

APRIL FIELD DAY ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!

It was a dark and stormy night!..Oop's wrong story. It was a wonderful, sunny day. 15 vendors attended the field day. There were door prizes donated by the vendors. The day was full of classes and demonstrations. Participants were able to purchase turf books & SFMANJ shirts.

We experienced the results of how a turf blanket can give turf a boost for spring. The first demonstration showed a side by side comparison seeding and core aerating with and without a blanket in a warm goal area. The second demo showed a blanket placed on existing turf so participants could see with and without comparison of turf growth. In both situations the results were impressive.

Landscape Plus worked with Plainsboro six weeks prior to the field day to demonstrate how geese control works. The turf was vacuumed of all droppings. The geese control product was applied and the area was monitored. Jeff, DPW Supervisor, stated, "The next day 2 geese were standing off but near the field that was sprayed. The geese were on an adjacent field but never came back to the sprayed area even after several rains." This was another impressive demonstration.

Participants saw first hand, thanks to Jim Gavigan of Lesco, how to build a pitchers mound and modify a batters box utilizing clay bricks.

Dr. James Murphy of Rutgers and Dr. Henry Indyk of TurfCon explained the results of the soil test they had taken on the site. They also explained how they developed a turf maintenance program based on the results of the test.

Since baseball fields were our main focus Jim Hermann of Total Control explained how to grade an infield, remove a lip, install bases and groom an infield properly.

Dr. Steve Hart of Rutgers enhanced our knowledge on weed control.

We saw an informative demonstration by Dr. John Grande of Rutgers Extension Services on sprayer calibration and efficient spray tip selection.

Ann Waters of DEP explained IPM and the changes in the pesticide regulations.

Since irrigation is a very important subject this time of year, Art Elmers of Storr Tractor showed us how to trouble shoot potential irrigation problems, replace worn parts and prepare a system for the new season.

In addition, the vendors were given the opportunity to describe their products and equipment. Plenty of food was served. Lots of questions were answered. The responses to our field day survey were very positive and provided many suggestions to make our next field day an even greater success.

Thank you speakers, participants and vendors for supporting Sports Field Managers Association. A very special thank you to Plainsboro Township, Jeff Cramer and his wonderful staff for donating their complex and helping us put on this special day. Don't forget the volunteers who put the field day together. Kudos to the volunteers. If you would like to

volunteer your time to help with the next field day or if you have a complex, where SFMANJ can hold a field day, get in touch with Fred Castenschild, the Activities Chair at (908) 722-9830.▲

COMING SOON. Field Day August 8th Will be Held in Bernards Township

Our focus on this field day will be on soccer, lacrosse and football fields. You will learn how to read a soil test, devise a maintenance plan for your field and write complete specs when sourcing out the work or purchasing product ...and much more. Find out five ways to renovate and maintain a goalmouth which can be utilized for your entire field. Come see how to use the equipment you will need to maintain your fields. See demonstrations on how to use the equipment. Get your questions answered by the professionals.

Participants and sports field managers: Registration forms will be mailed in June. If you would like to sign up sooner call us at (908) 236-9118 or e-mail us at sfmanjchapter@netscape.net for forms.

Vendors: Vendors who participate as an exhibitor will be able to schedule their equipment for demonstrations. Letters will be sent in the mail to commercial members and previous field day vendor participants by May. Any other vendors who would like to participate please call us at the above number for information.▲

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SFMANJ at 908-236-9118