



Chapter Events

Midwest Chapter: STMA

The Midwest Chapter: STMA will meet on June 12th at Demaree Stadium of Merrillville High School, Merrillville, Indiana, STMA's 1994 Football Field of the Year. Activities include a tour of the facility and sessions on field construction and maintenance.

August 12th marks the Chapter's Seminar on Wheels Tour. Plan now to join in this behind-the-scenes tour of the athletic fields of Northwestern University, Wrigley Field, Soldier Field and the University of Illinois - Chicago campus.

Because of injuries sustained in a serious accident this past fall, Midwest Chapter President Lonnie Berg felt that she couldn't devote the necessary time to the association and has resigned her position. Stepping up to the President's position for the remainder of Lonnie's term is Scott Phippen, Village of Lincolnshire. John Anderson, Cannon Turf Supply, Inc., has been asked to fill the Vice President position. The rest of the board remains the same with Marc Van Landuyt, Van's Enterprises, as Past President; Donald Michaels, Conserv FS, as Treasurer; and Mike Trigg, Waukegan Park District as Secretary.

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

Colorado Chapter

The Colorado Chapter: STMA will hold their next meeting on Friday, June 13th at Sky Sox Stadium. Registration is from 11:00 A.M. to noon. The meeting will open with Dave Rulli's President's Message and an introduction by Mark Leasure. Activities include Vendor presentations, a session on infield mix presented by Ken Norkosky, and a tour of the stadium. Attendees will also enjoy a cookout and the Sky Sox baseball game.

The Chapter's Mid-Summer Workshop is scheduled from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on Friday, July 18th, at Wagner Park in Aspen, Colorado, the home of the World Rugby Tournament. Workshop sessions will include field renovation and irrigation.

Mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Lawn Mower Man Open golf outing. This event is scheduled for August 5th, 1997, at West Woods Golf Course in Arvada, Colorado.

Due to snow in April, the Spring Vendor Expo was canceled. This event has been tentatively rescheduled for September 18th, 1997, at Jeffco Stadium. Further details will be announced in August.

For information on these events, the Colorado Chapter and other upcoming activities, call the 24-Hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/FAX: (303) 438-9645.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO Chapter STMA)

Planning is underway for the KAFMO Chapter STMA's fall field day. More details will be announced soon.

For more information on the field day or the KAFMO Chapter STMA, contact: Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at (610) 375-8469, extension 212.

Minnesota Chapter: STMA

The Minnesota Chapter will hold its 3rd Annual Workshop on Wheels event on July 16th. Participants will gather at Midway Stadium, then board the bus for McMurray Fields where vendors will show their aeration equipment in action in a mini-aeration clinic. Following that, the group will board the bus again for tours of the City of Plymouth Athletic Facility; Goodrich Field, Anoka, MN, where they are constructing a high sand based field; Blaine Sports Center, the site of USA Cup Soccer; the Turfco factory; Bethel College; Urban Ventures; and the Rice and Arlington Sports Dome. The Workshop will wrap up with a tailgate party back at Midway Stadium and the St. Paul Saints game.

The Minnesota Chapter will also meet on August 11th at Winter Park, the Minnesota Vikings Training Facility, for a Seminar and Tour. More details will be announced soon.

For information on these events, the Minnesota Chapter or other upcoming activities, contact: Connie Rudolph at (612) 644-0639.

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will hold a Baseball Workshop from 1:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on July 9th at the Little League Fields in Ottumwa, Iowa. The Workshop will include presentations by Bill Perry of the City of Ottumwa, Gary Peterson of the Iowa Extension Service and Dr. Dave Minner of Iowa State University.

The Iowa Chapter will hold a second Baseball Workshop from 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. on August 8th at Sec Taylor Stadium in Des Moines. Sessions will cover daily and post-season maintenance of the mound, plate and infield; fertility; building your own low-cost equipment; and repair of turf areas including: overseeding, seed pre-germination, sod and plugs.

The Iowa Turfgrass Field Day will be held August 14th at the Iowa State University Turf Farm. More details will be announced soon.

For more information on these events, the Iowa Chapter or other upcoming activities, contact: Lori Westrum
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Doc's Dugout - An Inning From Our Past & Present (Part I)

by Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian

A Sincere Tribute to a Friend, Colleague, Industry Pioneer and Legend TOM MASCARO

The entire turfgrass industry lost a great friend, entrepreneur and dynamic individual, when Tom Mascaro passed away May 6, 1997, in Pompano Beach, Florida, at the age of 81. Many will remember the folding cane Tom used in earlier years and the electric cart in which he cruised trade shows and turf conferences in his later years. Tom was struck by polio when he was 9 months old. This affected his left side the remainder of his life, but he overcame his adversity to revolutionize the turfgrass industry. Tom perfected the knack of turning lemons into lemonade.

He made a tremendous impact on both the sports turf and golf course industries. Tom was named one of STMA's first Honorary Life Members and campaigned wherever he traveled for new STMA members. In addition, Tom was influential in forming STMA's first Chapter, the Florida Chapter #1.

Tom Mascaro entered the industry in 1936 with the establishment of his own business, West Point Products, Inc., which mixed spent mushroom soil with nutrients to create fertilizers and materials for topdressing. Groundskeepers had been making their own fertilizer and topdressing materials and each had his own formula. Tom called on groundskeepers, listened to their needs and then customized his products for them. During its first 10 years of operation, West Point Products, Inc. produced special soil mixtures for golf courses and packaged potting soil and organic fertilizer. Tom was the first to market potting soil in 2-pound bags for homeowners through nurseries and stores like F.W. Woolworth, S.S. Kresge, and Sears.

In the early 1940s, the company also began manufacturing and marketing turfgrass tools and equipment to improve turfgrass health and vigor. During Tom's lifetime, his company designed, built or formulated over 100 pieces

of turfgrass equipment or products -- 20 of which were awarded U.S. and/or foreign patents. In 1969, West Point Products merged with Kearney National Corp., which later acquired Hahn, Inc.



Tom retired and moved to Florida in 1973, but it didn't "take." He started another company, Turfgrass Products Corp., which became Turf-Tec International in 1986 when his son John joined the company as president. Even with waning health the past 2 years, Tom remained active in the business.

I last saw Tom at the Golf Course Show in Las Vegas this past February. He cruised the show floor in his electric cart, worked the company's booth and fit in time to catch up with old acquaintances. He was his usual self -- positive, caring, supportive, interested and concerned about others. As always, he was focused on how to make the grass greener for his friends and all the turfgrass managers of the world.

Tom Mascaro was a creative and innovative thinker with the unrelenting drive and ability to follow an idea through to fruition. He introduced and manufactured the first true aerifier and vertical mower to turfgrass managers along with many other items needed by an industry struggling for recognition in the earlier years (1930s, '40s and '50s).

Please Note: The next issue of Sports Turf Manager will feature Part II, which will discuss the innovations, products and equipment that Tom Mascaro created for the turfgrass industry.

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at The Turf Office at (515) 232-8222 (phone) or (515) 232-8228 (fax).

Southern California Chapter: STMA

For information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact: Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

Florida Chapter #1: STMA

For information on upcoming events or the Florida Chapter, contact: John Mascaro at (954) 938-7477.

STMA Chapters on the Grow:

The Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers

Organization (MAFMO) is an active group currently working toward STMA affiliation. A Dinner Meeting is planned for June 19th from 6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at Joe Theisman's Restaurant in Elkridge, Maryland. The topic will be Turfgrass Seed Certification.

For more information on this event, MAFMO, or other upcoming activities, contact the Hotline: (410) 290-5652.

Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association

For Information on the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association or upcoming events, contact: Mark Schimming, City of Wichita, at (316) 337-9123.