

UPDATE Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

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

EXPO 2015: A return to The Borgata

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EXPO:
December
8 - 10,
2015

By Brad Park

Editor's Note: This article was adapted from materials developed by Chris Carson, Golf Course Superintendent, Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield, NJ and Expo Education Chairman; and Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA)

It's time to begin planning your trip to Expo 2015. The New Jersey Green Expo will be return to The Borgata in Atlantic City, NJ during December 8-10, 2015.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS:

Credits, Credits, Credits... New Jersey DEP Pesticide Credits (and other states) are anticipated as well as New Jersey ProFACT Fertilizer Credits.

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the three days at Expo offer you a great opportunity to learn what others are doing in our business in a relaxed atmosphere. Many attendees have told us that these informal discussions are highlights of the conference!

continued on page 14



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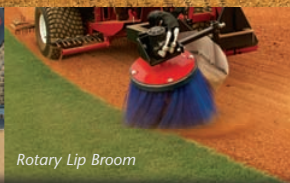
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Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

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National Organization
Sports Turf Managers Association
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*This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the
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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.



A Message from the President . . .

Fall sports season is here and hopefully your fields are holding up well.

by Rich Watson

This time of year signals the beginning of the end to a very long growing season. Speaking of this time of year, I hope to see all of you at Brick Township for our Fall Field Day on Thursday, November 5, 2015.

As President of this great organization, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), I would like to take a moment to proudly look to the future by honoring the past. Our Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Chapter has enjoyed a lot of success in recent years but our foundation was built, encouraged and carefully guided by one man some years ago.

There were many who helped get SFMANJ up and running but Dr. Henry Indyk was the driving force. He believed that New Jersey deserved an STMA Chapter to help support and develop the many sports field managers that fill our State. Dr. Henry Indyk (1921-2005), a Professor at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ for more than 30 years, was the consummate Turfgrass Extension Specialist who had an extraordinary interest in serving sports field managers, evidenced by his lead role in creating the Sports Turf Managers Association and the Certified Sports Field Manager program as well as our own Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

Henry always encouraged sports field managers to be the best that they could be through hard work, education and networking

with peers. He thought every field, no matter what level of play, deserved to be maintained properly. It was Henry's energy and enthusiasm at the Rutgers Three-Day Athletic Field Construction and Management course that motivated many of us to become the professionals that we are today. For me personally, I owe whatever professional success that I have enjoyed to the encouragement and guidance that I received from Henry. He saw something in me that others didn't and he took the time to help me become a better communicator as well as field manager. For this and so much more I will always be grateful.

Sometimes when you want to recognize the efforts of a person words come up short and the powerful work done in the past is forgotten. The best way to continue success into the future is not to forget how it started. It is with great pleasure that I announce that the SFMANJ Board of Directors has created a Founders Award. The Dr. Henry Indyk Memorial Award will honor an individual member who has demonstrated a tireless commitment of service and hard work contributing to the advancement of the both sports fields and sports field managers in New Jersey. This award will be given annually at the NJ Green Expo.

Stay tuned for more details. I look forward to seeing all of you in Atlantic City for the presentation of the inaugural award.

Rich Watson is Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Deptford Township Schools, and SFMANJ President

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IN HOUSE OR OUT HOUSE

By Bernard Luongo

Hello everyone. It has been awhile since I have written something serious. So let's give it a try and please don't let the title fool you. Since I became a grounds person, it has always been in the back of my mind how as a part of our team we can produce a better product – more efficiently and on our time schedule.

This meant having things in our control. Having control meant having the knowledge, product and equipment to do as many things in-house as practical. By doing this, it lessens the chance of your group being privatized and also removes the stigma of, "They just cut grass!"

There is no reason in the world why a grounds department cannot seed, aerate, fertilize, spread lime, build batting cages, pitcher's mounds, batter's boxes, work skins, fix irrigation issues, and yes, even have time to line fields, set-up fields, set-up goals and even cut that crazy grass.

The point being made is that the more you do in-house the more valuable your crew becomes. It saves your district money. It gives you the control over the timing of when things are done that are best for your work load and your property. It also increases the quality of your product because you can time applications to conditions, which as we all know change constantly from season to season.

Now don't get me wrong, I am not here to bash outside contractors by any stretch of the imagination. Contractors play a vital role in the success of your property. They not only help you maintain the achievements that you have accomplished, but they also move the quality of your property forward.

Let's be realistic. Boards of Education cannot afford to buy every piece of equipment needed to perform every task required for completion your property. However, they should be aware of the basics that need to be performed to at least maintain a resemblance of a quality property. Here are a few suggestions the Board of Education and you should try and achieve for the grounds staff:

1. For starters, sending the grounds staff to Field Days, conferences and classes. They should realize that an educated, knowledgeable work staff pays large dividends down the road.
2. Build a reliable, quality, stable of vendors for products and equipment. In most cases you need at least two for quoting purposes. Believe me, you won't get hurt having seven, eight or more. Just having contacts is not enough, you must build relationships with these vendors. They are your partners and are a valuable asset to help increase the quality of your product. This does not happen overnight or in a few weeks. It takes years. Just like your properties, relationships are always moving forward. Taking on the shape of the effort you put into it. You should always work on maintaining and strengthening your

business relationships that you currently have and always be on the prowl looking for new ones to assist you in enhancing your product.

3. This is the most important part of the equation: You must have a good working relationship with your Facilities Director, Business Administrator and Superintendent. They must know your intentions and goals for the property. Having them understand your intentions and goals is of the most importance if you want them to invest in your team. Basic equipment (i.e.; mowers, etc.) once secured, leads to the next level: aerating and fertilizing equipment. Explaining this can be a delicate conversation, but if you have been communicating your plight on a regular basis, they are already on board. Once this process has started, then it snowballs. It will go well beyond basic equipment and products. Items on the table will now include turf blankets, agricultural tractors, state-of-the-art infield equipment and so forth.
4. I am not here to tell you the dollar pipeline is limitless, but if you can continue to produce quality product with the same amount of people, save the Board of Education money by doing this, it really will be hard for them to say, 'no'. You have created the monster and they have to feed it and if not it would be like standing in the way of progress. Who would want to stand up and wear that title? On the other hand, you do not want to feed the Board of Education poor or incorrect information either. The recommendations that you make have to be honest, straight forward, with nothing but the best interest of the property in mind. The last thing you want to do once you have gained their trust is to do something negative or buy a piece of equipment that is not needed. If that should ever happen, then the game is over. All the hard work that was done in the past doesn't matter anymore. Make well-educated decisions, take your time, think things through and do your research. Make sure that you don't make any spur of the moment or emotional decisions.

Continued on page 18

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New Jersey Green Expo – Turf & Landscape Conference

The Borgata, Atlantic City, NJ

2015 SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS EXPO PROGRAM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015

Afternoon Session

- 1:00 - 2:00 PM MLB Tips for School and Municipal Ball Fields
Bill Deacon, New York Mets
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM Turf IPM and Communicating Pesticide Use
Jerad Minnick, Natural Grass Advisor
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM NJ DEP School IPM Program Update
Amanda Lotto, NJ DEP
- 4:00 - 8:00 PM Trade Show

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015

Morning Session

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM Early Bird Sports Field Managers
Networking Roundtable
- 8:30 – 9:00 AM Annual Business Meeting
- 9:00 – 9:30 AM The Year in Review:
Turf Selection to Reduce Pesticide Inputs on School
Grounds
Brad Park, Rutgers University
- 9:30 – 10:15 AM #grasscantakemore
Jerad Minnick, Natural Grass Advisor
- 10:15 - 11:00 AM Preparing a Baseball Field for Play in April
Bill Deacon, New York Mets
- 11:00 - 11:30 AM Sports Field Management at Cinnaminson High
School
Jeff Schofield, Cinnaminson BOE
- 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM Trade Show
- Afternoon Session
- 2:30 – 3:00 PM Integrated Pest Management:
Can We Minimize The Potential for Resistance to
Insecticides Applied on Sports Fields and Grounds?
Dr. Albrecht Koppenhofer, Rutgers
- 3:00 – 3:30 PM Strategies to Minimize Herbicide Applications Made
to School Sports Fields and Grounds.
Steve MacDonald, Turfgrass Disease Solutions
- 3:30 – 4:00 PM New Concepts in Irrigation
Dana Lonn, Toro Corporation

ProFACT Sports Fields, Lawns, And Grounds Session

- 4:15 - 5:15 PM Soil Testing and Fertilizer Selection
Dr. Beth Guertal, Auburn University

Calendar of Events

SFMANJ FALL FIELD DAY

November 5, 2015

Drum Point Sports Complex

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Father Knows Best



By Fred Castenschiold

For many of us in the Turf Industry in New Jersey and beyond, we were very fortunate to have a mentor, professor, go-to-guy, great friend, and for some of us, someone who was considered a family member. Dr. Henry Indyk, the "Father of Turf", supplied countless students, golf course superintendents, sports field managers, and public works personnel his expertise in turfgrass and soils helping them to provide the best turf conditions.

As a Rutgers University Professor, Dr. Indyk prepared many soil and turfgrass seminars for those in our industry who wanted to learn to improve their turf conditions. These seminars were not just on the Rutgers campuses; they were prepared for the eager to learn all over the world. His dedication to local sports fields in New Jersey and seeing them improved led to many local seminars throughout the state. Henry was instrumental in creating the New Jersey Turf Expo, most recently held in Atlantic City NJ. This conference has brought in educators from all over the United States!

Among the many National organizations in which Henry was involved was Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). His involvement with this professional organization and witnessing the good it was doing for the sport field industry gave him an idea: Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ)!

Henry invited aboard a few people who he was confident would take the reins and run SFMAN, the New Jersey STMA Chapter. Because of their hard work and those that followed, the organization took off and currently has 200+ members, all in an effort to bring our local sports field managers up a notch or two and learn the tricks of the trade

Fred Castenschiold is Sales Representative, Storr Tractor Company; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors

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Management of Natural Turf Sports Fields - Part I

By Brad Park and Dr. Jim Murphy

Editor's Note: This article was derived from a new Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet (a revision of Maintaining Athletic Fields FS105)

An attractive natural turf sports field appeals to spectators and enhances community pride. Of greater importance, however, is the stable, resilient turf surface that provides the footing needed for athletic play and the cushion to protect athletes against injury. Overused sports fields often lose turf cover and degrade to a bare soil surface within the high play zones of fields. Bare soil on a sports field becomes very hard and dusty when dry, and muddy and slippery when wet.

Properly managed natural turf can withstand a significant amount of play without wearing out and losing its turf cover. Abuse, however, can cause permanent damage that cannot be overcome by even the best maintenance program. For example, the use of fields when the turf and soil are extremely wet is likely to result in severe damage that will require costly procedures to repair. Field conditions will steadily degrade if the repair is not properly timed or not performed at all.

Maintaining a dense cover of turfgrass with vigorous growth is essential to producing high-quality playing surfaces on intensively used sports fields. Unfortunately, there is not an exact answer to the question of how many events can a sports field tolerate per year. This question is difficult to answer because of the numerous factors that affect the ability of natural turf to tolerate traffic including the sport, age of athletes, time of play, wetness during play, soil type, construction design, variety of turfgrass, weather during recovery, and regime of maintenance practices.

This bulletin describes the concepts employed in the proper management of natural turf sports fields.

Control Traffic / Play

A traffic control program should regulate field use and allow field maintenance programs to keep pace with damage from play. One common approach is the designation of game and practice fields. Game fields are obviously the most important fields and

are provided the most protection and greatest use restrictions compared to practice fields. Accordingly, practice fields may actually have the greatest need for maintenance inputs and repair.

Field use permitting is another approach to control traffic to sustainable levels. Develop a use permit system that only allows fields to be used a specific number of times at a specific time(s) of the year. Schedule time for routine maintenance as well as rest periods to allow the field to reestablish turf cover and density by way of recovery or repair efforts. Field use permitting also provides a structure to collect user fees for those situations where it is appropriate / necessary.

Signage, fencing, and flagging are very useful for educating and alerting users that fields are either open or closed to play. The most effective signs are easy to understand yet informative to users. Informed users are more likely to abide with field use restrictions if they understand the program. Signs should inform users about why fields are closed and what to expect when fields re-open. Fencing and flagging can be used to reinforce signage that fields are

Continued on page 15



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PHOTO RECAP: Rutgers Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Field Day

Photos by Adam Simmons



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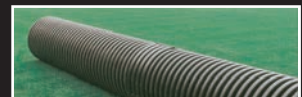
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Photos by Debbie Savard



Rutgers Lawn,
Landscape,
and Sports Turf
Field Day
July 29, 2015



AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

It all started with a puddle on a football field. Thirteen years ago, I was just an average sports field /grounds manager working at a high school. I already had a number of years' experience caring for turfgrass and the landscape. I was able to keep up with most of the job demands such as grass cutting, line painting and the trash pickup, but I was finding that the expectations were increasing and my knowledge and skill set was stuck back in the 1980's. You see, there was this puddle on the football field that would not go away. I tried everything that I could think of, to no avail. A brochure from Rutgers NJAES Office of Continuing Professional Education arrived in the mail describing a Sports Field Management course that included, get this, a class on field drainage. Eureka! Fortunately for me, the Principal at my school supported my request to attend this training. This course conducted by the late Dr. Henry Indyk helped to restart my education and gave me an introduction to the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ).

Soon after that January short course, I joined SFMANJ and began attending their field day events. I found these meetings informative, and the people were welcoming and friendly. If I would arrive early before the event began, I would help with the set up and cleanup afterwards. It was a great way to meet other people who do what I do for a living. Within a year I was invited to join the Board of Directors to fill a vacant seat. I accepted and it was the turning point in my career. Many good things have happened for me since then and I am grateful to the SFMANJ for helping me find the opportunities. I have been able to increase my knowledge and learn new skills, have attained the Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM) credentials, written numerous magazine articles and presented at regional and national conferences. I also have more credibility with my employer. So, I want to share with you the chance to do something good for your career. But first, here is a little bit about our group.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is a volunteer organization for sports field managers run by sports field managers. Our goal is to serve our industry (that means you and me) by

creating safe and playable sports fields, promoting professionalism in what we do and giving our profession credibility to the people we serve. We are a chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), the national organization for sports field managers. Since its inception in 2000, our Chapter has emerged as a strong, focused group. We publish our quarterly newsletter, Update. Our spring and fall field days offer practical information that you can use, equipment demonstrations that you can observe up close and opportunities to network with other sports field and industry professionals, vendors and contractors. Attendance at Field days is free for members and their guests and we even provide a free lunch! We sponsor a trade show at the Rutgers Adelpia Lawn and Landscape Field Day, and we develop and present the sports field educational programming at the New Jersey Green Expo held in Atlantic City each December. Our Chapter is fiscally healthy and we provide scholarships to deserving college students, support turf grass research and sponsor student challenge teams at the annual STMA Student Challenge held at the STMA Conference and Trade Show. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is recognized and is well respected by STMA as well as other allied industry groups.

We have a 12 person Board of Directors, 6 of which are elected each year by the general membership for a 2 year term. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are appointed by the Board of Directors. A number of our members (like you) serve on our committees. We now have an Advisor category made up of former Directors who still remain active with our Chapter.

Continued on page 18



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The Expo mission statement: The NJ Green Expo is a science based conference and trade show that provides education, business, fellowship, and environmental stewardship opportunities in partnership with the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers University.

How can you convince your employer to send you? Continuing education and industry connections are crucial to your success and the success of your sports fields. Here are some suggestions to help your employer understand how your attendance at Expo 2015 can add value to the overall operation of your facility.

Educate yourself on the Conference and Exhibition

Provide your employer an overview of the size and scope of Expo 2015 and a copy of the education agenda. This edition of SFMANJ Update provides the Sports Field Managers Program for Expo 2015.

Pinpoint specific sessions you plan to attend, and tie their relevance to your sports facility. It is anticipated that tough-to-acquire New Jersey DEP Category 13 credits will be awarded for attendance during Sports Field Managers sessions in 2015.

Highlight the trade show and cite suppliers and equipment manufacturers you plan to meet. Discuss the networking opportunities you will have with peers who share challenges similar to the ones you have.

Explain how innovations in products, new research, and cutting edge management techniques continually change, and why it is important to stay abreast of those changes.

Reinforce how the success of your sports fields ultimately depends upon the continued professional development of you and your staff.

Know the Cost

Make a case for efficient and effective use of your facility's training dollars. By attending Expo 2015, you will be exposed to the most relevant education and technology in one place, making it the most effective use of training dollars.

Research travel times and hotel costs. While Atlantic City is feasible day trip from almost anywhere in New Jersey, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association does its part to negotiate reasonable room rates at The Borgata to make staying a night reasonable. Expo 2015 will feature online registration at www.njturfgrass.org

Have an Action Plan

Develop a plan for how operations will continue in your absence. Make sure you are accessible by phone (please turn off or set on vibrate during sessions!!!!) to address any concerns that might arise in your absence.

Consider preparing and presenting a report on the information you learned and how you plan to put it into practice at your facility. Demonstrate how you will share the technical information learned with your staff for their continuing educational development.

See you in Atlantic City!

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.

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Continued from page 8

Management of Natural Turf Sports Fields - Part I

open or closed. If feasible, establish at least one alternate field that is always open to users when other fields are periodically closed. Not unexpectedly, "always open" fields will not have ideal conditions but it provides users an option when the higher priority fields are closed.

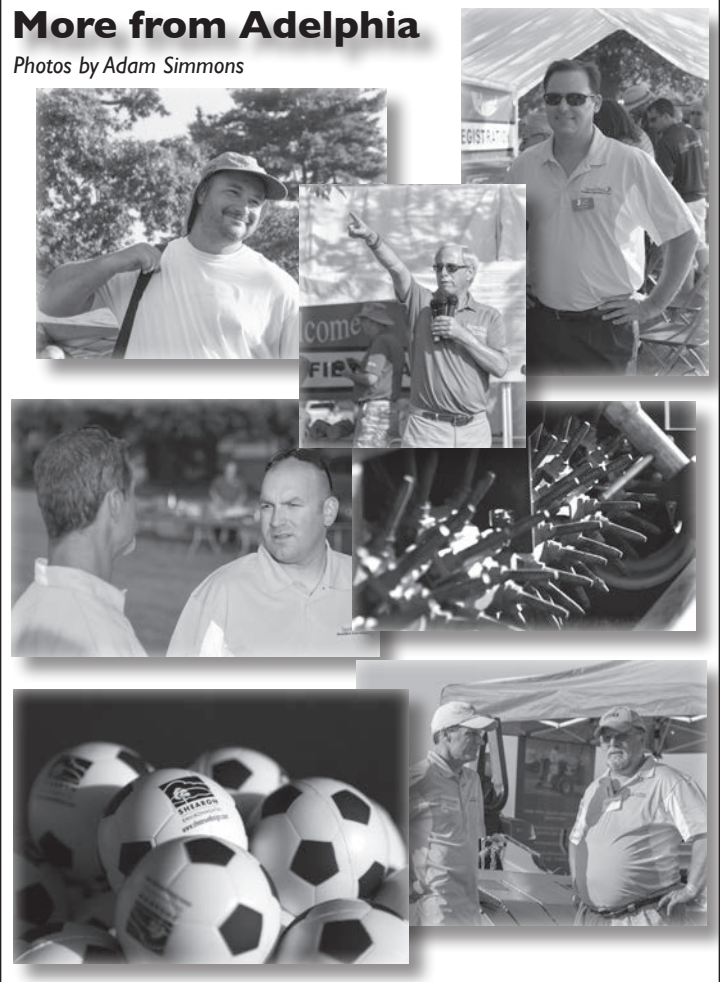
In communities where the demand for sports fields is great, many grounds managers have found that installation of a synthetic turf field helps to manage traffic on natural turf sports fields. Synthetic fields are durable over a wide range of weather conditions and better withstand intense, prolonged use scheduling over a short time span. Natural turf fields can be protected by scheduling sporting events that require frequent day and night (lighted fields) play onto a synthetic field. This type of field rotation is especially helpful during early spring and late fall when natural turf fields have low vigor (growth) during cold weather. Synthetic turf fields have high installation costs and require routine maintenance during their lifespan. Long-term budgeting needs to include costs for removal, disposal (or perhaps recycling) and surface replacement of worn out synthetic surfaces. Recognize that some community members may be opposed to development of synthetic fields as replacement of, or supplement to, a more natural landscape.

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors;

Dr. Jim Murphy is Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University; and SFMANJ Advisor.

More from Adelphia

Photos by Adam Simmons



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The Crabgrass Conundrum - Part 3



Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

In the previous 2 issues of UPDATE, we discussed weed control with the emphasis on grassy weed control and herbicide selection options. This report is my observation of what worked (and what didn't) on my sports field at Salesianum School, Wilmington, Delaware.

The site: My site consists of 2 multipurpose fields, the **lower field** about 5.5 acre mixed turf type tall fescue, improved perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass with a large presence of Poa annua and patches of common Bermudagrass throughout. While this field is primarily used as a practice field for soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse and baseball, a few home games are played here, so the turf quality, safety and playability is important. This field is also used for physical education. The **upper field** is the football practice field in the fall, freshman and JV baseball field in the spring and home to all of the summer camps in the summer. It is just under 3 acres, with the same turfgrasses as the lower field. In all, we host over 900 events annually including practices, games, camps, physical education classes and other uses.

The weed targets: Grassy weeds are our biggest problem. The number one weed is goosegrass, followed by nutsedge, then crabgrass. Poa annua and common Bermudagrass are not specifically targeted at this time, although in May 2015, we did successfully use a combination of plant growth regulators (PGR's) to help suppress Poa annua seedheads. Broadleaf weeds are typically not a big problem, but we occasionally find small patches of clover, some light scattered knotweed and purslane in the late summer.

The weather and the weed pressures:

- Spring of 2015 was pretty typical for us in Delaware, we were late getting on the field in March due to snow conditions followed by May being exceptionally dry. There were practically no broadleaf weeds on the field due to good turf density, most likely due to aggressive overseeding and consistent frequent mowing the previous fall. (These 2 cultural practices have made a believer out of me because they work!).
- June and mid-July were warm with ample rainfall. The turf density improved due to adequate moisture (making a good case for an automatic irrigation system). We made herbicide treatments of Tenacity (a.i. mesotrione) in late May and early July at the 5 oz./A rate to control the early summer annual weeds with good success. We chose Tenacity because it was labeled for goosegrass as well as nutsedge and crabgrass and could be applied at the time of seeding. The field otherwise was dense, healthy and relatively weed free. We applied Primo Maxx (a.i. trinexapac-ethyl), a plant growth regulator, in July to help improve root density and stress tolerance.

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- Late July-Labor Day was hot and dry with over 5 episodes of multiple days over 90° F and little to no rain. We irrigated with portable above ground irrigation (water reels) to prevent the turf going into dormancy. As we got into the month of August, a new late crop of goosegrass, crabgrass and nutsedge germinated, became noticeable and flourished. Because of the heat and drought, we decided not to treat until weather conditions improved.
- Labor Day weekend, 2015 was the first weekend available for field work since the beginning of the preseason on August 15. We took advantage of that time to aerate and seed the turf with a 90/10 turf type tall fescue/Kentucky bluegrass seed mix, apply fertilizer and spot spray patches of grassy weeds, particularly in the areas that we tried to over-seed in late May. We chose Acclaim Extra (a.i. fenoxaprop-p-ethyl) at the 24 oz./A rate because we could apply the product at seeding (and we could use up the remaining 20 ounces that we had in inventory). We treated about 30,000 sq. ft. (using a ride on sprayer) only in a few areas where the weed density would impact the playability of the soccer pitch. Individual and small clumps of weeds were left alone.

Looking back - It is the weekend after Labor Day, 2015. I have been away from my field for a week taking some needed rest and recuperation, so, in a way, I am looking at the turf quality with “fresh eyes”. We have finally received some rain and seasonable temperatures. The field is coming out stress and the areas where we applied spot treatments of Acclaim Extra are beginning to show a response to the herbicide treatment. Some of the grassy weeds are getting long and leggy and are ready to set seed. I will continue to over-seed through September and October, particularly in the wear areas of the field as well as fertilizing per my nutrient management plan. It is unlikely that I will be treating grassy weeds

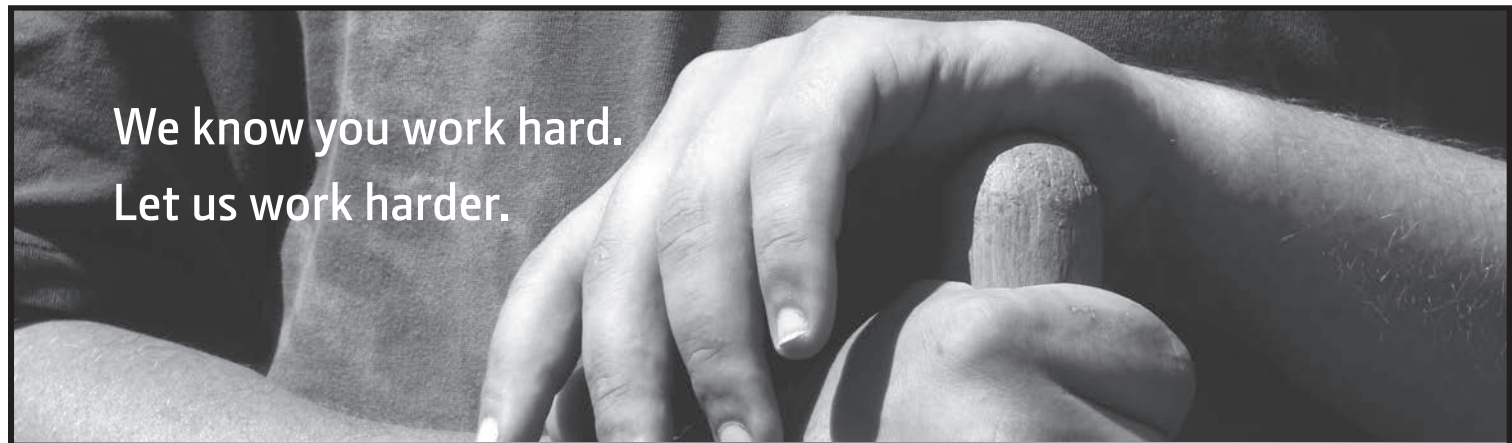
for the remainder of this calendar year, mainly because of cost. Cooler weather, shorter photoperiods and frosty mornings will be effective natural controls, and besides, there will be few if any days available for herbicide applications on this school grounds.

What I learned - Looking back over the past summer, I think that the decision to over-seed the goal crease areas rather than re-sod as we have done in past years was sound. While those areas looked beat at the end of the season, there was enough remaining grass at the end of May to suggest that over-seeding might be a viable option.

We applied Tenacity to all of the areas except where we were seeding. Tenacity was an effective weed control option in the early part of the summer, the late summer crop of summer annual grassy weeds continued to give us problems. Once the turf went into stress, we chose not to apply any more products until conditions changed. Conventional preemergence weed control options in the early spring have never been part of my sports field management philosophy because we aerate and seed in the spring and our players all wear spikes. But I would be open to experimenting with summer applications of a preemergence herbicide if it would help suppress grassy weeds, particularly goosegrass, and as long as I could successfully over-seed on Labor Day.

In closing, I thought our weed management program was successful. We were not completely weed free, but the weed pressures are down compared to other years. The field is safe and playable, and the field looks good enough. We are within our thresholds for the type of field that we are. Best of all, we get to do this again next year!

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Grounds and Athletic Facilities Manager, Salesianum School; and SFMANJ Past-President



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IN HOUSE OR OUT HOUSE

5. Remember that you cannot do everything. Your core of contractors are very important to your careers as well as to your properties. The Board of Education cannot buy all the equipment you need or want and there are also time constraints and man hour issues. For example, I do not expect my Board of Education to buy me laser grading equipment for our baseball and soft ball skins (N.B.C. has nine of these fields). Nor do I expect the board to purchase the proper equipment that is needed for pre- and postemergence applications on twenty-seven athletic fields. I also don't expect them to purchase the equipment for major ball field or turf field renovations. At Northern Burlington County Regional School District, we pretty much know what we expect from each other. We have an open line of communication and understanding of each other's vision. Again, this takes years to accomplish, not just days.
6. I would suggest if you are new to your District, lay out some realistic goals, have a two year time frame to attain these goals and share them with your Facilities Director and Business Administrator. Tell them how you plan to accomplish these goals and what support you will need from them to help move the property forward. Make them part of the solution to your team's goals. Let's face it: They are stakeholders in the good of the district and you cannot do it without them. Never make it us against them, it will not work. If this is what some of you are dealing with, then you have much work to do to change that mentality. It will not be easy, but great accomplishments never are. Tap into the membership at Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey, come to Field Days and chat with people that have been through it. You will be surprised at what you will take back with you – I mean, that's why you are a member – correct?

Bernard Luongo is Lead Groundsperson, Northern Burlington County Regional School District, Columbus, NJ; and SFMANJ Vice-President. and edited by Brad Park, Rutgers University and SFMANJ Board Member.

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Past issues of Update, dating from 2001 to the present can be accessed through the Michigan State University Libraries.

*To access this archive, visit:
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AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU

So, how is being active in our Chapter helpful to you? First and foremost is the opportunity to meet, get to know and serve with some of the finest sports field industry professionals locally and nationally. Just like athletes who improve their game by playing at a higher level, you will gather additional knowledge and learn skills from your colleagues that you can take back to your job and use. No matter what resources your facility has, you will be able to make a difference and provide better outcomes. Another reason is an opportunity to be of service. Our Industry is made up of people who share information and collaborate with each other. From our members at the professional level to the volunteers in youth league sports programs, everybody knows a trick or two when it comes sports field management. We have sponsored baseball field renovation clinics which were helpful learning opportunities for the presenters and participants alike. Your work on SFMANJ Chapter committees benefits many people directly and indirectly. You will touch many lives and find the work very rewarding. Oh, yes, and the puddle on my football field is no more, thanks to the things I have learned about drainage and the people from the Chapter who helped me make the repair. We hope that you can join us.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Grounds and Athletic Facilities Manager, Salesianum School; and SFMANJ Past-President

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

If you have a desire to be more of a part of your organization, the SFMANJ Board of Directors would like to hear from you.

If you would like to be on the ballot this December for the SFMANJ Board or would like to be on an SFMANJ Committee,

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