



## A Message from The President . . .

# We've wrapped up another great year in the field . . .

by Matt Olivi

Once the snow starts falling it's time to move indoors, reflect upon what we've accomplished and attempt to identify the challenges we'll be facing in the new year ahead. Winter's a great time to head back to the classroom to acquire new technical knowledge and gain new perspectives on field maintenance. We ended 2013 with two great educational programs.

In November, SFMANJ held its annual fall field day at East Brunswick Vocational and Technical High School. Despite bad weather, we had a great turn-out and an overall great event. Sincere thanks go to all of the professional baseball field managers and the organizations that they are affiliated with. Field Managers from the New York Mets, Lakewood BlueClaws, Somerset Patriots, Staten Island Yankees and the Newark Bears helped facilitate the program and shared perspectives with the membership. We also had tremendous support from our commercial members. Thanks to all of you who took part in the trade show and especially those of you who were kind enough to sponsor the event. Your support was vital to the success of the Field Day.

About a month later, we gathered again in Atlantic City for Expo 2013. This year's two day sports field education program was well attended. The Tuesday December 10 seminars focused on strategies that New Jersey Sports Field Managers can use to enhance their integrated pest management (IPM) programs. Those who were able to stay for Day Two were updated on the latest turfgrass research from Rutgers University, the latest synthetic turf maintenance research from Penn State University and gained the perspective of a Major League Baseball Head Groundskeeper. Nicole MacFayden of the Baltimore Orioles shared field management strategies and unique challenges that she and her staff face throughout the season. Again, our sincere thanks go to all of our guest speakers. All of the presentations were very well received by attendees.

If you're still craving more education before the turf begins to green-up in the spring, this year's STMA Conference will be held in late January in San Antonio, Texas. Conference information is available at [www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org). Several members of the SFMANJ Board

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**Go to [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org) to download SFMANJ registration information**

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## BRAD PARK

by Debra Savard

This year, the Board of Directors honored one of their own at the 2013 Green Expo at the Trump Taj Mahalin in Atlantic City, NJ. The award was presented to Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Board of Directors Member and Newsletter Editor, Brad Park for his ten years of dedicated service to the SFMANJ and to all of its members.

Brad is also the Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University. He also has been our go-to guy for any sort of a question, whether it be “when did this happened?” or “how did we do this?” or “where was that?” . . . Brad always has the answers. He can sit, listen to a rowdy debate on a certain topic and then calmly say “well, this is what I think we should do”. And we usually do. We appreciate his dry wit!



Brad is our Rutgers connection, full of wonderful advice, as many of you know who have called and had him come out to inspect your field. He even provides a location, the Rutgers Geiger Center, for the Board meetings on the first Wednesday of each month.

It would be hard to imagine the Board of Directors without him. He has been a source of inspiration and knowledge for all of us. Here's to 10 more! **Thank you Brad!**



Debra Savard is the SFMANJ Executive Secretary

## UPDATE

Update is published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. The Newsletter is edited by Brad Park., Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, at Rutgers University and SFMANJ Board Member. The design, layout, distribution, and advertising sales are currently managed by Debra Savard, SFMANJ executive secretary.

Past issues of Update, dating back as far as 2001 to the present can be accessed through the Michigan State University Libraries.

To access this archive, visit: <http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/updat>

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of Directors will be traveling to the Lone Star State to represent New Jersey at the annual Chapter Officers Training Session (COTS). The COTS meeting provides our chapter officers an opportunity to exchange ideas with chapter leaders of other Sports Field Managers Associations from around the country.

Sharing ideas on the local level is vital to the continued development of our New Jersey Chapter of Sports Field Managers. Be sure to keep the feedback flowing to your Board of Directors. We always attempt to tailor educational programs and utilize chapter resources in the most efficient means possible. Our goal is always to support you as a Field Manager in New Jersey and provide you with whatever educational assistance and resources you might need. We'll be looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you at upcoming events.

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



Remember, to access the “Members Only” area on our web site, enter your name as it appears in the directory, all lower case with no spaces and no prefixes, suffixes or middle initials.

The password is “sfmanj”.

## HAVE YOU CHECKED-OUT OUR WEB SITE LATELY?

- ✓ Check our Events page for upcoming events and pictures of past SFMANJ functions.
- ✓ Check our Resources page for past issues of our Newsletter Update, Minutes from past Board Meetings, links to useful information and job postings.
- ✓ Check our Contact Us page for direct links to all of the Board of Directors. Call us with any questions or comments.
- ✓ Check our Vendor page for interactive links to our advertising vendors' web sites and a complete list of all our vendors. Call them first! They are happy to answer any questions.
- ✓ Check our New MEMBERS ONLY Section on the Home Page for Membership Directory and Minutes