

# UPDATE Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey



Winter 2014  
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P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070 • 856-514-3179 • www.sfmanj.org • e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

## A Look Back at 2014

By Brad Park, Rutgers University

# It Was a Very Good Year

Our annual Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days were held during their usual week of the year in 2014 (July 29-30). The most repeated comment I encountered during the two days in late July was that 2014, up until that point, had been a great year for growing turf.

Traditionally, the period from early-July through mid-August is the toughest stretch in which to grow cool-season turfgrass in our region. The weather during this time of the year is often hot, humid, and riddled with afternoon thundershowers triggering the development of diseases such as brown patch and Pythium and rapid maturation of crabgrass, goosegrass and other summer annual weeds. Similarly, it's not uncommon for prolonged hot, dry weather during July and August and irrigation becoming the subject of most turf talk.

Weather data recorded by Office of the New Jersey State Climatologist revealed that New Jersey experienced below average temperatures and above average rainfall during July and August 2014 – a great combo for growing cool-season turf in the summer. See: [climate.rutgers.edu/stateclim/](http://climate.rutgers.edu/stateclim/)

The weather during our Rutgers Field Days exemplified the observations. The morning lows on July 28 and 29 were 58° and 54°, respectively. It was the first time since coming to New Jersey in 2003 that I ever recalled sweatshirts and light jackets being worn during the morning hours of our Field Days.

September was a great month for establishing turf – if you had irrigation. During September 1 to 25 (ideal timing to seed/establish cool-season turfgrass), Central Jersey received only 0.8 inches of rainfall. The dry weather allowed soils to be manipulated without severe degradation of structure and seedbeds to be prepared without excessive compaction. The lack of rainfall provided plenty of seeding 'windows' to get seed in-the-ground without interference from Mother Nature. Moreover, the dry weather allowed turf managers to use their irrigation systems to control the quantity and frequency in which water was delivered to new seedings, as opposed to witnessing heavy thundershowers wash-out seedbeds and ruin one's hard work and lead to inconsistent turf cover. At our Rutgers Hort. Farm 2 location in New Brunswick, we capitalized on the dry conditions during this period and seeded numerous turf trials prior to September 15.

### Oveseeding

Strong arguments can be made for Municipalities and Boards of Education to outsource numerous sports field management tasks to qualified contractors as opposed to performing these tasks in-house. These operations may include athletic field construction, laser grading/renovation of skin surfaces, application of fertilizers and pesticides, installation of big roll sod, and custom cultivation such as deep tining/deep slicing.

Routine overseeding of perennial ryegrass to high traffic locations such as goal creases and field centers should be examined as an in-house maintenance activity if not already being performed. Using a rotary spreader to introduce the perennial ryegrass to these 'fields within the field' as Dr. Dave Minner (Iowa State) coined them, and subsequently allowing athletes to cleat-in the seed during the normal course of play to achieve necessary seed-to-soil contact is an effective strategy to maintain turf cover in these locations.

Adopting perennial ryegrass overseeding as an in-house operation allows school and municipal turf managers better control over seed selection, seeding timing (i.e. immediately before an event on the field), seeding rate, and the ability to add/delete seedings based on the effectiveness of the overseeding program.

Contractors are in a strong position to provide one time seeding events, either prior to a sports season or at the conclusion of a season, particularly in conjunction with core cultivation.

During the 2014 NJ State League of Municipalities Conference held in Atlantic City in November, Adam Simmons, Turf Manager, Borough of Glassboro, and SFMANJ Board of Directors, and myself presented sports field and grounds information to Park and Recreation officials. I was impressed with a case study in which Adam presented where he described taking-over sports field fertilization as an in-house

Continued on page 13

# 100

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# Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 298 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2014 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 856.514.3179 or download the membership form available at [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org). Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

William Buffa	Northern Burlington BOE
Scott Killiam	Killiam Irrigation Contractors
Joel Taylor	Hadden Twp. BOE

## Welcome new members from our 2014 Fall Field Day

David Andrascik	Twp. of Woodbridge
Dave Balint	Twp. of Woodbridge
Frank Burlew	Central Regional School Dist
Bob Claffy	Middlesex County Parks
John Dasilva	Middlesex County
Don Fantozzi	Wayne Twp.
Hector I. Figueroa	Jersey City DPW
Al Gareffa	Middlesex County
Shawn German	Middlesex County Parks
Carl Gess	Middlesex Vocational Schools
Campbell Gray	Glassboro Parks and Rec
Kim Huszar	Twp. of Woodbridge
JR Kelly	Central Regional School Dist
Amun D Khufu Ra-El	Middlesex Vocational Schools
Joe Leahey	Middlesex Vocational Schools
Frank Locke	North Brunswick Twp.
William Lovelace	Jersey City DPW
James Lyczowski	Twp. of Woodbridge
Gage Malinowski	County College of Morris
Albert Martin	Twp. of Springfield
Doug McGee	Quality Cut, Inc.
Jerry McGee	Quality Cut, Inc.
Frank Merrill	County College of Morris
William Patten	Twp. of Woodbridge
Ryan Radcliffe	Middlesex Vocational Schools
Andrew Remm	North Brunswick Twp. Parks
Nathan Rivers	Jersey City DPW
Frank Russo	North Brunswick Twp. Parks
Luis Sanchez	Twp. of Woodbridge
Charles Skennes	Cinnaminson BOE
Scott Thomas	Middlesex Vocational Schools
Ron Tyburczy	Twp. of Springfield
Francise X Villafane	Jersey City DPW
Thomas Wisniewski	Twp. of Springfield

## Welcome New & Renewed for 2015

William Buffa	Northern Burlington BOE
Keith Fisher	Toms River BOE
Jim Iannetti	Middlesex Borough Parks Dept.
Bernard Luongo	Northern Burlington County Reg School Dist.
Giancarlo Sarullo	Bala Golf Club
Joel Taylor	Hadden Twp.
Craig Tolley	County College of Morris

# 2014 SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS

President .....Matt Olivi, Piscataway BOE  
 Vice President ..... Rich Watson, Deptford Township Schools  
 Secretary .....Scott Bills, CSFM, Sports Field Consultant  
 Treasurer .....Sean Connell, Georgia Golf Construction

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Fred Castenschiold.....Storr Tractor Co.  
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 Kevin Shipman .....Kingsway Regional High School  
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 Advisor .....Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University  
 Advisor .....Ray Cipperly, Middlesex County Vo Tech Schools  
 Executive Secretary .....Debbie Savard

## MISSION STATEMENT

Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

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**National Organization**  
 Sports Turf Managers Association  
[www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org)

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Look Back at 2014 .....	Cover
New and Renewed SFMANJ Members .....	3
2014 Board of Directors .....	3
Farewell from the President .....	4
Turf and a Blanket.....	5
The Titans of Turf .....	6
2014 Calendar of Events.....	6
My Turf Went to the Dogs .....	7
Looking for Success? Look No Further than Your Staff. ....	8
Photo Recap: Rutgers Turfgrass Awards Banquet.....	9
Photo Recap: 2014 SFMANJ Fall Field Day.....	10
Photo Recap: 2014 NJ Green Expo .....	12
4 Things I like about the SFMANJ.....	14
Forget to Fertilize? .....	15
Rutgers Cooperative Extension School IPM Survey .....	16

*This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the  
**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.***

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:  
 SFMANJ at (856) 514-3179 or Brad Park at (848) 932-6327  
 Editor: Brad Park, Rutgers University, Email: [park@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:park@aesop.rutgers.edu)  
 Layout and Design: Debra Savard, Email: [debbiesavard@aol.com](mailto:debbiesavard@aol.com)

SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.



## Farewell from the President . . .

# The beginning of a New Year is always a great time . . .

by Matt Olivi



The beginning of a New Year is always a great time for us to make transitions into new projects, shift our focus and make any necessary course corrections to stay on track. Transitioning out of the lead-role has been a smooth process. Over the past year, I have been working closely with your new SFMANJ leadership team and beginning in 2015, will assume the role as Past-President. I'm excited to be able to continue to serve on the SFMANJ Board of Directors and assist President Rich Watson and Vice-President Bernard Luongo as we move forward.

I've already mentioned in the past how confident I am in the abilities of your new leadership. The combination Rich's green industry experience and Bernard's energy and enthusiasm towards developing timely educational programs make them the perfect leadership team. If you

haven't had a chance to speak with Rich and Bernard yet, be sure to do so.

I've always thought that the most valuable tool available to me as a director is the feedback of the membership. While the President and Board of Directors are tasked with the day-to-day operations of the association, you as a member play an active role in the direction that we take SFMANJ. With that being said, please continue to keep the feedback coming in as much as possible. Your support and input will always be appreciated by SFMANJ leadership.

I wish both Rich and Bernard all of the best as we start another year.

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



## Dr. Henry W. Indyk Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Science

*As many of you know, the turfgrass industry lost a dear friend and colleague in September 2005. We will all miss Henry very much and would like to insure that his legacy lives on. The Indyk family would like to establish a memorial fellowship to support graduate students interested in applied turfgrass science. This fellowship is being created to help assure that tomorrow's graduate students have the financial resources to get an advanced degree in turfgrass science at Rutgers University. To fund a full graduate assistantship each year in Henry's name, we will need to raise a total of \$400,000. Your generous support at this time will bring us closer to reaching this goal.*

*To make a tax-deductible contribution today, please send a check payable to the Rutgers University Foundation, 7 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Be sure to indicate "Indyk Fellowship, Turfgrass" in the memo portion of your check. If you desire, you may provide a donation in the form of a pledge payable over several years.*

*For information on other ways to support this fellowship, please contact  
Dr. Bruce B. Clarke, Director – Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science  
(848) 932-6295, ext. 331; or [clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu) or*



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# TURF AND A BLANKET



By Bernard Luongo

Turf in a Blanket sounds like a meal, "Pigs in a Blanket". "Grubs in a Blanket".

When I first started in this business I knew absolutely nothing. I watched as fields we tried to take care of get utterly destroyed. What do I do now? I thought to myself, "Look at this mess".

So I attended classes at Rutgers and read how other turf managers managed their fields. In addition, I also attended Field Day events, while there I picked-up some great tips from vendors, contractors and turf managers. I was instructed how to aerate and fertilize.

So what about all those worn spots your fields have? I learned to overseed and when the best time to do so.

What about late season sports? For example, football that sometimes extends into early December and can really destroy a field. Growing grass in the northeast in the extreme winter months without help was truly impossible. I tried for two years without any success. Although, the birds that were still around relished in it. In the spring the grass that was there grew but the bare spots were overtaken by clover and weeds; another sub-par year for our football field.

Five years ago I attended the Green Expo in Atlantic City and found my magic cure, "Growth Blankets". I asked the Rep many questions

and got the answers I to which I was looking. I felt awesome on the drive back home - but that was the easy part. I was convinced that it would work but I now had to sell it to "The Powers to be," to invest the money. This took another year!

Finally after another sub-par football field season and many field visits by the "Powers to be", they finally were willing to give it a shot. Not the whole field mind you, just between the hash marks (considerably less costly this way). Since it was an experiment, they were not going to invest a lot of money. But no pun intended, "the seed was planted," .... I got my turf blanket. I was excited!

We core aerated that football field, tore-it-up some more, laid the seed down, covered it with the blanket and secured it with the sod staples that came with the blanket. We were all very proud of ourselves that we were going to grow grass in the winter. However, the following week I was on the phone with the factory to order the heavy duty stakes, since, we had to gently pull one of the blankets out of the bleachers and one out of the woods. Hey, it was our first year with them, still experimenting....what did we know? Also, we didn't know that we would have to deal with snowmobiles which damaged a section of one of the blankets. So FYI, for your first purchase order the heavy duty stakes, another learning experience.

*Continued on page 15*

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# The Titans of Turf

I am a grounds guy, but politically correct, a grounds person  
But make no mistake about it, we spend a lot of time cursin'.

What's up with the Titans of Turf you might say?  
That they go out and work each and every day.

They are always there with the passion and desire  
To protect the property, to support and inspire.

Why do they stand apart? What makes them a different breed?  
Is it some unwritten mythical creed?

Or is it just that they have passion and professional care  
To keep something alive that is so fragile and dear?

To be stewards of their property – the Good Mother Earth.  
Nurturing and caring as if we were there from birth.

Always struggling with Bureaucracy, budgets and the weather  
Broken down equipment and Geese that drop more than a feather.

Weeding, seeding and aerating and such,  
There is no end in sight, at times the work load is too much.

Do they give up? No. Not a chance.  
They draw a line in the soil and take a stance.

The Titans of Turf mind you are a hardy bunch.  
They've been known to skip break and work through lunch.

They work in the sun, the work in the rain  
They work when they should be home nursing a strain.

But that's what they do on a daily basis  
When out in their fields, they have smiling faces.

So let's give these Titans of Turf their due.  
It is every year the fields they renew.

So thank you Titans of Turf for a job well done.  
Tomorrow will be here – Let's hope for sun.

By Bernard Luongo  
November 4, 2014

*Bernard Luongo is Lead Groundsperson, Northern Burlington County  
Regional School District, Columbus, NJ;  
and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2015 STMA Conference and Exhibition**  
January 13-16, 2015  
Denver, Colorado  
800.323.3875  
www.stma.org



### --- 2015 RUTGERS-NJAES OCPE COURSES ---

**Organic Turfgrass Management**  
January 28, 2015



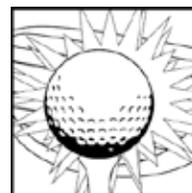
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# MY TURF WENT TO THE DOGS - Here's the Scoop on Dog Parks

by Jeff Cramer

As grounds managers, we often receive requests for special projects. When our township governing body requested we plan, construct and maintain a "dog park" (off-leash area for dogs) I realized there were many new challenges – not the least was care of the turf.

When I announced the project to my staff, most, if not all, were concerned with the impact of pet waste on staff and equipment. Shortly after the opening of the park we realized that the pet waste was the least of our maintenance problems. Long-term care of the park's turf was our major battle.

Here are some suggestions you may want to consider before installing a dog park:

## FACILITY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

- Visit other existing sites to determine impact on your maintenance program. Don't reinvent the wheel if you don't need to. You can see what is best for you by reviewing what works and doesn't work for other dog parks. Our facility was a one-acre site.
- Choose better quality fencing materials to provide a safe environment for dogs and to reduce maintenance. Use largest wire core and thickest fabric coating, install a bottom tension wire and use heavier grade posts and rails.



- Install a double-gated user entrance where owners can unleash their pets.
- Plan an equipment service gate of sufficient size for your turf equipment.
- If a water source is available, install a freeze-proof hydrant convenient to the facility.
- Do not plant trees or shrubs – they won't survive!
- Other things to consider: sitting benches, bulletin board, shade canopy, port-a-johns.

## PET WASTE CONTROL

- Post user rules and pet waste regulations at several locations.
- Install several self-serve pet waste clean-up mitten dispensers with covered and lined waste cans along the inner perimeter.
- Solicit park users to help enforce self clean-up by owners. This provided excellent results for our facility. Additional enforcement by park rangers if available. This includes pet license enforcement, control of aggressive animals, etc.



Continued on page 18

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# Looking for success?

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This article is courtesy of Sports Turf Managers Association

Your staff has a significant impact on your success. The work that they do is a direct reflection on you, your ability to train, to motivate and to lead. Reaching the goals of your facility is only possible through good management of your people and their continued development. To make sure you are fully embracing the talents of your staff, use these simple techniques.

### TOP 10 STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE YOUR STAFF

#### 1. Seek input and listen.

Your staff is a great resource for ideas and improvements. Asking for their opinions and solutions to problems, truly listening to them, and implementing as appropriate, strengthens their commitment to you and to their job. Involving your staff in decision making builds loyalty and improves retention.

#### 2. Set expectations.

Clearly and consistently set expectations for each employee through jointly written performance objectives. Good performance can't happen if they do not understand what you expect. Reinforce your expectations verbally.

#### 3. Provide continuous feedback.

Praise accomplishments, large and small, and for those projects that weren't as successful, use them as learning experiences to find out what could have been done differently. Don't wait until the end of the year at performance time to express dissatisfaction.

#### 4. Show appreciation.

Just say "thank you!" When you reward and acknowledge good behaviors, you get more of the same. Publicly acknowledge your staff for doing a good job, and look for other ways to reward their efforts. According to a Harris Poll, the top three satisfaction drivers for employees are control over their work; the opportunity to use their talents and skills; and recognition and appreciation.

#### 5. Be accessible.

By being visible and available, you send the message that you are part of the team and are ready to support their efforts to get the job done.

#### 6. Train, Train, Train.

Training in the correct procedures and equipment use is critical to getting the job done right, but also for health and safety reasons. The continuous upgrading of skills also provides employees with the means for promotion. Consider training opportunities in areas outside of their core responsibilities, such as in writing skills, public speaking, customer service, business management, etc. You and your facility will reap many benefits from improving their "softer" skills.

#### 7. Empower your staff.

Give them as much information as possible about what and why, and allow them to make decisions appropriate to their work.

#### 8. Provide a safe and comfortable working environment.

Don't expect employees to use outdated or faulty equipment. With anxieties at an all time high regarding increased terrorist activity, make sure you have emergency procedures in place to protect the workforce in the event of an attack, and ensure that every employee is aware of these procedures.

#### 9. Treat with respect.

Respect and accept each person as an important member of the team.

#### 10. Inspire your staff.

Be a coach and a cheerleader. Be sure your boss knows about the good work they do. When you help them succeed, you succeed.

*Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS*

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*For questions or more information contact  
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or **732-932-9271**

*See Calendar of Events for list of courses*

# Photo Recap:

Photos courtesy of Rutgers-NJAES OCPE

# RUTGERS Turfgrass Awards Banquet

November, 15, 2014

Rutgers Cook Campus,  
New Brunswick, NJ



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# SFMANJ FALL FIELD DAY

## Raritan Bay Waterfront Park

### South Amboy, NY

Photos by Debbie Savard

Thank you to our vendors who made the day possible



Sean Connell, SFMANJ Treasurer - Georgia Golf



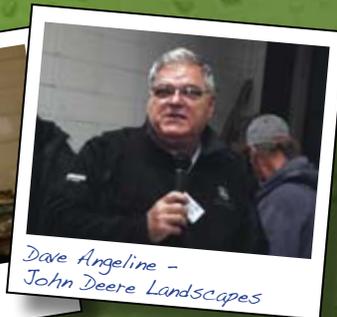
Fred Castenschild, SFMANJ Board - Storr Tractor



Zack Owen - Fisher and Sons



Bernie White - Wilfred MacDonald



Dave Angeline - John Deere Landscapes



Tom Pepe - Plant Food Company



Barry Draycott - Tech Terra



Gregg Moore - Saturated Solutions



Zak Nissenbaum - Humphry's Coversports



Mike Vierdma, SFMANJ Board - The Viersma Co.



Larry Moreland - CoverMaster



Jeff Wild and Bayer - Event Sponsor



Jim Zimmerman - TurfTime Equipment



Lori Bosco - Turf Equipment and Supply

Thank you to those who attended



Audience



Audience



Adam Simmons and Frank Rivaschiere



Matt Olivi and Zach Owen



Mike and Howard Viersma



Sean Connell, Jerry and Doug McGee



Zach Owen, Rich Watson and Matt Olivi



Audience



Sean Connell and Matt Olivi

**Thank you to our speakers**



Bernard Luongo, Northern Burlington County Reg. School Dist. - Speaker



Rich Watson, Deptford Twp Schools - Speaker



Doug and Jerry McGee, Quality Cut Irrigation - Speakers



Misty Beaver and Lindsey Curran, Rutgers Softball - Speakers



Rick Leer and George Warden, Middlesex County Parks - Speakers



Fred Castenschild, Storr Tractor - Speaker

**Thank you to those who cooked, served and enjoyed lunch**



Ken Mathis and Craig Tolley enjoying lunch



Mike Viersma, Kevin Shipman and Rich Watson



Zach Owen and Debbie Savard



Don Savard, Fred Castenschild and Adam Simmons



Lunch is served

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# PHOTO RECAP: BORGATA HOTEL ATLANTIC CITY, NJ DECEMBER 2014

Photos by Debbie Savard

## SPEAKERS



Dr. Roy Meyer



Dr. Eric Lyons



Dr. Bruce Clark



Dr. James Brosnan



## AWARDS

SFMANJ Vice President, Rich Watson  
Field of the Year Winner, Jeff Schofield  
Dedicated Service Award Winners  
Don Savard and Matt Olivi  
Field of the Year Runner-Up, Frank LaSasso.



Rich Watson



Brad Park



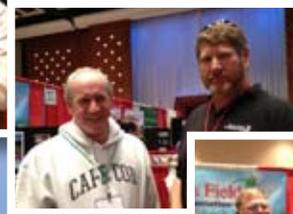
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**Ralph Henninger**  
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# A Look Back at 2014 It Was a Very Good Year

Continued from cover

maintenance activity. By performing sports field fertilization in-house, he both controlled the timing of fertilization as well as saved his town money. The savings were then invested in overseeding – which was also performed in-house. His decision making resulted in excellent turfgrass cover and playing surface conditions on the town's football field.

## Synthetic Turf in the News

A story in which I became aware via social media was an article published on the Forbes Magazine website, How Taxpayers Get Fooled on the Cost of an Artificial Turf Field (see: [www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2014/09/28/how-taxpayers-get-fooled-on-the-cost-of-an-artificial-turf-field/](http://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2014/09/28/how-taxpayers-get-fooled-on-the-cost-of-an-artificial-turf-field/)). The author is a resident of a New Jersey town that was considering the installation of a synthetic turf field at the time of the article's appearance on September 28.

The author examines economic issues associated with the cost of synthetic turf and natural turfgrass. He shares a cost analysis developed by Montgomery County (Maryland) Public Schools that projects synthetic turf costs over a 20-yr period and includes two carpet replacements in the estimate.

Invariably, the 20-year costs associated with synthetic and natural surfaces projected in the Maryland report will be subject to debate. However, the fact that the Forbes article and the Montgomery, MD analysis are taking into consideration field replacement as part of the overall cost of a synthetic surface is critical, in my estimation, as this issue is not being thoroughly considered in many Municipal and Board of Education settings.

Also noteworthy, the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA)-developed document titled, A Guide to Synthetic and Natural Turfgrass for Sports Fields, is now in its 3rd Edition and available at: [www.stma.org/sites/stma/files/EDigest/STMA%20Syn%20and%20Nat%20Guide%203rd%20edition%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.stma.org/sites/stma/files/EDigest/STMA%20Syn%20and%20Nat%20Guide%203rd%20edition%20FINAL.pdf)

Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) and the committee members who shepherded this document should be commended for developing unbiased information on a controversial topic.

## Update on Update

This issue of SFMANJ Update marks its fourteenth year of uninterrupted publication in print form. All past issues and future issues are and will be available in perpetuity at the Turfgrass Information File hosted and managed by Michigan State University.

The cost of newsletter design, printing, and distribution comes at a significant cost – a cost which I believe (as well as a majority of the SFMANJ Board of Directors) is well worth it. While other associations have reverted to email-based newsletters, we have continued to provide SFMANJ members the Association's newsletter in hard copy, providing a tangible benefit to Association members – as well as our vendors who generously advertise in our publication.

Continued on page 18

Continued from page 7

## MY TURF WENT TO THE DOGS - Here's the Scoop on Dog Parks

### TURF MAINTENANCE

- Locate the facility in a well-drained area.
- Our facility consisted of primarily Kentucky 31 tall fescue – tall fescues provide the best wear tolerance.
- Soil compaction, both the four-legged and two-legged kind, was the biggest problem, not pet waste. Aerate several times per season to help maintain a viable turf.
- Raise cutting height to 3" – 3 1/2".
- Conduct soil tests to determine soil phosphorous (P), potassium (K), magnesium (Mg), calcium (Ca) and liming needs. Apply slow-release nitrogen (N) sources to provide 3-5 lbs Nitrogen per year.
- Remove all sod at the entrance gate and replace with #10 cinders compacted over 3/4" clean gravel – the turf will never survive here.
- Use a nonselective herbicide containing glyphosate (e.g. Roundup) beneath the fence line. Keep the park closed during application until herbicide has dried.



*Jeff Cramer is a past member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors*



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# 4 Things I Like about the SFMANJ

We asked SFMANJ Board member and past president Don Savard, CSFM, CGM what he likes best about being a member of SFMANJ.

Here is his response:

## 1. Networking with other sports field professionals.

The best part of SFMANJ is the people. Being active in SFMANJ gave me the opportunity to meet other sports field managers, vendors, contractors and research academics. We have something in common. Few people are even aware of the challenges we face. Most of the people in our industry are welcoming and sincerely interested in sharing information. I have found that knowing who to go to, whether it be for purchasing materials or someone to provide a service is invaluable on the job when fast turn-around is critical. My contact list helps me get in touch with experienced people who know more than me when I need help solving a problem.



## 2. Learning.



Almost all of my “tricks of the trade” I have learned from my colleagues. By engaging with others, not only do you learn something new, but you might be teaching them a thing or two! The SFMANJ Board is always on the lookout for fresh, diverse educational content for field days and Expo. There is always something trending for the experienced professionals as well as those new to the industry. All that plus pesticide and fertilizer credits.

## 3. Service.

We have opportunities for you to be of service. Help us carry out our mission by joining a committee, helping out at one of our events, or writing an article for our newsletter “Update”. Give something back to the industry, it makes you feel good.



Continued on page 17



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# Forget to Fertilize?

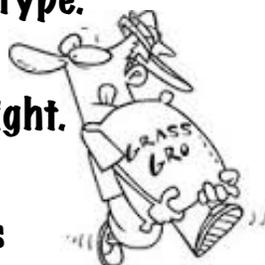
By Josephine E. Drake, Drake's Nursery, Andover, NJ

*Editor's note: This poem first appeared in Green World, publication of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (Vol. 1, No. 1) in February 1971*

**Is your lawn becoming  
Yellow, weedy or thin?  
I wonder where you were  
Or where the fertilizer's been.**

**Did you choose an organic  
Or inorganic kind?  
You've heard they sometimes burn,  
But that's really not your line.**

**You forgot to read the label:  
Or don't remember the type.  
Now what will you do -  
Your lawn is an awful sight.**



**To grow pretty turfgrass  
It's best to learn the right time.  
To fertilize if you will-  
JUST DON'T FORGET THAT LIME.**

# TURF AND A BLANKET

Continued from page 5

So, through the winter we would take a peek under the blankets and it was amazing, it felt like we were beating nature, it just grew and grew. During this time, we did take the blanket off once to mow it put the blanket back on and it grew even more. We left the blanket on until late March at which time we brought the facilities director and business administrator to view the results, it sold itself, solid turf.

After that it was easy. Now we have two full football fields covered, a third field covered between the hash marks, and on a fourth field we have certain areas targeted. Yes, we have four football fields all being utilized. Also, we purchased smaller blankets for our goal mouths for soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. It's great, it takes the pressure off seeding during that small window of opportunity that you have to seed. Also, depending upon the seeder you have it sometimes disrupts the playing surface and it can look a little messy with Coaches, kids, parents, and even geese complaining.

Ultimately, you can see that I am a huge fan of Turf Growth Blankets, they really work and it takes a lot of pressure off your grounds crew. Let's face it, we are all very busy between August and October. These blankets buy you an awful lot of time and a jump start on a healthy and safe athletic field. We are now into our fourth year of purchases, implementation and successes. Again, it all started with a trip to Green Expo. Till next time.....Keep Your Turf Warm.

*Bernard Luongo is Lead Groundsperson, Northern Burlington County Regional School District, Columbus, NJ; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*

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# Rutgers Cooperative Extension School IPM Survey

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is conducting a follow-up study of the School IPM Coordinator training program that has been offered by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Pesticide Control Program, the NJ Association of Designated Persons and Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

The purpose of this survey is to evaluate the training program you attended, plan future training programs and identify resources that will help you comply with NJ School IPM regulations.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and your responses will be kept in strict confidence. The survey is anonymous. There is no data on the survey that identifies you or your school by name. Your name will not appear in any publications or be given to any third party. There are no risks to you as a participant.

You can participate in the survey by clicking on the link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M6CV2JY>

If you have questions about the survey, you may contact Madeline Flahive DiNardo, Agricultural Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County, at [Flahive@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:Flahive@aesop.rutgers.edu) or (908) 654-9854.

Thank you for taking a few minutes of your time to participate in this survey. There is no compensation for participating in this

survey. Your responses will help us to improve and expand training programs offered for you and your colleagues.

Please note: The principal investigator (Madeline Flahive DiNardo) will do her best to protect your privacy as a research participant. Because this information is being sent (transmitted) over the Internet, there is a possibility that an outside party (such as a hacker) may be able to gain access to your information. If this survey is completed on a computer in a public accessible area, such as in a restaurant, at school or work, please understand that this can increase the possibility that others may be able to access your survey responses. Therefore, it is strongly advised that this survey be completed on a private computer to protect your privacy. Please remember to always completely close your browser (or log-off the survey area) after completing the survey.

This information will be kept confidential by preventing any other individuals' access to the research data and keeping it in a secure location. The Institutional Review Board at Rutgers University and Madeline Flahive DiNardo are the only parties that will be allowed to see the data, except as may be required by law. If a report of this study is published, or the results are presented at a professional conference, only group results will be stated.

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Continued on page 14

## 4 Things I like about the SFMANJ

### 4. Personal growth.

One of the things SFMANJ Board service showed me was that I was still teachable. From the beginning, I was asked to write articles for UPDATE our newsletter. For many of us, writing does not come easy. Writing is a useful skill on the job, and good written and verbal communication skills are just as helpful as a good mechanical aptitude (maybe more!). So I wrote a few articles for "Update", got better at writing and now have published at least 7 articles in national trade publications. I have learned how to put on field days, trade shows and how a Chapter operates. Along the way, I wanted to validate my knowledge and experience, so, I applied to the STMA Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) program. I discovered that in order to pass the test, I had to fill in some gaps in my knowledge, so I had to hit the books. After a year of preparation for the exam, I sat for the test, and was fortunate enough to pass. One thing that a certification gave me was more self-confidence. Another thing it gave me was a two pronged mandate. The first was to continue learning and improving. The other was to continue to give service to the Industry. So I still try to earn pesticide credits and CEU's whenever I can, and I remain active with SFMANJ, STMA, and other professional groups of which I am a member.



*Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and is a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*

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*Board Members Adam Simmons, Fred Castenschild and Brad Park at the NJ State League of Municipalities in Atlantic City November 18, 2014.*

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# Navigating the new password protected area on our web site!

By Debbie Savard

To use this Members Only feature you will need to use a **User Name and a Password.**

The user name for SFMANJ members will be their *first and last name* as it appears in the directory, using *all lower case letters* with no spaces. Use only the first and last name with no prefixes, suffixes or middle initials. Please check the Membership Directory, that you should have recently received in the mail, to see how your first name was entered.

For example, in the Directory my name is entered as Debbie Savard, not Debra Savard. I would enter it on the user line as: **debbiesavard.**



The screenshot shows a grey box with a question mark icon and the text: "Authentication Required. A username and password are being requested by http://www.sfmanj.org. The site says: 'sfmanj.org'". Below this are two input fields: "User Name: debbiesavard" and "Password: \*\*\*\*\* (sfmanj)". At the bottom are "Cancel" and "OK" buttons.

In lower case letters on the password line everyone will enter: **sfmanj.**

**Check out this new feature!** If you have a smart phone or tablet, you will always have access to the addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of other members.

*(Please call 856-514-3179 if your user name doesn't work.)*



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Continued from page 13

# A Look Back at 2014 It Was a Very Good Year

## Moving forward

I would like to recognize my friend Matt Olivi for his service as SFMANJ President over the last three years. During Matt's tenure, the Association consistently delivered quality educational field days to its membership, developed positive relationships with its vendor partners, maintained a sound financial position while continuing to fund scholarships and student activities, and dramatically increased its national presence as an STMA Chapter. Thanks for a job well done, Matt!

Looking ahead, in-coming SFMANJ President Rich Watson has an impressive resume. The 2013 Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Dick Ericson Award recipient brings 20+ years of experience managing school grounds to the table and his current capacity as Director of School Buildings and Grounds provides him with a managerial perspective which can only benefit SFMANJ.

**Good luck to all in 2015. See you at an upcoming Field Day.**

- Brad

## HAVE YOU CHECKED-OUT OUR WEB SITE LATELY?

- ✓ Check our Events page for upcoming events and pictures of past SFMANJ functions.
- ✓ Check our Resources page for past issues of our Newsletter Update, Minutes from past Board Meetings, links to useful information and job postings.
- ✓ Check our Contact Us page for direct links to all of the Board of Directors. Call us with any questions or comments.
- ✓ Check our Vendor page for interactive links to our advertising vendors' web sites and a complete list of all our vendors. Call them first! They are happy to answer any questions.
- ✓ Check our New MEMBERS ONLY Section on the Home Page for Membership Directory and Minutes

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Actual photo – not retouched.



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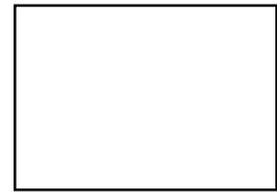
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