

UPDATE

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e-mail: hq@sfmanj.org
www.sfmanj.org

Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey



EXPO 2007 - ANOTHER GREAT SHOW IN ATLANTIC CITY!

By Brad Park



Dr. Mike Goatley, Virginia Tech, spoke at the New Jersey Turf and Landscape Conference and Expo in December 2007. In January 2008, Sports Turf Managers Association awarded Dr. Goatley the Dr. William H. Daniel Award, acknowledging an individual who has significantly contributed to the sports turf industry through research, teaching and extension outreach.

The 32nd Annual New Jersey Turf and Landscape Conference and Expo was held December 4-6, 2007 at the Trump Taj Mahal. Presented by New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) and New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association (NJLCA), cooperating organizations included Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey (GCSANJ), Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), and Rutgers University.

Expo 2007 featured talks by Dr. Mike Goatley, Extension Specialist, Virginia Tech on “*Management Strategies for High Traffic Fields*” and “*Elements of Sports Field Construction*”. Dr. Goatley was recently awarded the prestigious Dr. William H. Daniel Award at the Sports Turf Managers Association Conference in Phoenix, AZ (January 15-19, 2008). The award acknowledges an individual who has significantly contributed to the sports turf industry through research, teaching and extension outreach.

Kevin Trotta, Grounds Manager, North Rockland School District, delivered his talk titled, “*Environmental Turfcraft for Sports Fields*” in which he encouraged those in attendance to consider the environmental impact of those decisions one makes as part of their work-related responsibilities.

Synthetic infill fields were again addressed in 2007 as Ken Mathis, Superintendent Brick Township Parks described his own experiences in the process selecting a synthetic infill field. Kevin Malone, CSFM is the Turf Manger

at Columbia University in New York City. He discussed the important subject of managing synthetic infill fields.

Other out-of-state speakers included Rich Watson, Turf Supervisor for Belvedere Property Management on Long Island and Mike Kelley, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Polytech High School, Woodside, Delaware. Rich elaborated on the turfgrass IPM methods he employed while previously working in a Board of Education setting in New Jersey. Mike described the methods he used to establish Bermudagrass on his football field situated in what is typically classified as the “transition zone.”

Members of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Board of Directors also spoke at Expo 2007. These Board members included: Don Savard, CSFM, CGM; Jim Hermann, CSFM; and Brad Park, Editor, *SFMANJ Update*.

The Expo 2007 trade show proved to be an excellent location to investigate the latest product offering from green industry vendors, network with other industry professionals, and take advantage of the complimentary food and drink. Similar to 2006, this year’s trade show brought new vendors to the trade show floor and subsequently introduced attendees to new products and services resulting from the NJTA-NJLCA partnership.

As this January/February issue of *Update* is being assembled, printed, and mailed, Expo 2008 is already in the early stages on planning. SFMANJ and other organizations involved with Expo hope to see everyone in Atlantic City in December 2008 for 33rd Annual New Jersey Turf and Landscape Conference and Expo.

* Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coord., Rutgers University; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, *SFMANJ Update*



Brad Park, Rutgers University, Editor, *SFMANJ Update*, and SFMANJ Board Member (l) presents Rob Shortell, Rutgers Graduate Student and SFMANJ student member (r) with the 2007 SFMANJ Student Member Scholarship.