

UPDATE Sports Field

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Managers Association of New Jersey

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EXPO 2011

A Strong Program is Slated for this Year's Show in Atlantic City

by Brad Park

(Editor's note: This article was adapted from materials provided by Sports Turf Managers Association)

It's time to begin planning your trip to Expo 2011. The New Jersey Green Expo Turf and Landscape Conference will be held at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ on December 6-8, 2011. How can you convince your employer to send you?

Continuing education and industry connections are crucial to your success and the success of your sports fields. Here are some suggestions to help your employer understand how your attendance at Expo 2011 can add value to the overall operation of your facility.

EDUCATE YOURSELF ON THE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Provide an overview of the size and scope of Expo 2011. It may be helpful to give your employer a copy of the brochure. This edition of *SFMANJ Update* provides the Sports Field Managers Program for Expo 2011.

Pinpoint specific sessions you plan to attend, and tie their relevance to your sports facility. As part of the Sports Field Managers Program in 2011, presentations

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An attendee-packed SFMANJ-sponsored Trade Show was among the highlights of the 2011 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day.



Dr. Steve Hart, Rutgers University, discusses nonselective herbicide efficacy during the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day held at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm on July 27, 2011.



A Message from The President

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

*"In preparing for battle I have
always found that plans are useless,
but planning is indispensable."*

Dwight D. Eisenhower

When I look at my sports fields after a hot summer and an intense fall sports preseason, I think about what I did right and what I would like to do different next year. Late summer tells the story of how well my turf plan worked. Good plan or bad plan, it is the time to find out why and learn from the outcomes.

For many of us, fall is the time when we prepare our budgets for the next fiscal year. A budget is nothing more than a strategic plan expressed in dollars and cents. Careful planning now will help us formulate the ways and means of getting the job done on time and on budget. Safe playing fields don't just happen; they come about as a result of a well thought out program and smart utilization of precious resources.

Speaking of planning ahead, we are planning a Fall Field Day on November 9, 2011 at the Middlesex Vocational Technical High School in East Brunswick, New Jersey. This afternoon event is FREE for SFMANJ members and will be hosted by our own resident infield expert, Ray Cipperly. We will feature a demonstration of a new infield dirt renovation amendment product and process and have a Q&A discussion of infield improvements that you can make this fall, before winter and the next baseball/softball season begins. Brad Park will also be on hand with updates of the new Nutrient Management laws that will soon be in effect. Stay tuned for more information on this.

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EXPO 2011

will be delivered on pest management for school grounds, synthetic field maintenance, practical solutions to failed sports fields, Rutgers research update, and a panel on doing more with less.

Highlight the trade show and cite suppliers and equipment manufacturers you plan to meet.

Discuss the networking opportunities you will have with peers who share challenges similar to the ones you have.

Note that NJ DEP pesticide recertification credits will be applied for, including tough to acquire Category 13 Credits.

Explain how innovations in products, new research, and cutting edge management techniques continually change, and why it is important to stay abreast of those changes.

Reinforce how the success of your sports fields ultimately depends upon the continued professional development of you and your staff.

KNOW THE COST

Make a case for efficient and effective use of your facility's training dollars. By attending Expo 2011, you will be exposed to the most relevant education and technology in one place, making it the most effective use of training dollars.

Research travel times and hotel costs. While Atlantic City is feasible day trip from almost anywhere in New Jersey, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association does its part to negotiate reasonable room rates at the Trump Taj Mahal to make staying a night reasonable. Expo 2011 will feature online registration at www.njturfgrass.org

HAVE AN ACTION PLAN

Develop a plan for how operations will continue in your absence. Make sure you are accessible by phone (please turn off or set on vibrate during sessions!!!!) to address any concerns that might arise in your absence.

Consider preparing and presenting a report on the information you learned and how you plan to put it into practice at your facility.

Demonstrate how you will share the technical information learned with your staff for their continuing educational development.

SEE YOU IN ATLANTIC CITY IN DECEMBER!

Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coord., Rutgers Univ., SFMANJ Board Member, and Editor, SFMANJ Update