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environment of constant climatic change. It is difficult to predict with any certainty what the weather is going to be like next week, but we try to be decisive, make plans and manage our enterprise with confidence. Our sports fields have unique characteristics which challenge us. It seems as though there is always something new to learn and to explore. Whether the problem is the soil, drainage, compaction, weeds, insects or disease, we find the solution by attending field days and short courses, reading the publications and networking with our peers. We might be limited by our resources, but we seem to find creative and new ways to use the money, tools and materials that we do have.

We get to wear many hats- turf grower, soil scientist, repairman, surveyor, equipment operator, budget manager, engineer, salesman, coworker, psychologist and trash picker upper. Whether we stay on one site, or move about multiple sites, we have the capability to touch the lives of many people, from the people who own the field, to the player athletes, to the fans, with all the coaches, administrators, contractors, vendors, and sponsors in between. It seems like we have hundreds of bosses, all of whom give us the opportunity to solve a problem.

Sometimes the problem is not what we think it is. Is it a turf problem, a people problem or maybe it is not our problem at all? We try to understand what the problem is. Turf problems seem easier to solve than people problems. That is because people problems begin when we want them to change something. People are resistant to change. We begin to solve people problems through communication. ♦

SFMANJ Heads South for Fun in the Sun April 6th Field Day

By Jim Hermann

Join us April 6, 2005 at Hammonton High School for a tour of their new facility. After a brief introduction by Eleanora Hermann, president SFMANJ, Frank LaSasso, field manager for Hammonton High School will begin the tour with an overview of the new complex featuring a wide range of athletic fields & construction related problems.

As we move on to the Softball & Baseball fields, Frank will share with us his infield maintenance program, the results of which will be seen in the quality of his infields. Brad Park, Rutgers University, Cook College will review the results of a physical soil analysis performed on the infield mix and how their infield mix compares to the ASTM (American Society of Testing Materials) standard. Jim Hermann, CSFM (Certified Sports Turf Manager), Total Control Inc. will review ten points in a safe and playable infield

Learn first hand from Frank, the day-to-day problems and challenges he faces with his newly constructed football field. Dr. Henry Indyke, Turfeon will discuss understanding and implementation of effective construction specifications and the profound effects they have as seen in the Hammonton complex.

Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University, Cook College will be on hand to discuss soil characteristics and

turfgrass selection & establishment. Don Savard, CSFM, Salesianum School will demonstrate and talk about the proper use of "turf blankets", and the potential benefits to be had through correct application

Brad Park, Rutgers University, Cook College will discuss implementation of IPM practices utilized in an effective pre & postemergence selective weed control strategy.

All in attendance will have the opportunity view first hand the inputs and outcomes of proper turf and athletic field management and receive valuable recertification credits.

After the conclusion of the tour we will proceed a couple miles down the road to Tuckahoe Turf Farms Inc. growers of fine turf sod. There we will enjoy lunch provided by Tuckahoe Turf Farms. Immediately after lunch and a brief introduction by Don Savard we will have the opportunity to meet with our respective SFMANJ district representatives to discuss the objectives and desires of the individual districts. If you have ideas or requests for workshops, seminars or field days in your neck of the woods, this is your opportunity to express your thoughts.

The district meetings will be followed by a guided tour of the sod farm. You will have the opportunity to view Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue in various stages of development and learn production, harvesting and installation practices from one of the most reputable growers in the industry. Pesticide credits will be offered at the conclusion of the day.

Join us for this unique opportunity to learn from the experiences of other professionals in the industry and network with sports turf managers in your district. You can find a registration form on our website at www.sfmanj.org or call 908-730-7770 if you did not receive a flier in the mail.

**Jim Hermann, CSFM is on the Board of Directors of SFMANJ and President of Total Control Inc. ♦*

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