

UPDATE Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

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A Message from The President

By Matt Olivi

The off-season is over and we are ready for another year of doing what we do best. As we scratch-up our infield skins for the first time this year we have an opportunity to apply all of the new knowledge that we've acquired over the winter months from the various educational programs we've attended. Several members of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Board of Directors attended the annual Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Conference in January. As always, STMA put together a very informative educational program. SFMANJ was well represented on the national stage this year by two of our local chapter Directors. Brad Park from Rutgers University and Past-President Don Savard from the Salesianum School were honored as guest speakers on the program. Also representing our local association were the two Student Challenge teams from Rutgers University and the County College of Morris. SFMANJ was proud to sponsor both teams. Our thanks to all of the students who took part in the challenge as they also represented us well. We look forward to working with the next generation of up and coming sports field managers.

Local educational opportunities for sports field managers will be available throughout the year. SFMANJ will be hosting its annual Spring Field Day on Thursday, April 19, 2012. This year we'll be heading north to Ginty Park located in Morris Township, New Jersey. Be sure to join us early for morning refreshments and catch-up with friends and colleagues from all over the state. After breakfast, we'll roll up our sleeves, test out some infield grooming equipment and show you a few tricks of the trade. Then, we'll move to the outfield and best management practices for maintaining healthy turfgrass will be discussed. These proper cultural practices will be demonstrated in the practical applications of topdressing and aeration. This will be the main focus of our educational program and demonstrations will feature some of the best equipment available from local distributors. After the conclusion of our demonstrations, we'll fire up the grill and have lunch. We'll continue our educational program after lunch with a risk assessment seminar featuring Dr. Neil Dougherty, Rutgers University. Brad Park, Rutgers University will conclude the day with a presentation describing how to read and interpret a pesticide label. Distribution of NJ pesticide recertification credits will immediately follow. Admission to the Field Day event will be free of charge to all pre-registered SFMANJ members. Be sure to keep an eye out as further updates, program details and registration information will be coming your way.

As sports field managers it is always in our best interest to be aware of any legislation that affects our maintenance practices. We are all aware of the Fertilizer Regulations that were passed into law last year. Since then, Rutgers University has been working hard to develop a Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training Program. The online program is up and running and available for all sports field managers to stay in compliance with state law. The certification process is outlined in detail at www.profact.rutgers.edu. We encourage all Sports Field Managers to study the related material and if necessary, become a certified applicator.

The SFMANJ Board of Directors looks forward to seeing you at upcoming educational events. We will continue to make all of the informational and educational resources you need available to you as we move forward. All members are always welcome to attend monthly board of directors meetings and are encouraged to contact us with questions, comments and concerns.

Matt Olivi is Sports Field Manager, Piscataway Board of Education, Piscataway, NJ; and SFMANJ President

Student Challenge . . .



SFMANJ sponsored four Rutgers students to participate in the 2012 STMA Student Challenge in Long Beach, CA in January 2012. Pictured (l-r) Kyle Genova, Rutgers Student; Brad Park, Rutgers University; Erik Taylor, Rutgers Student; Kevin Rundstrom, Rutgers Student; Nick Delmar, Rutgers Student; Matt Olivi, SFMANJ President; Don Savard, CSFM, CGM, SFMANJ Past-President.



A team of three County College of Morris (CCM) students was sponsored by SFMANJ to participate in the Student Challenge at the 2012 Sport Turf Managers Association Conference held in Long Beach, CA in January. Pictured (l-r) Matt Olivi, SFMANJ President; David Los, CCM Student; Giancarlo Sarrullo, CCM Student; and Dan Colyer, CCM Student.