



BY BOB STUDHOLME

VSTMA FIELD DAY(S) HUGE SUCCESS

Cornwell, UVA event & facility manager, led groups on a fascinating tour of the stadium while food, refreshments, and a raffle were provided by Luck Stone Specialty Products. STMA President Bob Campbell, CSFM, was on hand, discussing issues and comparing notes with the membership.

The Field Day itself was held the next day and hubbed at Davenport Stadium, UVA's baseball venue, with Klockner Stadium and Lanigan Field right next door providing additional venues for the day's events. The "Pre-Game" registration was held from 7-8 AM and was sponsored by Landscape Supply & Profile Products. With this correspondent (VSTMA president and Fairfax County Park Authority turfgrass specialist) serving as Master of Ceremonies, the "Kickoff" was at 8 AM and featured a keynote address by Campbell. The STMA president brought everyone up to speed on current initiatives and programs on the national front, and addressed the professional responsibility of today's Sports Field Manager. The "First Half" featured the main draw of the day: 16 educative sessions over the next 4 hours at various locations at and around Davenport, all within a few minutes walk.

Presenters included: Dr. Shawn Askew of Virginia Tech, "Weed ID & Control;" Dr. Erik Ervin of Virginia Tech, "Bermudagrass Management in the Mid-Atlantic;" Chad Mulholland, Richmond Braves, "Infield & Mound Maintenance: How the Pros Do It;" Marc Moran, Atlee High School, "Painting Logos;" Joel Simmons, Earthworks and Soil First Consulting on "Soils, Soil Sampling & Laboratory Testing;" Aaron Boggs, sports field manager, University of Louisville, "Artificial Turf Surfaces;" and Rodney Hopkins, Richmond Strikers, "Rectangular Field Maintenance: What Works For You."

The "Halftime Luncheon" was sponsored by Revels and Fleet Tractor, Finch Turf Services, and John Deere Landscapes, while refreshment stands around the venues were sponsored by G.L. Cornell. Other sponsorships from Pro's Choice, Smith Turf & Equipment, and Green Meadows Turf Supply defrayed other costs such as printing, mailing, and advertising.

The Field Day Committee was pleased the weather even cooperated this year with seasonably warm temperatures and no rainfall. Planning for the VSTMA Field Day 2004 will begin this fall.

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The Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association (VSTMA) held its Annual Field Day last July at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Situated approximately in the center of the Old Dominion and featuring award-winning athletic fields, UVA was the ideal venue for this statewide event. The VSTMA Field Day Committee met 10 times to iron out all the details, with a goal of creating an event that would spark interest in Sports Field Management across the state.

Based on the theme "Bet You Can't See It All," our marketing strategy included posting flyers, mailings, e-mail blasts, website postings, and even a press release by the UVA Athletic Department. The event drew 245 participants, 29 suppliers and service providers, plus five industry support groups, including the Virginia Turfgrass Council. Spread over 2 days, featuring sixteen educative lectures, concurrent vendor displays, and equipment demonstrations, the event was the VSTMA's most ambitious to date.

One afternoon everyone gathered for the "Tailgate Reception" at Scotts Stadium. Jimmy Rogers, CSFM, a VSTMA director, spoke on the renovation of Harrison Field that led to it being awarded STMA College Football Field of the Year in 2001. Scott