August Field Day Recap: Hot Temperatures & Cool Equipment

By Brad Park, Rutgers University park@aesop.rutgers.edu

What began as a concept in late '04 materialized into reality on a hot, sweltering day in early August at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm. The newly named 2005 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field day, co-sponsored by SFMANJ and New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA), was held on August 3rd and, as in past years, consisted of turfgrass education. As a new twist for 2005 and as a result of the hard work of SFMANJ and NJTA, a trade show and equipment demonstrations were incorporated into the format.

The day commenced with a trade show in which 22 vendors from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland exhibited their goods and services to the field day attendees. A large group of attendees flowed from booth-to-booth as part of the early morning session where vendors had the opportunity to "take the mic" and individually discuss their products.

Following the trade show activities, the turfgrass education portion of the program began. The topics of the morning education session included new herbicide developments presented by Dr. Steve Hart, advances in tall fescue breeding described by Dr. Bill Meyer, and a description of the 2000 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program Kentucky bluegrass trial and cultivar screening to Velocity herbicide shown by Dr. Stacy Bonos and 2004 SFMANJ scholarship recipient Rob Shortell.

While lunch is always a favorite part of SFMANJ and NJTA events. it was especially welcomed this year as the shade provided by the trees at Adelphia gave a much-needed break from the 90° + temperatures.

Following the catered lunch, it was time to "wave the green flag" and begin the equipment demonstrations. Fred Castenschiold, Bruce Wild, and Kevin Hoban of Storr Tractor Co. tagteamed to show-off the latest pieces from Toro. Gregg Carey, Farm-Rite, Inc., was next to receive time on the floor and described several machines manufactured by JCB. The attendees moved down the trade show line and Dennis DeSanctis Sr., Aer-Core, Inc., elaborated on a BLEC-manufactured unit he brought to the show. The final demonstration stop took place in front of the Wilfred-MacDonald booth where Bernie White described the newest offerings from Jacobsen.

A special thanks goes out to all those vendors who sponsored door prizes awarded throughout the demonstrations including Aer-Core, Inc (hats), DVH Athletic Turf (Target gift card), Gerard Brothers, LLC (pullover), Jonathan Green (seed), Pennington Seed (seed), Rain Bird Corp. (jacket), and The Terre Company (seed). Sports Field Managers

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Calendar of Events

New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference – Nov. 14,15,16,17 in Atlantic City Convention Center For more info go to www.njslom.com

NJTA EXPO 2005 – Dec. 6,7,8 – Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ – questions call 215-757-6582

STMA National Convention – Jan. 18 – 22, 2006 Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center Lake Buena Vista, Fla – Special room rates \$135 sign up now. Go to www.sportsturfmanager.org

NJRPA 30th Annual Conference and Exhibition – March 13-16 at Ballys in Atlantic City



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Assoc. of NJ also donated 2 golf shirts and 2 free individual memberships for the door prizes. Additionally, Doug Spencer and Gerard Brothers, LLC, are graciously acknowledged for donating Club Car drink and people mover utility vehicles for use during the field day.

The day culminated with a final hour of turfgrass education on topics including white grub control and pesticide safety presented by Dr. Albrecht Koppenhofer and Dr. George Hamilton, respectively. In addition to practical turfgrass education and exposure to the latest products offered by green industry vendors, the attendees received New Jersey DEP pesticide credits totaling 5 Category 3B and 1 Core for braving the blazing temperatures and attending all the sessions.

Thank you to all those who came to Adelphia and also all those vendors who purchased booth space and demonstrated equipment. We'll see you at Expo in Atlantic City in December! - Brad ◆

\$500 Student Scholarship Available

To apply email or mail a 500word essay on "Why you think you deserve this scholarship" by Nov.2nd. Include:

• Name, address, email

• Your declared major and grade point average

• Classes, seminars or field days you have attended concerning sports field management

• Accomplishments concerning the turf industry

Internships

• Plans for the future

• Student must be a member of SFMANJ in good standing

The recipient will be awarded the scholarship at the NJTA Expo (SFMANJ business meeting) in Atlantic City in December 6th at 1pm.