

## Expo was even more in '04!

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From Tuesday, December 7 – Thursday, December 9, 2004, the New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Expo lived-up to its billing as “*Even more in '04*” by providing numerous educational sessions for green industry professionals including sports field managers, lawn and landscape personnel, and golf course superintendents. As usual, the location of Expo – The Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ – proved to be a great location for learning, networking, and playing the slots and table games on the floor of a world-class casino.

The sports field sessions commenced on Wednesday afternoon with talks focusing on construction of natural and synthetic turf fields. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey board member Jeff Cramer delivered a talk describing his own personal experiences dealing with sports field construction problems. Jay Warnick, BYU-Idaho, gave a very pertinent talk on synthetic infill system management as many fields in New Jersey are being converted from natural turf to synthetic infill surfaces.

Following the Wednesday afternoon educational session, the Expo trade show resumed and included a new twist for 2004. A Mardi Gras atmosphere was incorporated into the trade show and featured a live Dixieland band, numerous entertainers, and as was customary for the Grand Reception held in past years, good food and cold drinks.

As is commonly the case, managing turfgrass and infield mixes are seldom the limit of responsibilities held by the typical sports field manager; therefore, Don Russo, a recreational facility consulting engineer, was invited to speak on Thursday morning to discuss surface restoration of running tracks.

A highlight of Expo 2004 was the inclusion of renowned sports field manager Floyd Perry to the program. Floyd's talk titled, “Work harder, not smarter” detailed practical, innovative techniques one can use to improve fields. Floyd spoke again in the Thursday afternoon session and discussed strategies to improve sports

field safety and subsequently reduce the potential for costly litigation.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey held its annual business meeting on Thursday afternoon to elect and re-elect board members for the upcoming year. Rob Shortell, a Rutgers student, was awarded a scholarship on

behalf of SFMANJ at the meeting. In addition, Ken Mathis, Jeff Cramer, and the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science were recognized for hosting the three SFMANJ field days held in 2004.

It's never too soon to begin thinking about next year's Expo. Be sure to keep an eye out for New Jersey Turfgrass Association mailings and updates in SFMANJ's newsletter for program and registration details for Expo 2005. See you in '05! ♦

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