

Birds of a Feather

What do Orioles and Ravens have in common? Besides being birds, they are the nicknames of two popular sports teams in Baltimore. They also share the area of Baltimore known as Camden Yards, and they both have talented individuals that were willing to share their expertise with the MAFMO Chapter Oct. 1.

More than 80 sports turf managers, groundskeepers, and others responsible for the care of athletic fields in the Mid-Atlantic area met on the sunny fall day. After sign in and refreshments, the group heard welcoming remarks from Chapter President Tim Moore in the end-zone stands of the Ravens' spacious new stadium.

STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty attended the meeting as part of STMA's Chapter Development program. These trips are generously sponsored by John Deere and Novartis at the Gold Level; and by Alpine Services, Hunter Industries, and the Scotts Company at the Silver Level.

Trusty discussed the soon to be available Certified Sports Turf Manager program. He urged attendees to get involved on both the local and national levels to help increase professionalism in the industry, and to reach out to others and help them get involved.

Baltimore Ravens Field Maintenance Manager Vince Patterozzi talked about construction of the new field. He discussed issues faced while working with the team's temporary home, and the differences encountered with work at the training facility.

Patterozzi feels that Zoysia and

Bermuda are both good choices for athletic fields in the Mid-Atlantic region. He also went into detail about the need for stabilizers in the rootzone of high-use, high-profile fields. He mentioned several stabilizers on the market, and talked about their respective benefits.

Though he now manages what he called the Ravens' "big experimental field," Patterozzi thoroughly understands tight budgets and limited resources. He showed that he is willing to share his acquired knowledge in any way he can to help others.

same used by Little League fields.

Zwaska is very active on the Category I Committee for STMA. He urged attendees to get involved and to help each other by sharing information.

Guided tours of Oriole Park capped off the afternoon. Attendees got to see many areas that the general public seldom, if ever, sees.

As is customary with chapter functions such as this, friendships were made, ideas were exchanged, and much was learned.



MAFMO Chapter Field Day attendees get a first-hand look at Ravens Field. *Courtesy: Trusty & Assoc.*

A guided tour of the entire stadium rounded out the morning. During the lunch break, vendors showcased their latest products. Attendees moved to the other side of the facility in the afternoon for a look at Oriole Park.

Head Groundskeeper Paul Zwaska discussed care at the Major League Baseball field. He gave a fine presentation on infield mixes and preparation, and his crew demonstrated the step by step processes of preparing the home-plate area for a game. Zwaska emphasized that the process was basically the

presentation by Rich Genoff, sports turf manager for the San Francisco 49ers. Activities will move to the field in the afternoon for demonstrations and a lawn mower competition.

For information, contact Sal Genito, UC Davis: (530) 752-1691.

Midwest Chapter: The chapter will again participate in the North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE) Nov. 30-Dec. 3 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL.

For information, call the chapter hotline: (847) 622-3517.

Chapter news

Florida Chapter #1:

Rain Bird is sponsoring an irrigation meeting Nov. 17 at the City of Parkland Parks and Recreation Department. It will include a tour of the completed field construction project the chapter viewed in process approximately one year ago.

For information, contact John Mascaro: (954) 938-7477.

Northern California

Chapter: The chapter's Fall Seminar will be held Nov. 18 at the Simpkins Center at San Jose State University Stadium in San Jose. Morning seminar sessions will include