

What the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is All About

By Debbie Savard

Founded in 2000, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) is the New Jersey Chapter of the national organization Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). Over the years SFMANJ has grown its membership, not only from New Jersey, but also from Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York and Ontario, Canada.

SFMANJ was formally recognized at the STMA National Conference and Exhibition in Daytona Beach, Florida in January 2013 for the work that we perform for sports field managers in New Jersey and recent additions to our educational outreach efforts. Our Mission Statement reads "Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry." This is exactly our endeavor. We are also well connected with many of the leading universities and professionals involved with turfgrass and sports field research including Rutgers University. Answers to questions regarding sports field management can be handled readily.

Topics addressed by SFMANJ include: Turfgrass species selection, plant/soil fertility, pesticide use and diagnostics, root zone

amendments, baseball infield amendments, pitcher's mound and batter's box repair, turfgrass mowing, drainage, irrigation, turfgrass cultivation, topdressing, equipment demonstration, sports field construction, field layout, management, budgets, school IPM, legislative affairs and various other management techniques which improve the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields.

Each year we hold at least two field days, in the spring and fall, offering education through lectures as well as visual demonstrations. Pesticide credits are awarded to those who attend. The field days also include a trade show, a free continental breakfast and a hot lunch. Most are free to those who wish to attend and some offer free membership.

Our Association also promotes a trade show in co-operation with New Jersey Turfgrass Association and Rutgers University at the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Field Day each summer. Hope to see you at this year's event on Wednesday, July 31, 2013 at Rutgers Hort Farm 2, North Brunswick, NJ.

SFMANJ also handles a portion of the educational sessions at the New Jersey Green Expo Turf and Landscape Conference held in

Continued on page 17



Dr. Henry W. Indyk Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Science

As many of you know, the turfgrass industry lost a dear friend and colleague in September 2005. We will all miss Henry very much and would like to insure that his legacy lives on. The Indyk family would like to establish a memorial fellowship to support graduate students interested in applied turfgrass science. This fellowship is being created to help assure that tomorrow's graduate students have the financial resources to get an advanced degree in turfgrass science at Rutgers University. To fund a full graduate assistantship each year in Henry's name, we will need to raise a total of \$400,000. Your generous support at this time will bring us closer to reaching this goal.

To make a tax-deductible contribution today, please send a check payable to the Rutgers University Foundation, 7 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Be sure to indicate "Indyk Fellowship, Turfgrass" in the memo portion of your check. If you desire, you may provide a donation in the form of a pledge payable over several years.

*For information on other ways to support this fellowship, please contact
Dr. Bruce B. Clarke, Director – Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science
(848) 932-6295, ext. 331; or clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu or*

SPOTLIGHT on our ADVERTISERS

Our newsletter advertisers are invited to submit articles to Update profiling themselves, their company, their services or their products.

Entitled "Spotlight on our Advertisers", these 1/2 page articles can include your local salespersons' names, phone numbers, and email addresses along with any local events you are sponsoring.

It can run next to your company's ad or be in a separate area of the newsletter.

AND IT'S FREE!

What the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Is All About

Continued from page 14

Atlantic City, NJ in December each year. Speakers from around the country deliver education to our sports field professionals with the latest information and technology. Pesticide credits, including Category 13 School IPM, are awarded for completion of the sessions.

In addition to our regular field days, SFMANJ holds other events throughout the year such as clinics for local little leagues and district meetings. Anyone interested in hosting such an event can call the office at 856-514-3179.

Our newsletter, Update, is published quarterly and is full of timely and informative articles and advertising. Each issue is mailed out but can also be viewed on our website (www.sfmanj.org) or accessed through Michigan State University Libraries (<http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/updat>). Here you can also find all past issues dating back to July 2001. Anyone interested in advertising in Update should call the office at 856-514-3179 or download a form from our web site.

Our website also contains links to many documents that may be of help with your fields, photos from recent events as well as a calendar of upcoming events that may be of interest to you. There is also a vendor directory with active links for your convenience. Membership registration forms are available for download if you are interested in joining our organization.

Recently, SFMANJ has embraced social media by creating a facebook page. Activity there is starting to pick-up. Also, we have initiated putting a QR code on mailers, newsletters, etc., so get your code reader ready.

With an SFMANJ membership, not only does one receive our quarterly newsletter, but also Sportsturf, the monthly publication of STMA. Each issue contains articles written for and by sports field professionals. You will also receive the annual SFMANJ Membership Resource Directory to help you contact other sports field managers or commercial members to discuss any issues you may have with your fields. Another benefit to membership is a 10% tuition discount on all Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Athletic Field courses.

Any individual, organization, institution, or vendor/supplier who has interest in athletic field safety and playability would benefit by becoming a member of SFMANJ. We represent high school, college, and professional facilities, parks and recreation departments, educators, youth leagues, contractors, and commercial vendors.

SFMANJ members are always welcome to attend our board meetings, which are generally held on the first Wednesday of each month at Hort Farm 2, North Brunswick, NJ. We appreciate member input and thrive on new, fresh ideas from all areas of the sports field industry. We are here for our members and want to bring to them the things that interest and help them the most. Anyone interested in attending, should call us at 856-514-3179 to confirm time and location.

If you would like more information on SFMANJ, please call 856-514-3179 or visit our web site and see what we're all about.

More from the 2013 Spring Field Day

