

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME INFO?

OK. You've seen the brochure -- you've seen the schedule. So -- what are you waiting for? Register NOW for the STMA 8th Annual Conference & Exhibition, January 15-19, 1997, in Colorado Springs. If you DON'T -- here's a little sample of what you'll be missing.

Dr. Richard Caton, Executive Director, New Jersey



Mile High Stadium is one of our Sunday Seminar on Wheels stops.

Turfgrass Association, will be giving an inspiring -- and most likely -- somewhat entertaining session on that constant -- Recruiting and Coordinating Volunteer Efforts to Maintain Public Sports Fields. It's a practical primer on how to get 'em and how to keep 'em -- and how to insure they do what you want to have done and don't do what they shouldn't do.

Dr. Gil Landry, University of Georgia Extension Turf Specialist,

and a past President of STMA, will share his thoughts on International Venues: Olympic, Hawaiian and Israeli Athletic Fields. His "from the ground up" insights will give you ideas you can put to use on your home field.

Dr. Whitney Cranshaw, Professor & Extension Entomology Specialist at Colorado State University will help you Key in on Turfgrass Damaging Insects. You've all shared your fields with some of these pesky critters at some point in your sports turf management career. You're sure to pick up some tips to gain the upper hand in the next confrontation.

Dr. Dave Minner, Extension Turfgrass Specialist for Iowa State University will focus on Compaction Relief and Stabilization Systems. Since fighting compaction is a con-

stant in sports turf management, expect this session to generate some interesting questions and lively discussion.

ARE YOU READY TO REGISTER YET?!

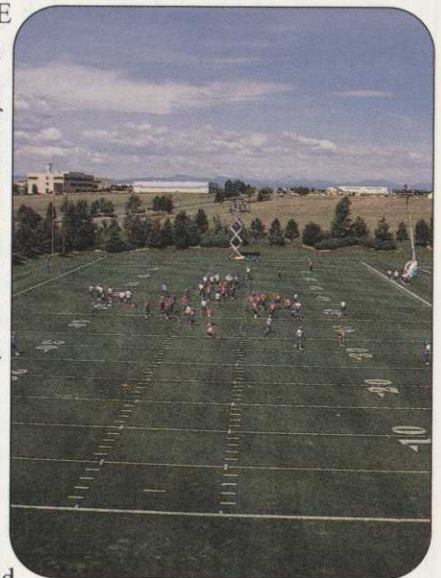
There's even MORE in store for you in Colorado Springs.

Management of Sand Based Fields. is the topic of Bob Campbell, Director of Grounds and Maintenance for the Athletic Department at the University of Tennessee With the University's sand based field three years old, he notes, "It is too late to argue the merits of sand fields. Energy would be better spent on research

that would give the turf manager better guidance regarding the maintenance of fields already in existence." And, "Maintaining a sand field can sometimes be compared to a high wire walker without a net."

Mark Altman, Altman & Altman Consulting, will address Management of Natural Soil Fields. He says, "I believe there needs to be clarification on a sandy soil,

continued on page 4



Don't miss the Denver Broncos Training Facility -- that's on Sunday too!

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(FAX) 712/366-9119
(e-mail) TrustyTips@aol.com
(world wide web)
<http://www.aip.com/STMA>



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Sports Turf Manager is a publication of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). It is published bi-monthly and is free to STMA members. Sports Turf Managers' goal is to promote the mission of the association by providing a channel for communication between the representatives of the board and its constituency. STMA is not responsible for the opinions expressed in this publication. Address changes, advertising, photographs, and editorial inquiries should be directed to the executive offices. © 1996 Sports Turf Managers Association. All Rights Reserved.

President's Message

by Mike Schiller
President

Wow! Here we are -- November already -- before you know it, Christmas will be upon us. I have been informed by our Executive Director that our membership is continuing to climb. We are fast approaching the 800 mark and I think that's GREAT!

Since this is the last newsletter of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to a lot of people who are working hard on your behalf to make STMA a great organization to be a part of. These people are the heart and soul of STMA and I am both proud and lucky to call them friends. They are: Greg Petry, our past president, Stephen Guise, our president elect, Henry Indyk, Eugene Mayer, Rich (the budgetman) Moffitt, Murray Cook, Bucky Trotter, Mary Owen, Bob Patt and Bob Curry. These are the officers and board members of STMA who have given of their time to help us grow.

I would also like to thank three special people who for the last year have really taken the bull by the horns and helped keep things running smoothly. They are Steve and Suz Trusty, and Stephanie Gamache. They give of themselves every day and are dedicated to making STMA the leader in the industry. With their help -- and yours -- we CAN do it. Thanks guys, for a job well done.

Also, since this is the last newsletter of the year, it's the last chance I get to remind you all to register NOW to attend our annual Conference & Exhibition in Colorado Springs. Mary Owen, Eugene Mayer and their committees, along with the Colorado Chapter: STMA, have gone to new heights to bring you one of the finest conferences ever.

Our headquarters hotel, the Red



Mike Schiller

Lion, is beautiful. The tours include the Olympic Training Facility, Sky Sox Stadium, and US Air Force Academy on Wednesday; and Coors Field, Mile High Stadium and the Denver Broncos Training Facility on Sunday. The educational sessions are sure to give you A LOT of great ideas to take home and try out. AND, we have plenty of vendors signed up already, just waiting to meet you!

Air fares right now are really reasonable -- SO -- make your plans now to attend. **You will not be disappointed!**

As Thanksgiving flows into Christmas and the year comes to an end, I hope that each and every one of you have a Happy and Blessed Holiday Season. May the good feelings we all feel during this special time of year fill your hearts through the coming year. May all your grass blades be green, may the weather be kind, and may 1997 be a year full of health and happiness for you and all those you hold dear.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs!



Mike

Happy Holidays!

How Do You Do...?

The Question -- How Do You Pre-germinate Your Seed?

Answered by Steve Wightman, San Diego's Jack Murphy Stadium

We actually don't do a lot of pre-germinating. What we do instead is go out on Friday or Saturday before a home game and put out about 100 lbs. of seed with the broadcast spreader and just let the players work it in. Then, on Monday, after the game, we'll go in and pin spike it, topdress and irrigate. That way, we've almost always got seed germinating.

Once or twice a year though we'll do "seed priming," which is softening up the outside shell. This allows a gain of about 3 or 4 days on germination. For this we use 33 gallon plastic trash containers (about 15 of them) with holes in the sides towards the bottom, and removable plugs. We open a 50 lb. bag of seed, pour it in a container and fill it with water. We drain and replace the water twice a day -- once in the morning and once before we leave. We'll do this for about 3 days and then spread the seed out on the floor of the garage. We then add our sand and organic topdressing mix, put it on the field with our topdressing machine (we also use a broadcast spreader), pin spike it, irrigate and then cover with a vented cover.

Answered by Mike Andresen, Iowa State University

We put a 50 lb. bag of seed in a 50 gallon barrel, fill it with water and cover with plastic. I like to use nylon bags for this purpose. We also add a seaweed extract or Milorganite to the barrel. Remove the plastic daily and change the water, checking periodically to insure the water is not getting too hot. Do this for 4 days.

Now it's time to dump the water out of the barrel, remove the seed and let the water drain out of the bag. If there's time for healing before the next game, I'll aerify the area to be seeded. We then spread, by hand, the seed into the worn areas, apply a starter fertilizer and a fungicide. Then we use an overseeder/verticutter to cut in the seed. This is an important step because it establishes the seed-to-soil contact and breaks up the aeration plugs. We then lightly rake up the debris from the verticutter and remove, roll the newly seeded area with a medium weight roller, and hand water the entire seeded area.

Answered by Murray Cook, Walt Disney World Sports

I feel that pre-germination is really a three-step process. The first step is to determine whether or not you have a real need to pre-germinate. Here in Florida, we don't really have the need unless we have a special event and we need grass in 3 or 4 days. However, if you find you do have the need, move on to step two. Contact your local agricultural extension service, or your own seed company representative, and get a list of the best quick germination grasses for

your region. Once you have that list you can pick out the ones that you feel are best suited to your individual needs.

Step three is the actual pre-germination process. I feel that this is best accomplished by putting your seed in water in 55 gallon trash containers with holes drilled in the bottom for drainage. Change your water every day for 3 days. On the third day, take out your seed and put it on the pavement to dry, then put it in your spreader and get it out on the field at the specified rate.

Answered by Bob Buono, Marriott School Services, Ridgewood, NJ

I use a 60 gallon green landscape barrel for my pre-germination. We'll fill it 30-50% with water, depending on how much seed we're using. We then add the seed, RootsTM and sometimes, a small amount of liquid fertilizer. This will sit in the barrel for 2-3 days until the seed coating starts to break away. Once that's accomplished, we load the barrel onto our utility cart and go out on the field. We just scoop the seed out with a shovel, put it on the bare spots and rake it in with a leaf rake. Finally, we overlay the seed with peat moss and a starter fertilizer. This has been very successful on our football field.

Answered by Mark Schimming, Wichita Baseball

One method we use is to take a bag of rye seed, stick it inside one of our freezers at the stadium for two weeks and literally freeze the seed. We then mix it with Milorganite which acts as a carrier, as well as a starter for the seed. We put the mix directly into the overseeder or spreader and apply at a rate of 8-10 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. We then apply a good starter fertilizer and water lightly for 10-15 minutes three times a day. We start to see germination in 3-4 days.

We also have the luxury of having an old whirlpool tank for our seed. We take a 50 lb. bag of seed in a breathable bag and put the whole bag into the tank which has 5-0-0 fertilizer in with the water. We mix it in at a low rate and turn the jets on in the whirlpool to keep the water moving through the seed. The water gets changed every 12 hours. To gauge when the seed is ready, we take a clear glass jar, put a moist paper towel on the bottom along with a few seeds from the mix. We cover the jar with some plastic with small holes poked in it. Once the seed in the jar starts to germinate, the seed in the tank is ready. We then divide the seed into two or three more breathable bags and put the bags into grocery carts to dry. Once it has dried, we mix the seed with milorganite, put it our overseeder or spreader and away we go! We apply the starter fertilizer and start the light watering, three times a day for 10-15 minutes. With this method, we see germination in about two or three days.

STM

NOTICE TO ALL STMA MEMBERS

We have received numerous phone calls regarding an invoice with your most recent issue of sportsTURF -- Please disregard this invoice -- As an STMA benefit, your subscription is FREE!!

Training is A Constant

by Greg Petry, Waukegan Park District

People are the key to success for any facility, department or business. Start right by hiring people who are willing and eager to learn and improve; those who want a career in the industry and expect to expend the time and effort necessary to move ahead. You want qualified individuals, with sufficient education and experience to fill the position for which they are hired -- but -- you don't want someone who thinks they already know everything they'll need to know.

Learning is a life-long experience.

Training and continuing education programs should provide useful and relevant information. Employees should want to participate in these programs and, by doing so, improve their skills and become more motivated to perform them.

Make training accessible. Most programs should be offered during "normal" working hours. Give personnel sufficient time to make arrangements to attend training sessions offered at other times or off-site. Training is a legitimate business expense. Employees should receive regular compensation for attendance at mandatory training programs. The organization must decide and establish a policy concerning time and expense reimbursement for optional career enhancement training opportunities.

Remember, effective training programs focus on both internal and external training.

Internal training keeps people aware of things going on in the organization. This would include training in broad areas such as new employee orientation, organizational policies and safety procedures, and in specifics such as proper use of upgraded computer systems or how to fill out new forms for purchase orders or expense payment authorizations. The majority of these programs are conducted in-house by organization personnel.

You may set up on-going internal training programs which allow employees to "tap into" sessions as their skills reach specific levels or they move up to new positions. You may offer certain basic internal training programs several times

continued on page 8

Are You Ready for Some Info?

continued from page 1

versus a loamy soil, versus a clay soil. Each of these soil types demand unique management, so that you can maximize the overall quality of the field."

You'll pick up tips on facing the challenges of maximum turf quality in a minimal amount of time on native soil fields.

Steve L. Schlecht, President, Gempler's, will speak on Personal Protection for Pesticide Applicators. He'll cover the necessary head-to-toe protection that applicators should wear to follow pesticide label instructions. He'll also discuss prop-

er training in the use, cleaning, and storage of personal protection equipment, as well as heat stress issues.

Ross Kurcab, Turf Manager for The Denver Broncos Football Club, will give you his

views on Snow Removal From

Athletic Fields. He says, "I will include the aspects of equipment selection and preferences, snow removal techniques that don't destroy the turf, pre-planning a storm, and all sorts of helpful hints. We plow the Broncos grass practice

continued on page 15



You'll also get a chance to visit Coors Field on Sunday.

FREE GUIDE TO SPORTS TURF

This free guide to the selection and use of turfgrass is a handy reference for anyone involved in sports turf.

The booklet addresses every area of sports turf... from the fine, dense turf required for precision sports like tennis and croquet to the tough turf needed for rugged sports like football or racetracks.

Geographically arranged, it suggests the appropriate turfgrass species, where to use them and even proposes proper cutting heights and seeding rates. A separate section covers Southern Winter Overseeding. And this new guide is yours for the asking.



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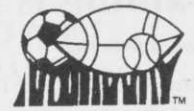
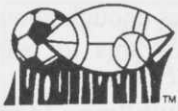
Jennifer Watson
Univ. at Albany
Albany, NY

Editors Note: Heather Nabozny, W. Michigan Whitecaps was misspelled in the last newsletter. I apologize for any inconvenience. **SG**

DON'T BE LEFT OUT

MAKE YOUR DONATION NOW FOR THE STMA RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION!

Monies from the Raffle & Silent Auction will be used for education and scholarship programs. To donate items please notify Silent Auction Co-Chairs, Mike Trigg (847) 360-4725, or Troy Smith (303) 649-9000.



Chapter Events

Colorado Chapter: STMA

The 1997 national STMA Conference & Exhibition is just around the corner -- January 15 to 19, 1997, in Colorado Springs -- and WOW! will it be great!

Besides the excellent educational sessions and trade show, CSTMA has planned two of the best ever Seminar on Wheels tours, with a Wednesday tour of Colorado Springs sites -- The Olympic Training Center, Sky Sox Stadium and the Air Force Academy -- and a Sunday tour to Denver sites -- Mile High Stadium, the Denver Broncos Practice Facility and Coors Field. There's another optional trip back to the Old West with the Friday night Cripple Creek visit, and a spouse trip to one of the nation's top outlet malls. And CSTMA has special plans in the works for the Wednesday night Welcome Reception.

Special note to Colorado Chapter members: Those interested in lending a hand during this opportunity for CSTMA to "show our stuff" are invited to call the Chapter Hotline.

For information on the Colorado Chapter and 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.

Florida Chapter #1: STMA

The Florida Chapter will meet on December 3rd at the Homestead Stadium in Homestead, Florida. Baseball field maintenance and preparation will be the focus, and a hands-on mound building demonstration will be included.

For more information on this meeting, the Florida Chapter, and other pending activities, contact: John Mascaro (305) 938-7477.

Southern California Chapter: STMA

The Southern California Chapter is in the process of planning future workshops.

For information on the Chapter and upcoming activities, contact: Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

Minnesota Chapter: STMA

The Minnesota Chapter's annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation (MTGF) Conference, December 11 - 13 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Sessions beneficial to sports turf managers are included throughout the program and The Sports Turf Track - Concurrent Session IV - is scheduled for Thursday afternoon, December 12th, starting at 1:30 PM.

For more information on the MTGF Conference, contact Executive Director, Scott Turtinen, at 612/473-8169.

For information on the annual meeting, the Minnesota Chapter or other upcoming activities, contact: Brian Deyak at (320) 255-7223.

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association's Annual

Membership Meeting begins at 3:00 PM on January 28th at the Des Moines Convention Center. The meeting and special sports turf sessions are held in conjunction with the 63rd Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, January 27 - 29, 1997.

A Sports Turf Workshop will be held on Monday, January 27, from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. January 28th general sessions begin at 8:00 AM. The afternoon Sports Turf sessions begin at 1:30 PM.

January 29th general sessions begin at 8:00 AM. with Sports Turf sessions starting at 10:00 AM. Continuing Pesticide Instructional Courses, providing credits necessary for the commercial pesticide applicators license, start at 1:30 PM

For more information on this meeting, the Iowa Chapter or other upcoming activities, contact: Lori Westrum at The Turf Office at (515) 232-8222 (phone) or (515) 232-8228 (fax).

Midwest Chapter: STMA

The Midwest Chapter: STMA is one of the Co-Sponsoring Organizations for the North Central Turfgrass Exposition that will be held December 2 - 5, 1996, at Pheasant Run Resort & Expo Center, St. Charles, IL. Sports Turf Symposiums are offered from 8:45 to 11:30 AM on December 3rd and 4th. For further information, call NCTE headquarters at 312/201-0101 or fax 312/201-0214.

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

STMA Chapters on the Grow:

Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association - For information on The Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association or pending events, contact: Mark Schimming of Wichita Baseball, Inc. at (316) 292-2907, Extension 205.

Arizona: The Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona will hold a meeting on December 6th in conjunction with the Yuma Parks and Recreation Association. The morning's educational events will begin at 8:00 AM, with the field day portion of the program running from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM -- with a break for lunch at noon. Field day events will include demonstrations by the vendors and a hands-on demonstration of baseball infield maintenance procedures. For further details on the Yuma meeting, contact: Larry Munoz, Parks Supervisor, City of Yuma Parks & Recreation Department at (520) 329-2824.

For information on other upcoming events or the Chapter, contact: Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department, at (602) 994-7954.

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Training is A Constant

continued from page 4

during the year to meet the needs of different departments. You may have a training check-off system that provides one-on-one training in specific policies and procedures as an employee advances to a new position or takes on added responsibilities.

External training programs generally focus on a specific area such as customer service initiatives, diversity training or advanced technological issues which require the expertise of outside trainers.

These programs may range from single sessions that last a few hours, through one or two days of focused sessions to extensive multi-session, multi-year, training.

External training includes sessions focused on proper operation of new equipment or machines. These usually are conducted by manufacturer or supplier personnel for all organization personnel who will operate those units. Many organizations specify that such training sessions be a part of the purchase contract for all new equipment.

External training extends to the continuing education programs offered through key industry-related associations, such as STMA's annual Conference and Exhibition and STMA Chapter meetings and hands-on training sessions.

External training also could include tuition reimbursement to individuals for college courses related to completing an industry-related degree or for specific job-related enhancement. Generally, certain criteria must be met in course performance to qualify for reimbursement.

Internal and external training programs might be offered to everyone in the organization or only to certain departments or personnel.

The constant change of today's world requires on-going training and continuing education programs and the networking interaction with other professionals offered through industry associations.

We must keep up with new developments, not necessarily to try every new technique as it comes out, but to know about and understand advancing technology. No organization has the time or resources to reinvent the wheel. We need to observe the procedures, techniques and policies used in situations similar to our own and find ways to innovatively adapt

them to fit our organization's needs.

People who are interested in doing the best possible job in their current position, who use training and continuing education programs to enhance their skills and keep up with new developments, products and techniques, and apply all this to their job, not only improve the quality of their performance, they improve the quality of the organization.

These people are more likely to feel, act and talk positively about the

organization that cares enough about them to provide programs to help them improve.

It becomes self-fulfilling. More efficient, productive employees, with positive attitudes, move up in the organization. They become long-term employees, with long-term goals and a long string of successes. Other individuals interested in a similar career path are attracted by the organization's positive attributes and image.

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Doc's Dugout

by Dr. Kent Kurtz

I was delighted when Mike Schiller asked me to serve as Chair of the STMA Historical Committee. I have saved the first newsletters, early pictures and information that is not only exciting but valuable. I plan to put together a historical display for the annual Conference & Exhibition in Colorado Spring in January, and I have some terrific photos of President Schiller which should be enjoyable for all to see. This column will be a regular feature of future newsletters and have an occasional article in sportsTURF Magazine.

STMA Scholarship Program Established

In June of 1986, at my urging as Executive Director and Educator, the STMA Board established a scholarship program to encourage young men and women to pursue opportunities in the sports turf field. The first scholarships, at \$250 each, were established to honor two individuals who we felt exemplified what STMA was all about. They were the Harry Gill Award, named to pay tribute to our Founder; and Jeff Wishard Award, so named for a young man who became a quadriplegic in a high school football accident. Both of these honorees were present at this first annual meeting and banquet held in conjunction with the GCSAA in Phoenix, AZ, in February, 1987. Unfortunately, both of

these great individuals are now deceased, but their legacy lives on in our lives.

This was a memorable banquet for a number of reasons. First, the banquet speaker was a good friend of STMA, Joe Torre, manager of this year's World Series Champion New York Yankees. In addition to the scholarship, we also honored our first Honorary Life Members - Tom Mascaro, inventor and Father of the vertical mower and aerifier; John Souther of Scotland, a sports turf contractor/consultant; and Dr. William Kneebone, University of Arizona, plant breeder and turfgrass expert. Last, but by no means least, it brought together for the first time people from all levels of sports turf management to share knowledge and experience on an equal basis and status.

First Scholarship Recipients

Our first STMA scholarship recipients were, David Mellor, a student at Ohio State University who worked summers for Harry Gill and received the Gill Award; and David Arnold, a student from Cal Poly at Pomona who worked at Anaheim Stadium and received the Wishard Award. Currently Mellor is the Assistant groundskeeper at Milwaukee County Stadium for the Milwaukee Brewers
continued on page 15

See You In The Springs!!

by Dave Rulli, President CSTMA

It's hard to believe summer's long gone, fall is about over, and the Annual Conference & Exhibition is just around the corner (January 15-19, 1997). So far, it's been a great opportunity to be a part of the planning stages as well as being host chapter of the National Conference in Colorado Springs.

The National STMA Board of Directors along with the Colorado Chapter and our many volunteers have worked hard to put together a great conference agenda. The educational line-up is outstanding with information for everyone whether you manage warm- or cool-season grass, sun or snow in the winter, or are just searching for information to be a successful turf manager in your part of the country.

Another addition to the show will be a great opportunity to meet, get to know and understand the people who distribute and sell equipment and products that help make our jobs easier, safer and more efficient! I'm sure I'm not the only one that after talking with vendors one day and look-

ing over the information the next day, I have a million more questions and concerns about the product. By that time, the vendors are gone and I'm left with unanswered questions. Not this year! We should have ample opportunity to look at and research the latest and of course, the old standbys in products and equipment available.

Round-Table discussions will be the other new feature offered this year. It's a chance to listen, learn and ask questions to your specific needs or problems at your facility in an interesting, informative and comfortable atmosphere. I hope you're all just as excited about this opportunity as we are bringing it to you. Come enjoy the scenery, interesting places and things to do; but best of all, the people in our industry.

To culminate all the activities will be the Saturday night Awards Banquet with featured speaker, George Toma! You won't want to miss this inspirational and interesting talk! SEE YOU THERE!!

STM

STMA Members on the Move

Mike Boekholder -- our graduate mentioned in the last issue of the newsletter -- has been hired by the Durham Bulls. His address is P.O. Box 507, Durham, NC 27702. Phone: (919) 687-6503.

Jose Soto -- Former Stadium Manager for the City of Homestead -- has taken the position of Head Groundskeeper at Space Coast Stadium, home of the Florida Marlins. His address is 5800 Stadium Parkway, Melbourne, FL 32940. Phone: (407)633-9200.

CONGRATULATIONS GUYS!!

Employment Opportunities

The *Beloit (WI) Snappers* and the *Quad City River Bandits (IA)* have openings for Head Groundskeeper.

The *Toronto Blue Jays Florida Operations* has an opening for a Grounds Superintendent.

Wichita (KS) Baseball has an opening for a Groundskeeper.

The *San Bernardino Stampede* has an opening for an Assistant Head Groundskeeper at their new stadium.

The *Michigan Battle Cats Baseball Club* has openings for Sports Turf Management Internships for working on the grounds crew at Bailey Park.

For more information on these openings contact STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875.

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In the Spotlight

George Toma was inducted into the Kansas City Sports Walk of Stars on October 26, 1996. This Walk of Stars includes such well-known sports greats as: Hank Stram, Whitey Herzog, Satchel Paige, Tom Watson, Len Dawson and George Brett.

The Kansas City Sports Walk of Stars was developed in 1991 to honor Kansas City's sports legends with a civic structure and to use this celebration of sports history to benefit a philanthropic purpose.

Each year, three sports greats are selected via city-wide balloting by the fans for induction into the Walk of Stars. Each inductee is honored with a star on the Hollywood-style walkway.

Inducted with George were baseball legend Buck O'Neil, who has devoted eight decades to playing, coaching, scouting and promoting baseball, and runner Jim Ryun, who broke the four minute mile as a high school student and went on to shatter World Records in three running events and become a three-time Olympian.

Here is what the Walk of Stars "Class of 1996" poster says about George. "How do groundskeepers become as famous as George Toma? They don't. He's one of a kind. His meticulous preparation of fields for the world's biggest sporting events has made him a world-renowned figure. From Super Bowls to Olympics, George has laid the groundwork for some of the greatest moments in sports history."

By honoring George, the Kansas City Sports Walk of Stars and Kansas City sports fans recognize the sports turf manager as a "key player" in the world of sports.

Congratulations, George!!! And a big thank you from STMA for your continued support and your vital role in helping bring positive public recognition to the importance of sports turf management.

Our profession gained more positive press during the 1996 World Series. David Mellor, Assistant Director of Grounds for the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, was featured in the official World Series Program. An article, "A Day in the Life," focused on six vital contributors to the game of baseball. David showcased the groundskeeper's role in field preparations. Other featured roles included a pitcher, utility infielder, sports writer, PA announcer and bat boy.

The article followed David through a typical game day, from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., giving an overview of the complexities involved. Photos in the two-page spread showed him and crew members reviewing the day's schedule and tackling the hands-on tasks of skinned area and turf care. It even showed David in the process of adding the "pattern master's" finishing touch to the turf.

A family touch was added as the article noted that David's wife frequently brings their two daughters, six-year-old Catherine "Cacky" and Victoria, almost three, to the field to "help" Dad. These short intervals help keep that family connection strong during the 80 to 100 hour weeks a "home stretch" usually brings.

Lots of fans have a better understanding of the complex role of field care because of this behind-the-scenes peek. Congratulations, David!!! And thanks!!

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Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

Since this is the last issue for 1996, I thought it would be a good idea to look back over the past year a little and look forward to the years ahead. It has been just over a year since Trusty & Associates took on the responsibility of managing your association. We have had some real challenges, but mostly, we have received so much positive feedback that all challenges have been met with enthusiasm and a true spirit of cooperation by all involved.

Membership is up better than 25%. Over 80% of the members we had last year renewed this year. Advertising and editorial content of your newsletter has increased over previous years. Booth reservations and conference registrations are coming in at what appears to be a record pace. STMA is on sound financial footing. Chapter involvement is up. Your Board of Directors have set the course for even bigger and better things.

Speaking of Chapters, thanks to the generosity of John Deere and Scotts, I have had the opportunity to visit all six STMA Chapters this year and four Chapters that are forming or considering official affiliation with STMA. Every one of these visits have been very enjoyable from my standpoint, and hopefully helpful to the chapter, and especially its board. Most of these visits have been reported previously in STM and/or in sportsTURF. My most recent visit was especially enjoyable for a number of reasons. First of all, this was the Southern California Chapter's annual combination educational and service project field day. They spent the morning hearing from a number of very informative speakers. That in itself made the event worthwhile for the attendees. There was also a time to visit with exhibitors and learn about new products and techniques. The afternoon was spent with hands-on demonstrations. These demonstrations pointed out the various aspects of renovating a baseball field. The chapter and their commercial members donated many hours of labor and many dollars worth of materials to renovate the baseball field for Rancho Buena Vista High

School. A number of the members returned on the next day to finish the project. The gratitude of the coaches, students and school officials in receipt of a new, top-notch field was overwhelming.

A great part of this event for me was I had the opportunity to learn -- from a master-- how to build a pitchers mound from scratch and how to renovate an existing mound. That's because it was one part of the renovation that Steve Wightman took charge of. He, Jim Mosa, from the Pasadena Parks Department, and I tackled the field mound and one of the home team bullpen mounds. A number of people assisted and completed the visiting team's mound. Anyone working on this project learned many valuable skills. Even I now know how to build a mound. I also saw first hand what a chapter can do to help a community at the same time as individuals learn valuable skills and the cause of good sports turf management is advanced.

I hope to see even more of you on chapter visits next year.

While your board has approved a number of projects that you will read about in other parts of this edition of STM and you'll be hearing more about later, the real future of STMA is up to you. If the positive spirit that we have experienced this year continues and individuals continue to volunteer to assist with various needs, your STMA will grow at an even faster pace. While much is being done to advance the stature of the Sports Turf Manager, there is much more that can be done. We look forward to assisting you in seeing to it that STMA continues to promote better and safer sports turf areas and that Sports Turf Managers are recognized for their true contribution to any sports program.

If you haven't as yet made your plans to be in Colorado Springs January 15-19, don't delay. You'll have a wonderful experience. I welcome the opportunity to see you again or meet you for the first time.

STM

Southern California Does It Again!

The Southern California Chapter's community service project at Rancho Buena Vista High School was a great success. In October 25 attendees combined seminar sessions, a trade show and hands-on demonstrations with "pitch in and do it" field renovation. (This project will be featured in the STMA in Action - Chapter News section of the January issue of sportsTURF Magazine.)

Ric Bethel, the school's Athletic Director, extended thanks to Chapter President and project coordinator Chris Bunnell, and all the generous volunteers and contributors. Bunnell expressed a special thank you to the project contributors: West Coast Turf; Stabilizer, Inc; Enviaible Greens; A-1 Soils Company; Mens Senior Baseball League; and A R Vertebrate.

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STMA Board Meeting Report

Your board met on October 17 and 18, 1996. All officers and board members and Steve and Suz Trusty from STMA Headquarters were present. This is a brief review of that board meeting.

STMA appears to be on solid ground financially. Though the 1996 Conference was not a money-maker, an increase in membership and holding the line on expenses means we're showing income ahead of expenses now and will at year-end. The board voted that 75 percent of the year-end surplus be put into a reserve fund which will only be used with the approval of 2/3 of the board.

STMA has renewed the management contract with Trusty & Associates for 1997. Steve Trusty will continue to serve as your Executive Director.

The board finalized details of the 1997 budget and approved it. It will be reviewed by the board three months into the year to assure that it is on track and that STMA continues to be fiscally sound.

STMA By-Laws are under review. Immediate Past-President Greg Petry is heading this committee and input from members may be directed to him.

STMA Past-President Mark Hodnick and former Executive Director Dr. Kent Kurtz will head the STMA Historical Committee and will have a display at the 1997 Conference in Colorado Springs.

Mike Schiller has asked all STMA Past Presidents to serve on the Presidents Council. They will form the Long-Range Planning Committee and will hold their first meeting in Colorado Springs in conjunction with the Conference.

Bucky Trotter is chairing the membership committee. He notes there are at least 16,000 to 20,000 potential members -- and wants them all. He invites your input on membership categories, fee schedules, ways to reach out to potential members, ways to serve the special needs of segments of the industry or anything else that will help us grow. Feedback received by December 16th will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

The site for STMA's 1998 Conference, January 14-18, 1998, is the Disney World property in Orlando, Florida. We'll be using the facilities of the Disney World Sports Complex and the Coronado Springs Resort will be the headquarters hotel. STMA's 1999 Conference will be held January 13-17, 1999, in Phoenix, Arizona, with the Sheraton Mesa the headquarters hotel.

Encouraging participation of sports turf managers from professional-level facilities continues. An active, personal outreach is planned by phone and by letter. STMA will have a booth at the following industry-related meetings within the next few months:

- *The Rhode Island Turfgrass Conference - December 4-5, 1996, in Providence.*
- *The Baseball Trade Show - December 6-9, 1996, in Boston.*

- *The National Federation of State High School Associations Athletic Directors Conference - December 15 - 16, 1996, in Orlando.*
- *GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show - February 10-12, 1997, in Las Vegas.*

STMA will be working with USA Baseball on the revision of its grounds care handbook.

A Sports Turf Manager Certification Committee is being established. Those interested in contributing to this effort are encouraged to contact Dr. Henry Indyk or STMA Headquarters.


Because job openings may come up quickly and need to be filled quickly, STMA is installing an "after-hours job Hot-Line." Members may call 712/366-1145 between 7:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. Central Time to review the recorded listing of job opportunities. Anyone wishing to add their job opening to the Hot Line is asked to notify headquarters at any time.

The next STMA Board Meeting will be held on January 14, 1997, in Colorado Springs at the Red Lion Hotel. The meeting will open at 1:00 P.M.

Any questions, comments or input on any of the above, or any issues that you wish to have brought up for discussion at the January board meeting may be directed to Headquarters and will be forwarded to the appropriate person or persons.

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Doc's Dugout

continued from page 10

and Arnold is Head Groundskeeper at Gene Autry Park, Mesa, AZ -- spring training site for the California Angels.

Scholarship Recipient Fulfills Dreams

In 1989, STMA held its 2nd Annual Meeting in conjunction with GCSAA in Houston, TX and the Harry Gill Award was presented to a student who was attending Texas A & M in the turfgrass program -- Eric Hanson. Eric worked for the Leander (TX) School District as a science teacher and baseball/assistant football coach while attending school. But his goal in life was to someday become a Head Groundskeeper. Finally, in 1991, he became Field Superintendent for the Toronto Blue Jays in Dunedin, FL. Recently he was tapped to be the Head Groundskeeper at Dodger Stadium. We are proud that one of our former scholarship recipients has finally realized his dreams. Congratulations Eric!

Calling All Former Scholarship Recipients

We have lost track of a lot of our other scholarship and awards recipients for the latter 1980's and early 90's. We would like to know if they ever entered into the sports turf field and would appreciate any information that anyone can give us as to where they are now. The only other person who I personally guided and who received two scholarships is Patrick Sherer who is currently the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at Bermuda Dunes Country Club in the Palm Springs area. Patrick worked at Anaheim Stadium while a student at Cal Poly Pomona, but after searching for an opportunity in the sports turf field, he felt the lack of opportunity would not allow him to fulfill his goals.

Therefore, it is my opinion that we, as a professional association MUST do more to help these young people who want to work in our industry and especially the "cream of the crop," our scholarship recipients. *STM*

Are You Ready for Some Info?

continued from page 4

fields up to 12 times during a given football season, so we've tried a few things...."

Mentally moving into spring, you hear the one-two punch on Attention to Details from two hands-on sports turf managers who don't believe that close is good enough -- Bucky Trotter, from the University of Kentucky, and David Mellor, from the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club.

Bucky gets "into the dirt" with tips on infield and mound maintenance, the area of field management where that special combination of "art" and "science" must blend to produce premium results.

David presents the mowing and marking segment of ballfield maintenance with hints on giving your turf that crowd -- and player -- pleasing appearance while maintaining top level playability.

New to this year's program are the Round-Table Discussions -- a perfect chance for you to ask your questions AND give your opinions on a wide variety of topics including: Cultivation: Options & Outcomes; Troubleshooting Irrigation Systems; Successful Field Scheduling for Municipalities; Budgets: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly; Making Rapid Repairs, and more.

And then there's -- well, come and find out for yourself. SEE YOU IN COLORADO SPRINGS!

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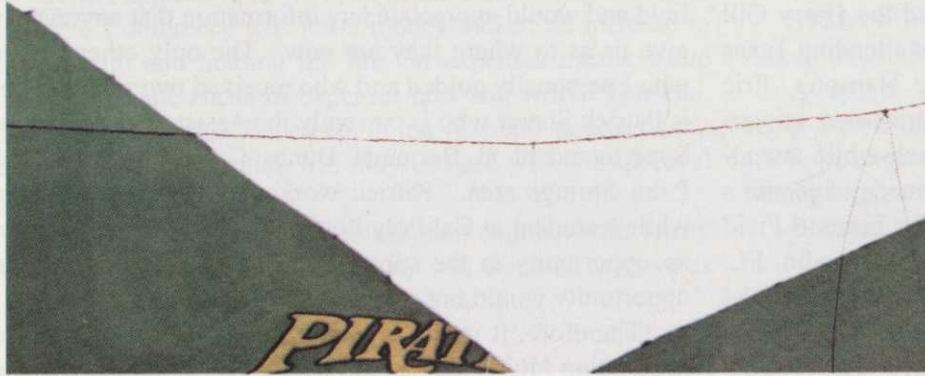
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