

## Making It Work - Whatever – Whenever

### Highlights from recent STMA Chapter Meetings

**M**aking it work - whatever, whenever, is a common theme for sports turf managers, whether it's whipping fields into playable condition despite difficult weather and heavy use, or putting together a dynamite meeting.



Great Plains: STMA, Wichita, KS

Working smarter is essential for success in today's fast-moving envi-

ronment. Gathering the knowledge, tech-

niques and tools to do just that, through meetings and workshops, is the major function of local and regional STMA Chapters - and forming Chapters.

These are hard working sessions often combining a wide-ranging group of activities: classroom-type education sessions, hands-on demonstrations of maintenance practices, tours of the host facility, and an exhibitor's booth visitation period and/or demonstration time.

### Networking a Highlight of Wichita Workshop

After two snow cancellations, the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association got a break in the El Nino weather pattern and was able to hold their Field Preparation and Maintenance Workshop on April 23rd at the Linwood Recreation Center in Wichita, Kansas.

A combination ice-breaker and headstart on networking opened the Wichita meeting with each individual "pairing off" with someone they didn't know. These pairs exchanged names and details about their facility and their position. Then, moving around the room, rather than introducing themselves, each of the 34 atten-



CSTMA, Colorado Springs, CO

dees introduced their new acquaintance to the group.

Highlighting each meeting are similar networking opportunities, those

meet, greet and share sessions that not only provide you with ideas you can take home and put to work, but

which also give you the connections for the give and take of the

long-term information exchange. Networking

is the basis for those times when a quick phone call or note sent over "the net" helps you sort through the options of problem-solving or gives you back-up support for an idea or procedure you want to use. You learn from the shared successes – and mistakes – of others and pass along similar information of your own.

### The Field User's Perspective a Highlight of Colorado Chapter Seminar

Eighty-four people braved a 10-inch snowfall to gather at the United States Air Force Academy's Falcon Stadium Press Box in Colorado Springs for



STMAAZ, Chandler, AZ

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the Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association's April 16th Spring Seminar. The seminar's classroom-style educational sessions were capped off with show and tell tours of Falcon Stadium, the fieldhouse and athletic complex.

One of the highlights of this Seminar was the opportunity to look at the field from a different perspective, as Fisher DeBerry, USAFA Football Coach, shared his views on "what a well-maintained field means" in the "mind game" of football. Open communication between those in charge of on-field activities and the sports turf managers provide the give and take that result in the highly-playable field conditions both are seeking.

### Community Service Project Highlights STMAAZ Meeting

The April 24th meeting of the Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona was held at the Chandler, Arizona, Boys & Girls Club, site of their field renovation service project. A highlight of the meeting was viewing the results of their efforts.

The commitment to give something back to one of their local communities in the form of a similar service project outreach is a goal of most STMA Chapters and forming chapters. The selected site is always a field in need, often for a wide variety of reasons, which lacks the resources for necessary renovation or repair.

According to STMAAZ President, Kris Kircher, the call for assistance was issued in late January. More than 25 vendors kicked in with donations of various types in equipment and supplies. Individuals, sports turf managers and local members of the community, gathered at the field on Friday nights and Saturdays until early April to get the job done.

### Join In

It takes support to pull off successful chapter meetings. So, besides making sure you and your staff participate by attending, consider lending a hand to "make it happen."

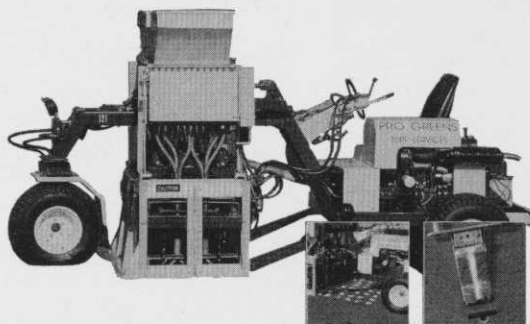
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