Expo 2005 – The “Taj Mahal” of Turf Education!

By Brad Park*
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It’s no coincidence that the New Jersey’s annual Mecca of turf education just happens to be held at the Taj Mahal – and attendees are spared purchasing plane tickets to India!

The famous Trump property in Atlantic City was the location of the New Jersey Green Industry Expo 2005 from December 6-8. Presented by The New Jersey Turfgrass Association, Expo 2005 was held in conjunction with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of NJ, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension, United States Golf Association, and Sports Field Managers Association of NJ (SFMANJ).

Sponsored by Fisher & Son, Inc., the opening Sports Field Managers Session on Tuesday, December 6 featured Amy Fouty, CSFM. Ms. Fouty is the Athletic Turf Manager at Michigan State University and is responsible for the high-profile Spartan Stadium, home of Michigan State's football team. Her work in providing a premier playing surface for the Big Ten Spartans is a prime illustration of how proper turfgrass management can result in a well-performing natural surface.

Tuesday afternoon began with a five-person panel consisting of grounds managers, an athletic director, and administrator. Moderated by Don Savard, CSFM, SFMANJ Vice-President, the panel provided viewpoints related to communication and developing positive relationships. Many of the ideas generated by the panel could be applied by those in attendance to their own workplace environments.

Following the General Session on Wednesday morning, December 7, a fine lunch was provided to all those in attendance compliments of Storr Tractor Co.

Pesticide credits were made available to those certified.

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Eleanor Murfitt-Hermann is presented a plaque by Don Savard, CSFM at Expo 2005 in recognition of her service as SFMANJ President from 1999-2005.
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applicators in attendance following the Wednesday afternoon Sports Field Managers session. Jeff Fowler, Penn State University Cooperative Extension, described research linking increased pesticide exposure to those applicators who do not use gloves when handling pesticides. Dr. George Hamilton, Rutgers University, provided an update on the controversial New Jersey School IPM law and a spirited discussion among those in attendance ensued.

Wednesday afternoon also featured Mike Andresen, CSFM. Mr. Andresen is the Athletic Turf Manager at Iowa State University and is also President-Elect of the national Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). He addressed the issue of synthetic infill turf management as well as described techniques for maximizing limited finding for athletic field maintenance.

As always, Expo proved to be a great source of information and networking. We’ll see you next year in A.C. for Expo 2006!

* Brad Park is Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors; and Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor. at Rutgers University.

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