2008 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day
Adelphia, New Jersey - July 30, 2008 • Photos By: Brad Park, Rutgers University

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- Turf-Time Topdresser; The Viersma Companies
- Sisis Multislit; The Viersma Companies
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- Drill & Fill Machine; Aer-Core, Inc.
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~TIME FOR CHANGE~

After many years of superior service Kathy Hopfel has decided to move to new challenges. Kathy has served as the executive secretary for our association since 2003. I would like to thank Kathy, on behalf of the association, for her many years of service to the SFMANJ. She has been an instrumental aide to our board over the past five years.

Kathy has been very helpful to the growth of our organization over the years. To date, she is the only one to have ever held the position of executive secretary for SFMANJ. She has helped define her position by willingly accepting additional responsibilities as needed for the growth of our association. She has worked on our website, helped with our field days, newsletter, and always made sure all the fine details were taken care of. Kathy has always been there for us (the board and association) when we needed her. Her presence will be missed.

On behalf of the board, I would like to congratulate Kathy on her new position and wish her much success on her future endeavors.

Craig A Tolley, President, SFMANJ

DID YOU KNOW?

The last ever regular season game to be played at Yankee Stadium is Sunday, September 21, 2008 when the New York Yankees take on the Baltimore Orioles.

New Jersey Turfgrass Expo
December 2008
Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort, Atlantic City, NJ
2008 Sports Field Managers Expo Program

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008
1:00-1:30 SFMANJ Business Meeting
1:30-2:15 Communication and leadership skills for Sports Field Managers
Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, SCPS, The Toro Company
2:15-2:45 A director of recreation’s perspective on synthetic infill fields
M. Bruce Kaufmann, CPRP, Town of Westfield
2:45-3:30 A national look at Sports Field Management
Kim Heck, Sports Turf Managers Association
3:30-4:00 Update on synthetic turf human health issues
Jerry Fagiano, NJ Dept. of Health & Senior Services

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008
THURSDAY AM
7:00-8:00 Early bird Sports Field Managers Networking roundtable
8:00-9:00 Turfgrass Management for Sports Field
Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University
9:00-9:30 Recent Turfgrass Traffic Tolerance Research at Rutgers
Brad Park, Rutgers University
9:30-10:00 Developing Utility Sports Fields using Farming Principles
Dr. John Grade, Rutgers University
10:00-10:30 Renovation of First Energy Stadium, Reading, PA
Dan “Dirt” Douglas, Reading Phillies
10:30-11:00 Responsibilities of a New Jersey School IPM Coordinator
Erik Hammerdahl, Morris-Jointure Commission
11:00-11:30 Authoring Specifications and Managing Sports Field Construction
Tom Miller, Environmental Resolutions
11:30-12:00 Sports Field and Grounds Management at a New Jersey High School
Kevin Shipman, Kingsway High School

THURSDAY PM
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2008 Calendar of Events

93RD ANNUAL NJ LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE
November 18-21, 2008
Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ
(609) 695-3481
www.njslom.org

NEW JERSEY GREEN EXPO 2008
December 9-11, 2008
New Jersey Turfgrass Association
Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort, Atlantic City, NJ
(973) 812-6467
www.njturfgrass.org

STMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009
January 13-17, 2009
Sports Turf Managers Association
San Jose, CA
1-800-323-3875
www.stma.org

THREE-DAY ATHLETIC FIELD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE
February 17-19, 2009
Rutgers University-Office of Continuing Professional Education
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(732) 932-9271
www.cpe.rutgers.edu

UNDERSTANDING SYNTHETIC FIELDS
March 4, 2009
Rutgers University-Office of Continuing Professional Education
New Brunswick, NJ
(732) 932-9271
www.cpe.rutgers.edu

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL INFIELD SKIN CONSTRUCTION & MANAGEMENT
March 11, 2009
Rutgers University-Office of Continuing Professional Education
New Brunswick, NJ
(732) 932-9271
www.cpe.rutgers.edu

STMA REGIONAL FIELD DAY - JUNE 27, 2008
By: Brad Park, Rutgers University

Brad Pastrick, North Brunswick Parks

Pictured (l to r) Dr. Jim Murphy, Rutgers University and SFMANJ Advisor; Mike Boekholder, Head Groundskeeper, Philadelphia Phillies; and Glenn Sweet, Chesapeake STMA Chapter.

On-the-field at Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, PA

Pictured (l to r) Jim Gates, Jim Gates & Co. and SFMANJ Board Member; Ken Mathis, Brick Township Parks and SFMANJ Past President; Jack Shannon, West Deptford BOE; and Frank LoSasso, Hammonton BOE.
Renovation can be defined as turf improvement that involves partial or complete replanting without total tillage of the soil. Complete renovation is called for when only a portion of the total area is to be killed off. Renovation of a turf should be considered when the condition of the turf stand is severely damaged by pests, predominately covered by weeds (broadleaf or grassy), or if a combination of these conditions exist.

Prior to taking any direct action the site needs to be evaluated to determine how severe and extensive the damage is and to identify the underlying cause of the damage. The evaluation should include identification of the dominant turf species and current density. All weed species should be identified (the weeds can be strong indicators of underlying problems). Additionally the thatch layer, drainage patterns and soil conditions should be checked. Soil should be tested for pH, nutrient levels and compaction. When the root cause of the decline in turf quality can be identified, a long term plan to alleviate the damage and prevent it from reoccurring should be developed and implemented.

Selecting an appropriate species for the site and use of the turf is the most important step in this process. On most athletic fields in New Jersey, the following species are desirable: Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, and perennial ryegrass. Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue tend to be the more durable species; but when time is limited, perennial ryegrass is the fastest to germinate. For these species, the end of August into early September is the best time of year for establishment.

The area should be treated for weeds prior to seeding; preferably with an herbicide that will have short residual life such as glyphosate. Depending on the weeds present, more selective herbicides may be used or applications limited to spot treatments. In this situation one needs to be very careful in the selection of a herbicide since the desirable seedlings will have an increased sensitivity to the chemicals remaining in the soil. Soil compaction should be alleviated with aggressive hollow tine aeration at least two to three passes over the area being treated. If thatch is a problem the field should also be dethatched at this time (the slicker can also help break up the cores from aeration if it is done second). This process will help expose the soil and allow for good seed to soil contact.

The last cut prior to overseeding should be at reduced height to lower the canopy and allow more light to reach the soil for the germinating seeds. The seeding is best performed with a disc-type seeder to get the seeds directly in contact with the soil and through the canopy as opposed to a broadcast spreader that may leave the seeds exposed on the surface or in the canopy of the existing grass. The seeding rate will need to be higher than as compared to seeding over bare soil (by roughly 20 percent) due to increased competition from the standing turf. A thin layer of topdressing can be applied over the top of the seeds to aide at incorporating them into the soil.
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STMA Regional Educational Event a Success

Tony Leonard, Director of Grounds for the Philadelphia Eagles, who hosted the event, his assistant Dan Shemesh, and Dr. Sorochan conducted a tour of the field and discussed the equipment used and the overall field management practices.

Mike Boekholder, head groundskeeper for the Philadelphia Phillies, showcased his field, highlighting specific recovery techniques he has been implementing over the past two weeks since the June 14 Jimmy Buffett concert.

A "Chapter Challenge" was conducted that tested a team from each chapter on agronomic questions. The winning chapter, VSTA, won a registration to the STMA Annual Conference, to be held Jan. 13-17, 2009 in San José. Philadelphia Eagles and STMA merchandise also was given away during a raffle.

See you at Expo 2008 in December!

DID YOU KNOW?
The New York Mets play their final regular season game at Shea Stadium on Sunday, September 28, 2008 against the Florida Marlins. The Mets will move into brand new Citi Field beginning in 2009.

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