SFMANJ Spring Field Day in Hammonton Hits a Homerun

by Don Savardo, CSFM*

It was perfect! The weather was warm, the program was terrific and the tours were outstanding. The 2005 Spring Field Day was held in Hammonton, N.J. this year on April 6, 2005. We met under the water tower at the Grounds Maintenance shed at Hammonton High School. Frank LaSasso and his team of Groundskeepers had everything ready for us. While enjoying coffee and donuts (courtesy of GSI Consultants-Turfcon), we visited and got registered. After a welcome and a brief introduction from our President Eleanor Hermann, we started the tour.

Frank LaSasso brought us to his Varsity baseball field and gave us an overview and history of the complex, from peach orchard to school campus, explaining how he and his crew have overcome some of the problems and challenges of a new site. Frank also gave us some tips on how he prepares his baseball field for games. Jim Hermann CSFM-Total Control gave us a very timely presentation on the Ten Points to a Safe and Playable Infield. A good Q&A session followed.

Next it was off to the Football Field (one of the best high school fields I've seen) where Frank explained how they keep the field in top shape. Dr. Jim Murphy-Rutgers gave us a very informative presentation on White Grub Management in Athletic Field Turf. A good Q&A session followed.

Field Day tour included cutting of big roll sod.

Betts Family from Tuckahoe Sod Farm

Continued on page 4