

MAFMO's Fall Field Day Goes to School

On Thursday, September 25, the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA) took its Fall Field Day to school. Seventy attendees gathered at the football field of Magruder High School in Rockville, Md., at 8 a.m. for the special "Turf-Ace in the Turf" combination educational sessions, demonstration and field-renovation project.

The school site was selected partly because of a special pilot program that Magruder High School's horticulture instructor, Ray Smith, is testing for Montgomery County's high schools. The one-year course, called Landscape and Turfgrass Management, has 20 students enrolled. Each class covers two periods, giving the students double time to really dig into their material.

Dig in they did. The 20 students had moved supplies onto the field in preparation for the field day and

helped throughout the day with various aspects of the demonstration program.

In addition, 99 students from Smith's other horticulture classes joined the sessions, each participating during what would have been their regular horticulture class period that day. Magruder High School's principal, John Nori, also joined part of the day's activities, taking time to meet and thank as many of the attendees as his schedule allowed.

Smith welcomed the group and gave a brief overview of the pilot program and the activities of the day. Throughout the school year, the 20 students in the pilot program gain hands-on learning experience as they maintain the field. They also have the opportunity to see that what they do actually makes a difference in field conditions.

Tim Anderson, sports field specialist for Seedco of Baltimore, then gave a presentation, "The Basics of Sports Turf Management," and Steve Trusty, STMA executive director, spoke about STMA, the services it provides to members and outlined the association's developing Certification Program.

Each of the companies donating to the renovation project gave a short explanation of their products or services and how they would be used in the renovation. Alpine Services contributed the aeration, topdressing and rolling. Aimcor provided three tons of Turface and the services of Tim Anderson. Gaithersburg Ford/Kubota supplied the tractor and slit seeder. Lesco provided the fertilizer. Newsom Seed supplied the overseeding and the services of field-day coordinator Allen Bohrer. Sherwin Williams provided the field-marking paint. Toro/Turf Equipment and Supply Company supplied the topdresser.

Once the presentations were completed, the focus moved to the field. And what better way to demonstrate equipment and supplies than to put them to work in an actual field renovation? The one-day session came at an

ideal time because the school's next football game was just 1 1/2 weeks away. Demonstrations on field lining and painting topped off the hands-on sessions.

Following field activities, attendees collected further information from table-top displays set up by the contributing companies. For everyone, the day proved a beneficial example of a chapter-service project teamed with a hands-on educational opportunity.

STMA Chapter News

Florida Chapter #1: Florida Chapter #1 will assist newly forming Florida Chapter #2 in hosting STMA's 9th Annual Conference & Exhibition, "Meeting the Challenges," to be held January 14-18, 1998, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Disney's Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando, Fla.

For information on the STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition, contact STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875.

For information on Florida Chapter #1 or other pending activities, contact John Mascaro: (954) 938-7477.

MAFMO: The Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization



In the foreground, instructor Ray Smith (left) and principal John Nori compare notes on student participation during MAFMO's Fall Field Day at Magruder High School. Photos courtesy: Trusty & Associates.



Tim Anderson, sports field specialist for Seedco of Baltimore, demonstrates proper techniques for student and pro alike at MAFMO's field day.