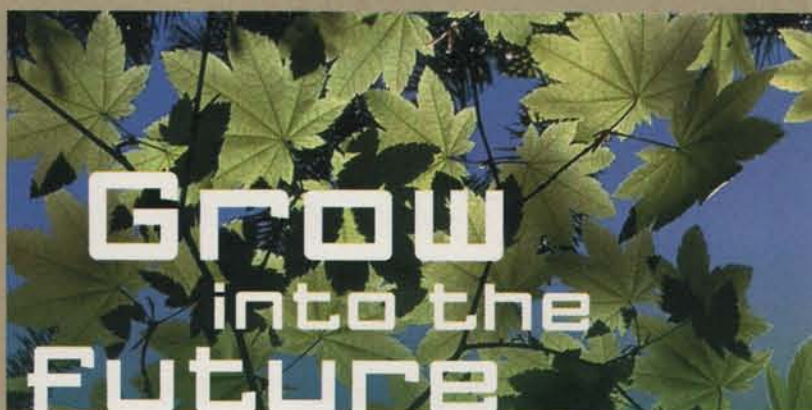
We also had a tour of the facility and looked at some of the research pertaining to sand pad construction, species traffic tolerance, and bermudagrass used to patch up worn fields in the summer. We always make it simple, inexpensive, and fun for everyone. The participating athletes this year aged from 17 to 50 something. Family and kids attended as well.

As usual I look to learn something at every event and this is what I learned: Networking may be considered a new era form of communication, but these guys and gals have been networking in their own way for quite some time. Their competitive spirit, as a player of the sport was equaled by their competitive desire to make the best playing surfaces. STMA relationships can go way beyond bylaws, certification, and education. These guys and gals are simply good friends and as for the networking, well who wouldn't share their knowledge and experience with their friends.

During this year's Chapter Challenge I was involved in group and one on one discussions about good and bad jobs and employers, the direction of natural and synthetic turf, products and equipment that performs as well as equipment about which we are uncertain. This is the type of detailed information and experience that you simply don't read about and I certainly can't write about. Maybe that's what networking is, inside "trading" that's legal.

Many of you are responsible for getting others involved and for finding speakers for your Chapter education events. An out growth of the Chapter Challenge/friendship has been an exchange of members to speak at their state turf conference and STMA workshops.

On behalf of the Iowa Chapter we look forward to next year's Chapter Challenge in Minnesota. And by the way, Captain McDonald, thanks for teaching us that wonderful Minnesota expression about opening a can of whoop . . . 37-7. **ST**



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Minnesota/Iowa Chapter Challenge softball participants, post-game. Iowa won 37-7 but the Minnesota Chapter looked better in their matching blue shirts.

Have Questions?

Send them to Dave Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011, or email dminner@iastate.edu. Or, send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email gmliller@mail.ifas.ufl.edu.

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