One major reason for holding the STMA annual Conferences in different areas of the country is to give sports turf managers the opportunity to see and "get the feel" of the field conditions and maintenance practices adapted to different regions. So much is the same -- and yet so much is different. Arizona topography is spectacular -- and presents great challenges for managing turf.

The golf course shown in the top two pictures on this page is quite a challenge to play. It's the Gold Canyon Dinosaur Mountain Course -- site of STMA's Wednesday golf outing where golfers play a championship course set against the magnificent backdrop of the legendary Superstition Mountains.

If you're planning an extra day or two in Arizona, Headquarters can help you arrange to view the area by horseback, jeep, hot air balloon, or even by swooping through the canyons in a biplane. The Seminar on Wheels tours on January 13th and January 17th provide an up close view of area fields and the opportunity to connect with the individuals involved with those field programs.

Though your field may be far removed from the mountains and deserts of Arizona, you'll find much of what you observe during these tours are ideas you can take home and put to work -- maybe a water-saving technique you'll adopt during drought situations; maybe a method for clearing off morning dew or frost to get a head start on mowing or field painting; maybe an option for disease, insect or weed control.

The Conference educational sessions are developed to focus on specifics you've requested, whether you're tackling the challenges of sand-based fields, native soil fields, or some of both. At your request, there also are sessions continued on page 3.

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