The recent Sports Field Managers Association of NJ (SFMANJ) Spring Field Day held at the Northern Burlington County Regional School Facility in Columbus, NJ turned out to be another great event. Despite blustery conditions, we had a great turn-out of both attendees and vendors. Special thanks go to our commercial members Northern Nurseries and Green Pro Materials who donated materials for demonstrations and seminars. Our thanks go to Turf Trade for sponsoring early morning refreshments. Also, sincere thanks go to all of the vendors who took part in this year’s Spring Trade Show. As always, your support of SFMANJ events is greatly appreciated.

The next event we are looking forward to is the annual Rutgers Research Field Day which will be held July 31, 2013. There will be a change of venue for this year’s Research Day. The usual Rutgers Adelphia farm will not be able to host the event this year as an infrastructure upgrade project will be taking place over the summer. The alternative site for this year’s program will be Rutgers’ Hort Farm II Research Facility located in North Brunswick, NJ. This temporary change in venue will require SFMANJ to scale back the trade show to a tabletop only event. Although we’re breaking the tradition of incorporating turf equipment demonstrations into the educational program, SFMANJ wanted to continue to give its commercial members an opportunity to have face time with attendees and continue to support Rutgers Turf Research. Keep an eye out for registration information through mailings and website updates.

SFMANJ is currently working on revamping its Field of the Year Program. The FOY program is a great tool for recognizing our members’ efforts in maintaining the playability and safety of their fields. Maintenance efforts often go unnoticed by the majority of people that use the fields and/or those who finance maintenance resources. This recognition program can be a great tool for bridging the common gap between organization leaders and field managers. Over the summer months, a committee will be analyzing the current criteria and guidelines for the Field of the Year program and how to best implement a new system of localized district representation to help with the application and selection processes. Contact the SFMANJ office if you would like to serve on the field of the year committee. It’s one of the many ways to get more involved in SFMANJ business and provide directors with valuable feedback. We hope to hear from you soon and look forward to seeing you in July.