

UPDATE

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Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey



SOUTH JERSEY HOSTS THE 2009 SFMANJ SPRING FIELD DAY

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Mark your calendars for the SFMANJ Spring Field Day on April 9, 2009 at the Kingsway Regional School District in Woolrich Township, New Jersey. Kevin Shipman, Head Groundskeeper at Kingsway gave an interesting presentation at Expo this past December in Atlantic City about how his team turned a worn out athletic area into a showplace with some ingenuity and elbow grease. We will have a chance to see how they do it.

Also featured will be equipment demonstrations, mound and home plate construction and field layout. We will even get a chance to paint lines and logos.

Lunch is sponsored by Coombs Farms, LLC in Elmer, New Jersey, just a short drive from Kingsway Regional. We will have a chance to see a sod growing operation up close, from planning to production to harvest to installation. The day will conclude with a presentation for Pesticide Credits.

SFMANJ Spring Field Day, Thursday, April 9, 2009 Rain or Shine
Kingsway Regional High School, 213 Kings Highway
Woolwich Township, NJ 08085

~AGENDA:~

- 7:30 AM Registration - Coffee/donuts provided by Northern Nurseries
- 8:00 Introductions
Sports Field Tour
Mound Construction
Field Layout
Painting Demonstration
Equipment Demonstration
- 11:30 Adjourn Kingsway. Move to Coombs Farms. Maps and directions will be provided.
- 12:15-1:00 Lunch Lunch Sponsored by Coombs Farms, LLC
- 1:00 Tour of Coombs Sod Farm
- 2:00 IPM / Pest Talk, award credits
- 3:00 Adjourn

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

Township of Monroe Earns 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year Honors

By Scott Bills

The township of Monroe, Middlesex County, NJ has deep roots, steeped in American history. Monroe was originally settled by James Johnstone of Ochiltree, Scotland in 1685. Known then as East Jersey, Johnstone was offered 50 acres of land for himself and 25 additional acres for each family member.

After sending letters back to Scotland with stories of fertile soil, plenty of food and water, plus good health of immigrants, more Scottish, English and Dutch settlers came to the area.

In 1838, Monroe, named for the fifth President of the United States - James Monroe, incorporated as an independent municipality. Monroe was then part of South Amboy and earlier as part of Piscataway. In 1838, Monroe Township included Spotswood, Helmetta, Jamesburg as well as parts of Cranbury and East Brunswick.

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The softball field at Monroe Township, NJ was awarded the 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year.

Township of Monroe Earns 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year Honors

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The Softball Field at Monroe Township, NJ

Today Monroe Township encompasses 43 square miles. Residents of Monroe Township enjoy the diverse landscape, which includes farmlands, beautiful parks, streams and dense woodlands.

Maintaining the beautiful parks falls under the responsibility of Tom Torpey, three full time employees, and three summer help

employees. Tom has many years experience caring for parks and sports fields. Monroe Township has over 26 acres of sports fields to maintain, plus other landscape and common areas. The athletic fields include a baseball complex, softball complex, football complex and soccer complex. Veterans Park, which includes two tot lots and a spray park, is also maintained by Tom and his crew.

Tom credits parks foreman, Virgil Caputo and his dedicated crew for the success of the sports fields. One field in particular receives many positive comments. The main field at the softball complex is used for many special events and charity games. Tom states, 'players love playing under the lights and the big league feel.'

Tom is particularly proud of Virgil and his continued growth as a professional sports field manager. Virgil started working for Monroe Township at age 13 during the summer months. At that time there were only two ball fields and maintenance was limited to hand raking and an old tractor with a York rake. Today, 16 years later, Virgil has three ball field complexes totaling over 26 acres, plus other parks to maintain.

Tom and Virgil follow a turf management program, plus scheduled maintenance and treatments to maintain the high quality fields.

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wrote **Chip Baker**, Asst. Baseball Coach,
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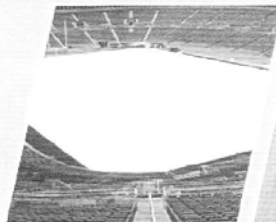
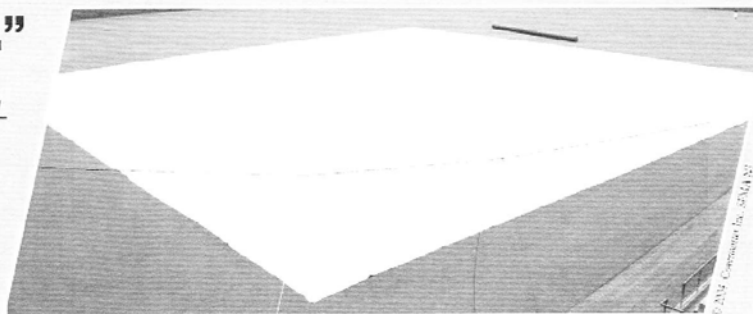
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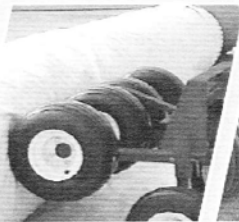
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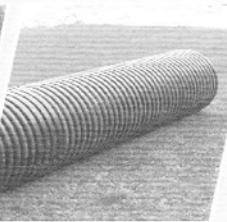
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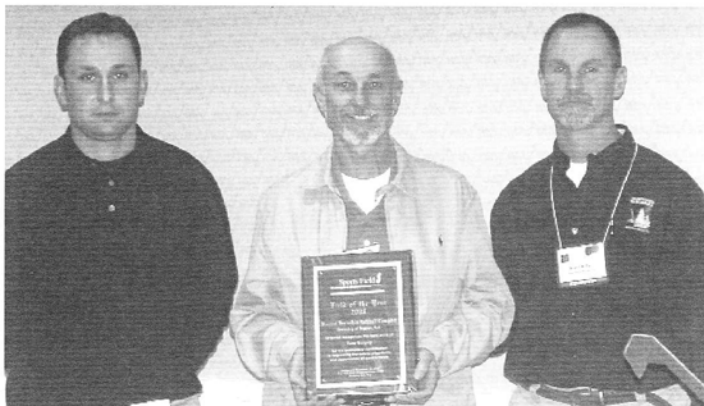
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Township of Monroe Earns 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year Honors

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The 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year winner was awarded at Expo 2008 in Atlantic City, NJ. Pictured (l-r) Virgil Caputo, Monroe Township; Tom Torpey, Monroe Township; Scott Bills, Northern Nurseries, and SFMANJ Board of Directors.

In early spring, all fences are inspected and repaired as necessary. The playing surfaces are walked to check for low spots and drainage issues. Where necessary infield lips are removed from the ball fields using a Ryan Jr. sod cutter.

The fertilizer program starts in early April with an application of 19-0-6 w/Dimension to help control crabgrass and other annual weeds. In mid May, an application of 23-3-6 with Trimec is completed to control early broadleaf weeds. Next, a split application of 18-0-8 with Allectus is applied to control above and below ground insects. In August, a lime application is made. Finally, a 20-10-10 fertilizer application is made in October.

Unwanted vegetation is controlled under the fence lines and on skinned surfaces with Roundup. Spot treatments are made on the turf areas with Momentum and Acclaim.

All granular applications are handled by a Lely broadcast spreader, mounted on a 1030 Massey-Ferguson tractor or Permagreen Magnum spreader/sprayer. Spot treatments are handled with a backpack sprayer.

In September, aeration and seeding is completed using a John Deere 300 tractor with a 60-inch AERATOR/seeder. Perennial Ryegrass is used during this treatment.

Mowing practices include two weekly cuts on all of the playing fields and one cut per week on the common areas. A fleet of Toro Groundmaster 345 mowers handles the mowing.

The irrigated fields have Toro systems and are normally set for 20 minutes per station.

Infield preparation is completed daily for spring, summer and fall leagues. During the season there are also two games per night. A Smithco super rake handles the grooming.

The residents of Monroe Township should be

proud to have two dedicated professionals, Tom Torpey and Virgil Caputo, maintaining their sports fields. For their accomplishments, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) is proud to honor Tom and Virgil by selecting the Monroe Township softball complex field as 2008 Field of the Year.'

Tom and his crew would like to thank Mayor Richard Pucci and the Township Council for their support as well as Wayne Hamilton, Business Administrator, Ernie Feist, Director, and Wayne Horbatt, Superintendent.

The 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year runner-up was Singley Park, Hillsborough Township, NJ. John Crossen, Park Supervisor, had created a truly special facility. Singley Park is located in the western section of Hillsborough Township. The park has four softball fields, one full size soccer field and eight small-sided soccer fields.

John states, 'Singley Park gets many, many compliments for being one of the best facilities to play softball.' John strongly feels the compliments he gets from coaches and players, is due to the dedication of his staff.

SFMANJ would like to congratulate John and his staff for their accomplishments as Singley Park.

Scott Bills is Sales Consultant, Northern Nurseries, Inc.; and member of the SFMANJ Board of Director

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