

# SFMANJ and the 2009 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Research Field Day

By Debbie Savard

The Adelpia Field Day was a great success this year, thanks to all of you who attended along with the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) membership. A blimp even made an appearance overhead. For those who did not attend, here are some of the highlights.

## Highlights of the day

The day started out cool and misty, but would soon turn hot and muggy for the 400 attendees to the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Research Field Day on August 5, 2009. SFMANJ sponsored a trade show and equipment demonstrations as part of the day's festivities.

There were twelve stops all together on the test fields of the Rutgers' Adelpia Research Farm in Freehold, New Jersey. Stops were timed and three groups switched between stops when signaled with an air horn. Stops included plots where testing was being done on tall fescue, perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass. Some of the test plots were rated for heat tol-

erance of grasses. Some plots assessed weed control (including crabgrass control strategies), while others tested the effects of granular and foliar fungicides or the wear tolerance of a particular turfgrass.

Our vendors demonstrated their equipment at a series of stops. At one stop, Jim Gates demonstrated the Bannerman SuperJect Aerator Machine and Jason Sennell of Blec International demonstrated a Combinator, which strips off the top layer of a field and is adjustable as to depth. Jason said that he could strip a soccer or football field in a day. James Betts, Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc., was there with his Big Roll Installer to lay down a roll of sod the exact size of the Combinator's removal. James said that he could deliver sod up to 1.5-inch thick for next day play. There's nothing like teamwork. A completely renovated field in three days!

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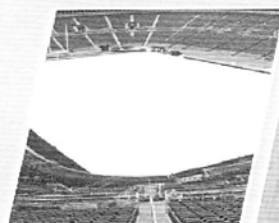
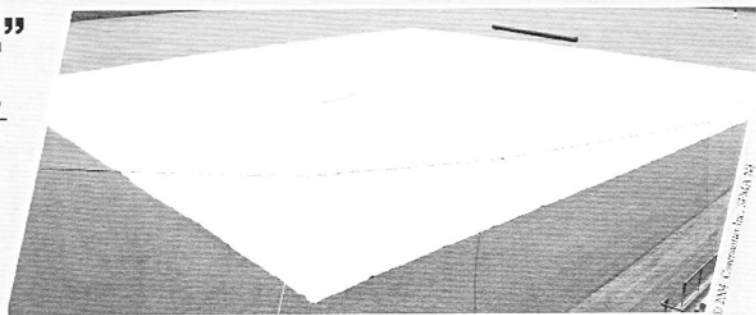
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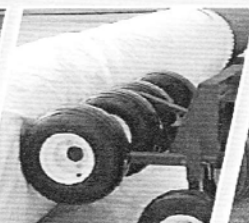
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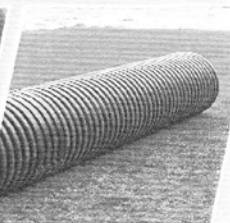
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Ken Indyk and Fred Castenschiold from Storr Tractor, and Lou Bosco of Turf Equipment and Supply Company demonstrated a Toro Workman, a quieter four wheel drive and a Pro Force Blower, which will move about 10,000 cu/ft a minute. A real highlight for the crowd was when Fred turned the blower on the group for a refreshing "breeze" on a day that was already turning into a scorcher. Thank goodness for the water carts, that were constantly refreshing attendees. Also demonstrated was a Toro Groundmaster 5900, which has three mowing decks, covering 16 feet and a Case IH DX55 Tractor with an aerator.

The Viersma Companies were on-hand to demo their Waterwick Turf Drainage System that drops sand down into slits, made with its 6.0 to 7.0-inch deep blades. Mike Viersma said that with this system, play can resume on the field the same day. And to make it look as though work had never been done on it, he came behind with his Sisis Broom and erased all evidence. The broom can also be used on synthetic fields for grooming. Glenn Musser, from TurfTime Equipment demonstrated a TurfTime Top-dresser.

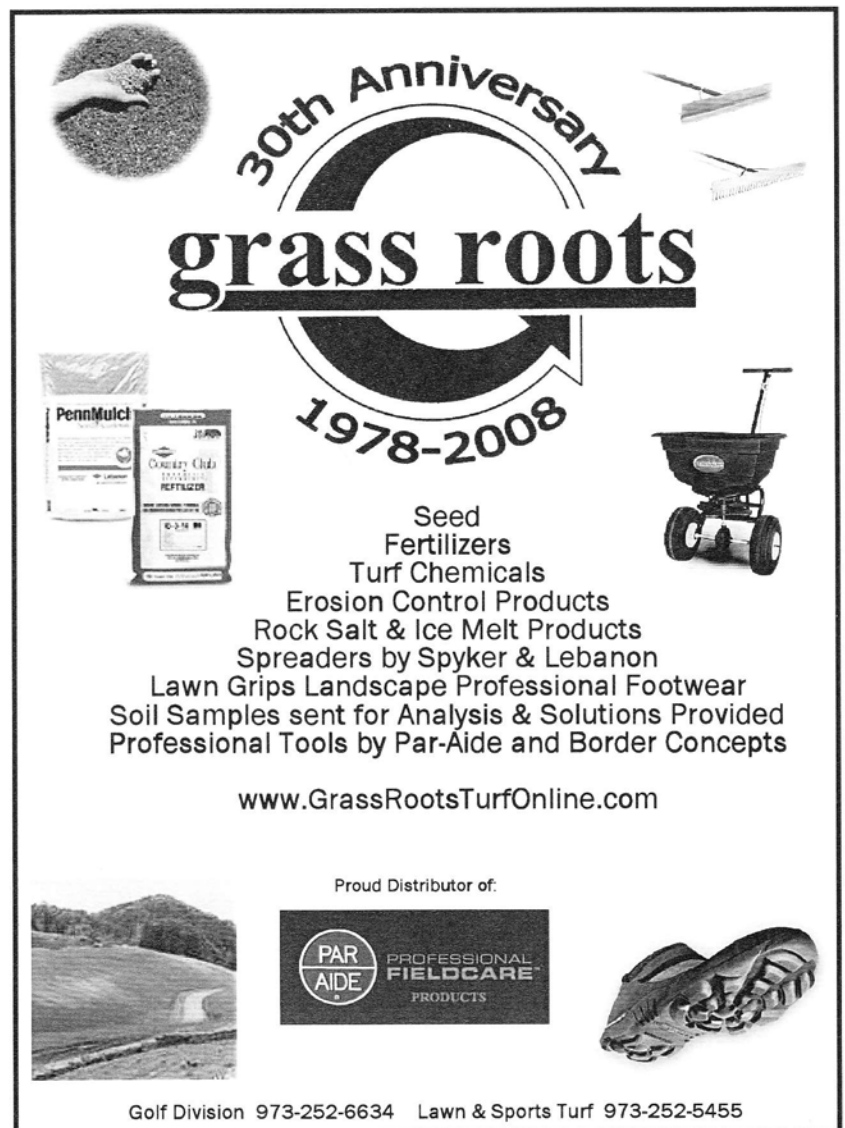
At another stop, Dennis DeSanctis, Sr. of AerCore, Inc. demonstrated his dethatching Thatchmaster and a Blec Sandmaster, which will cut and fill with sand 8.0-inch deep channels for drainage. He also showed the group a Drill and Fill, which drills holes then fills them with sand (or other fine material of your choice), used for compacted soil as well as drainage.

Dr. Jim Murphy from Rutgers University, addressed the group regarding concepts related to renovation and the importance of making sure that your soil does not become too compacted. He discussed different ways to break up the soil to produce seed beds.

After our 12 stops on the scorching fields, we were treated to a barbecue lunch amid a grove of trees beside a beautiful, calm pond. There was even ice cream for dessert. It was a well-earned rest before the last session of the day, a pesticide safety talk, given by Pat Hastings, Rutgers University.

Pesticide credits were awarded as the vendors started packing-up. A great day had come to a close and all that participated had a good time. Thanks to everyone who helped make the Adelpia Field Day a success!

*Debbie Savard is  
Executive Secretary, SFMANJ*



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