

GREAT CONFERENCE ?? YOU BET!!!!

If you were one of the lucky ones who attended the 9th Annual Conference & Exhibition -- you KNOW it was great. If you didn't have the opportunity to attend -- you missed an excellent show!

STMA continues to grow. We had over 300 full conference attendees!

Conference kick-off on Wednesday put over 50 golfers on the Palm course for a challenging, spirited and fun-filled competition. At the same time, 2 busloads of participants headed out on our first Seminar on Wheels tour. A highlight of the 1st stop, Disney's Horticultural Center was an inside look at how some of those wonderful topiaries are created with ivy or creeping fig grown over wire frames and stuffed with sphagnum moss. The traditional topiaries (many of which are long time features on Disney property) are trimmed painstakingly and can take years to form.

In addition to our traditional classroom sessions and the 2nd year of the popular round-table discussions, both of which were SUPER, we were treated to a thoroughly memorable presentation by Captain Al Haynes, the captain of Flight 232, which crash landed in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1989 and had an amazing 184 people survive. This moving presentation focused on five factors every sports turf manager knows,

Luck, Communication, Preparation, Execution and Cooperation.

With the Thursday evening reception and Friday's lunch both in the Trade Show area, vendors and attendees had a chance to mix business and pleasure in the true spirit of "partnership." Add in Friday's Disney's Wide World of Sports™ complex tour, the seed plot evaluations, "Products on Parade" and "How We Do It" demos out on the fields and it was a full day.

The Awards & Scholarships were presented to a full house at the Banquet and basically, if you weren't there -- YOU MISSED A GREAT TIME! So, make plans now for 1999 in Mesa, Arizona. See You There!



Seed Trails



Products on Parade



Classroom



Trade Show

photos courtesy of Helen M. Stone