



# A Message from the President

By Matt Olivi

**T**he dog days of summer are behind us and we are well into what might be our busiest time of year. We are already looking forward to next year's challenges as we sow the seed for a healthy turf next spring. Sports field managers are always required to be one step ahead of the game. However, before we move forward, let's quickly reflect upon what we have done over the summer. On August 1, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) held its annual summer trade show in collaboration with the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Facility in Freehold, NJ. Despite the weather taking a turn for the worst, the event still proved to be a great success. Our commercial members were greatly supportive this year and we nearly exceeded our capacity for vendor booths. Although the weather cut our equipment demonstrations short, attendees still had plenty of face time with suppliers and industry professionals. Thanks to all of you who were able to take part in the event. The contributions of commercial members at this year's event has greatly contributed to the financial health and good standing of our chapter. Your continued support will always be appreciated by the entire membership.

Now that we are well passed the halfway point this year we are looking forward to a strong finish. As mentioned earlier, we always try to stay a season ahead of the game. We are all aware that what we do in fall will pave the way for our spring field maintenance programs. So, this fall we'll be returning to Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School for our Fall Field Day event. On November 8, SFMANJ will be sponsoring a Baseball Field Maintenance Clinic featuring our local Minor League Field Managers. Our all-star line-up will include Ryan Radcliffe, Ryan Hills, Bill Butler, Dan Purner, Will Reardon and host Ray Cipperly. The professionals will be speaking on topics such as mound construction, grass cutting techniques, line painting, infield skin maintenance and more. Be sure to join us and pick up some useful tips and effective strategies for maintaining your fields.

In case you can't make it out to East Brunswick in November, we'll all be meeting again in December at the Expo 2012 Conference in Atlantic City New Jersey. The three day conference will be held December 4-6. This year's Sports Field educational program will include Speakers such as Vickie Wallace (University of Connecticut), Brad Park (Rutgers University), Don Savard, CSFM and more. If you need NJ pesticide applicator recertification credits this will be the event to attend. Also, it's never too early


to start planning your trip to the national STMA convention in January of 2013. This year's national event is right here on the east coast and will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida. For more information visit [stma.org](http://stma.org) and click on conferences.

STMA leadership training is always a great resource for sports field managers. Our New Jersey chapter has always benefited from having our members attend national events and/or involving themselves with our parent organization. We are very fortunate to have another CSFM and former STMA board member, Kevin Merideth, join our chapter recently. Kevin's experience in the industry speaks for itself and we welcome him into our local association.

Moving forward, SFMANJ will continue to keep you updated on legislative issues and developments that effect our day-to-day operations and field managers. Our legislative committee continues to work with the New Jersey Green Industry Council (NJGIC), State representatives and other interested parties. Please contact us if you ever have any questions or concerns relating to legislative affairs. We always encourage you to participate and provide the SFMANJ board of directors with feedback. Let us know how we're doing and how we can help you. There's nothing we can't accomplish when we work together.

*Matt Olivi is Sports Field Manager, Piscataway Board of Education, Piscataway, NJ; and SFMANJ President*

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