

UPDATE

Sports Field

Managers Association of New Jersey



Fall 2016
Vol. 16, No. 3

P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070 • 856-514-3179 • www.sfmanj.org • e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

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December 6 - 8, 2016

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For more information on Expo see pages 5 and 7



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Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 242 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2016 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 856.514.3179 or download the membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

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HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

If you have a desire to be more of a part of your organization, the SFMANJ Board of Directors would like to hear from you.

If you would like to be on the ballot this December for the SFMANJ Board or would like to be on an SFMANJ Committee,

Contact SFMANJ at
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or Call

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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association

www.stma.org

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This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the
Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.

A Message from the President

Hello everyone . . .

By Bernard Luongo



Three months have passed and another newsletter has gone to print and has been sent to our membership. Sort of like a dividend. Hey, wait a minute - this is a dividend to our members. It gives the membership a chance to read about previous events that they may not have had the opportunity to attend.

You can't beat the timely and informative articles that the newsletter brings our readers to help them get through some problems they might be experiencing on the properties they manage. At times there may even be humor between the pages. We have very supportive advertisers who are always ready, willing and able to provide their goods, services, and expertise to anyone who asks. All this is at your fingertips in the newsletter.

Members are encouraged to become involved by writing articles for the newsletter. They can be technical in nature, laden with research or about your experiences, good, bad, indifferent or humorous. These articles help other members that might be at wits end or discouraged. They help let members know that others have gone, or are going, through the same things that they are.

There are two individuals that bring this publication into your hands. Debbie Savard, Executive Secretary, layout and design specialist and Brad Park, Rutgers University, Board of Directors and Editor. Without these two, the newsletter wouldn't happen. Thank you and keep up the great work.

At Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), is a volunteer organization, and we encourage membership to become involved at whatever level they feel comfortable. Each year the organization has three field days: Spring Summer and Fall at various locations throughout the state. In December, we team up with NJTA to offer Sports Turf courses at the New Jersey Green Expo in Atlantic City. If anyone is interested in hosting a field day in the future, contact Debbie Savard, Executive Secretary, at 856-514-3179. She would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

One way you, as a member, could participate would be to speak at one of our events and share what knowledge you have accumulated over your years of hard work, experiences and education. Being involved can also be as easy as showing up to a field day and enjoying the education and demonstrations.

Our field days also enjoy a strong vendor involvement from tabletop displays of goods and services to demonstrations of equipment that our members may use in their daily toils.

In ending, I had the opportunity to attend my first Adelphia Field Day on August 3rd. In past years family obligations had kept me away. What a fantastic event! New Jersey Turfgrass Association,

Rutgers University and SFMANJ worked seamlessly to deliver a day worth remembering. The weather was perfect, sunny with tolerable temperatures and humidity. Approximately two hundred attendees were treated to a trade show with breakfast followed by demos and top-notch research from Rutgers Research teams and graduate students and a great lunch. There was a core session after lunch with credits awarded. As a first time attendee I was in awe. Again, everything you need in one setting. I will definitely attend again without question. I would be remiss if I did not thank New Jersey Turfgrass Association and Rutgers University for allowing SFMANJ to participate in this event. Your support of our organization in the past has made it stronger. We look forward to your continued support and look forward to working together as a team to produce quality events going forward. Thank you again.

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



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EXPO 2016: The *Borgata* Back by Popular Demand!

By Brad Park

**December
6 - 8, 2016**

Editor's Note: This article was adapted from materials developed by Chris Carson, Golf Course Superintendent, Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield, NJ and Expo Education Chairman; and Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA)

It's time to begin planning your trip to Expo 2016. The New Jersey Green Expo will be return to The Borgata in Atlantic City, NJ during December 6-8, 2016.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS:

Credits, Credits, Credits... New Jersey DEP Pesticide Credits (and other states) are anticipated as well as New Jersey ProFACT Fertilizer Credits.

Education... a comprehensive Educational Program will focus on Sports Fields, Lawn and Landscapes, and Golf disciplines. Local, national, and internationally known industry and university leaders will be presenting important information that you can use to make your operation better.

Trade Show... one of the largest trade show events in the region, Expo proudly presents many of the best vendors and suppliers of services. Discuss your specific management issues with the best companies our industry has to offer.

Fellowship... many opportunities exist to meet old friends and to make new ones. Whether on the trade show floor, or in the hallways

between sessions, or in the many formal social opportunities, or in the informal social get-togethers, the three days at Expo offer you a great opportunity to learn what others are doing in our business in a relaxed atmosphere. Many attendees have told us that these informal discussions are highlights of the conference!

One-on-one discussion opportunities with industry leaders... including the many Faculty at Rutgers University and at other top-notch Universities. Rutgers Professors and more will be there to answer your management questions.

A third year at a new hotel ... The Borgata is the premier Hotel/Casino in Atlantic City and Expo will be returning to The Borgata for 2016!

The Expo mission statement: The NJ Green Expo is a science based conference and trade show that provides education, business, fellowship, and environmental stewardship opportunities in partnership with the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers University.

How can you convince your employer to send you? Continuing education and industry connections are crucial to your success and

Continued on page 18

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Seasonal Color for Your Landscape and Grounds

by Don Savard, CSFM, CGM



Flower garden displays can add interest to your landscape and showcase your sports fields. Seasonal flowers brighten and improve a well maintained site. The colors help draw the eye towards features you wish to highlight such as entrances or signage or away from distractions such as weeds in the turf or the stark look of a chain link fence. The vast pallet of colors and growth habits of most commercially available plant material make it easy to be creative and will make your site a source of community pride.

Flowering plants are categorized as perennials and annuals. Perennials are plants that live more than one year. They are prized by gardeners for their color, interesting shaped flowers or leaves, fragrance or form. While many perennials have limited periods of time when they are in bloom, they can be very effective when their bloom timing coincides with special events such as graduation, playoffs or homecomings. With the proper care, many perennial plants will survive and thrive for years, making them a cost effective choice.

Annual flowers are plants that live for only one year. While they may be short lived compared to perennials, usually, their bloom period is longer than most perennials. Annual bedding plants are useful for multiple color changes as the seasons change. Because they are annual, new plants must be purchased every year.

For simplicity, I categorize plant bed displays as either drive-by or close-up. Drive by plantings, as I call them are plantings that are seen from a distance or are viewed from a vehicle passing by. These plantings seem to look best using one or two colors, each planted as a mass. The reason for this is, from a distance, or in motion, detail often goes unnoticed. Close-up beds are installations where people walk up to or walk by. Using multiple plants, the viewer will notice the detail of interesting shapes, growth habits and colors. You can even make these close-up installations portable by planting in containers. Containers come in all sizes. I like to move container plantings around to different areas of my campus to add color and interest as enhancement for special events. Try to avoid fragile containers, some of the best are made of polypropylene plastics which are durable, have the look of stone or terra cotta, are very light and some even are self-watering.

Selecting the right plant for the right spot begins with knowing and understanding the conditions where you plan to have the installation. Consider the amount of sun or shade in each location. The root-zone growing medium can be native soil or a modified soil-potting mix combination. Note, however, that some plants require a well-drained soils, others grow well in dry conditions, and still others grow well in a bog. I believe that traffic tolerance should be part of a plant selection criteria. Students at the school where I work occasionally run through planting beds while playing catch or Frisbee. By avoiding delicate plant material in those locations, I stick with plants that tolerate and recover well from traffic. Another consideration is pollinating insects attracted to the flowers. Some

plants attract pollinators more than others and can cause concerns from people who are sensitive to insect stings.

While some planting beds require less maintenance than others, all require some care to remain healthy and attractive. It is easy to underestimate the time necessary to take care of flower beds. Unless there is automatic irrigation in place, there will be some weeks where you will have to bring out the hose and give your plants a drink. Then there is light frequent fertilization, which can be accomplished while watering using a water soluble fertilizer and a hose end jar sprayer. Pulling weeds and removing spent blooms probably consumes the most time. While there may be some pre and post emergent herbicides labeled for use in in flower beds, the best looking beds still have all of the weeds physically removed, and this includes dead weeds that were killed by a herbicide application. Pulling weeds is not difficult but it involves bending and stooping which is uncomfortable for many people (including me). Some annual plants such as geraniums require frequent removal of spent blooms (deadheading) while others such as petunias do not.

The best flower garden displays start out with a planting plan. Knowing whether the site is sunny or shady, wet or dry will give you some criteria for plant selection. I like to take photo images of flower installations that I admire and use them as inspiration for gardens that I design. Next, I decide if my planting bed will consist of perennials, annuals or both. When I first started planting flowers at my school I started small by just planting flowers (in the school colors, of course) around the school sign. Once that was received favorably, I began to expand. We now have gardens, garden paths, containers, and flower beds in our landscaped beds!

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2016 Sports Field Managers Expo Program

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016

Afternoon session

- 1:00 - 2:00 PM NJ DEP School IPM Program Update**
Stephen Bross, NJ DEP
- 2:00 - 3:00 PM Developing sports field specifications**
Michael Boekholder, Philadelphia Phillies
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM Turfgrass IPM on sports fields and grounds at Central Park**
Gary Gentilucci, Central Park Conservancy
- 4:00 - 8:00 PM Trade Show**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016

Morning session

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM Early bird sports field managers**
Networking Roundtable
- 8:30 - 9:00 AM Annual Business Meeting & Awards Presentation**
- 9:00 - 9:30 AM The year in review**
Brad Park, Rutgers University
- 9:30 - 10:30 AM Is your facility safe?**
Scott Bills, CSFM, Sports Field Solutions
- 10:30 - 11:30 AM Turf and skin surface care at Toms River Public Schools**
Keith Fisher, Toms River Public Schools
- 11:30 - 2:30 PM Trade Show**

Afternoon session

- 2:30 - 3:30 PM Developing sports field expectations, IPM and budgeting through GIS**
Kevin Mercer, Lawrenceville School
- 3:30 - 4:00 PM Minimizing herbicide applications made to school sports fields and grounds.**
Dr. Matt Elmore, Rutgers University

PROFACT SPORTS FIELDS, LAWNS, AND GROUNDS SESSION

- 4:15 - 5:15 PM Fertilizer selection and programming for sports fields and grounds**
Dr. Cale Bigelow, Purdue University

ATTENTION MEMBERS!



SFMANJ Update is looking for authors.

Please feel free to send Brad Park, Editor, SFMANJ Update (park@aesop.rutgers.edu) and/or Debbie Savard, SFMANJ Executive Secretary (mail@sfmanj.org) an article regarding your fields, your experiences, your problems and your surprises.

SFMANJ Update can accommodate articles of differing lengths and welcomes pictures. The SFMANJ Membership will benefit from reading your story.

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THE WOES OF WINTERS PAST

By Bernard Luongo

Someone a heck of a lot smarter than I said a long time ago, "If you do not pay attention to history past, you will surely repeat the same mistakes consistently." Now, with that being said, every winter storm is different. The start time, finish time, wet snow, dry drifting snow, sleet, and freezing rain at the start of the storm leaves a wonderful layer of ice that will not come up unless you soften it up with tons of product. Of course, you can always count on direct sunlight, but if you have spent any amount of time in New Jersey in the winter direct light usually comes from a light bulb.

Freezing rain also comes at the end of a storm, encapsulating the snow that has already fallen. Although New Jersey hasn't had a good old fashioned ice storm in a while, this creates major drain on your product supply, not to mention what it does to power lines and trees - nature's tree pruning at its worst. So every storm is different and with it learning experiences. Paying attention to each one and taking something away from each one over time will hone your skills to better attack the next one more efficiently.

Other than living the storm as it is happening, what other things can be done to help your crew navigate an impending storm? The best defense against winter's twists and turns is a good plan and preparation. The planning part of the equation is partially out of your control. You cannot predict when the storm will start or the severity of the onslaught. How many times has the forecast thrown everyone off? When a storm does finally get here with fury, plowing into it is a must. Having a skeleton crew of plowers willing to come in at anytime of the day or night gives the crew the upper hand in managing the storm. Plowing three to four inches of snow, rotating from parking lot to parking lot as many times as it takes not only save's time but wear and tear on equipment. Trying to move the storm's total after it has ended is a very slow process that damages equipment and frustrates the crew and management.

After the storm has ended the remaining crew can be called in to remove the storm's total from the sidewalks and steps. Snow blowers can remove copius amounts of snow if used properly. Low gear saves on shear pins and belts and does a better job.

Preparation on the other hand is the easiest part of the equation. You have months in advance to get your house in order. It is as simple as making a list of products that are used on sidewalks and parking lots, spare parts for your equipment and the liquids that they use.

Prepping should start in late September to early October. Plow cylinders should be drained and fresh fluid installed and bled of air. Plows inspected, if shoes are used, worn ones should be replaced before the season starts. Extra shoes should be in stock in case, during a storm, a misadventure occurs with a curb line. If shoes are not used worn, plow edges need to be replaced before the weather gets in. Snow blower belts, shear pins, and shoes should be well stocked. If a blower goes down during snow removal it should have the opportunity during the same storm to get back in the fight. A

case of two-cycle oil mix on the shelf is a must. Back pack blowers for sidewalks and chain saws for trees that succumb to the storm use this up quickly. Several gallons of mix should be ready to go after all the equipment is topped off. Extra chains for the saws are also a good idea. Back pack blowers can save a lot of time if the snow is light in texture and less than four inches. It is a quick, effective way to keep main entrances clear and safe during school hours.

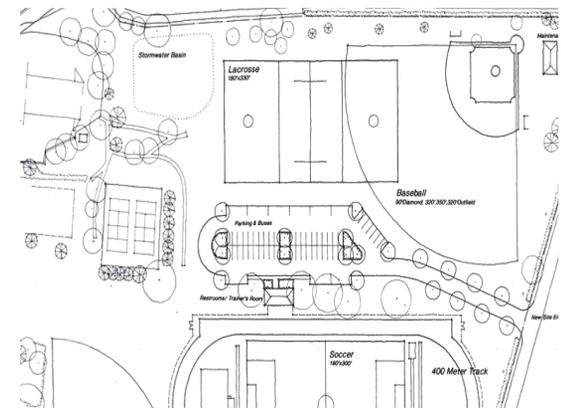
Also inventory should include 5 gallon pails of hydraulic fluid for tractors and quarts of hydraulic fluid for plows. Pumps sometimes freeze and hoses under stress related conditions do fail, fluids need to be replaced. Stocking hoses and solenoids for the plows will minimize down time. The goal is always to get a downed piece of equipment back on line during the event or at least have the opportunity to do so.

Starting the season with six to twelve new shovels to supplement the used ones already on hand isn't a bad decision. Shovels aren't made like they were in the past. I think the only metal on them is the strip across the edge and a screw to hold the handle in place. Temporarily, enough said on those.

Push spreaders for sidewalks need to be inspected for worn parts. Gears need to be greased and tires inflated to proper pressure.

Continued on page 15

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Rutgers Lawn, Landscape and Sportd Turf Field Day Including SFMANUJ Sponsored Trade Show

Photos by Adam Simmons

Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Wednesday August 3, 2016



More from the Adelphia Trade Show

Photos by Debbie Savard

August 3, 2016



Morning Fog Lifts



Registration



Don and Tom



Demos



Setting Up



Rich's Demo

An Education Stop



Demos



Some of our Board Members



Up Close



More Demos



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Have You Considered Becoming a CSFM?

By Kim Heck

You should! Becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) establishes you as a professional who has attained a high level of expertise. Having CSFM attached to your name lends credibility to your opinions and recommendations, whether you are in a one-on-one meeting with your boss, in a group of your management peers, or with outside consultants.



CSFM's also earn more. On average a head sports turf manager who is certified earns \$6,867 more annually than a non-certified sports turf manager. Thinking about changing jobs? The addition of CSFM on your résumé provides a competitive edge when pursuing employment.

In order to sit for the exam, you must have accumulated 40 points, which can be from a combination of education and work experience, or work experience only. For example, if you have a four-year degree in turfgrass management and four years as a head sports turf manager, you have attained the points needed to test.

The exam can be taken at any time and at a location of your choice, as long as STMA has been notified and a qualifying proctor gives the exam. Some chapters organize a time and location to test.

Many CSFM's report that in addition to employer and industry recognition, they take personal satisfaction in achieving the designation. Recently Certified Sports Field Manager Sun Roesslein saw pursuing certification as a way to achieve personal goals. "I wanted to challenge myself and my knowledge as a turf manager," says Roesslein who manages the North Area Athletic Complex at Jeffco Public Schools. "Our membership is made up of so many professionals who are truly passionate about being the best sports turf manager they possibly can be, and I share that drive," she says.

Others see certification as a way to advance the industry. "Professionally I hold myself to higher standards. I know that

with the CSFM designation after my name, I am representing all of the CSFM's of the association," says Don Savard, CSFM, who is at the Salesianum School in Wilmington, Del. He believes that having more certified members also brings more recognition for the profession. "When you have a greater number of certified members the profession receives a higher level of respect," he says.

Craig Potts, CSFM, Texas A&M sports turf manager had similar reasons for taking the exam. "I really wanted to promote the certification program," says Potts. "I knew I should take it, but I was a bit hesitant until several well-respected CSFM's encouraged me to do it." Potts also received financial benefit. "I obtained an increase in pay because my employer values certification."

Weston Appelfeller, CSFM sees certification as a way to build trust and advance his career. "It has given me confidence in talking with members of the front office, coaching staff, and players," he says. "I feel that my organization put the time and money to back my certification, and with that, they have gained comfort in knowing that they have a groundskeeper that is willing to take the next step in his career to provide the safest possible playing surface." Appelfeller also advocates for all involved in field management to pursue certification. "After I received mine, my assistant Ben Jackson achieved his," says Appelfeller. "My comfort level in him maintaining our training facility is much higher since he has obtained it. I've seen the respect the organization has for him grow significantly since he tested."

Join the ranks of the 205 members of STMA who are certified and take your career to the next level. For more information or to apply, go to STMA.org, Professionalism tab and download the application.

Kim Heck is Chief Executive Officer, Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS

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By Matt Olivi



Brad Park and Matt Olivi at
Citi Field in 2013

This past July, the MLB All-Star Game was held at nearby Citi Field in Flushing, New York. Members of the SFMANJ Board of Directors, including myself, Scott Bills (SFMANJ Secretary), and Brad Park (Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter) were afforded an opportunity to assist the Citi Field grounds crew with maintenance operations throughout the three day event. Kenny MacNish, Rutgers undergraduate student and Kevin Rundstrom, recent Rutgers graduate also volunteered, both of whom were past participants in the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Student Challenge.

All-Star festivities started with the Celebrity and Legends game on Sunday, July 14, the Home Run Derby competition on Monday, July 15 and ended with the 2013 All-Star Game on Tuesday, July 16. Despite the

added challenges of extreme hot weather, concert performances, ceremonial rehearsals, photo shoots and an overall increased media presence, the professional field management staff accomplished every task on the demanding maintenance schedule.

Throughout the three-day event, the large number of additional media personnel and all of their additional equipment had to be accommodated. Every effort is made to preserve the turfgrass on the field through traffic management and by using protective covers when possible. Protecting sensitive areas on the playing surface is standard operating procedure for managing traffic such as batting practice; however, for the All-Star Event, these efforts had to be intensified. Extra grounds crewmen were utilized accordingly to set-up extra turf mats on the high traffic areas. While the warning track areas behind home plate and in front of the dug-outs seemed to be prime real estate for the media, there was still a great deal of encroachment onto the turf along those areas. The Grounds staff set-up temporary fences around the turf surrounding the home plate, field logos and other sensitive areas. Not only did the turf require protection, but so did the media crews. Extra turf mats and screens were set-up to protect MLB Network Analysts who were broadcasting from a temporary stage that was set-up just behind third base.

Working as a public employee, I haven't had much experience incorporating advertising and a national television production into game day preparation. At the Major League level, each event provides separate sponsorship opportunities and corresponding signage and visual displays that need to be set-up. For the All-Star events, the grounds staff had specific tasks and instructions for sign placement on the field, the cleaning of outfield walls in preparation for sponsorship decal placement, and the changing of full wall pads when necessary. Even the drag mats used between innings can be

a great opportunity for sponsors to advertise. During the All-Star Game on Tuesday night, all three base pads were changed every couple of innings or so. This was not done for aesthetics alone. Each base pad had a built-in wireless microphone to pick-up game sounds for the television broadcast. Each time a pad was changed, so was the microphone and transmitter. Again, these were all new experiences for me.

The warm temperatures may have been the greatest challenge to field operations. Crews had to keep themselves hydrated and in turn had to do the same for the playing surface. The turfgrass, infield skin and warning track seemed like they couldn't take enough water over the three day period. I was amazed by the irrigation requirements of the entire playing surface. As mentioned earlier, the itineraries of news crews, broadcast network operations and concert rehearsals limited maintenance and irrigation time. On the day of the All-Star Game, temperatures climbed steadily throughout the day and hovered around 100 degrees just before game time. Despite the weather conditions and a tight maintenance schedule, the grounds crew kept the grass green and the infield skin perfectly playable.

The additional challenges of hosting such a world-class event were managed through careful planning and being able to adapt to changing demands throughout the day. The increased man-power seemed to

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THE WOES OF WINTERS PAST



Spare parts are available for these and sometimes this is easier to fix them then try to buy new ones during the winter.

At NBC the grounds crew spreads all its products on the sidewalks and parking lots. A few years ago a switch was made to poly hoppers (less rust) with an electrical system instead of an independent gas engine system. No matter how much prep time was spent on that engine (it always started the day before the storm). It always gave us trouble the day of. It would take 30 minutes of fiddling to get it started. It seemed to respond best to selective narration.

Other than overtime, the most expensive part of storm management is product use. Product should be quoted PO'S and secured by early October. Suppliers run out of this stuff and if you run out your winter is ruined. NBC starts out the winter with 30 tons of a mixture called special salt. Each ton is comprised of 1,960 lbs of salt and 40 lbs of calcium chloride, great melting power. Sidewalk product is magnesium chloride pellets eco friendly. The season starts with six pallets. As the season progresses and the product dwindle, quotes and PO'S are secured just in case it is a prolonged winter. As stated previously, suppliers run out of product as the season progresses. You want to be first on the list as the last supplies arrive.

Grounds crews and management must navigate through many unpredictable events to make properties safe for opening. There are many things that go on behind the scenes to make a storm event successful. Covering all the bases is a must. One major storm can be followed by several others over a two week period. There might arise a situation where there is now from left to put plowed snow and another major storm is pending. The equipment that you have cannot push the snow back any further. What to do? At NBC before the season starts a quote for a construction grade front end loader with operator for the day and hourly is secured. This came in very handy. It has only been used once since I've been employed but it saved our bacon. Also, quoted is a pickup with a plow and operator for the same time frames, in case none of our trucks breaks down and doesn't make it back into the fray. It pays to try to anticipate the unanticipated. These storms are alive and show no mercy.

Some of the basics that can be done a day or two before the storm are filling all gas and diesel cans in case electricity is lost and the main fuel pumps go down. Topping of all tractors, trucks, and equipment with fuel and then starting all equipment.

So in closing, again every storm is different. Pay attention to how long it takes to clear lots, how much product is used during different types of storms and what can be done better. Every storm is an education and after each an assessment should be made.

The goal is to always get better and not to be a part of history past unless it's on a positive note.

BE SAFE OUT THERE AND HAPPY PLOWING!

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

Welcome New Board Member

Kevin Mercer

by Debbie Savard



Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey's Board of Directors would like to welcome Kevin Mercer CSFM, CGM & LICM as its new director. Kevin graduated from the University of Georgia Turfgrass Management program and also studied at Montgomery Community College for Landscape Architecture. His over twenty years of employment, from Vassar College,

St Mary's College and The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base, combine his landscaping, golf course and sports field management skills. He has been married to his wife, Sally for ten years and has three children, Ashley, Sara and Richie. Kevin is currently employed as the Golf Course and Grounds Manager for The Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, NJ.

Kevin is an accomplished speaker and has given sports field sustainability lectures locally and nationally and has served as a part time instructor for Principles of Turfgrass and Sport Turf Management at the College of Southern Maryland. He has been a member of the Sports Turf Mangers Association (STMA) for fifteen years and has served on the original STMA Environmental Task Force. He also has served on the Board of Directors of the former Chesapeake Chapter of STMA.

Kevin is nationally certified through the Sports Turf Managers Association (CSFM), Professional Grounds Management Society (CGM) and The National Association of Landscape Professionals (LICM).

The highlight of his career, Kevin says, was winning the STMA President's Award in 2011 and the Green Star Grand Award in 2012 and again in 2015 from the PGMS. "Like many of us, I bleed green and love what I do. I hope I can earn an opportunity to serve and give back to the members of the STMA that has giving me so much".

Kevin brings a lot to the table and SFMANJ is fortunate to have him as its new director. Kevin stated, "I am proud and honored to be a part an organization that has set the pace for others to follow in the sports turf industry for New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic. To give back to an organization that has giving me so much in the last ten years not only humbles me, but it also drives me to give back and work hard for our members.

"My vision for the SFMANJ is simply to maintain its integrity for its professional values among its peers worldwide. The building blocks, from the administration, sports turf management practices and environmental education, will keep the STMA, as well as SFMANJ, evolving and continue to showcase our professional growth for the younger generation of the sports turf managers that will lead the way tomorrow."

Welcome to the Board, Kevin. Your enthusiasm, expertise and values will help guide the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey for years to come. We are always in need of people who can help the organization move forward in this ever changing world and we are confident that Kevin is one of these people.

Debbie Savard is the Executive Secretary of Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Making Plans for Next Year

2017
2016

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

How well did your sports field do this past year? Did it look and play as you expected it to? Are you satisfied with the results? Many sports field managers' review the past year and make plans (and budgets) now for the upcoming year. It is time to take an honest, hard look at how well the 2016 program worked so that you will know what to keep and what to change. Not sure where to start? Here's a hint: Ask your crew, your owners and user groups for their thoughts. Their answers might surprise you.

Were there any injuries on your fields? Safety is always a good place to start. Even if you were fortunate that nobody had an injury, there may be problems out there waiting to happen. You probably have walked by these potential accidents so many times that you don't notice them anymore. Ask a qualified third party (such as a trusted fellow sports field manager from another facility) to bring fresh eyes to your site. You will be amazed at what someone else will find questionable at your facility. Be sure to document every deficiency with a digital camera, then correct and document again after the corrections are made.

Do your fields play well? Are the surfaces fast or slow enough for the level of play? Do balls roll or bounce with expected predictability? Coaches and players (including those from visiting teams) can give you important feedback. You won't know unless you ask! Drastic changes like buying new mowing equipment might make a big improvement, but, so can subtle changes like adjusting mowing heights or mowing frequency.

Many of us have to schedule our cultural practices around the field users. Do we have the flexibility to adjust our schedules so that we don't have to mow grass when it covered with dew? Can early morning, evening or weekend work schedules be used to safely perform tasks that would otherwise not have time to be done?

How effective is your irrigation? The goal here is to provide enough water to the turf when it needs it, factoring in the amount of natural rainfall and the normal moisture loss due to evaporation and plant transpiration (evapotranspiration). Does your soil absorb the water being delivered, or is there runoff and puddling? Is the distribution uniform or are there both saturated and dry spots? Does the time of day that you irrigate promote plant health or plant disease? An irrigation audit is a useful tool to measure how efficiently your irrigation system and watering program is working. For information on how to conduct an irrigation audit, visit the Irrigation Association website: www.irrigation.org. Not only does smart irrigation promote better turfgrass health, it saves money and does not waste your time.

Fertilizer certification and School IPM laws have been getting plenty of attention in New Jersey (and elsewhere) lately. Take the time to read and completely understand what is being asked of you. While there are some new guidelines to follow, you will still be allowed to

perform the tasks of feeding turf and managing weeds, insects and diseases. Regularly scheduled soil tests and scouting for problems allows you customize your program to your environmental conditions. Based on my sports field's soil test results, I have been able to eliminate Phosphorus and Potassium from some fertilizer applications without sacrificing quality and saving lots of money. "P" and "K" are expensive. Why buy it if you don't need it?

The end of the year is a good time to ask yourself how well you interacted with and treated the people around you. These include your family, coworkers, bosses, user groups and the people who sell to you and provide you with services. If your relationships with any or all of those people are damaged, look inward and try to find some understanding of the problem and what part you might have played. I can attest (from firsthand experience) that some of my damaged relationships improved when I reached out and made amends.

Lastly, what have you done for yourself lately in terms of personal and professional development? Have you taken a class, or read a book lately. Personal development keeps you sharp and competitive. It energizes you and gives you personal power. Remember, if you are not pedaling, you are coasting, and if you coast long enough, you are headed downhill.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and an SFMANJ Advisor and Past-President.

**See You at the
FALL FIELD DAY**

**Wednesday, November 3
Piscataway Little League**

**Information will be
coming soon.
Watch your email.**

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Calendar of Events



SFMANJ Fall Field Day
November 3, 2016
Piscataway Little League
Piscataway, NJ
856.514.3179
www.sfmanj.org

New Jersey State League of Municipalities
November 15-17, 2016
Atlantic City, NJ
609.695.3481
www.njslom.org



New Jersey Green Expo
December 6-8, 2016
The Borgata
Atlantic City, NJ
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org

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Orlando, FL
800.323.3875
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Continued from page 6

Seasonal Color for Your Landscape and Grounds



Perhaps the biggest limiting factor when planning a flower bed installation is how much money you can spend. Financial constraints sometimes dictate how big or elaborate the installation will become. Start with a budget. Flower gardens don't have to be huge to have an impact. A little bit of color can be very effective. One of the best ways to save some money is by dealing direct with a local grower. I met mine through our nursery and landscape association. Purchasing plants wholesale saves money. Wholesale growers sell plants in different size pots or containers, so, it given a choice, opt for a 6 inch pot compared to a 3 inch pot. You pay more per plant, but you need fewer plants and the larger size looks better in the ground. When you consider the cost per square foot of planting bed, big plants might be a better value.

I keep records of my gardens, nothing too elaborate, just the costs, plant lists, what plants worked well, what didn't and the square footage of the beds which is helpful when I am purchasing new plants and need to know how much to buy for a given area. I take plenty of pictures for the files too, because people often ask what the names of the plants are. I enjoy the flowers because they are a welcome distraction for me from the turf grass. The flowers plus healthy turfgrass, plus well-kept shrubs and trees equal a good first impression of my site.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and an SFMANJ Advisor and Past-President.

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EXPO 2016:

the success of your sports fields. Here are some suggestions to help your employer understand how your attendance at Expo 2016 can add value to the overall operation of your facility.

Educate yourself on the Conference and Exhibition

Provide your employer an overview of the size and scope of Expo 2016 and a copy of the education agenda. This edition of SFMANJ Update provides the Sports Field Managers Program for Expo 2016.

Pinpoint specific sessions you plan to attend, and tie their relevance to your sports facility. It is anticipated that tough-to-acquire New Jersey DEP Category 13 credits will be awarded for attendance during Sports Field Managers sessions in 2016.

Highlight the trade show and cite suppliers and equipment manufacturers you plan to meet. Discuss the networking opportunities you will have with peers who share challenges similar to the ones you have.

Explain how innovations in products, new research, and cutting edge management techniques continually change, and why it is important to stay abreast of those changes.

Reinforce how the success of your sports fields ultimately depends upon the continued professional development of you and your staff.

Know the Cost

Make a case for efficient and effective use of your facility's training dollars. By attending Expo 2016, you will be exposed to the most relevant education and technology in one place, making it the most effective use of training dollars.

Research travel times and hotel costs. While Atlantic City is feasible day trip from almost anywhere in New Jersey, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association does its part to negotiate reasonable room rates at The Borgata to make staying a night reasonable. Expo 2016 will feature online registration at www.njturfgrass.org

Have an Action Plan

Develop a plan for how operations will continue in your absence. Make sure you are accessible by phone (please turn off or set on vibrate during sessions!!!!) to address any concerns that might arise in your absence.

Consider preparing and presenting a report on the information you learned and how you plan to put it into practice at your facility. Demonstrate how you will share the technical information learned with your staff for their continuing educational development.

See you in Atlantic City!

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.

Volunteering at the 2013 Major League Baseball ALL-STAR GAME

come easily through the helpful nature of industry professionals who volunteered to assist. Grounds managers from other professional ball parks, material suppliers, and Sports Turf Managers Organization of New York (STMONY) members all jumped at the opportunity to help. I'm always impressed by the willingness of our industry partners to help each other. From the MLB All-Star Game to a local Little League Game, we all have a common vested interest in the success of any event played on sports fields. It was a pleasure to work with Bill Deacon (Director of Field Operations at Citi-Field) and Staff who flawlessly managed every aspect of this year's Event. Their professionalism and dedication was an example to all who were part of making the 2013 MLB All-Star a huge success.

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

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