

## First Annual District #2 Infield Symposium:

by Jim Hermann, CSFM

Our first annual infield symposium was held November 6<sup>th</sup> at William Warren Park in Woodbridge, NJ. The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Middlesex County Parks Department for providing this location. Storr Tractor Company of

Somerville, New Jersey sponsored the day. During and after lunch we had the opportunity to inspect infield-grooming equipment provided by both Storr Tractor Company and the Middlesex County Parks System.

Approximately 30 sports field managers attended the symposium.

Managers traveled from as far as Delaware to participate. Although the weather didn't permit access to the playing fields, the indoor facilities allowed for a slide show presentation provided by Fred Castenschiold. The presentation was a step-by-step documentation of the spring preparation for a skinned infield at Delaware Valley Regional High School. After the presentation, we discussed the priorities in infield maintenance. Jim Hermann, CSFM, monitored the discussion. Many in attendance contributed a lot of good information and all who attended viewed the program a success. ♦

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## Field Tip

Shoot first and ask questions later. When grading or renovating your infield, use a transit level to shoot elevations of turf perimeters, base paths, base inserts, home plate, pitchers mound etc. Document these elevations to use as a reference any time drainage or other problems arise. Water typically requires a 1% slope (1/8" per foot) to flow freely off an infield. Try to maintain a minimum of 1% slope on all skinned areas.

Note: Whenever shooting elevations, always shoot a benchmark. This is the elevation of a stationary object in the close vicinity of your infield such as a catch basin, head wall etc. This benchmark can be use as a reference to correlate changes in field elevations caused by wear, erosion, lip buildup etc. If your benchmark reads 4' this time and 5' the next time you are taking shots, all you need to do is add 1 foot to all your documented elevations and they will be relative to your new shots. ♦

## **SFMANJ Shirts For Sale**

If you are a member of Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey, you may be interested in owning a collared knit shirt with our logo. To purchase one of these fine shirts just send a check for \$25.00 to SFMANJ