

## Sports Turf Tour

Sunday February 1, 1987 we have arranged for a great tour of sports facilities in the Phoenix area. Tickets must be purchased in advance (\$12) to reserve a space on the bus. The following is the schedule of tour stops:

- 8:30 a.m. Board Tour Buses at Hyatt-Regency Hotel
- 9:00 a.m. Arizona State University—Visit Sun Devil Stadium (site of Fiesta Bowl), Packard Stadium, Softball Field, Tempe
- 10:45 a.m. Chicago Cubs Spring Training Sites, Mesa Parks Department—Mesa
- 12:30 p.m. Compadre Park— Winter home of the Milwaukee Brewers—Lunch Courtesy of Western Sod, Inc., and A-G Sod Farms. Tour of stadium, demonstration of maintenance techniques, discussion of sod production in Arizona.
- 2:30 p.m. Return to Phoenix Civic Plaza to visit the largest indoor turf-grass trade show.

**Deadline for Reservations:  
January 20, 1987**

## UNUSUAL JOBS

Don Marshall cheers like any other Angels Fan when Reggie Jackson slides across home plate. But he also flinches a little.

As golf course operations manager for the city of Anaheim, it hurts when he sees his manicured turf torn by cleats. Yet that's the name of the game. Whether it is baseball, football, rugby, motocross or rock concerts, Marshall makes sure the grassy stage is set.

"Professional stadiums have the use and abuse of turf down to a science," says Marshall, scrutinizing his two-and-a-half acre domain. "The highest level of turf grass maintenance seems to lag far behind other areas like parks, highways and golf courses because of the unusual demands made upon it."

Marshall, who is also caretaker for Anaheim Hills and H.G. "Dad" Miller golf courses, has been keeping grass happy for 30 years, ever since studying agronomy—the science of fine turf—at the

(Continued on Back Page—"JOBS")

**DON'T MISS THE  
SUPER SPORTS WEEK  
AT THE HYATT-REGENCY  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
JANUARY 31 — FEBRUARY 1**

## SPORTS TURF MANAGER'S CONFERENCE "Safer Sports Turf Through Education"

Saturday, January 31, 1987

### MORNING SESSION CHAIRMAN — Mark Hodnick, STMA Treasurer

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 7:15 a.m. On-Site Registration — Hyatt Regency Hotel  | 10:00 a.m. Time out — Coffee Break   |
| 8:00 a.m. Kick-off Time — Welcome and Introductions<br>Steve Wightman, STMA President<br>Dr. Kent Kurtz, STMA Executive Secretary | 10:15 a.m. Images of Grief: Sad, Haunting and Courageous<br>Heide Aungst, Associate Editor, WEEDS, TREES & TURF with Jeff Wishard, Davis, Illinois |
| 8:10 a.m. Working Together for the Future of Sports Turf<br>Dr. Fred Grau, Chair, National Sports Turf Council                    | 10:30 a.m. Developing a Standard for Sports Turf Surfaces Using<br>Impact Absorption Techniques<br>Dan Holland, Attorney at Law, Eugene, Oregon    |
| 8:30 a.m. An Overview of Sports Turf in the Southwest<br>Dr. William R. Kneebone, Professor Emeritus,<br>University of Arizona    | 10:55 a.m. What is Considered a Safe Field?<br>Dr. James Watson, Vice President, The Toro Company  |
| 8:50 a.m. The Real Economics of Athletic Field Construction<br>Dr. Henry Indyk, Turf Extension, Rutgers University                | 11:15 a.m. The Steps Necessary Toward Achieving a<br>Safer Sports Turf — G R A S S<br>Dr. Eliot Roberts, Director, The Lawn Institute              |
| 9:20 a.m. Breeding for the Future of Sports Turf<br>Dr. William Meyer, Director of Research, Turf Seed, Inc.                      | 11:40 a.m. State of the Art Sports Turf and More<br>Dr. William H. Daniel, Turfgrass Services, Inc.  |
| 9:40 a.m. Sports Turf Management: Cosmetic or Cultural?<br>Tom Mascaro, Turf Consultant, North Miami, Florida                     | 12:00 Noon Half time — Lunch on your own   |

### AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSION I

Session Chairman — David Frey, Past President, STMA

#### BASEBALL FIELD SESSION

- 1:30 p.m. Step by Step Baseball Field Construction  
Charles Lindstrom, Charles Lindstrom & Associates
- 1:50 p.m. Special Techniques in Preparing a Baseball Infield —  
Roger Bossard, Head Groundskeeper,  
Chicago White Sox Baseball Club
- 2:10 p.m. Special Techniques in Maintaining Baseball Field Turf —  
Sam Newpher, Jr., Grounds Superintendent,  
Atlanta Braves Baseball Club
- 2:30 p.m. Improvements and Renovation of a Baseball Facility —  
Harry Gill, Grounds Director,  
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club
- 2:50 p.m. Time out — Coffee Break

### AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSION II

Session Chairman — William Wrobel, STMA Marketing & Advertising Advisor

#### SPECIALIZED SPORTS TURF & DRAINAGE SESSION

- 1:30 p.m. A Special Look at Lawn Bowling, Lawn Tennis,  
Croquet and More — Dr. Richard Skogley,  
Professor of Agronomy, University of Rhode Island
- 1:50 p.m. The Rigors of Maintaining Synthetics Plus the Joy  
of Establishing New Lawn Bowling Greens —  
Kenneth Mrook, Superintendent of Golf Courses,  
Chicago Park District
- 2:10 p.m. Engineered Drainage Systems for Sports Turf —  
Geoffrey Davison, Davison International Assoc., England
- 2:30 p.m. Specialized Drainage of Sports Fields —  
David Heiss, President, Turf Services, Inc.
- 2:50 p.m. Time out — Coffee Break

#### SOCCER & FOOTBALL FIELD SESSION

- 3:10 p.m. From a Mud Clay Pit to a Notorious Soccer Field and  
Thoughts on Soil Warming —  
John Souter, Souter of Stirling, Scotland
- 3:30 p.m. Managing a Soccer Showcase with Premium  
Soccer Fields —  
Gary Fichter, Park Superintendent, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 3:50 p.m. Preparing London's Wembley Stadium for  
American Football — Sam Monson, Facility Supervisor,  
Minnesota Vikings Football Club
- 4:10 p.m. Maintaining a Division I University Sports  
Turf Facility — Robert Hudzik, Athletic Fields &  
Golf Course Supervisor, Penn State University
- 4:30 p.m. Overtime — Short Break
- 4:45 p.m. STMA Annual Business Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. STMA Banquet, Keynote Speaker,  
Special Awards Program

#### EQUESTRIAN SURFACES & SPORTS TURF HERBICIDES

- 3:10 p.m. The Sport of Polo and the Mangement of its  
Facilities — James Mello, Agronomist,  
Nice 'N Green Plant Food Company
- 3:30 p.m. Turf Race Tracks - The Grasses Used and the  
Maintenance Required — Ervin Malin, Grounds  
Superintendent, Canterbury Downs Race Track
- 3:50 p.m. Research on Turf Race Courses and Other  
Equestrian Tracks — Arthur Read,  
President, Omnisports, Inc., Canada
- 4:10 p.m. The Mode of Action in Herbicides Used on Sports Turf —  
Dr. B. J. Johnson, Professor of Agronomy,  
University of Georgia
- 4:30 p.m. Overtime — Short Break
- 4:45 p.m. STMA Annual Business Meeting
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## **JOBS**

*(Continued From Page Two)*

University of Massachusetts.

Marshall is one of only about 11 major league stadium field managers nationwide who maintain grass arenas. (The others maintain carpet.) Before Marshall and his family moved to Anaheim two years ago, he worked back East and at Pebble Beach golf course in Carmel, where it once snowed during a Bing Crosby Tournament.

"There's always something different in this job," says Marshall, a tall man in tennis shoes, checkered slacks and a white golf shirt. "Weather and environment set parameters for your day. The weather can kill you. We can't ask grass what's the matter. It will start to die because of disease, too much or too little water—it can be a myriad of things.

"You'd like to go out and say, 'What the hell's the matter? Tell me and I'll fix it.' But you have to guess what's the matter and guess what's going to make it right. You have to try and keep a plant green at all times, even with people beating on it."

Baseball season starts around April Fool's Day with the cross-town Dodger series. Then there are summer concerts and Rams pre-season football games, which overlap with baseball, beginning the first of August.

"Sometimes we have to do an overnight conversion," says Marshall. That means lowering the hydraulic pitching mound, removing several inches of infield material, sodding over the baseball warn-

ing track, taking down fences, installing benches, end zones, field lines, yard markers . . . and then converting right back to a baseball diamond.

"That's the toughest deal at that time of year," Marshall says.

Another tough deal comes in December when hundreds of football players ravage the Anaheim Greensward during four games in three days. "That weekend about tears the field for the rest of the year," declares Marshall. "I can kiss it goodbye then. I kind of mentally pack it in by the time they do that to us. Our concern is to make the field look good for the kickoff and the first five minutes of a football game. After that, there's nothing we can do.

Baseball is the easiest sport from a turf maintenance view but the toughest from a customer relations standpoint, says Marshall. "To meld all the individual desires of players, coaches and managers into a single field is difficult, if not impossible. I've had people tell me the field grass caused the ball to turn right or left.

"Football is the toughest field to maintain but the players don't complain," says Marshall. "They seem to figure they play on their own personal abilities. Real or imagined, in baseball, players tend to regard the field as having a direct effect on the outcome of the game.

As winter progresses and Marshall watches his turf go from bad to worse, he tries to take it in stride. "I've seen just about everything that can go wrong or right," he says. "In the stadium, they're always coming up with new challenges.

"You can't have a 70,000-seat stadium and not use it. You take every event you can possibly handle and sometimes the ones you can't possible handle, like rock concerts."

Marshall and his crew of four groundskeepers handle most arrangements for sports played on grass. But they turn the stadium over to promoters for rock concerts, motorcross and tractor pulls, praying the field is returned in decent condition.

Tractor pulls start in January after football season. All usable sod goes to patch and renovate golf courses and massive amounts of dirt are packed into two tracks. Then fans pack into the stadium to see modified pickups haul trailers around.

"It sells a lot of tickets," admits Marshall. "I'd just as soon listen to my stereo and sip white wine but it sells a lot of tickets. In 10 years it may be ostrich races with betting, or whatever. As a matter of fact, they did have ostrich racing here once.

"Our job is to accommodate any event they want to put on that field," says Marshall. "We can warn them what the results may be of what they do, that when they get done with an event, they can't have verdant green again."

"It's a personal challenge to see how far you can take today's disaster by next Sunday. The challenge is, can we do it?"

*Reprinted from the November, 1984 edition of Orange Coast magazine.*

**Who says...**

***Life's a Bowl of Cherries?***

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