

UPDATE



May/June, 2007 • Vol. 7, No. 3
e-mail: hq@sfmanj.org • www.sfmanj.org

RUTGERS LAWN, LANDSCAPE AND SPORTS TURF FIELD DAY: SFMANJ to Sponsor Equipment Demonstrations at Rutgers Adelphia Turfgrass Research Farm ~SAVE THE DATE – August 1, 2007~

Brad Park

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) will once again collaborate with the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) and Rutgers University to take part in the annual Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day at the Rutgers Adelphia Turfgrass Research Farm in Adelphia, NJ. Both a morning trade show and equipment demonstrations will be sponsored by SFMANJ.

This is a great opportunity for SFMANJ members and other Green Industry professionals to network with peers and industry representatives, examine the latest product offerings at the trade show, see the latest sports field and landscape equipment in action during the demonstration period, and learn about selecting and managing turfgrass. Pesticide credits will be available to those certified applicators in attendance.

The schedule for August 1 is as follows:

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 7:30 am | Registration and Trade Show Opening |
| 8:45 am | Welcome |
| 9:00 am | Research Tours |
| 11:00 am | Lunch and trade show |
| 12:00 pm | SFMANJ Equipment Demonstrations |
| 2:00 pm | Research Tours |
| 3:00 pm | Conclusion – pesticide credits |

Look for registration materials in the mail. Online registration will be available in June 2007 at the NJTA website:
www.njturfgrass.org

Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

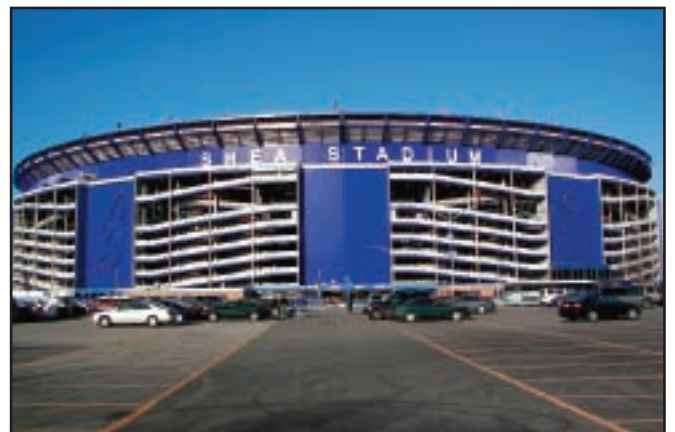
Rutgers Turfgrass Club Tours Shea Stadium

Brad Park

The Rutgers Turfgrass Club was provided the unique opportunity to tour Shea Stadium, home of the New York Mets, on April 20, 2007. Shea Stadium, located in Flushing, NY opened in 1964 and has an immaculate playing surface managed by Bill Deacon, Head Groundskeeper.

As part of the tour, Deacon described the pre- and post-game irrigation tactics he employs to manage the infield skin. The turfgrass at Shea is a blend Kentucky bluegrass; the entire turf surface was re-sodded last fall. A great “take-home” lesson for the students was Deacon’s thoroughness in selecting the Kentucky bluegrass sod for the ballpark. Deacon visited the New Jersey sod farm where the Kentucky bluegrass was grown to inspect the sod for overall turfgrass quality as well as annual bluegrass contamination prior to harvesting.

(continued on page 10)



Shea Stadium was used as a staging area for the relief efforts following the September 11, 2001 attacks at the World Trade Center. The Rutgers Turf Club had the opportunity to tour Shea Stadium on April 20, 2007 and attend the ballgame that evening, compliments of Head Groundskeeper, Bill Deacon and the New York Mets.

Rutgers Turfgrass Club

continued from page 1

The tour moved to the Shea Stadium outfield where Deacon described his fertility program and soil testing schedule. He core cultivates, removes cores, and top-dresses with sand identical to the sand comprising the rootzone.

Moving into the center field, sunflower seeds, presumably left by Carlos Beltran or an opposing player, were scattered throughout the defensive location routinely played the center fielder.

Deacon discussed the techniques he uses to manage the deepest portion of the ballpark: the warning track. Generally considered by baseball enthusiasts to be a "pitcher's ballpark," the stadium extends to 410-ft to straightaway center, 338-ft down the lines, and 371-ft in the "alleys."

The on-field tour concluded with a visit to the visitors' bullpen where Deacon elaborated on how he manages the clay used to construct the bullpen mounds.

In 2009, the Mets will be moving into a new ballpark being constructed in what was formerly a parking lot surrounding Shea Stadium. The students walked-up several ramps in left field to a location where they could see the new ballpark being built. Following the Mets' move-in, Shea will be dismantled.

After the tour, the Rutgers Turfgrass club was treated to the Mets' game against the Atlanta Braves – tickets were compliments of the New York Mets.

A special thanks goes out to Bill Deacon and the New York Mets for providing the Rutgers Turfgrass Club with a personalized tour of Shea as well as tickets for the ballgame that evening.

*Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor.,
Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member;
and Editor, SFMANJ Update*



Bill Deacon, Head Groundskeeper, NY Mets (left) describes his turfgrass management techniques to (left to right) Bruce Culver; Dr. Rich Hurley, Turfgrass Specialist; Dr. Bruce Clarke, Director, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science; and Tim Sibicky, President, Rutgers Turfgrass Club



Straight edge. The margin of the outfield turfgrass and warning track is meticulously maintained by Bill Deacon and his staff.