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Currently we have 169 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2012 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. Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

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

2011 *Field of the Year*

By Scott Bills, CSFM

Hammonton High School's Frank Capoferri Field

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) received three applications for 2011 Field of the Year. The entrants included Somerset County Park Commission, Torpey Athletic Complex, Softball Field, Somerville, NJ from David Kuczynski; Northern Burlington County Regional School District, Varsity Soccer Field from Don Czehut and Bernard Luongo; and Hammonton High School, Frank Capoferri Football Field by Frank LaSasso.



Hammonton High School's Frank Capoferri Field: The 2011 SFMANJ Field of the Year

After personal interviews and visits to each field, the SFMANJ Board of Directors chose Frank Capoferri Football Field, Hammonton High School as the 2011 Field of the Year. Somerset County, Torpey Softball Field and North Burlington County School District, Varsity Soccer Field were both awarded runner-up.

Dave Kuczynski from the Somerset County Park Commission was the Field of the Year winner in 2010 for the Torpey Athletic Complex Baseball Field. Dave has transformed both the softball field and baseball field into very playable surfaces that are perhaps two of the best public ball fields in New Jersey. Both fields have natural turf, with the baseball field having a grass and skin infield and the softball field being all skin. Dave credits his years working with Ray Cipperly and Dan Purner at TD Bank Ballpark, home of the Somerset Patriots with giving him the skills and confidence to become a superior sports turf manager. When asked, Dave still helps at the ballpark.

In addition to both ball fields, which are lighted, Dave is responsible for a lighted synthetic all-purpose field. From late April until late October, Dave estimates 25-30 ball games are played on his two fields, 7 days a week.

Like many experienced groundskeepers, Dave performs much of the infield grooming by hand. His pre and post-game routine, learned at TD Bank Ballpark, included making sure all displaced infield mix is swept from the grass to prevent lip build up. Dave will then make sure the pitcher's mound and home plate area are leveled with moistened clay and compacted. If no game is scheduled during the day, Dave tarps these areas, to keep the clay moist. SFMANJ congratulates Dave for his being a runner-up for the 2011 Field of the Year award.

In Columbus, NJ, the Northern Burlington County Regional High School has made great strides improving the safety and playability of their sports fields. Don Czehut, Facilities Director and Bernard Luongo, Grounds Supervisor have worked together to provide students of the school district with quality fields.

Several years ago, Don and Bernard, began following a comprehensive turf management program that included cultural practices such as aeration and over-seeding, applications of nutrients required by soil testing and the responsible use of pesticides, only when necessary. In addition, maintaining a regular mowing schedule which includes returning clippings to the soil and keeping mower blades sharp, have improved the health of the turf.

The results of their diligent efforts allowed Don and Bernard to submit an application for 2011 Field of the Year for the varsity soccer field. Speaking with both gentleman 3-4 years ago, I don't think either of them could have imagined then, that one of their fields would be up to the standards required to be a Field of the Year candidate.

The North Burlington County Regional School District should be proud of Don and Bernard, their efforts and more importantly, their results. In a time when all we hear about are budget issues, Don and

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THE NEW JERSEY FERTILIZER LAW:

UPDATE ON CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONALS

By Dr. James Murphy

On January 5, 2011 Governor Christie signed into law New Jersey Act, P.L. 2010, c. 112 (C.58:10A-64). The Act is intended to protect all New Jersey surface and ground waters from impairment by minimizing nitrogen and phosphorus pollution that may be derived from fertilizer. It addresses the **application, sale, and use of fertilizer for turf**. Both specialty fertilizers sold at retail for turf and professional fertilizer applicators making applications to turf are affected by this law. As defined in the law, "Turf means land, including residential property and publicly owned land, that is planted in closely mowed, managed grass, except golf courses or land used in the operation of a commercial farm". Please note that, while golf course turf is exempted from the fertilizer restrictions in this law, those individuals applying fertilizer to golf courses are considered professional fertilizer applicators and are required by law to participate in the certification program. Fertilizer applications to commercial farms are not affected by this law.

A "Professional Fertilizer Applicator" is defined in the law as any individual who applies fertilizer for hire, including any employee of a government entity who applies fertilizer within the scope of employment. The law requires that a certification program for professional fertilizer applicators be established by the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Please note that this certification program for professional fertilizer applicators is not part of pesticide licensing administered by the DEP. Thus, the fertilizer certification program is separate from the pesticide licensing program and you will need to participate in both programs to legally apply both fertilizer and pesticide as a professional in NJ.



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stop the insanity

By Scott Bills, CSFM

As a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), I consult with dozens of municipalities, schools and private sports organizations each year regarding problems with their ball fields. If I only had a nickel for every time I heard, "My infield mix doesn't dry out", or "My infield mix turns to concrete in the summer", or "My infield mix is like a sand box" or "How do I keep weeds from growing in my infields." Sound familiar?

Despite all of the inventions and historic moments in the last century, curing polio, sending a man to the moon, Facebook (Yuk), we couldn't figure out what makes a quality infield mix.

In 2007, two Major League Baseball head groundskeepers had serious problems with their infield skin surfaces. After calling most of the major manufacturers of infield materials, the only answer was to completely tear out the mix and start from scratch. Unfortunately, time and expense didn't allow for that option. Convinced they could somehow salvage or 'amend' the mix they already have, they didn't stop inquiring. The symptom on both fields was 'chunking out.' In other words, the infields would not stay together without a lot of moisture. Experience working with many materials, told both groundskeepers, they needed more clay.

Persistence led them to Grant McKnight, The Natural Sand Company. For several years Grant had been trying to figure out why there wasn't an agreed upon standard for infield mixes. He concluded that because there was not a single source of ingredients that could be reproduced nationally, the industry relied on regional sources. When Grant received the phone call from two prominent groundskeepers, he felt it was time


to reach out for additional help. Grant contacted Dr. Norm Hummel of Hummel and Company. Dr. Hummel is one of the country's most respected soil scientists.

The Natural Sand Company owned a natural source of clay, plus a sand source that could be screened to meet specific standards. Before any amendment could be formulated to help these fields, he needed to know the analysis of the existing infield mixes on each field. The mixes were sent to Dr. Hummel for analysis. Dr. Hummel provided a report indicating the percentage of sand, silt and clay, a breakdown of the sand gradations, from fine to coarse, plus the ratio of silt to clay. After consulting with Dr. Hummel and discussing the test results with each groundskeeper, Grant manufactured an amendment for each field. The prescription was to blend a specific amount of amendment into the top 2-3 inches of existing infield mix. The goal was to reduce the overall amount of sand, specifically fine sand, increase the amount of clay and reduce the ratio of silt/clay to less than one.

After installing the amendment, both groundskeepers noticed a significant improvement in the performance of their infields. The fields were staying together, they were able to absorb and hold moisture longer, the playing surface was consistent throughout the infield and overall maintenance requirements were greatly reduced.

As a result of those two success stories, now 16 of 30 major league teams have either amended their existing infields or in the case of the new Miami Marlins stadium, installed the product within the complete profile.

Continued on page 17



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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

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John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling
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UPDATE ON CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL



To become certified, the law specifies that professionals must receive training in the five subject areas outlined below and pass an exam which addresses these subjects:

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3. All applicable State and federal laws, rules and regulations;
4. The correct interpretation of fertilizer labeling information; and
5. The best management practices developed by the NJAES for nutrient management in turf.

An online program for **Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training** is now available; type **ProFACT.rutgers.edu** in your web browser to register and begin online training. The website records and documents your progress in the online training. Once the training is complete, registered users will be qualified to take the online exam.

The exam is intended to certify that individuals possesses sufficient knowledge of the laws, rules and regulations, standards and requirements applicable to the use and application of fertilizer as required by law. The certification exam was available online at ProFACT.rutgers.edu on January 30, 2012. See the website for more background and instructions for the online training and exam as well as other program details.

The law allows two general classifications for professional fertilizer applicators: **certified** and **trained**. Individuals that make decisions on selection of fertilizer products and application rates and timings; calibrate and setup of application equipment; develop spill response protocol as well as make applications

should become a **Certified Fertilizer Applicator**. For a professional to become a **Trained Fertilizer Applicator**, the individual must also receive training on the laws, rules and regulations, standards and requirements applicable to the use and application of fertilizer by a **Trained Fertilizer Applicator**. Trained Applicators can only apply fertilizer under the direct supervision of a Certified Fertilizer Applicator. Trained fertilizer applicators will need to receive annual training and registration with the ProFACT program. The details for training Trained Fertilizer Applicators will be released shortly and made available through the ProFACT website.

The law also requires NJAES to maintain a list of all **Certified Fertilizer Applicators** and make the list available on its internet website (ProFACT.rutgers.edu). A list of Trained Fertilizer Applicators along with the Certified Fertilizer Applicator(s) that supervise them will also be maintained.

Visit **ProFACT.rutgers.edu** for more information on the certification program.

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



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SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS

Conference & Exhibition

By Kevin Rundstrom

The Rutgers Turf Club would like to thank Rutgers University, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), and Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) for making our visit to Long Beach to attend the 2012 STMA Conference and Exhibition possible. Without these organizations we would have not had the opportunity to experience the National Conference.

The Rutgers Turf Club sent a team of four students to compete in the Student Challenge. We also attended the education sessions and industry trade show. The conference was a great way for students interested in pursuing careers in sports turf to network and interact with many in the industry. Three students were first-time underclassmen attendees and will be able to compete and attend again in the future. We believe that the STMA Conference allows for wonderful student activities and networking potential.

Our first day was not limited to travel. We were able to arrive in Long Beach and have time to sign-in and attend the Student Networking Session. Over the next few days we attended many talks that were specifically designed for students. One session entailed two professional sports field managers and an international university professor. Darian Daily from the Cincinnati Bengals was one of the two sports field managers. Darian gave a presentation titled, "The 'Real' Story of Being an NFL Sports Field Manager." During his presentation he spoke of his journey that we all will soon make and how he ended-up with the Cincinnati Bengals. He also detailed many of the daily activities a sports field manager performs. His presentation described how one must continue to learn and speak to people to be well informed beyond graduating. Another professional sports field manager, Larry DiVito, Minnesota Twins gave a presentation titled, "What it Takes to be an MLB Field Maintenance Manager." Throughout his speech he described his daily activities. It was very good to see how two professional managers in different sports share similar ideas and tactics to ensure high performance fields. Ian Lacy is an international professor and he was able to give insight into looking for international experiences as part of his presentation called, "Broaden Your Horizons Through International Experiences." He began with a story of his

travels and how sports fields and academia helped him work, study, and live in countries all over the world.

One of our favorite sessions of the trip included one of our professors at Rutgers University, Brad Park. On the panel of speakers with him was Bill Deacon of the New York Mets, Dr. Gwen Stahnke, Dr. John Rogers, and Tim VanLoo. They opened the floor to question after question and each person was able to give their own opinion and knowledge of the subject. The talk was titled, "Cool Season Turfgrasses: New Varieties for Sports Turf and Management Tips from the Pros."

The trade shows allowed for students to see companies and meet people from those companies that fuel the sports turf industry. These are the people that help make our profession a reality. Talking to these companies and seeing new products is one of the most exciting aspects every year.

The main reason for us going to Long Beach was to compete for our school in the student challenge. We competed against over 30 teams and placed 16th. Scores were very close and we were pleased with how our test went. The test is made-up with multiple choice, short answer and identification that includes turfgrass, weeds, insects, diseases, and irrigation parts. The Turf Club is eager to get back to STMA in 2013 and compete again for Rutgers.

Once again we would like to thank Rutgers University, SFMANJ, STMA, and Rutgers Turf Club for enabling us to attend. It is always an honor to be able to represent our university, turf program, and all the people we are lucky enough to work beside and learn from. Thank you!

Kevin Rundstrom is Undergraduate Student, Rutgers University; and 2012 STMA Student Challenge Team Member representing Rutgers University

The Rutgers Student Challenge Team received a tour of the Toro Booth during the 2012 STMA Conference and Exhibition in Long Beach, CA

