

## ARE YOU READY FOR SOME INFO?

**O**K. 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?!**

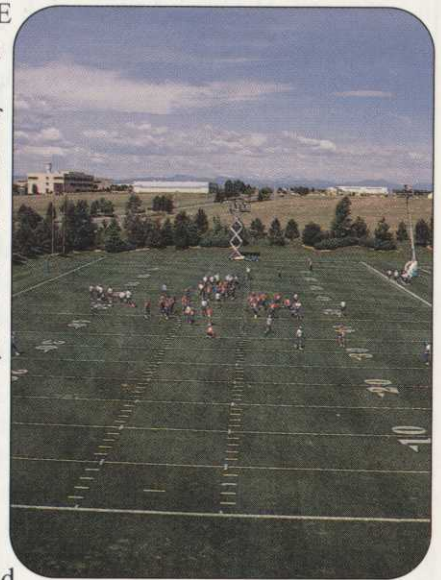
There's even MORE in store for you in Colorado Springs.

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,

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

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# 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

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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

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*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.



**Lofts Seed Inc**

Dept. STMA  
347 Elizabeth Ave.  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
(800) 526-3890 ext. 250

## Doc's Dugout

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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*

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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!

*STM*



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