



Something

Old

and

Something

New



Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day attendees inspect home plate and pitcher's mound demonstration plots at O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research & Education Facility. Courtesy: STMA

August 4, the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association held its fifth annual Workshop on Wheels. The day was filled with education, idea exchanges, and lots of fun. Highlights of the tour included the following:

- A tour of the Minnesota Vikings practice facility in Mankato included a pre-season peek at the team in action.
- The group toured the first-rate softball complex at Caswell Park.
- In St. Peter, attendees toured Gustavus Adolphus College to see how the facility recovered from tornado damage of a year ago. Acres of turf filled with shredded glass presented a unique challenge for the grounds crew.
- A tour of the new Pat Paterson Fields of Hamline University in St. Paul provided a bonus stop.
- A tailgate party at Midway Stadium wrapped-up the day's events. Some participants extended the day by attending a St. Paul Saints game.

For the first time August 10, the Wisconsin Chapter joined other Green Industry supporters of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association at O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research & Education Foundation for the Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day.

Attendance exceeded previous years' numbers by 100. Organizers attributed much of that increase to the involvement of those interested in

sports turf management. Highlights of the day's events follow:

- Two baseball pitcher's mounds, a softball pitcher's mound, and a home plate circle constructed in July gave attendees the opportunity to view what are probably the first test plots of this kind at a university research station. These plots will be used to test various maintenance procedures following the field day.

- Attendees examined a study of Supina bluegrass alone and in various mixtures with perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and tall fescue.

- Another study focused on the proportion and quality of the turf stand. It included various bluegrass cultivars mixed with perennial ryegrass in various ratios in the initial seeding to achieve a 50:50 mixture in a mature turf stand.

- On the bluegrass/ryegrass research plots, a machine simulated football traffic, approximating wear between the hash marks that would develop in one game per week.

- The day's sessions included a logo painting demonstration.

These research projects increase awareness of athletic field maintenance issues among other branches of the green industry.

Chapter news

Mark your calendars now for STMA's 11th Annual Conference & Exhibition,

"Gateway to the 21st Century," Jan. 12-16, 2000, Regal Riverfront Hotel, St. Louis, MO.

For information, contact STMA Headquarters by e-mail: SportsTMgr@aol.com, or by phone: (800) 323-3875.

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter will hold a meeting in Ft. Lauderdale Nov. 19. The focus will be "Sports Turf Equipment Demonstrations for Maintaining Athletic Fields." It will include education by Dr. Phil Busey on athletic field weed control.

For information, contact John Mascaro: (954) 341-3115.

Midwest Chapter: The Midwest Chapter is one of the allied co-sponsoring organizations participating in the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation's (ITF) 16th Annual North Central Turfgrass Exposition Nov. 30-Dec. 2 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL. Dec. 1, Dr. Paul Rieke of Michigan State University will present "Construction and Installation of Sports Facilities." Special focus seminars, including those on sports turf topics, will be featured Dec. 2. For event information, contact ITF by e-mail: associationheadquarters@csi.com.

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

Great Lakes Chapter: GLSTMA will hold its second Annual Awards Presentation and Meeting Dec. 7 at