

# UPDATE

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**Sports Field**  
**Managers Association** of New Jersey



## SPRING FIELD DAY AT SHORE REGIONAL/ MONMOUTH PARK: SFMANJ at its *Best*

by Matt Olivi

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) held its annual Spring Field Day on May 7, 2008. Using a multi-venue program seemed to be an effective way to cater to the many educational interests and turf management concerns of the New Jersey membership. In the morning, attendees had the opportunity to view the many turf fields that make-up the sports complex facilities at Shore Regional High School in West Long Branch, NJ. The afternoon portion of the field day was hosted at the Monmouth Park Race Track facilities nearby.

After some early morning refreshments sponsored by the Viersma Companies, field day attendees made their way outside to the turfgrass facilities at Shore Regional High. Facilities Manager Marco Oliveira presented turfgrass management techniques and summarized field hockey maintenance operations at the school. Once attendees had been familiarized with the facilities, they were able to view several educational demonstrations that were presented by turf management experts from all over the state. Dr. James Murphy, Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University, explained how New Jersey turf managers could use soil testing to optimize the cost effectiveness of fertilization programs. In combination with irrigation auditing techniques that were presented by CSFM Don Savard of the Salesianum School in Delaware, members were provided with invaluable educational tools for maintaining their natural turf.

Educational techniques pertaining to infield skin surfaces were also covered in presentations by Scott Bills, Northern Nurseries and Sean Connell, Georgia Golf Construction, Inc. Attendees were able to view a laser demonstration that

instructed them how to use such equipment to grade their infields properly in order to effectively manage surface drainage and maintain a necessary constant slope across the entire infield. The demonstrators promoted laser equipment as a relatively inexpensive tool for drastic maintenance improvements to infields with common drainage problems.

The morning portion of the program was concluded with several equipment and product demonstrations by reputable New Jersey vendors. Demonstrations were presented by leading turfgrass equipment dealers such as The Viersma Companies, Storr Tractor Co., and Wilfred McDonald Inc. Attendees were able to view some of the newest mowing, aeration, topdressing and infield maintenance equipment as well as

infield amendments and conditioning products that are available to them to better manage their turf fields. All of the vendors in attendance helped to demonstrate the innovation of the newest technology in sports field maintenance equipment.

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### SFMANJ Equipment Demonstrations at Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day at Adelphia Research Farm

**SAVE THE DATE — Wednesday, July 30, 2008**

By 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 Field Day at the Rutgers Adelphia Turfgrass Research Farm in Adelphia, NJ. Both the morning trade show and equipment demonstrations will be sponsored by SFMANJ.

As a new programming format for 2008, vendor-sponsored equipment demonstrations will be incorporated into the educational tours. Additionally, the conclusion of the Field Day will coincide with lunch at 1:00 pm.

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*Marco Oliveira, Facility Manager, ARAMARK-Shore Regional High School describes the management strategies he employs to maintain his field hockey field as part of the SFMANJ Spring Field Day 2008.*