



A Recap of SFMANJ Fall Field Day 2009

By Matt Olivi

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) held its annual Fall Field Day on September 23, 2009. The Association was fortunate enough to have its turf managers from Monroe Township host this year's event. Monroe was the recipient of the 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year award and proved to be the perfect place for the membership to gather this fall. Those who attended this year's fall event had the opportunity to tour two of the town's many sports field complexes, take a look at some of the newest turf management equipment on the market, and even earn pesticide credits through an educational seminar provided by Rutgers University.

Located at Monroe Township's newly constructed soccer complex, this year's fall event began with a satisfying breakfast donated by Northern Nurseries and The Viersma Companies. This provided a great opportunity for attendees to network and catch-up with old friends in the turfgrass industry. After formal introductions, SFMANJ President Don Savard, CSFM, CGM kicked-off the educational portion of the program with a spreader calibration demonstration. The demo provided attendees with a chance to see how to properly and effectively calibrate a large spreader to achieve desired application results. In addition to the hands-on demonstration, Don took the time to explain to the audience some of the concepts of spreader calibration such as gauging proper ground speed during an application and calculating the appropriate amount of product to be used in such applications.

Once Don had completed his presentation, he began passing the microphone to the many vendors who sponsored this year's event and gave them an opportunity to share and even



Tom Torpey, Sports Field Manager, Monroe Township, NJ, describes the management practices he employs to maintain his 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year – which also served as a location for the 2009 SFMANJ Fall Field Day.

demonstrate some of the quality turf products and equipment available to sports field managers. Attendees were able to listen to and interact with professionals from companies such as John Deer Landscapes, Northern Nurseries, and TurfTrade

who each had display booths showcasing their turf products and services. Storr Tractor Company began the vendor demonstrations by introducing Liam Philpott who explained the concepts of using lasers to mark sports field boundaries. After setting-up and calibrating his laser equipment, Liam constructed perfectly straight, professional stadium-grade sidelines and goal boxes on one of the nearby soccer fields. He then gave attendees the opportunity to



Don Savard, CSFM, CGM and SFMANJ President discusses spreader calibration at the 2009 SFMANJ Fall Field Day, September 23, 2009, Monroe Township, NJ.

Continued on page 5