

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days
Rutgers Hort Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ
Golf & Fine Turf
July 30, 2013

Lawn Landscape, & Sports Turf
Includes SFMANJ-Sponsored Table Top Trade Show
July 31, 2013
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org

New Jersey State League of Municipalities
November 19-21, 2013
Atlantic City Convention Center
Atlantic City, NJ
609.695.3481
www.njslom.org

New Jersey Green Expo
December 10-12, 2013
Trump Taj Mahal
Atlantic City, NJ
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org

STMA Conference & Exhibition
January 21-24, 2014
San Antonio, TX
800.323.3875
www.stma.org

2014 Rutgers NJAES OCPE Courses
Organic Turfgrass Management
January 28, 2014
Two-Day Athletic Field Maintenance
February 12-13, 2014
Reducing Pesticide Inputs & Exploring Organic Options for
Sports Turf
February 18, 2014
Baseball & Softball Skin Surface Selection & Management
February 25, 2014
Rutgers Cook Campus
New Brunswick, NJ

Perspective from a Field of the Year Participant

By Bernard Luongo

My name is Bernard Luongo and I am employed at Northern Burlington Regional School District in Columbus, NJ as a lead groundskeeper. I would like to take a moment to let membership know how entering the Sports Field Managers Association of NJ (SFMANJ) Field of the Year contest and winning runner-up for two years in a row has meant to me, our grounds staff and the administration. First, it gives the staff involved with maintaining the grounds recognition. In an educational institution where recognition is hard to come by it means a lot. Most of all it gives you credibility. Now when you are in a meeting and start talking to administrators about field maintenance, conditions, playability, safety, and wear, they pay attention and take you seriously. They now take a sense of pride as to how the facilities look and notice that you care and take your job seriously. Now that the Board of Education sees this they want to participate in your success also. They accomplish this by investing in your program. They purchase the equipment that you recommend – seed, fertilizer, etc. Everything that you need to keep producing a better product. As long as you keep producing results they will continue to keep investing in your program and your crew. Obviously this doesn't happen overnight. It takes several years a plan and goals to incrementally increase the quality of your fields. SFMANJ will help you develop a plan. Don't just be a member. Be an active member. Get to know your Board and Officers. You will be surprised that we all share the same highs and lows of our profession and the elements that sometimes work against us. So stay active ask a lot of questions and be humble. This is what SFMANJ and being in the Field of the Year contest means to me. Keep on turfing.

Bernard Luongo is Lead Groundskeeper, Northern Burlington County Regional School District, Columbus, NJ; and SFMANJ member.

**ATTENTION
SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS!**
*Have you sent in your entry for SFMANJ
2013 Field of the Year*

Deadline Oct 31, 2013

Easy to enter

*Call 856-514-3179 or go to
www.sfmanj.org - resources tab for easy
instructions.*