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Clippings

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PGMS Salutes Baker Field Athletic Complex for Grounds Management Excellence

The Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) recognized the Baker Field Athletic Complex in New York, New York with an Honor Award in the Society's 2008 Green Star Awards competition. The award was given in the Athletic Fields category for exceptional grounds maintenance. Winners were honored during the Society's 2008 School of Grounds Management held in conjunction with the GIE+EXPO in Louisville, Kentucky, October 22-25.

Located in New York City, Baker Field is a six acre sports complex, home to Columbia University's sports teams that includes a stadium and track, field hockey, baseball and soccer fields as well as a boat house with a floating dock. Managing an array of landscape varieties, the grounds crew of 10 was recently put to the test as they had the challenging task of installing new synthetic surfaces to replace the natural grass fields for the baseball, soccer and field hockey fields.

NYSTA member, Frank Molina, Supervisor of Grounds at Columbia University (left), accepts the 2008 Green Star Award from PGMS Past President, Greg Nichols.

NYFVI Names DeBuck Producer of the Year

The New York Farm Viability Institute named Leonard DeBuck a Producer of the Year Award recipient. The award is based on a producer's willingness to promote farm-based/producer-driven research projects and share ideas and results of research studies. DeBuck owns and operates DeBuck's Sod Farm in Pine Island, New York, with his wife Valerie and son Greg.

DeBuck got involved in a two-year experiment with sod production via a NYFVI-funded Cornell University study examining production methods that will grow sod at a faster rate, thus decreasing production costs. The research trials at DeBuck's farm focus on decreasing time to harvest by using different levels of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus. Another growing method under examination is voluntary regrowth after harvesting a field. Martin Petrovic, Ph.D., a horticultural professor with Cornell, is working with the DeBucks on the project. Results of the study will be available in late 2008.

