Sports Turf Managers Association

Brad Park
SportsFieldManagers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ)
will once again collaborate with the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) and Rutgers University to take part in the annual Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day at the Rutgers Adelphia Turfgrass Research Farm in Adelphia, N.J. Both a morning trade show and equipment demonstrations will be sponsored by SFMANJ.

This is a great opportunity for SFMANJ members and other Green Industry professionals to network with peers and industry representatives, examine the latest product offerings at the trade show, see the latest sports field and landscape equipment in action during the demonstration period, and learn about selecting and managing turfgrass. Pesticide credits will be available to those certified applicators in attendance.

The schedule for August 1 is as follows:

7:30 am Registration and Trade Show Opening
8:45 am Welcome
9:00 am Research Tours
11:00 am Lunch and trade show
12:00 pm SFMANJ Equipment Demonstrations
2:00 pm Research Tours
3:00 pm Conclusion – pesticide credits

Look for registration materials in the mail. Online registration will be available in June 2007 at the NJTA website: www.njturfgrass.org

Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

Rutgers Turfgrass Club Tours Shea Stadium

As a sports field manager, you need lightweight, dependable, versatile equipment to keep the grounds in top shape. Binder Machinery Company is the sole source for tractors, child size and other light equipment you need to do just that. With a wide range of products and the expertise to support them, with service and parts, Binder Machinery can help you stay on top of your game too.

The Rutgers Turfgrass Club was provided the unique opportunity to tour Shea Stadium, home of the New York Mets, on April 20, 2007. Shea Stadium, located in Flushing, NY opened in 1964 and has an immaculate playing surface managed by Bill Deacon, Head Groundskeeper.

As part of the tour, Deacon described the pre- and post-game irrigation tactics he employs to manage the infield skin. The turfgrass at Shea is a blend Kentucky bluegrass; the entire turf surface was re-sodded last fall. A great “take-home” lesson for the students was Deacon’s thoroughness in selecting the Kentucky bluegrass sod for the ballpark. Deacon visited the New Jersey sod farm where the Kentucky bluegrass was grown to inspect the sod for overall turfgrass quality as well as annual bluegrass contamination prior to harvesting.

(continued on page 10)
The tour moved to the Shea Stadium outfield where Deacon described his fertility program and soil testing schedule. He core cultivate, removes cores, and top-dresses with sand identical to the sand comprising the rootzone.

Moving into the center field, sunflower seeds, presumably left by Carlos Beltran or an opposing player, were scattered throughout the defensive location routinely played the center fielder.

Deacon discussed the techniques he uses to manage the deepest portion of the ballpark: the warning track. Generally considered by baseball enthusiasts to be a “pitcher’s ballpark,” the stadium extends to 410-ft to straightaway center, 338-ft down the lines, and 371-ft in the “alleys.”

The on-field tour concluded with a visit to the visitors’ bullpen where Deacon elaborated on how he manages the clay used to construct the bullpen mounds.

In 2009, the Mets will be moving into a new ballpark being constructed in what was formerly a parking lot surrounding Shea Stadium. The students walked-up several ramps in left field to a location where they could see the new ballpark being built. Following the Mets’ move-in, Shea will be dismantled.

After the tour, the Rutgers Turfgrass club was treated to the Mets’ game against the Atlanta Braves – tickets were compliments of the New York Mets.

Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

Bill Deacon applies water to the home plate area prior to the Mets’ game against the Atlanta Braves.

The scoreboard at Shea Stadium is a defining feature of the Mets’ home in Queens.