

VSTMA Field Day 2004 is a success

BY **BOB STUDHOLME**

In fall 2003, the Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association (VSTMA) Board of Directors awarded Field Day 2004 to Atlee High School in Hanover County and Marc Moran. In keeping with VSTMA tradition, Marc automatically became not only the Field Day Host but the VSTMA Field Day Committee Chairman as well. Marc, who moonlights as the VSTMA Category 3 Director, immediately set in motion plans that culminated at the July 20-21 Field Day. Under blue sky and seasonable temperatures, this year's event drew 135 participants and 22 suppliers/service providers, including industry support groups such as the Virginia Turfgrass Council, and featured concurrent educative lectures, vendor displays and equipment demonstrations.

The 2-day event began the evening of July 20 with the "Tailgate Reception" sponsored by Luck Stone Specialty Products. First introduced during Field Day '03, the reception is geared primarily towards networking. The Field Day proper was held the next day. Kickoff was at 8 AM sharp and featured a keynote address by STMA President Bob Campbell. Immediately following was the main draw for most of the attendees: 12 educative sessions spread over the next 5 hours at various locations around the school, all within a minute or two of each other.

On-the-field lectures included: Dr. Shawn Askew of Virginia Tech and his ever popular "Weed Walk"; Dr. Mike Goatley of Virginia Tech on "Transitioning Bermudagrass/Ryegrass Fields"; Chad Mulholland of the Richmond Braves on "Pitchers Mound Maintenance"; Sam Doak of Virginia Tech on "Turfgrass Nutrition"; Marc Moran of Atlee High School on "Field Marking"; Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, University of Virginia, on "Infield Maintenance."

Two other sessions were supported by active equipment demonstrations:

Joe Harmon of Harmon Turf Services on "Deeptine Aeration," featuring both drill-and-fill and reciprocating-type aerators; and Michael Sullenberger of George Mason University on "Maintaining Wear Areas," with support of Specialty Turf Services demonstrating row sprigging of Bermudagrass. This year's Field Day also included two indoor presentations, strategically scheduled during the heat of the day (July in Virginia!): Dale Getz, CSFM, of The Toro Company led an excellent discussion on "Managing Soils," and Bob Campbell, CSFM, gave a terrific presentation titled "A Sportsturf Manager's Survival Guide."

The VSTMA Field Day Committee extends a big Thank You to the Atlee High School Athletic Boosters Club, who helped prepare and serve food as well as staff the registration table on both days, and the following sponsors for their tremendous support, without which this event would not be possible:

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chapter news

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): The OSTMA Fall Field Day and Vendor Showcase will be held September 7 at the OSY Intramural Complex Fred Bechman Park. The Chapter also will participate in the OTF Annual Golf Tournament October 5 at the Golf Club of Dublin.

For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 888-824-9805 or 419-824-9805 or Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, at 419-885-1982; or visit the chapter's website at www.ostma.org.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will meet September 9 at the Baseball USA Complex in Houston. The Chapter's 2nd Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held October 20 at the Mill Creek Golf Club & Inn in Salado.

For more information contact 866-897-8621 or email T. J. Thompson, Treasurer, at: TXturfmanager@prodigy.net.

Florida Chapter # 1: Make plans now to attend the Florida Turfgrass Association 52nd Annual Conference & Show to be held September 12-15 at the Hyatt Regency Downtown Tampa. The Chapter will lead a tour September 13 beginning at noon. Sites include a local golf course, Raymond James Stadium, and Legends Field. For information on this event, visit the website: www.ftga.org. The Chapter also is planning a November 16 meeting at Sable Pines Park in the City of Coconut Creek. The topic is Total Park Maintenance from Fence to Fence. Equipment demonstrations will also be showcased.

For information on the Chapter, or pending

activities, contact John Mascaro at 954-341-3115 or STMA@Turf-Tec.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: The Chapter will participate in Clemson University's Annual Turfgrass Field Day at the University's Madren Center Pavilion September 14. Participants may choose between two events that afternoon: playing in the Charles P. Willimon, Sr. Memorial Turfgrass Research and Education Fundraising Golf Tournament at the Walker Course on campus or visiting the sports field facilities at the University.

For more information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Dr. Hale at 843-662-3526 extension 206 or by email at thale@clemson.edu or on the chapter's website www.scstma.org.