

2002 NJTA EXPO AND SFMANJ PERFECT TOGETHER

By George Van Haasteren CGM

The New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) recently held its annual Expo at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, NJ. Held on December 10, 11 and 12, 2002, the Expo featured educational sessions for the turfgrass professional to improve his/her knowledge and expertise as well as ways of staying abreast of recent developments in the industry. The Expo is also known for having a great Trade Show that displays the latest in equipment technology, supplies and materials that clearly are on the cutting edge for all that are involved in the turf industry. SFMANJ was a part of the trade show having a booth on the floor. Trade Show registrants had a chance to drop their business cards at the booth for a chance to win leather travel bag and a portable TV.

Realizing the importance and growing concern over the last several years of having athletic fields maintained at their best SFMANJ helped facilitate sessions geared specifically towards the sports field manager. The first session was held on Wednesday, December 12. Pens (donated by Jim Hermann, CSFM of Total Control Inc.) and pocket calendars were presented to each individual in attendance.

A panel discussion that was titled "**Successes in Athletic Field Improvements. The Problem – The Procedure – The Results**" was the theme for the afternoon. Panelists included Dr. John Grande, Director, Snyder Research Center, Rutgers University, Eleanor Murfitt, President, SFMANJ, Dr. Henry Indyk, Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University, and Barry Imboden, Grounds Supervisor, Hunterdon Central Regional High School. Afterwards Ann Waters from NJ DEP discussed "**Keeping Up-To-Date On Pesticide Regulations.**"

On Thursday, December 12 morning and afternoon sessions were held. The morning had three speakers. Dr. Stephen Baker from the Sports Turf Research Institute of the United Kingdom gave a presentation on "**Athletic Problems and Their solutions in the UK.**"

Dr. Jim Murphy, Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University spoke on "**Mowing Management As It Affects Turf Quality**" and Steve Trusty, Executive Director of the Sports Turf Managers Association discussed "**Professionalism In Sports Field Management.**"

Thursday's afternoon session focused on the SFMANJ Annual Business Meeting. Elected to serve on the board of directors were the following:

Bud Perdun, N. Brunswick Board of Education, North Brunswick, NJ.
Representing Public/Private, Elementary/High Schools

Eleanor Murfitt CRS, Washington Twp Parks & Recreation, Long Valley, NJ Representing Parks & Recreation, Buildings & Grounds, DPW

Clare S. Liptak, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ Representing College or University

George Van Haasteren CGM, Sports Field Management Systems Inc., Paramus, NJ Representing Professional Facilities

Fred Castenschield, Storr Tractor, Somerville, NJ

Dean Marzocca, Deans Lawn & Landscape, East Millstone, NJ (1year term) Representing Commercial/Contractors

Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ Representing Education/Extension

Returning Board Members include:

Jim Hermann CSFM, Jeff Cramer, John Salisbury, Tom Torpe and Dr. John Grande. Advisor, Dr. Henry Indyk.

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SFMANJ BUSINESS

Next Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, January 13, 5:00 pm at Storr Tractor Company, Rt. 22 Somerset, NJ

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This newsletter is the official bi-monthly publication of the Sports Filed Managers Association of New Jersey. For information regarding this newsletter, contact:

SFMANJ at 908-236-9118 or 730-7770

Co-editors

Jim Hermann, CSFM & Eleanor Murfitt

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Dr. Henry Indyk received an honorary lifetime membership. Following the business meeting a panel discussion ensued entitled "Expectations of Athletic Fields." It dealt with perspectives from different individuals. Jeff Thorne, Hunterdon County Little League spoke from the perspective of a coach. Dr. Walter Mahler, Superintendent of Schools, Springfield Township, NJ gave a perspective from the administration's side. Jim Herman CSFM, Total Control, Lebanon, NJ gave his perspective from one who provides services as a contractor. Dr. Frank Rossi, Extension Specialist from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY concluded the session with the topic "Developing an IPM Program for Athletic Fields."

The participation and involvement of SFMANJ in the NJTA EXPO is very evident. Over 50 and 85 registrants attended the two-day sessions respectfully, specifically geared towards sports field management (a half day more than in 2001.)

At the General Session, Eleanor Murfitt received an award for her hard work and involvement in bringing the role of the sports field manager to the forefront as well as her dedication in developing the state's chapter of STMA. Eleanor's award is proof that SFMANJ is making an impact on the state level and will continue to grow.

If you did not have the opportunity to make it to the 2002 Expo, mark your calendar for December, 2003. SFMANJ plans once again to be there, be a part of it and to continue to be the voice of sports field managers in the State of New Jersey. ▲

George Van Haasteren, CGM is an owner of Sports Field Management Systems Inc. He is also newly elected to the board of directors for SFMANJ.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10 Day ATHLETIC FIELD MANAGEMENT SCHOOL -

January 6-10 (Wk 1) & January 27-31
Rutgers University. Register through website
www.cook.rutgers.edu/~ocpe or call (732) 932-9271.
SFMANJ MEMBERS receive 10% discount

3-DAY ATHLETIC FIELD CONSTRUCTION & MAINT.

February 25-27
Rutgers University. Register through website
www.cook.rutgers.edu/~ocpe or call (732) 932-9271.
SFMANJ MEMBERS receive 10% discount

NEW JERSEY LANDSCAPE TRADE SHOW & CONF.

February 26, 2003
Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, NJ. Show hours are from 8:30am - 4:30pm. Interested parties call 201-664-6310.

14th ANNUAL NATIONAL STMA CONF. & EX.

January 15-19, 2003 San Antonio, Texas. For more information call 800-323-3875 or check the website at www.sportsturfmanager.com.

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Your business can be featured as a 
"SPONSOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT"

- Becoming a yearly sponsor advertising on the back page of this newsletter for just \$150, then
- During the SFMANJ business meeting at the NJTA Expo we pull a sponsor's name out of a hat.

Check out the sponsor on the next page.
The next one could be yours!!!