The 31st Annual New Jersey Turf and Landscape Conference and Expo will be held December 5-7, 2006 at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ. Expo 2006 is proudly presented by New Jersey Turfgrass Association and New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association. Cooperating organizations include Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey, and Rutgers University.

The Expo 2006 sports field managers program will feature a School IPM session on Tuesday afternoon, December 5, from 1:00-4:00 pm. The concept for this session began at last year’s Expo following a talk on the NJ School IPM law. Numerous questions were raised and confusion and aggravation were the overwhelming tone of the discussion. Recognizing the need to bring clarification to this controversial subject, an entire afternoon has been devoted to School IPM. The IPM session will begin with talks describing how to implement conventional turfgrass and indoor IPM practices. A representative from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will follow and will be taking questions on the current School IPM law. Lastly, a panel consisting of New Jersey sports field managers will provide insight as to how they notify school faculty and staff, students, and parents prior to making pesticide applications on the school properties for which they are responsible and conform to the current law.

The Field of the Year for 2006 will be awarded at SFMANJ’s Annual Business Meeting as part of Expo 2006 on Wednesday, December 6 at 1:00 pm. Trenton Field (see above) at Delaware Valley Regional High School, Frenchtown, NJ was awarded the Field of the Year in 2005.
A total of two core credits and four Category 3B credits will be available to the Certified pesticide applicators in attendance during the sports field managers’ sessions. Offering applicators the recertification credits needed for their jobs is an important aspect of Expo.

Because synthetic surfaces are becoming a greater part of the sports field landscape, Expo has again been designed to address the issue of synthetics. Dr. A.J. Powell, University of Kentucky, will be speaking on cost comparison between natural and synthetic fields. Joel Taylor, Haddonfield Twp., will follow by describing his experiences with a synthetic infill system a year after installation. These synthetic talks are scheduled for Tuesday, December 5 as part of a session beginning at 9:00 am.

Expo 2006 will also feature an Early Bird Sports Field Managers Networking Roundtable. Based on its success in 2005, a similar Roundtable will be held on Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30 am. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A hallmark of the annual Expo is the trade show. The trade show grand opening will be at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, December 6 with free food and beverages to be served. The partnership between NJTA and NJLCA will have the effect of bringing many new vendors to Expo 2006. The trade show is also scheduled for Thursday, December 7 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Lunch will be served on the trade show floor.

Registration for Expo 2006 is easy! Registration can be done online by visiting www.njturfgrass.org or printable mail-in registration forms can be accessed on this site. Additional information can be obtained by calling 215-757-6582. See you in Atlantic City!

* Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers University; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

Calendar of Events

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