SFMANJ Has a Busy Summer in 2008

STMA Regional Educational Event a Success

By: Kim Heck

Sports Turf Managers Association held a regional educational event and field day at Lincoln Financial Field (home of the Philadelphia Eagles) and Citizens Bank Park (home of the Phillies) on June 27, 2008. Six STMA-affiliated chapters supported the program: the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO); Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ); Sports Turf Managers of New York (STMONY); Chesapeake Chapter of STMA; Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association (VSTMIA); and New England Sports Turf Managers Association (NISTMA).

Emcee Dan Douglas from the KAFMO chapter, kept the more than 150 attendees moving to the various events throughout the day. Dr. John Sorochan, University of Tennessee, started the program with a presentation about how new bermudagrass can successfully be grown in the transition zone. He also presented cool season turf management later in the day.

Jeff Fowler, Penn State Extension, challenged attendees to make personal changes to help them be better sports turf managers during his “7 Habits of Highly Effective Sports Turf Managers” presentation.

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SFMANJ Summer Trade Show and Equipment Demonstrations

By: Brad Park

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) once again collaborated with New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) and Rutgers University to take part in the annual Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day at the Rutgers Adelphia Turfgrass Research Farm in Adelphia, NJ on July 30, 2008.

A morning trade show and equipment demonstrations were sponsored by SFMANJ. The trade show consisted of eleven vendors and saw significant attendee traffic between 7:30 and 9:00 am.

Education was provided by Rutgers faculty, staff, and graduate student researchers. The program included updates on new perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass varieties, updates on pesticide regulations, breeding for brown patch resistance in tall fescue, and broadleaf and grassy weed control.

As a new programming format for 2008, vendor-sponsored equipment demonstrations were incorporated into educational tours. This format proved to be successful as large numbers of attendees were present when the latest turf maintenance equipment was being operated for all to witness.

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STMA Regional Educational Event a Success

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Tony Leonard, Director of Grounds for the Philadelphia Eagles, who hosted the event, his assistant Dan Shemesh, and Dr. Sorochan conducted a tour of the field and discussed the equipment used and the overall field management practices.

Mike Boekholder, head groundskeeper for the Philadelphia Phillies, showcased his field, highlighting specific recovery techniques he has been implementing over the past two weeks since the June 14 Jimmy Buffett concert.

A ‘Chapter Challenge’ was conducted that tested a team from each chapter on agronomic questions. The winning chapter, VSTMA, won a registration to the STMA Annual Conference, to be held Jan. 13-17, 2009 in San José. Philadelphia Eagles and STMA merchandise also was given away during a raffle.

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Kim Heck is Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS.

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SFMANJ Summer Trade Show and Equipment Demonstrations

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Following the educational stops and equipment demos, lunch was served and pesticide credits were awarded. Pesticide recertification credits were available for applicators in New Jersey as well as neighboring states including Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The 2008 Field Day was yet again a great opportunity for SFMANJ members and other Green Industry professionals to network with peers and industry representatives.

See you at Expo 2008 in December!

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

SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2008

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is announcing its annual Field of the Year (FOY) contest.

ELIGIBILITY:
- Must be a current member of SFMANJ
- Only one school and parks/athletic field are eligible
- Must be a natural grass field

CRITERIA:
- Award will be presented based on:
  - Playability and appearance of the playing surfaces
  - Five self photos & one composite photo possible
  - Describe your maintenance program and what you did to improve your FC
  - Describe yearly budget used for this field
  - Field file in new sport groups in your photo

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:
Entries are to be submitted by mail and must be received by September 30, 2008. Entries are limited to one entry per facility, along with your name, position, and contact number.

Mail to:
SFMANJ 2008 FOY Contest
PO Box 370
Amesbury, MA 01913

AWARDS:
Winner will be honored with a plaque at New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December 2008 and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ (Winter newsletter). The winner will also receive a free one-night stay at the Trump Taj Mahal Atlantic City and three days of education and trade show admission.

NOTE:
Photos will not be returned and may be used on SFMANJ website and promotional materials.

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