

# SIDELINES

## Virginia SportsTurf Managers Association



**VSTMA Field Days**  
June 17 & 18  
RF&P Park ~ Glen Allen ~ Virginia

### INSIDE

Dean's  
Letter

2

Field Days  
Schedule

3

Yankees vs  
Hokies

4

Infill  
Insecurity

5

Field Day  
Supporters

6

Field Days  
Registration

7

Calendar  
2008

8

[WWW.VSTMA.ORG](http://WWW.VSTMA.ORG)

2nd Quarter - 2008

# From the President: Field Days on the Horizon



Dean Whitehead, CSFM  
VSTMA President

VSTMA was very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Frankie Dingus, one of our members, on March 21, age 53. He was the groundskeeper for the Manassas Park School Board and was a referee with the Bull Run officials for 15 years. We wish his family well during these difficult times.

Field Days are nearly upon us and we are all busy with the "Spring-ing" of our sports fields. As soon as we overhaul our equipment, sharpen the blades, and finally feel caught up with work, the grass starts to grow, weeds start to sprout, and the games begin.

We hope you will take time on June 17 and 18th to join us at the beautiful RF&P Park located at Glen Allen, County of Henrico. I know there will be lively discussions about the possibility of lead in artificial turf as well as the implied impacts of the new Virginia

fertilizer application legislation.

Consider playing in the VSTMA Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament which will be held on Tuesday morning (June 17) at the PGA Championship Belmont Golf Course. Sign up soon and consider bringing a friend or employee to both events.

Your new VSTMA supported Sports Turf Management book will be sold during Field Days. If you would like to purchase a case of 24, let us know (vstma@vstma.org) so that we will have plenty on hand. The price will be \$24.95 per book. This will save you the shipping and handling fee, a difference of \$6.25/book.

I look forward to seeing you very soon at RF&P Park.

Best regards,  
Dean  
Christopher Newport University  
757 594-8416 dean.whitehead@cnu.edu

**LANDSCAPE SUPPLY, INC.®**

**Proudly Servicing Virginia's Sports Turf for Over 30 Years**

<b>ROANOKE, VA</b>		<b>RICHMOND, VA</b>	
Telephone:	540-344-2699	<b>SOUTHSIDE</b>	
Fax:	540-343-1484	Telephone:	804-744-5445
Toll Free:	800-876-2151	Fax:	804-744-9899
Jared Russell (Cell):	540-537-6748	Toll Free:	888-559-3528
<b>CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA</b>		<b>WESTEND</b>	
Telephone:	434-979-8873	Telephone:	804-754-3590
Fax:	434-296-9005	Fax:	804-754-7179
Kyle Bickling (Cell):	540-537-2578	Toll Free:	888-559-3528
<b>WILLIAMSBURG, VA</b>		Bruce Adwell (Cell): 804-640-8867	
Telephone:	757-253-8873		
Fax:	757-253-8877		
Neil Jones (Cell):	757-273-2057		

**It's Black and White.**

Celebration™ Bermudagrass has been rated highest for wear tolerance, drought tolerance and recovery, overall turf quality and lower surface hardness in university research and national trials. What sports turf managers and many others have recognized for years is supported by objective data:

- #1 for wear tolerance
- Preferred surface to reduce player injury
- #1 for drought recovery
- Fine texture and unique blue-green color

For more information, visit meadowsspringturf.com or call: 804.829.2696

**MEADOWSSPRING TURF**  
CELEBRATION™  
BERMUDAGRASS

Meadowsspring Turf | Charles City, VA | 804.829.2696

# Field Days 2008 Schedule ~ June 17 & 18

## RF&P Park ~ Glen Allen Hosted by County of Henrico, Virginia

### Tuesday, June 17:

- 10 AM-1 PM: Scholarship Golf Tournament at Belmont Golf Course
- 3 - 5 PM: Registration and Tour of the RF&P Athletic Facilities
- 5 - 6 PM: Q & A session with Dr's Mike Goatley & Erik Ervin of Virginia Tech.
- 6 - 8 PM: Tailgate Reception. Tournament results will be announced.

### Wednesday, June 18:

- 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM: "Pre-Game" Registration, Coffee Hour, & Vendor set-up.
- 8:00 AM - 8:10 AM: "Kickoff"
- 8:15 AM - 11:15 AM: Seminar Sessions
  - Covering Athletic Fields - Jason Bower & Josh McPherson
  - County Athletic Park Maintenance - Ray Pauley of County of Henrico Recreation & Parks.
  - Fertilizers & Virginia Regulations - Mike Goatley and VDACS Representative
  - Irrigation and Water Management - Erik Ervin
- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM: Equipment Demonstrations
- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Lunch

Please register online: [www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org) or send in the form on back page.  
VENDORS ... Consider becoming a sponsor!  
Check out page 6.

## Alpine Services, Inc.

Celebrating 25 Years Of Excellence

- ~High Performance Sand Fields
  - ~ Sand Cap Fields
- ~Alpine Sandwich Fields
  - ~ Native Soil Fields
- ~ Bases for Artificial Turf
  - ~ Perfect Sub -Base
- ~ Drainage Solutions
  - ~ Surface Shattering



Frederick Keys Baseball  
<--- Sand Cap



Dover High School  
Artificial Base --->

Building Premium Athletic Fields  
Nationwide...For All Sports

800-292-8420  
[www.alpineservices.com](http://www.alpineservices.com)



Collins Wharf Sod

[www.CWSOD.com](http://www.CWSOD.com) 410-334-6676



BLUEGRASS TALL FESCUE  
BENTGRASS BERMUDAGRASS

Sandy Soils - Pre Plant Fumigation - Washed Bent Tee & Fairway - Low Mow Blues - Contract Crows  
NO Netting - Maryland Certified



Authorized RIVIERA SOD PRODUCER



PROUD MEMBERS OF



## Sports Turf



## Management

Order this book from Pocahontas Press before they run out.

- Call 1-800-446-0467
- Fax (540) 961-2847
- Mail Form:  
[www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org) or  
[www.pocahontaspress.com](http://www.pocahontaspress.com)

The book costs \$31.20, includes tax and shipping. Shipping for a book is \$5, and for each additional book is \$0.50.

**Books will be sold at Field Days, June 17 and 18th**

# NY Yankees vs Hokies: The Sports Turf Manager's Vantage Point

If you were told you had six months to get ready for the Yankees, would that be enough time for you to prepare your field? Probably -- if your ball field was set up to host major league baseball games; however, this was far from the usual request for managers of Virginia Tech's English Field, Sports Turf/Athletic Grounds Manager Jason Bowers, CSFM, and Casey Underwood, director of outside athletic facilities.

Back in the early summer of 2007, the Yankees offered to play an exhibition game against the Virginia Tech men's baseball team in memory of victims of the April 16th shootings on Tech's campus. Coach Hughes lobbied for the game to be played at English Field, rather than in the nearby city of Salem, as initially suggested. By September, Bowers had a finalized date and plans were set into motion for the Yankees and Hokies to play seven innings on March 18, 2008.

Come early September, Bowers' staff had to deal with a Lane Stadium concert (September 6th) for the university community, featuring the Dave Mathews Band, John Mayer, Phil Vassar and Nas. Worsham Field's bermudagrass survived the heavy traffic and week-long ground covers with tolerable damage, just nine days before the Hokie football team played Ohio. This gave the VT staff a glimpse of the many man-hours they were going to spend on the Yankees event.

As soon as football season was over, Bowers and his assistants turned their focus to the spring Yankees' game. Bowers and assistant Emerson Pulliman were confident that English Field would be in fine shape; however, an adequate bullpen and ample seating for the 5,000 plus fans were needed.

Asked Bowers how they prepared the field for the Yankees. He casually remarked, "The same way we prepare the field for any of the 30 games we host at English field." He did note that they spent extra time repairing irrigation ruts, divots and holes on the turf and leveled the lips between turf and Alabama clay skin regions. It would not bode well if Derek Jeter turned his ankle



March 18, 2008 - NY Yankees Play Virginia Tech



NY Yankees at English Field

on their watch! Two weeks prior to the exhibition game, Roots (15-3-8) and 0.25 lb/1000 sq ft of N were applied to encourage the cold Kentucky bluegrass to green-up. That was the easy part.

Seating for 5,000 plus was a different story. Bleachers to seat 2,500

people were set up by T&B Equipment down the first base side as well as in the outfield. T&B started erecting their stands on

March 3, but prior to their arrival, Underwood and his crew had to spread a gravel base.

The rented stands as well as the older permanent seating would not accommodate all of the attendees. The stretch behind third base, which is referred to as "the hill," had been a favorite viewing site for students since the field was constructed in the late 1980s. Converting the hill to terraced seating had been on the books for years, and this was the perfect opportunity to make it happen. Plans were finalized in October and clearance to start construction arrived in January 2008. To keep within budget, Underwood was enlisted to excavate a base, work with a contractor to lay concrete architectural block, backfill the terraces, and then lay sod. They had less than one month, working 12+ hours per day, to accomplish this task. On March 17th, a fraternity supplied a constant stream of strong backs to lay 18,000 sq ft. of sod, donated by Lavery Sod Farm. Underwood was proud to report that

when the Yankees arrived, 90% of the work was complete.

The day prior to the game, Carolina Greens built the new bullpen, and in true Hokie spirit, they graciously helped the staff with the final grading of the pitching mound. That morning, the turf was mowed, the skin was groomed, seats were set, and the field was painted with "Hokies," flanked by the New York Yankees' logo and by the maroon "We Remember" ribbon. Bowers' team was more than ready, and thrilled that the Yankees were playing on their field. Bowers commented that there were more than 50 workers scurrying around the complex that day.



Terraced Seating on March 17, 2008, one day prior to the Yankees vs Hokie Game

The crowning event was when the Yankee's bullpen coach, Mike Harkey, commented to Bowers that he really liked the new bullpen, as well as the pitching mound. These occasions make sports field managers proud of their efforts and supporting staff. It is the nature of the sports field manager's work that his efforts are noticed by the players but seldom publicly recognized by the fans. The VT group's professionalism shone through at this event, and they were pleased to "donate" a chunk of their lives to this game. From their perspective, the words from that one coach helped to affirm their efforts.

By Jody Booze-Daniels

## Infill Insecurity

The recent moratoriums on infill field installation and the overall negative press coming out of New York and New Jersey certainly have shaken this segment of the sports turf industry. Is the concern warranted? Honestly, no one really knows, but anytime there is an 'unknown' aspect that has potential health ramifications, you can bet that it is going to capture people's attention. Natural turf systems deal with these concerns on a daily basis and must constantly address public and regulatory concerns and questions in terms of chemical and water usage and their fate. Comparatively very little research on public health and environmental issues has been conducted on infill systems. The few studies completed have been both supported and criticized from within and outside the turfgrass scientific community. The intent of any turfgrass scientist in this research to date has been to provide answers, not to denigrate infill systems. As a matter of fact, every turfgrass scientist I know (myself included) has recommended infill systems for multiple situations where use rates exceed the capacity of a natural turf system.

STMA ([www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org)) has posted information, but the white paper published by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services regarding their position and concerns ([http://www.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/dhss/njnewslines/view\\_article.pl?id=3174](http://www.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/dhss/njnewslines/view_article.pl?id=3174)) for lead on artificial fields provides primary source facts. Of twelve fields tested in New Jersey, only two were considered by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services as concerns for lead concentration, and these two specifically had nylon or nylon/polyethylene fibers. These fields had lead levels eight to ten times above the state's residential soil standard for cleanup of contaminated properties. The maximum value tolerated in soils is 400 mg/kg. Is this comparison valid? That is not known as there are no standards for lead levels in artificial fields. NJDHSS also tested samples of turf marketed for residential use and found two samples of these products with similarly high lead levels. Again, these were nylon or nylon/polyethylene fiber materials.

Somewhat surprising in this most recent development is that the largest area of concern was focused on the fibers and NOT the infill. Are the moratoriums overreaction? Probably. One of the items detailed by DHSS indicated their concern that these exposures could be additive to lead exposures around the home. However, what is really interesting is that many of the same groups now clamoring for banning infill systems are the same ones asking for them instead of natural turf systems just a few years ago. What I think is clear now is the importance of having a full complement of research projects either completed or in progression to address problems that are clearly going to rise. Turfgrass scientists have been predicting/expecting these issues to emerge for some time, many strongly encouraging the synthetic turf industry to support research in these areas. When sales were good and infill systems were viewed by much of the general public as an often 'superior' selection in athletic field systems, the need to conduct research in areas that might have produced data that were not necessarily desirable was not a high priority. The typical questions regarding the suitability of synthetic fields as compared to natural turf fields have related to appropriate field installation standards, cost of installation and future replacement (and disposal), techniques to groom and maintain a safe playing surface, and appropriate cleaning and management programs. There also have been constant pleas for better understanding of athletes, coaches, and administration regarding their use under excessive heat conditions, as well as potential health issues related to bodily fluids and sanitation. Now, even the faintest hint of health concerns has resulted in a whole new set of questions from environmental and human health 'watchdog' groups, regulatory officials, park and recreation administrators, and most importantly of all – parents—that simply must be answered.

by Mike Goatley, Jr. in the Extension Turfgrass Specialist at Virginia Tech, in the Crops and Soils Environmental Sciences Department and the Board Advisor for VSTMA. ([goatley@vt.edu](mailto:goatley@vt.edu))

**EVERGREEN**  
The Turf Blanket the World Relies on

- Earlier spring green-up
- Faster seed germination
- Deeper root development
- Delays dormancy in fall
- Ideal winter blanket
- Best for quick turf repairs
- Available in any size
- 3 or 7 year warranty covers

UNCOVERED... COVERED...  
EVERGREEN IS GREAT FOR BASEBALL FIELDS

©2002, Covermaster Inc. VA-STMA

**CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-387-5808**

**COVERMASTER**  
MEMBER **SportsTurf**  
Stadium Managers Ask: **COVERMASTER**  
MASTERS IN THE ART OF SPORTS SURFACE COVERS

**covermaster.com**  
E-MAIL: [info@covermaster.com](mailto:info@covermaster.com)

COVERMASTER INC., REXDALE, ON, M9V 5C3 TEL 416-745-1811 FAX 416-742-6887

## Sponsorship for Field Days

In the past, Field Days have been supported by generous donations of time and money. We hope you will consider offering your support once again. This year there are three levels of benefit for our loyal supporters, Hall of Fame, All-Star and Major League. Also, consider hosting the Pre-game Snack, Refreshment Stand or Scholarship Golf Tournament at Belmont. Registration and the Food/beverage Fee is included in all levels of sponsorship. Please sign up by May 30th by sending the form found on [www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org). If you wish to host a specific event, please call Dean Whitehead (757-594-8416 or [dean.whitehead@cnu.edu](mailto:dean.whitehead@cnu.edu)) soon.

### Hall of Fame: \$800 VSTMA Member\*

All-Star benefits plus:

- Additional locations (other than booth) for company banner/signage.
- Display and area to demonstrate up to 6 pieces of self contained equipment/attachments.
- Display and area to demonstrate unlimited number of non-powered or powered hand held/walk behind type of equipment.
- Recognition as a Hall of Fame Sponsor in all Field Day promotional publications and recaps.
- Eight Registration and Food/Beverage coupons.

### All-Star: \$400 VSTMA Members\*

Major League benefits plus:

- Display of up to 2 products and area to demonstrate.
- 1 piece of self contained equipment/attachments and unlimited number of non-powered or powered hand held/walk behind type of equipment.
- Four Registration and Food/Beverage coupons.

\* Cost increases by \$100 for each level

### Major League: \$200 VSTMA Member\*

- Static table top display in one 10' x 10' area. Display of products/equipment in booth area only. Table & chair provided.
- Static Table Top signage &/or canopy, provided by Vendor.
- 2 ½ hours of dedicated vendor time on June 18, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- Mailing List of all Field Day Attendees.
- Two Field Day Registration and Food/Beverage coupons.

**DURATURF**  
Sports Field Design, Construction & Renovation • (800) 358-8283 • Richmond, Virginia

### WHEN THE GAME IS ON THE LINE...



#### ...YOU HAVE BETTER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT THAN FIELD CONDITIONING.

At Smith Turf & Irrigation, we know how important your athletic fields are to you. From irrigation systems to reel and rotary mowers, from line painters to conditioning, raking or grading products, from drag mats to aerators, we have the equipment you need to get the job done right. Let our team recommend a lineup that matches your goals and your budget, so the only thing you have to worry about is winning.



**SMITH TURF & IRRIGATION**  
VIRGINIA • NORTH CAROLINA • SOUTH CAROLINA • TENNESSEE • WEST VIRGINIA • BERMUDA



Office 1.800.752.7931 • Orders 1.877.828.8734  
[www.smithturf.com](http://www.smithturf.com)

*Are you a patriot?*  
Do you stand up beneath incredible pressure? Do you do what's expected, even when the odds are against you? Then you'll understand why they call one of the best new transition zone bermudagrasses Patriot. It has what's required to get the job done and keep going. Now available in your area from Oakwood Sod Farm.

**OAKWOOD SOD FARM**  
29307 Waller Rd • Delmar, MD • 800-379-8488

# 2008 Field Days Registration

## For 2008 VSTMA Member

- Registration is FREE, send in by June 4th
- Pay \$10/person for Food/Beverage Fee (breaks, dinner & lunch).

## For NON-Member\*

- \$40 if registered by June 4th.
  - \$45 if registered after June 4th and walk-ups
  - Cost includes \$10 Food/Beverage Fee
- \*Membership to VSTMA is only \$30-\$50 (depends on classification), so consider becoming a member. Applications can be found on [www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org).

**Hotel** arrangements have been made with Springhill Suites, Marriott, at a special VSTMA rate of \$89/night. Call 804-217-7075 to reserve your room.

## Vendors

You will be able to set up a display on Wednesday morning. Because the RF&P Park will be used for games on Tuesday night, equipment has to be set up Wednesday morning. If you wish to be a sponsor for this event please contact us for the vendor's registration packet or go to [www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org)

Raffle Donations? List your item (>\$25 value)

\_\_\_\_\_

## I would like to play in the VSTMA

### Scholarship Fund Golf Event on June 17th

The 9-hole 4 person captain's choice tournament will be held at Belmont, the County of Henrico's PGA championship course. Belmont is located at 1600 Hilliard Road, Richmond, VA.

- Shotgun starts at 10am, arrive by 9:30am.
- The cost is \$30/person (cart included).
- Register as team of single player.
- Prizes for low gross, closest to the pin, and longest drive.
- Field is limited to first 10 teams (40 players).

Name of team organizer or single player:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

List others on your team:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

**For Directions and More Information Go to [WWW.VSTMA.ORG](http://WWW.VSTMA.ORG)**

Cost of Field Days \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Golf Tournament \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration to: Jody Daniels, Executive Assistant  
PO Box 117; Blacksburg, VA 24063-0117  
Call 540-818-0396  
Email [vstma@vstma.org](mailto:vstma@vstma.org)  
Fax: 540-231-7630

We offer 3 methods of payment:

Checks: please mail payable to "VSTMA"

Credit Card - Most Secure: You may submit your application by mail, fax or e-mail. If you would like to pay with a credit card, please use [www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org) and click on Events. Please note that you do not have to own a PayPal account. Most credit cards are accepted.

Credit Card - Almost as Secure: We will enter the card into the PayPal system. Send us the

1) credit card number \_\_\_\_\_

2) exact name on the card \_\_\_\_\_

3) expiration date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

4) security number on the back of the card \_\_\_\_\_ or send us these numbers via email.

## VSTMA

### Board Of Directors

- Dean Whitehead, President
- Josh McPherson, Vice President
- Allison Moyer, Secretary
- Jimmy Rodgers, Treasurer
- Sam Doak, Information Officer
- Bob Studholme, Past President
- Larry Divito
- Vince Henderson
- Rodney Hopkins
- Marc Moran
- Dave Myers
- Jesse Pritchard
- Mark Roberts

Mike Goatley, BOD Advisor

### VSTMA Professional Position Posting

Positions are posted on [www.vstma.org/classifieds.php](http://www.vstma.org/classifieds.php). If you have jobs available or you are looking for a job, please send your information to [vstma@vstma.org](mailto:vstma@vstma.org). We will also post goods for sale or trade by non-vendors.

Executive Assistant, Jody Booze-Daniels  
[vstma@vstma.org](mailto:vstma@vstma.org) ~ 540 818-0396

## VSTMA

### Field Days

### Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament

June 17-18th

RF&P Park

Henrico County Parks Div.

Located within the Meadow Farm Park Museum Glen Allen



WWW.VSTMA.ORG

Calendar  
SportsTurf Events

- ✓ June 17-18 VSTMA Field Day 2008; RF&P Park, Henrico County Parks Div
- ✓ Aug. 19-20, VT Turfgrass Research Field Days, Blacksburg
- ✓ Dec. 8-10, Virginia Turfgrass Short Course, Blacksburg
- ✓ January 13-17, 2009, STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition, San Jose, CA

**SPORTSTURF**  
VIRGINIA  
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION  
Experts on the Field. Partners in the Game.  
VSTMA  
P.O. Box 117  
Blacksburg, VA 24063-0117

Prst Std  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Blacksburg, VA  
Permit No. 158