



A Message from The President

Several Sports Field Manager Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Board Members recently attended the National Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida. Our New Jersey Chapter was once again well represented by both members and directors. Our Chapter Executive Secretary, Debbie Savard, was given an opportunity to share her perspectives on chapter building and outlined her role as an integral part of SFMANJ operations during the Chapter Officers Training Session. Debbie paved the way for the New Jersey Chapter to assume a leadership role in chapter building as we move forward. This year, SFMANJ was recognized on a national stage for its efforts




as we have maintained a cohesive membership, increased financial health, efficiently directed educational outreach and incorporated new technology to better serve our membership. I strongly believe that this is due to an increasing number of members and directors who are stepping-up and becoming more involved in chapter activities and operations. The Board of Directors has been receiving a great deal of feedback from the membership. This exchange of ideas has been instrumental in steering SFMANJ in the right direction. On behalf of the SFMANJ Board of Directors, I sincerely thank you for your contributions to our chapters' success.

We're clearly off to a great start this year and we want to keep that momentum going. SFMANJ will continue its annual tradition of sponsoring a Spring Field Day and Trade Show. This year's Spring Event will be held on Tuesday, April 2 and will be hosted by the Facilities Management Staff at the Northern Burlington County Regional School District. The Board of Directors jumped at the opportunity to showcase this well-maintained public school facility and give members and other interested attendees a chance to visit high quality playing surfaces. Sports Field Manager Bernard Luongo has made many efforts to improve the safety, playability and overall quality of the Sports Fields at this Facility by working closely with School Administrators and Management Staff. SFMANJ is happy to assist Bernard and Staff in coordinating several renovation projects that will further enhance the playing characteristics of these fields. The educational program will highlight effective methods of amending skin soil surface profiles, laser grading infield skins, topdressing and interpreting soil test results.

The program will then place emphasis on maintaining field improvements over long-term periods by demonstrating strategies used by professional groundskeepers. This will show attendees how to get the most for their money after investing in field renovation projects. School Groundskeepers are among those that continue to face the challenges of pest control at their facilities. The program will include an informative talk about some of the effective low-impact products that are available to field managers and grounds personnel to combat pests while still maintaining compliance with New Jersey School IPM laws. The key component of pest management on school grounds and all facilities alike is to maintain proper cultural practices for healthy turf. Academics from Rutgers and the County College of Morris will explain the theory behind such practices in their presentations. Speaking of challenges, one of the most difficult tasks a field manager may face is laying-out and marking women's lacrosse fields. You asked for it and now you have it. By popular demand, you will be able to learn some effective strategies for simplifying the mark-out process from a Certified Sports Field Manager. Be sure to join us for the Spring Field Day Event this year. It always proves to be a great event and all in attendance will be able to take some valuable new knowledge home with them at the end of the day. I look forward to seeing you there and catching-up with you. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us. We're here to help.

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

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