

NOW WE'RE COOKING WITH GAS!

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM



For the past year our Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Board of Directors and committee members have been tasked at creating value for our members. Look at all we accomplished last year:

- A fiscally healthy, focused SFMANJ organization.
- A 10% tuition discounts for SFMANJ members for select Rutgers OCPE educational courses.
- Spring and Fall Field Days, an equipment show at the Adelphia Field Day and one of our best educational programs at Expo.
- Awarded a Scholarship and sponsored 2 student teams for the Student Challenge Competition at the Sports Turf Managers Association annual conference in Orlando Florida.
- Improved communications to you through our Update Newsletter (published quarterly), our up-to-date website (www.sfmanj.org), and mass emails to communicate news and information to our membership quicker and cheaper compared to first class mail.
- Expansion of our Field of the Year Contest.
- Improved public relations and alliance building with other organizations such as the New Jersey Turfgrass Association, NJ State League of Municipalities and several others.
- The use of telephone conference calls for efficient and more effective Board and committee meetings.

At our Early Bird Networking Session at Expo in December 2009, we asked you the question: "What can we (SFMANJ) do for you to make this organization better?" Here are some of the things that you told us:

- Let us know about other educational activities that are out there.
- Schedule educational activities at better times so we can attend.

- Offer specialized classes for pesticide certification, Certified Sports Field Manager test preparation and career enhancement.
- Have local (District) networking meetings after work at convenient times of the year.
- Give us more information about synthetic fields.

You spoke, we listened, and here is what we can do:

- We will act as a clearinghouse of educational information. For example, if one of our commercial members or another organization is sponsoring an educational event that is open to our members, we will help promote it by publicizing it on our website. Just call us or email us.
- Field Days are useless if you can't attend because you are busy working. This summer, after schools let out for the summer, we are offering a Field Day on June 23, 2010. Stay tuned to the website for more information.
- We are planning after work networking meeting coming to a location near you.
- Getting away from work is difficult. We are planning specialized training sessions using conference calling or webinar formats. Learn new things in real time from the comfort of your home or office.
- We are currently planning a Seminar on Wheels bus trip later this year with the focus on synthetic turf surfaces.

Thanks to all of you for your input, and on behalf of the rest of the Board of SFMANJ, we are looking forward to seeing you soon.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Don Savard".

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