

UPDATE

Spring 2016
Vol. 16, No. 1

**Sports Field
Managers Association** of New Jersey



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

SFMANJ Field of the Year 2015:

Newark Bears and Eagles

Riverfront Stadium

By Scott Bills, CSFM

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) received three applications for 2015 SFMANJ Field of the Year. The entrants included Toms River South High School (Ken Frank Baseball Field), Cinnaminson High School (Varsity Soccer Field), and the County of Essex (Newark Bears and Eagles Riverfront Stadium).

Following a similar process that was initiated in 2013, the SFMANJ Board of Directors established a committee to evaluate the applications. Debbie Savard, Executive Secretary, SFMANJ distributed the applications to the committee members who then met with the applicants at their facilities. Members of the committee included Rich Watson (Vice-President), Sean Connell (Treasurer), Scott Bills, CSFM (Secretary), Don Savard, CSFM (Past President), Matt Olivi (Past President) and Bernard Luongo (President).

Several committee members physically inspected each field and interviewed

continued on page 12



Sports Turf Manager: Mr. Ricky Tier

FREE - SFMANJ Spring Field Day - FREE

*Grass and
Synthetic
Fields*

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

MOUNTAIN PARK,

Corner of Mountain and Martinsville Rds, Basking Ridge, NJ

NJ, PA and DE Credits

Go to www.sfmanj.org for more info and forms
or call office at 856-514-3179

*Trade
Show &
Demos*

Grow your productivity. Just add attachments.

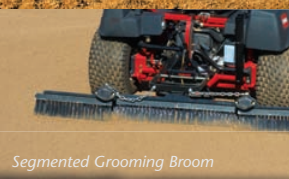
- Break up hard infield
- Infield conditioner
- Level sliding pits and batter's box
- Remove infield top buildup
- Spike infield turf
- Finish drag



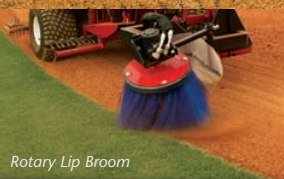
©2010 The Toro Company. All rights reserved.



Water Pump



Segmented Grooming Broom



Rotary Lip Broom



Tooth Rake



Nail Drag

Toro® Sand Pro® 3040/5040

You're the type of person that plays on the expert level. You want to maintain a field of dreams but don't have the resources. Demands for increased productivity and versatility led to the development of the Toro Quick Attach System (QAS™). Operators can switch out most of the 21 front, rear, and mid-mount attachments (5040) in just seconds. You'll do more with a single machine and operator while getting your field back into playing condition faster. The Sand Pro with QAS: this changes everything.

21 Attachments Available! www.toro.com/sandpro

Storr Tractor Company
Branchburg, NJ 908-722-9830

TORO®

Count on it.

Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 174 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.

DANIEL ANDRUS	BLAIR ACADEMY
CARMELO ANGUILLA	PINE HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ANTHONY BARONE	DOWN TO EARTH LANDSCAPING, INC.
WAYNET BARRETT	WEST MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN BELL	NORTHERN BURLINGTON COUNTY REG. SCHOOL DIST
JAMES W BETTS	TUCKAHOE TURF FARMS, INC.
SCOTT BILLS, CSFM	SPORTS FIELD SOLUTIONS
GABRIELLE BOLARAKIS	READINGTON TWP.
JASON BOWERS	HOPEWELL VALLEY REG. SCHOOL DIST.
STEVE BRADLEY	STORR TRACTOR CO
MICHAEL J BRENNAN	COUNTY OF UNION
GARY BRICK	MAINLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
PAUL BRUNI	DELAWARE VALLEY SPRAY SERVICE, INC.
JAY BUCK	SHEARON ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
WILLIAM BUFFA	NORTHERN BURLINGTON BOE
PAUL BURK	MANALAPAN TWP DPW
FRANK BURLEW	CENTRAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DIST
DANIEL J CALLAHAN	TWP OF BERNARDS
JOE CANZANO	RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
CHRIS CARLSON	BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LOU CARTY, JR.	JERSEY TURF INC.
JOE CASOTRO	RAMAPO COLLEGE
FRED CASTENSCHIOLD	STORR TRACTOR COMPANY
BRUCE CHAPMAN	BARENBRUG USA
ALEX CHAPPOTIN	COUNTY OF UNION
JAMES CHIMENTO	JC LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION MGMT
BRUCE CLARK PH.D.	RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
MIKE CLIFFORD	WILFRED MACDONALD
PAT COMITO	GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
SEAN CONNELL	GEORGIA GOLF CONSTRUCTION, INC.
DONALD COWART	STERLING HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORMAN CROMWELL, JR.	ROBBINSVILLE TOWNSHIP
ROBERT J CULVERT	BOROUGH OF TENAFLY
MARIO CUNHA	CRANFORD BOARD OF ED
ROBERT CURRY	COVERMASTER, INC.
GREG D'IPPOLITO	STERLING HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
JOHN DASILVA	MIDDLESEX COUNTY
LEONARD M DEBUCK	DEBUCK'S SOD FARM OF NY, INC.
SHANNON DECH	HOPEWELL VALLEY REG. SCHOOL DIST.
STEVEN DELELLIS	MANALAPAN TWP DPW
DENNIS DESANTIS, JR.	SYNGENTA
DENNIS DESANCTIS, SR.	DOUBLE 'D' TURF, LLC
JOY DOBROSKY	HANSON AGGREGATES - BMC
JEFFREY DORER	MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT
BARRY DRAYCOTT	TECH TERRA ENVIRONMENTAL
ROBERT R DUNCAN	FREEHOLD TWP RECREATION
FRANK ENNIS	CALDWELL-WEST CALDWELL BOE
ROBERT ERICKSON	CITY OF BORDENTOWN
THOMAS J FIK, PE, CME	CARROLL ENGINEERING CO.
DIANE FLANNERY	TWP OF BURLINGTON PARKS AND REC

Continued on page 16

2016 SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President, Bernard Luongo No. Burlington Co. Reg. School Dist.
Vice President, Rich Watson Laurel Lawnmower
Secretary, Scott Bills, CSFM Sports Field Solutions
Treasurer, Sean Connell Georgia Golf Construction

SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Fred Castenschiold Storrs Tractor Company
Ken Mathis Brick Township
Matt Olivi Piscataway Board of Education
Zack Owen Fisher & Son Co., Inc.
Brad Park Rutgers University
Kevin Shipman Kingsway Regional School
Adam Simmons Glassboro Parks & Rec.
Craig Tolley County College of Morris

ADVISORS:

Dr. James Murphy Rutgers University
Don Savard, CSFM, CGM Salesianum School
Mike Viersma The Viersma Companies

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Debbie Savard SFMANJ

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.

PO Box 205 • Pennsville, NJ 08070

Web site: www.sfmanj.org • Email: mail@sfmanj.org
Phone/Fax: 856-514-3179

National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association
www.stma.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SFMANJ Field of the Year 2015	Cover
New and Renewed SFMANJ Members	3
2016 Board of Directors	3
A Message from the President	4
Calendar of Events	5
Management of NaturalTurf Sports Fields – Part 3	6
Stop the Insanity	7
Photo Recap: STMA Annual Conference	10
My First Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Conference	
In the Eyes of a Student	14



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

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
SFMANJ at (856) 514-3179 or Brad Park at (848) 932-6327
Editor: Brad Park, Rutgers University, Email: park@aesop.rutgers.edu
Layout and Design: Debra Savard, Email: mail@sfmanj.org

SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.

A Message from the President . . .

First and Foremost

By Bernard Luongo



First and foremost, before I go on a little tear here, I would like to thank the Sports Field Managers Association (SFMANJ) Board of Directors for the support and confidence installing me as President of the Association. I can promise you and the membership the same dedication and diligence as our past Presidents have in leading our Association into the future.

Now comes the tear. It has been quite a ride, an adventure, and a fun one at that. After being self-employed all my life, circumstances led me to land my first job as a night custodian at Northern Burlington County Regional School District (NBC). After five taxing years and longing for a daytime position, an opening on the grounds crew presented itself. I jumped at the opportunity. Finally, DAYS piece of cake cutting grass all day, setting up fields. Little did I know (and how little I knew) played a large part in moving my career forward.

As we all know everyone can always improve their properties and NBC was no different. NBC's facility director shared the same views of always improving as I and, with his guidance, suggested contacting Rutgers to see if they could provide some assistance with our goals. After several phone calls, I was able to get a hold of this Rutgers guy named Brad Park. After convincing him I wasn't a telemarketer, he agreed to a field visit at NBC. At this time, Brad would be taking soil samples and giving his recommendations on fertilizer, seed selections and equipment that would improve the quality of product at NBC. Upon his arrival, to say I was nervous was an understatement. Here is this guy from Rutgers coming down to NBC to see our property. After listening to him speak/lecture I had to tell him I knew very little as to what he was peddling. He understood and made the adjustment and the rest of the afternoon was like being in class. What a fantastic experience.

Consequently, two weeks later an extensive report was generated on NBC's property that is still being read to this day along with several other reports over the following years. This wealth of information resulted in assisting NBC and the grounds crew to improve the

quality of the property. Let's face it, if you are going to do the work you might as well get the results. It is most rewarding.

Resulting from that meeting, moving forward, things started to roll. Brad thought some of the fields that he saw on his visit merited an entry into a Field of the Year contest offered by an organization that he belonged to called "Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey." Consequently, I joined the association and entered field #19 into the contest. That is how I met Scott Bills. He visited NBC did an interview and inspected the field that I entered. It was a very pleasant experience meeting Scott. Field # 19 was awarded a plaque at Green Expo that year for runner up. What a great experience to be recognized by this new organization that I joined. I had to find out more. I went to my first field day at Kingsway High School, sponsored by SFMANJ. Another great learning experience in my life. From then on it was winter classes at Rutgers and more Field Days. Things started snowballing in a positive direction. After joining SFMANJ (and networking with the people I met along the way), it makes you want to do a better job and improve your properties.

The Board of Directors reached out to me at the Green Expo and thought NBC's property would be a great place to host a Field Day. After presenting the idea to NBC's facility director and business administrator they embraced the idea.

The planning of the Field Day at NBC required me to be at some of the Board meetings as a guest. Another great learning experience as to how a field day is constructed and just exactly how the Board of Directors operates. This, of course, peaked my interest.

The NBC spring field day went off without a hitch. Well planned and well organized. They really had everything under control, except one thing, the weather. To this day everyone that was there still talks about how cold and windy it was. Akin to the 1960's Green Bay Ice Bowl (not that cold but for those of you who weren't there you get the picture). After the excitement of that day I knew that I wanted to become more involved and stay in touch with these great people I met.



The Turf Trade
517 Franklinville Road
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
856-478-6704
Alan Phillips 609-226-9303
Steven Segui 302-354-7209
Brian Robinson 484-886-0021
www.theturftrade.com

Your #1 Turf Supplier
Fertilizers/Seed
Plant-Protectants
Soils/Sands

Alpine Services, Inc.
Building Premium Athletic Fields... For All Sports
It's what's UNDER the TURF, that makes the difference!



Completed Base
for Artificial Field,
Baileys Elementary School

Known NATIONWIDE
For Superior Drainage
& Precisely Graded Bases
FOR ALL ARTIFICIAL
& NATURAL FIELDS

CALL ALPINE SERVICES
for All Your Field Needs
800-292-8420
www.alpineservices.com

As the months passed I continued to go to Board meetings as a guest and continued to learn more about how this Association worked. In the meantime, they let me write about stuff, turf related only, of course. My reporting would be humorous at times because funny things happen to us turf guys. We do have some interesting senses of humor. Maybe it has something to do with the fertilizer?

After a few more meetings an opportunity arose for me to become a Board member. The late Ray Cipperly chose to step down as a Board member to become an Advisor. This opened up a seat for me to be on the Board. Needless to say, I was honored and flattered - which was certainly an understatement. I looked back and said to myself, "The journey has taken me to here. Now what?"

There were more meetings, more planning of Field Days and learning how to deliver additional education to our membership. How to get them more recognition for their hard work and how we can offer more scholarship awards to students. How we can always make our Association better and stronger for our membership and still make it fun. In my heart I believe this Association has captured this and will continue to accomplish these things moving forward. I believe all of our events provide a day packed full of education, laughter, camaraderie, lasting contacts and great memories.

During this journey I became Vice-President and with every step along the way there was always support and encouragement from my fellow Board members. So in closing, I would like to encourage our Membership to show up at events, get involved, and talk to your Board members. We are very approachable and heck, most of us even have all our shots. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas as to how we can make our association even better for all our members. As members, you have that ability to make our association stronger by starting your own journey and getting engaged.

Well, this is my story and my journey continues. Where will your journey take you and what stories will you have to tell?

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



REGISTRATION RENEWALS Have been sent!

*Be sure to return yours promptly!
If not, this is the last issue of
UPDATE
or other information you will receive!*



Please use your invoice to update your
information for the directory
or call: 856-514-3179
or e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

Calendar of Events



2016 SFMANJ Spring Field Day

March 30, 2016

Mountain Park
Basking Ridge, NJ
856.514.3179
www.stma.org

Rutgers Turf Research Golf Classic

May 02, 2016

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
Bedminster, NJ
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org



Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days

Golf & Fine Turf

August 2, 2016

Rutgers Hort Farm No. 2
North Brunswick, NJ

**Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf
Includes SFMANJ-sponsored Trade Show
& Equipment Demonstrations**

August 3, 2016

Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm
Freehold, NJ
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org



New Jersey Green Expo

December 6-8, 2016

The Borgata
Atlantic City, NJ
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org



Visit our web site:

www.sfmanj.org

Management of Natural Turf Sports Fields – Part 3

By Brad Park and Dr. Jim Murphy

Editor's Note: This article was derived from a new Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet (a revision of Maintaining Athletic Fields FS105)

Overseeding

Turf cover in goal creases, field centers, and penalty kick areas will inevitably thin out at some point during an intense playing season. It is essential to preemptively overseed those areas of fields that will thin out from play and potentially lose turf cover. Initiate overseeding prior to the beginning of the playing season and repeat overseeding wherever thinning of the turf is observed during the playing season. It is far more difficult to recover or repair natural turf fields with overseeding if high-wear areas have completely lost turf cover.

Overseeding is easily done with a rotary spreader before and during the playing season (before games and practices). Seed-to-soil contact is achieved by athletes' shoes "cleating-in" the seed during play. Repeated scattering of seed with a rotary spreader is preferred over a slit-seeder. The vertical blades on a slit-seeder will cause too much injury to the existing turf as well as the new seedlings from previous overseeding.

Choosing the appropriate seed for an overseeding program is critical. Perennial ryegrass seed is the best choice for routine overseeding of the high traffic zones of sports fields. Perennial ryegrass seed will germinate faster and at cooler soil temperatures than Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue making it the best choice for overseeding during fall and early spring. Seed blends (that is, two or more varieties) of perennial ryegrass that have good tolerance to gray leaf spot disease are recommended. See the RCE Publication FS1048 at <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS1048> for more information on this disease problem. There are numerous suppliers specializing in turfgrass seed for the sports turf market.

Be cautious with seed mixtures marketed as "sports turf mixtures". Many of these mixtures contain Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue and are better suited for new establishment where there is ample time to fully establish a turf.

Applying a sufficient quantity of seed is important for overseeding to be successful. As an example, apply a perennial ryegrass blend at 6 pounds per 1,000 square feet to the area between the hash marks of a football field before every home game. The area between the hash marks on a football field is 16,000 square feet, which will require 96 pounds (two 50-lb bags) of seed. Take notice of the high play areas after several games, if new seedlings are not keeping up with damage and turf cover is diminishing, increase the overseeding rate by one or more 50-lb bags of seed.

Soil Cultivation (Aerification)

Regular cultivation of the turf and soil is necessary on sports fields subjected to intense traffic, especially when the soil is very susceptible to compaction. Spring and fall are typically the best time for cultivation. At minimum, the high traffic areas of a sports field should be cultivated (aerated) at the end of each playing season.

Core cultivation or coring refers to equipment capable of extracting 0.5 to 1 inch diameter cores of soil to a depth of 2 or more inches (hollow tine). Objections to the soil cores brought to the turf surface after coring can be avoided by either removing the soil cores or working the cores back into the turf. Soil cores can be broken-up and returned to the turf through verticutting (vertical cutting) or drag-matting the cores. Soil cores dried to the proper water content (slightly moist but soil is not sticky) will be easier to breakup and work back into the turf.

Cultivation can also be performed using a machine that creates similar sized holes with a solid tine (does not remove a core), which enables cultivation during the playing season. Some machines use solid tines to horizontally shatter the soil and can be equipped with a seeding box so that cultivation and seeding can be done simultaneously.

Soil that is deeply compacted should be first cultivated with a deep (up to 15 inches) tine and/or rotary de-compaction machines. Treatment with deep cultivation equipment has sufficiently improved many older sports turfs and, as a result, helped avoid the high costs of reconstruction. It should be noted that deep cultivation will not

Continued on page 8

Georgia Golf Construction, Inc.

Athletic Field and Track Specialists



- | | |
|---|---|
| ◆ Native soil athletic field construction | ◆ Synthetic track repair and installation |
| ◆ Synthetic field base construction | ◆ Sodding and seeding |
| ◆ Laser grading | ◆ Infield laser grading |
| ◆ Pitcher's mound building | ◆ Aerification services |

Georgia Golf Construction, Inc., 1441 Route 50, Woodbine, NJ 08270
www.georgia-golfconstruction.com/609-628-2597/404-216-4445

STOP THE INSANITY

By Scott Bills, CSFM

As a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), I consult with dozens of municipalities, schools and private sports organizations each year regarding problems with their ball fields. If I only had a nickel for every time I heard, "My infield mix doesn't dry out", or "My infield mix turns to concrete in the summer", or "My infield mix is like a sand box" or "How do I keep weeds from growing in my infields." Sound familiar?

Despite all of the inventions and historic moments in the last century, curing polio, sending a man to the moon, Facebook (Yuk), we couldn't figure out what makes a quality infield mix.

In 2007, two Major League Baseball head groundskeepers had serious problems with their infield skin surfaces. After calling most of the major manufacturers of infield materials, the only answer was to completely tear out the mix and start from scratch. Unfortunately, time and expense didn't allow for that option. Convinced they could somehow salvage or 'amend' the mix they already have, they didn't stop inquiring. The symptom on both fields was 'chunking out.' In other words, the infields would not stay together without a lot of moisture. Experience working with many materials, told both groundskeepers, they needed more clay.

Persistence led them to Grant McKnight, The Natural Sand Company. For several years Grant had been trying to figure out why there wasn't an agreed upon standard for infield mixes. He concluded that because there was not a single source of ingredients

that could be reproduced nationally, the industry relied on regional sources. When Grant received the phone call from two prominent groundskeepers, he felt it was time to reach out for additional help. Grant contacted Dr. Norm Hummel of Hummel and Company. Dr. Hummel is one of the country's most respected soil scientists.

The Natural Sand Company owned a natural source of clay, plus a sand source that could be screened to meet specific standards. Before any amendment could be formulated to help these fields, he needed to know the analysis of the existing infield mixes on each field. The mixes were sent to Dr. Hummel for analysis. Dr. Hummel provided a report indicating the percentage of sand, silt and clay, a breakdown of the sand gradations, from fine to coarse, plus the ratio of silt to clay. After consulting with Dr. Hummel and discussing the test results with each groundskeeper, Grant manufactured an amendment for each field. The prescription was to blend a specific amount of amendment into the top 2-3 inches of existing infield mix. The goal was to reduce the overall amount of sand, specifically fine sand, increase the amount of clay and reduce the ratio of silt/clay to less than one.

After installing the amendment, both groundskeepers noticed a significant improvement in the performance of their infields. The fields were staying together, they were able to absorb and hold moisture longer, the playing surface was consistent throughout

Continued on page 13

High Quality Bluegrass & Tall Fescue

Sand Sod grown on Hammonton sandy, loam-type soil designed for today's specialized modern athletic fields

Visit us on our web site: **www.ttfarms.com**

Our completely irrigated 700-acre farm allows production and deliveries to parts of Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York and all of New Jersey.

Labor Saving Big Rolls, please call for custom installation prices:

800-222-0591



609-561-7184
Fax 609-561-0296
401 Myrtle Ave. • P.O. Box 148
Hammonton, NJ 08037



Tuckahoe Turf Farms

Management of Natural Turf Sports Fields - Part 3

solve compaction problems associated with improper construction practices (that is, severely compacted subgrades that limit subsurface drainage of water).

There are numerous contractors capable of providing these services if the cost of purchasing cultivation equipment is deemed too expensive.

Frequency of cultivation is determined by the intensity of field use and severity of compaction. High-priority fields that receive intensive play will benefit from two or more cultivation treatments per season. Targeting cultivation to only the high-traffic zones of a field(s) rather than treating the entire field will allow you to treat problem areas more frequently (focuses your time and resources where they are needed most).

Core cultivation can be used in conjunction with overseeding and fertilization to repair badly damaged turf on fields or areas of a field using the following steps:

1. Core cultivate to a 2-inch depth or more in late summer (needed for loosening of the soil and enabling a slit-seeder to cut into the soil – step 3);
2. Break-up and re-incorporate the cores using a tow-behind drag mat;
3. Seed with a blend of two-to-five perennial ryegrass varieties using a slit-seeder in two directions at a minimum of 5 pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet per direction (10 pounds total).

If a slit-seeder is not available, a rotary spreader can be used. However, it would be best to apply seed prior to core cultivation (aerification) to achieve better seed-to-soil contact;

4. Apply a starter fertilizer; and
5. Irrigate to maintain a moist seedbed.

Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a management system that helps grounds managers anticipate and prevent pest problems from reaching damaging levels by using a wide range of control tactics. IPM strategies use control measures only when necessary, which saves time, minimizes costs, conserves energy resources, and results in the judicious use of pesticides that minimizes any adverse effects on the function and quality of landscapes.

Growing a healthy, dense, and vigorous turf is one of the best methods for reducing potential pest problems. Implementing the management practices discussed above will help maintain healthy turf and reduce pest activity on sports fields. Unfortunately, even the best implementation of management practices can sometimes fail to suppress pest activity below levels (thresholds) that negatively affect the playability and safety of sports fields.

Pest control products may be needed whenever other actions fail to adequately manage weed, insect, and disease problems. Pesticide applications on New Jersey school grounds must be

Continued on page 18

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

Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey

See You at the
SPRING FIELD DAY
Wednesday, March 30
Mountain Park, Basking Ridge, NJ
For details visit our web site:
www.sfmanj.org
or call
856-514-3179

FOR MEMBERS ONLY



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".



YOUR HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

The #1 Conditioner for Safe & Playable Fields

Find a distributor and field maintenance videos
at www.Turface.com or call 800-207-6457.



Find us on
Facebook
[facebook.com/Turface](https://www.facebook.com/Turface)

Outsmart Mother Nature... Year Round!

EVERGREEN™ TURF COVERS

With 30 years of field proven experience and the longest warranties, EVERGREEN™ from COVERMASTER is the smart choice

SMART EDGE TECHNOLOGY™

- Hems and grommets are not required
- Unlike Polypro fabrics, EVERGREEN™ will not unravel
- Can be cut to custom sizes and shapes on site
- Anchor pins can be placed anywhere on the cover

UNIQUE DESIGN CREATES A TRULY 4-SEASON TURF COVER

- Winter blanket • Early spring green-up • Summer overseeding & repair • Frost protection • Extend your growing season

BE SURE TO ASK FOR EVERGREEN™, THE ONE WITH COLOR

- Provides additional light spectrum benefits for the turf
- Choose color based on your climate



Can be cut or shaped without fraying thanks to Smart Edge Technology™



The with and without look of natural turf using the EVERGREEN™ cover



COVERMASTER™
AHEAD OF THE GAME

Call Toll Free: 1-800-387-5808
Int'l: +1-416-745-1811 • FAX: 416-742-6837
E-mail: info@covermaster.com
www.covermaster.com

© 2013 Covermaster Inc.



covermaster.com/evad/

PHOTO RECAP STMA Annual Conference

San Diego, CA, January 19-23, 2016

Photos by Debbie Savard



Scott Bills, CSFM of Sports Field Solutions and SFMANJ Secretary gives his talk "Is Your Facility Safe" on Wednesday morning.

SFMANJ President Rich Watson, (below) and SFMANJ Secretary Scott Bills, CSFM (right) of Sports Field Solutions do a joint talk; "The Battle of Trenton: A Debate Over Safe Playing Fields" on Wednesday afternoon.



SFMANJ Executive Secretary Debbie Savard, (left) and SFMANJ Advisor and Past President Don Savard, CSFM, CGM, (below/center) of Salesianum School, at the STMA Trade Show



Debbie Savard, SFMANJ Executive Secretary, panelist at the COTs Meeting



SFMANJ Treasurer Sean Connell of Georgia Golf and SFMANJ Advisor Mike Viersma of The Viersma Companies enjoying the Trade Show



Brad Park and the Rutgers Students at the STMA Annual Meeting and Luncheon. From left to right they are: Joe Raimondo; Mark Hamersky; James Surico; Brad Park, Advisor, Rutgers Turf Club; Elizabeth Holmes, President, Rutgers Turf Club; Katherine Wickel, Vice-President, Rutgers Turf Club; Emily Braithwaite; Milan Martin. The Students made up two teams and had respectable showings in the Student Challenge on Thursday afternoon.



SFMANJ President Rich Watson; SFMANJ Past President and Advisor Don Savard, CSFM, CGM; SFMANJ Treasurer Sean Connell; SFMANJ Executive Secretary Debbie Savard; SFMANJ Secretary Scott Bills, CSFM, and SFMANJ Past President Ken Mathis, at STMA Awards Banquet.

**Go to
www.stma.org
and review all
the photos
from
the convention**



STANDING BEHIND — THOSE WHO STAND BEHIND — THEIR WORK.



YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR THE SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR SUCCESS.

With locations in reach of every jobsite, a wide breadth of inventory and an innovative customer experience, we are the leading source for green industry supplies and services. Our world-class team of over 2,500 industry experts is focused every day on meeting the unique needs of every customer. We know your business, challenges and expectations better than anyone else, making us a true partner in your success.

1.800.SiteOne | SiteOne.com

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS



OUR REPUTATION...

The Viersma Companies are family owned and operated and we stand behind our reputation for quality workmanship with every job we do. We have been in business for over 45 years and believe that service and reliability are key to our success. We are more than willing to accommodate to meet your needs!

*Family owned and operated
since 1965*

A certified installer of:



VISIT: www.viersma.com

CALL: (908) 852-0552

OUR SERVICES...

- Aerification
- Overseeding
- Topdressing
- Laser Grading
- Waterwick® Turf Drainage System
- Drainage Installation & Repair
- Infield Renovations & Construction
- Field Renovations & Construction



SFMANJ Field of the Year 2015:

the applicants. In addition to the overall health and appearance of the fields, the committee also looked at safety, playability and maintenance. The applicants were asked about the amount of play each field received, improvements made to the fields, the overall turf care program and why they think their field warranted consideration for Field of the Year.

Once the field inspections and interviews were completed, the committee had a conference call to discuss each member's thoughts and to vote on a winner and runners up. The entrants were honored with plaques commemorating their achievements at the 2015 Green Expo in Atlantic City.

Toms River South High School and Mr. Keith Fisher were awarded the 'Runner Up' for the Ken Frank baseball field. Keith recently took a position at Toms River South High School as a sport field manager after many years working as a groundskeeper in professional baseball for the Atlantic City Surf, Lakewood Blueclaws and most recently the New York Yankees. The baseball field at Toms River South High School has a storied reputation as its namesake; Ken Frank is the winningest high school baseball coach in New Jersey. The Ken Frank baseball field is also where many of the world champions Toms River Little League team played high school ball, including current major leaguer and home run batting champion Todd Frazier of the Chicago White Sox.

Keith immediately brought his knowledge and expertise to the field. After surveying the grades and elevations, Keith was able to re-grade the infield skin surface to better shed water, rebuild the pitcher's mound to provide the proper table and landing area, rebuild the batter's boxes to provide stable footing, clean up the grass edges by removing elevated lips and repairing the irrigation system.



*Cinnaminson High School, Cinnaminson, NJ
Jeff Schofield, Head Groundskeeper*

After winning the Field of the Year award in 2014 for the Varsity Football Field, Cinnaminson High School and Mr. Jeff Schofield submitted an application for the Varsity Soccer Field. The soccer field is the first field you see when entering the main driveway of Cinnaminson High School. Jeff recognized this very early and ensures the field always makes a good first impression. More importantly, Jeff has brought the playing surface and turf quality to a level that is envied by many visiting teams. Each year Jeff and his crew paint a large soccer ball in the middle of the field that provides a very unique feature.

Jeff started at Cinnaminson High School without much knowledge about athletic field maintenance. When we first interviewed Jeff in 2010 he was navigating the mine field of school bureaucracy, but remained very enthusiastic. I remember Jeff had specific short term and long term goals. Jeff's most impressive characteristic was the honest assessment of how much he needed to learn. Now, six year later, Jeff and Cinnaminson High School have earned one Field of the Year and two runner-up honors. One of the factors the committee considers is frequency of play and the condition of the field at the end of the season. Jeff does a great job preparing his fields for the amount of heavy use they receive each fall as the turf cover and density are always very good when the fields are inspected in November.

The 2015 Field of the Year winner is Ricky Tier, County of Essex for the Newark Bears and Eagles Riverfront Stadium baseball field. The term 'labor of love' fits Ricky's efforts perfectly. Riverfront Stadium was originally built as the home to the Newark Bears baseball club, who played in the fledgling independent Atlantic League. The league included other successful teams such as the Somerset Patriots and Long Island Ducks. The franchise was started by Seton Hall grad and ex-Yankee, Rick Cerone. Numerous ex-major league players



*Toms River Regional High School, Toms River High School South
Keith Fisher, Head Groundskeeper*

Keith has additional plans to improve the field that will provide the high quality players at Toms River South High School with a professional baseball experience.

Continued on page 15

STOP THE INSANITY

Continued from page 7

the infield and overall maintenance requirements were greatly reduced.

As a result of those two success stories, now 16 of 30 major league teams have either amended their existing infields or in the case of the new Miami Marlins stadium, installed the product within the complete profile.

In the past, local sports field managers were fearful of installing the same type of infield mix used in professional stadiums.

Through continued research and understanding the resources available to each groundskeeper, now specific infield mix blends and amendments can be installed on college, high school and municipal ball fields. More importantly, the fields can be improved without having to completely replace the existing infield mix or spend \$500 to \$600 per ton on conditioners.

But the title of this article is "Stop the Insanity". So far, it doesn't sound so insane. I'll get there.

Although I am mostly familiar with field issues in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast region of the country, believe me, there are infield problems in all 50 states.

In our area of the country, most of the indigenous infield mixes that are produced have too much sand, too much fine sand, too much silt in relation to the amount of clay and not the right type of clay. Most of the producers of local infield mixes find a source of sand that has some percentage of silt and clay. These materials are harvested, not engineered. Since most of these companies are large sand producers for other industries like masonry, concrete, asphalt and glass, these sands with too much silt and clay become waste. Well someone much smarter than me figured out that if you screened it a little bit, have it analyzed, keep it somewhat consistent and give it a fancy name related to the game of baseball, they could add \$10 to \$20 per ton or more and sell it as infield mix.

So over the years engineers and architects have specified these materials because that's what was available. Now with a little more knowledge, we have figured out these high sand and high silt mixes cause a lot of problems on our fields.

OK – Here it is.

Because these materials have characteristics that don't allow them to manage moisture efficiently, can be easily migrated during grooming or from wind and water erosion, plus are relatively cheap, we have ruined our fields.

Here are a couple examples of the insanity.

Case Study #1 – I was asked to look at a field for a local little league in an upscale town in Bergen County. The field had such a significant lip that an infielder actually broke a small bone in his neck when he fell chasing a pop up into the outfield. I was asked to contact the township engineer and discuss my recommendations. Before calling him I checked the depth of the infield mix and found the area behind second base was 19 inches deep. I didn't need to survey the field to determine there were grade problems. While on the phone with the engineer, he advised me they were planning to build a new softball field in town. I joke and told him there was enough infield mix on this field to build 3 new fields.

Here's the insanity. While on the phone with the engineer I hear a back-up beeper. Following the sound, I realize it is a tri-axle backing into the park maintenance yard. Reluctantly, the engineer admitted it was a load of infield mix. After doing some quick math, this 11,000 square foot infield had 15 inches of infield mix it didn't need. At a conservative cost of \$40 per ton, that was about \$30,000 of wasted money, not including the labor to install over the years and now a potential lawsuit.

Case Study #2 – I was asked to survey the ball fields for a county park system. I am sure when the fields were originally designed and constructed, the grades allowed for water to drain off the fields. Well after about 10 years the county now had over 40 ball fields that were bowls or saucers. Not one field allowed for surface run off. Here's the insanity. The grass lips were so severe; one county worker admitted they need to use a trencher to cut through the lips to help get some of the water off the fields. In addition, they spend thousands of dollars on drying agents.

Case Study #3 – I recently visited a little league complex in Central New Jersey. My first observation was the fields had major grading

Continued on page 17



Do we have your e-mail address?

To give us your e-mail address or make a change to your existing address, send a note to
mail@sfmanj.org

**YOUR "ONE-STOP SOURCE" FOR AMERICA'S
BASEBALL & SPORTS TURF SURFACES & SUPPLIES**



**THE INFIELD MIX AT
YANKEE STADIUM!**

**THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR
INFIELD MIXES, MOUND CLAYS, RED WARNING TRACKS
HUNDREDS OF INFIELD & SPORTS PRODUCTS**

Partac Peat Corporation • One Kelsey Park • Great Meadows, NJ 07838

**WE'VE SUPPLIED PRODUCTS TO EVERY MLB TEAM,
MOST MINOR LEAGUE & COLLEGE TEAMS,
AND THOUSANDS OF TOWNS
& SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE!**

800-247-BEAM

**Fax: 908-637-8421 • 908-637-4191
www.BEAMCLAY.com
email: sales@beamclay.com**

My First Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Conference

In the Eyes of a Student

by Milan Martin

This year, the Rutgers University Turf Club sent two teams of students (seven students) to compete in the annual STMA Student Challenge. The Conference and Exhibition took place January 19-22, 2016 in San Diego, California. In addition to the trade show, we also attended the education sessions to further our knowledge of the industry and turfgrass science. It was amazing how welcoming everybody was. Students are the future of this industry so great emphasis was placed on networking between the students and industry professionals.

The first day of the conference in San Diego was sunny and warm compared to the wretched weather conditions of New Jersey this time of year. We got to the convention center bright and early to register and eat breakfast. Immediately after, the day was packed with many educational sessions that we hoped would be applicable to the Student Challenge. Which they were! Our club, as well as our advisor Brad Park sat-in some of the many open sessions offered by the conference. The topics covered ranged from herbicide chemistry and use to the benefits of natural turfgrass over synthetic turf. Many of the sessions offered placed a lot of emphasis on using natural turfgrass.

Our first session was on the benefits of organics and synthetics when it came to choosing pesticides and fertilizers. Jason Bowers, Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) made it very informative, applicable and relatable to what we were learning as students in a turfgrass management program. Another great session was "Advanced Weed Control for Athletic Field Turf" by Jared Hoyle, Ph.D and fellow Rutgers Alumni Gerald Henry, Ph.D. This session really emphasized the herbicide chemical names and uses in turfgrass.

That same day, several CSFM's gave a seminar to students about how to stand out, network and make their way into the industry. It was a great way to meet other students too. Another fun way to meet attendees was going to the welcome reception on the patio of the San Diego Convention Center. It was a beautiful night and it gave so many students the chance to meet with others and exchange information about their summer internships at golf courses and parks. We also joked about who was going to win the Student Challenge.

After the morning sessions, we attended the Annual STMA Meeting and Luncheon. It began with a keynote speech from Timothy Gay, PhD. It was interesting how they brought in a physicist which gave a very new perspective to the science of turfgrass management. He spoke of how playing fields impact head injuries for sports players which tied into the SAFE theme of the conference. After we listened to his interesting speech we lined-up alongside other university teams as we eagerly awaited the start of the Student Challenge. For the exam, we had to calibrate an irrigation system from a set of directions. This was a challenge for many teams but we managed to remain focused through the task and tackled the task pretty quick. After the practical portion of the exam, it was on to the written test. This took about two hours and tested us on our knowledge of management, turfgrass species, turfgrass diseases and seeds. After the mentally exhausting test, our university students all met up and enjoyed the tradeshow.

Our Advisor gave us the grand tour and introduced us to many companies and professionals alike. Since I have never been to a tradeshow like this I was eager to visit every type of booth and learn about the technology being applied to sports turf industries.

The 2016 STMA Conference came to a delightful end the next day with the Annual Awards Banquet. We celebrated industry professionals as well as the student teams who participated in the challenge. We look forward to returning next year in sunny Orlando, Florida for another sensational conference!

Once again, we would like to thank Rutgers University, Sports Field Managers Association of NJ, STMA, and Rutgers Turf Club for enabling us to attend this conference. We'd like to especially thank our advisors, Brad Park and Dr. Bruce Clarke. Without their continued support for our club, we would not be able to attend these conferences. It's a privilege to be able to represent Rutgers University at these events, as well as being encouraged to network with potential employers and future colleagues. Thank you for your support!

Milan Martin is a Rutgers Undergraduate Student, member of the Rutgers Turf Club, and participant in the 2016 STMA Student Challenge.

Montco Products




Ben Poole
V.P.

1-800-401-0411
f 570-235-6204
ben@montcoproducts.com



SURF SIDE
37
zap!

P.O. Box 251
Bear Creek PA 18602
montcoproducts.com



Double 'D' Turf, LLC
Drill & Fill, Aerification, Specialty Equipment

Dennis DeSanctis, Sr.
Owner

86 Bergen Mills Road
Monroe Twp., NJ 08831

Mobile: 732-241-7378
Dennis@DoubleDTurf.com
www.DoubleDTurf.com

SFMANJ Field of the Year 2015:

such as Jose Canseco, Ricky Henderson and Tim Raines played for the Newark Bears at the end of their professional careers. Unfortunately, after several ownership changes the franchise failed and the operations were back in the control of the County of Essex. Over the years the field had a several notable groundskeepers including George Toma, Ray Cipperly and Will Reardon. Ricky worked as an assistant to Will Reardon who was tutored by Dan Turner and Ray Cipperly while at the Somerset Patriots. Ricky became the full time head groundskeeper in 2014/2015.

Unlike in 1999 when the Newark Bears attracted 6,200 fans to opening day, games today are played in front of only dozens of college fans who come out to cheer on the Rutgers-Newark and NJIT baseball teams. Despite very few fans to appreciate Ricky's efforts and no full time assistants, he still maintained the field at the highest level of play and appearance. In fact, Ricky occasionally would have to pay outside laborers out of his own pocket to help run string lines and edge the turf.

For all of his efforts and more importantly his results, SFMANJ would like to congratulate Ricky Tier, head groundskeeper Newark Bears and Eagles Riverfront Stadium, for his well-deserved 2015 Field of the Year award.

In addition to the Field of the Year awards, SFMANJ also honored Ray Cipperly (groundskeeper, baseball coach and athletic director) with the inaugural Dr. Henry Indyk Award. Unfortunately we lost

Ray this past fall, but his accomplishments and service to the sports field industry needed to be recognized with this award. The award was presented to his wife, Sue at the 2016 Green Expo in Atlantic City. Fittingly, Ray had a hand in the development of Ricky Tier as he mentored the groundskeepers who had trained Ricky.

The SFMANJ Field of the Year program recognizes the efforts of member sports turf managers throughout New Jersey. Applications for the 2016 Field of the Year are due by September 30, 2016 and will be awarded at the 2016 Green Expo in December. In addition to a plaque, the winner will receive a complimentary registration to the conference, one night accommodations and dinner.

If you have any further questions regarding the program please feel free to contact the SFMANJ office.

*Scott Bills is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM);
SFMANJ Board Secretary; and SFMANJ Board
Field of the Year Committee Chairman*

**Have you sent in your entry for the
SFMANJ Field of the Year?**

**Call 856-514-3179 for details
or visit www.sfmanj.org**

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.

**Feel free to call today:
856-514-3179**



**The Spotlight
could be on
You!**

**We want to profile
your company, your
services or your products
IN OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER,
UPDATE!!!!**

**And it's FREE to our
advertisers!**

If you are a newsletter advertiser, please feel free to submit an article to Update profiling your company, services and/or 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.

Call 856-514-3179 or send copy to mail@sfmanj.org

New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

BILL FOELSCH
CHRIS G FOX
CURT GANDOLFO
BRIAN GJELSVIK
FRED GOBLE
DENNIS GRANAHAN
JOHN GRASSO
KEN GRIEPENTROG
KJ GRIEPENTROG
PAMELA GRIFFIN
BILL GRIFFITH
TIM HAMFELDT
ERIK HAMMERDAHL
KYLE HARRIS
RALPH HENNINGER
STEVE HESSER
KEVIN HOBAN
FRED HOGE
RONALD S HOLT
JIM IANNETTI
JOHN INGRAM
MIKE JAY
ROB JOHNSON
JEFF JOHNSON
HAROLD JONES
RICH KALISH CTP
JOHN KAVANAUGH
JR KELLY
SCOTT KLEIN
HUGH KNOWLTON

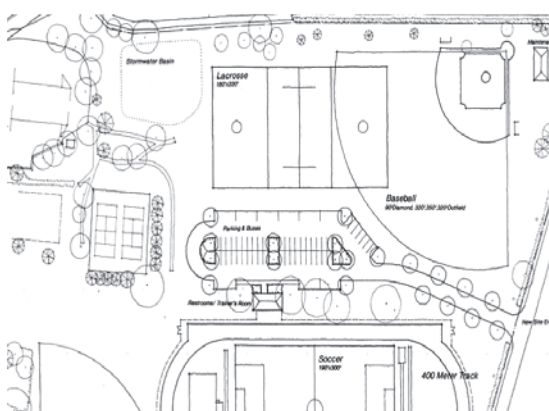
MORRIS TOWNSHIP
NEWYORK RED BULLS
BOROUGH OF FLORHAM PARK
SEETON TURF
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
DRYJECT NEW JERSEY
CENTRAL TURF & IRRIGATION
JERSEY SEED
JERSEY SEED
NEW JERSEY RECREATION & PARKS ASSOC.
PISCATAWAY TWP BOARD OF ED
MORRIS TOWNSHIP
MORRIS-UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY
FISHER & SON CO., INC.
LAWN AND GOLF SUPPLY CO.
STORR TRACTOR CO
HUMPHRY'S COVERSPOITS
PALMYRA BOE
MIDDLESEX BORO PARKS DEPT.
CENTRAL TURF & IRRIGATION
SEETON TURF WAREHOUSE, LLC
FISHER & SON CO., INC.
GILL ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL
PALMYRA BOE
FARMSIDE LANDSCAPE & DESIGN, INC.
CALDWELL/WEST CALDWELL BOE
CENTRAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DIST
RANOCAS VALLEY REG. H.S.
BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DENNIS KUNKEL
PETER KUSION
FRANK LASASSO
THOMAS LEPORE
BARRY LEVITT
JOHN LEWLESS
ADAM LIEB
MIKE LINKEWICH
FRANK LOCKE
JOHN LOSS
BERNARD LUONGO
DAVID MAINES
KEVIN MALONE CSFM
ROBERT MANNING
LOREN MARTIN
LARRY MAURIELLO
MICHAEL MCCANN
JOHN MCKNIGHT
GREGORY S MOORE
TIM MOORE
GEORGE MORRIS
MICHAEL MORVAY
STEVEN MULHOLLAND
JAMES A MURPHY, PH.D.
DICK NEUFELD
CARL OLIVI
MATTHEW B OLIVI
JEFFREY OLSZYK
ZACH OWEN
MARK OZOROSKI
BRADLEY S PARK
BRADFORD PASTRICK
TONY PAVELEC, JR
JEFFERY PECK
TANAEL PENNA
TOM PEPE
SAM PEPE, CEFM, IPM CO-ORD
A. CHARLES PERKINS III
WES PERRINE
CHUCK PFLUGER
TED PLATZ
MARIE POMPEI
ROBERT PRITCHARD
DANIEL PURNER
FRANK RAVASCHIERE
GERARD REDMOND
MIKE REISSNER
ANDREW REMM
CHUCK REYNOLDS
ED ROESSLER
CHARLES ROGERS
EDMUND ROHLAND
BRUNO ROMANO
FRANK RUSSO
MICHAEL RYAN
JOHN SANDERS
JAMES SANER
DAN SAUNDERS
DON SAVARD, CSFM, CGM
MICHAEL SCHMALZER

PISCATAWAY TWP BOARD OF ED
OCEAN COUNTY UTILITIES
HAMMONTON BOARD OF ED
TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEVITT'S LLC
HOPEWELL VALLEY REG. SCHOOL DIST.
CHISHOLM COMMUNITY CENTER
SEETON TURF
NORTH BRUNSWICK TWP
MIDDLESEX BORO PARKS DEPT
NORTHERN BURLINGTON COUNTY REG. SCHOOL DIST
BOROUGH OF MADISON
THE LANDTEK GROUP INC.
PISCATAWAY TWP BOARD OF ED
TERRA GRO, INC.
LAUREL EQUIPMENT
CALDWELL/WEST CALDWELL BOE
US ATHLETIC FIELDS, INC.
SATURATED SOLUTIONS
THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL
CALDWELL/WEST CALDWELL BOE
LAKEWOOD BLUECLAWS
NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
PLANT FOOD COMPANY
PISCATAWAY TWP BOARD OF ED
PISCATAWAY TWP BOARD OF ED
PLAYERS DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
FISHER & SON CO., INC.
CITY OF SUMMIT
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP
JERSEY SOIL BLENDING, LLC
PISCATAWAY TWP BOARD OF ED
MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT
PLANT FOOD COMPANY
CENTRAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SOUTH JERSEY TURF CONSULTANTS
GREENPRO MATERIALS
BERLIN TWP. BOE
PLANT FOOD COMPANY
F.M. BROWN'S SONS, INC.
CALDWELL/WEST CALDWELL BOE
SOMERSET PATRIOTS
CITY OF LONG BRANCH
METUCHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
E BRUNSWICK PARKS AND REC
NORTH BRUNSWICK TWP PARKS
REED & PERRINE
RAMAPO COLLEGE
PLAINSBORO TOWNSHIP
MILLVILLE BABE RUTH SPORTS COMPLEX
CALDWELL/WEST CALDWELL BOE
NORTH BRUNSWICK TWP PARKS
THE LANDTEK GROUP, INC.
MORRIS TOWNSHIP
OCEAN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF ED
SHEARON ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
SALESIANUM SCHOOL
OAK KNOLL

SHEARON SPORTS

Since 1974



Facility Master Planning

- Redesign/Renovation

Field Construction

Certified Irrigation Installers

Drainage

Custom Agronomic Services

Design + Build + Maintain

www.shearondesign.com

Plymouth Meeting 610.828.5488

West Chester 610.269.9110

Princeton 609.466.0666

Voorhees 856.424.1727



STOP THE INSANITY

Continued from page 13

issues. As in Case Study #1, I checked the depth of the infield mix. My probe is 12 inches deep, I didn't hit bottom. After surveying the first field, I noticed all of the bottom rails of the backstop and player bench fences were buried by about 6 to 8 inches and a considerable amount of infield mix had washed into the dugouts. Here's the insanity. While walking from field to field, I noticed tire track damage from double gates in the outfield fence towards the infields. Not only were they adding infield mix they didn't need, they were damaging the turf to do it. Assuming there was at least 12 inches of infield mix on each field (actually there was more), these four infields had about 1,200 tons of excess infield mix. Again, using a conservative cost of \$40 per ton, this equates to \$48,000 of wasted money. Now let's throw in tens of thousands of dollars to fix them.

I could go on and on. Here's the scary part. There are 565 municipalities and 416 high schools in New Jersey. With a fair estimate of at least four fields per town and school, that means there are about 4,000 ball fields in the state, not including counties, colleges, middle schools or private little leagues. Again using conservative estimates, let's say each field has twice the amount of infield mix it should have or an additional four inches. Using an average infield size of 8,000 square feet, that would equate to 600,000 tons of infield mix that has been added to ball fields unnecessarily. At \$40 per ton that's \$24 million dollars. No wonder the schools and towns have budget problems.

The take home message here is that we need to change our way of thinking. Albert Einstein said it best: "We can't solve problems by using the same thinking we used to create them."

More importantly, there is a practical solution to this problem. It has been tested at the highest level of play and is available to improve all little league, recreational, high school and college fields. Plus, there are groundskeepers who have changed their thinking and are practicing better techniques to reduce unnecessary expense.

Let's stop the 'Insanity.'

Scott Bills is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Sports Field Consultant, Sports Field Solutions, LLC; and Board Secretary, SFMANJ



Don't Forget
SFMANJ
Spring Field Day
Wednesday,
March 30, 2016

Grass Roots Turf Products

A company focused on Service, Technical Support
and Quality Products.



We carry a variety of products to fit your needs.

(We carry many products, this is just a sample. See our website and catalog for full line.)

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| • Fertilizers | • Field Conditioners | • Guideline |
| • Pesticides | • Mound Clay | • Spreaders |
| • Soil Amendments | • Stripping Paint | • Tools |



Address: 4 Middlebury Blvd.
Suite 14
Randolph, NJ 07869

Phone: 973-252-5455
Fax: 973-252-2881
Website: www.gritturf.com

JERSEY SEED

PROFESSIONAL TURF PRODUCTS

**Specializing in Quality Grass Seed
to Meet All Your
Turf Performance Standards**

Call for a Catalog

800-828-5856

Carrying a full line of quality mixtures
especially formulated for:

SPORTS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

LOW MAINTENANCE AREAS

GENERAL GROUNDS

GOLF, LAWN AND RECLAMATION

**Technical Agronomic Support and
Custom Blending Available**

Management of Natural Turf Sports Fields - Part 3

made in accordance with the New Jersey School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Law (N.J.A.C 7:30-13).

A major emphasis in an IPM program is determining (scouting) where action is needed to reduce pest problems, which can be daunting for a multi-acre facility with numerous natural turf sports field and grounds with varying uses and varying tolerances to pest problems. Examples of different uses for turf include sports fields, practice fields, physical education, school recess, passive recreation, lawns, and other general common areas. Each of these uses typically has a unique management level and threshold for pest activity. A threshold defines the point at which pest-specific actions are taken.

Management Zones

Subdividing a multi-acre facility into management zones based on turf use and threshold for pest activity helps grounds managers to prioritize scouting, actions, and allocation of resources. For example, management zones can be defined as:

- A. Grounds that have the lowest threshold for pest activity and highest expectations for use such as safe footing and cushion for play or high aesthetic quality;
- B. Turfs and grounds that have a moderate threshold for pest activity and moderate expectations for use such as a persistent ground cover or moderate aesthetic quality; and
- C. Grounds that have the primary function of soil stabilization (no wind or soil erosion), greatest threshold for pest activity, and minimal expectations for aesthetic quality.

Examples of Zone A grounds include sports and practice fields, particularly those used by high school aged athletes and older. Relatively low thresholds (levels) of weed, disease and insect activity can adversely affect the ability of these turfs to provide safe footing and cushion for play as well as a reliable surface for ball bounce and roll. Very good to excellent turf cover from cool-season perennial turfgrass is demanded. Another example includes high-value ornamental lawn and garden landscapes.

Examples of Zone B grounds include sports fields, passive recreation areas, and lawns where stakeholders have moderate expectation level for playing surfaces and aesthetic quality of landscape plants. A greater threshold for weeds, diseases, and insect activity can be tolerated as the nature of the recreational activity, age of athletes, or aesthetic importance dictates. High visibility lawns and landscape grounds and sports fields used by middle school aged athletes may fall under this category.

Examples of Zone C grounds might include sports fields primarily used by elementary school aged athletes, "alternate fields" that are always open to users when high value fields are closed, and naturalized landscapes. These uses typically have very high thresholds for pest activity and low expectations for aesthetic quality. Soil stabilization is the primary management concern for these grounds.

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

Dr. Jim Murphy is Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University; and an SFMANJ Advisor.

Continued from page 16

New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

JEFFREY SCHOFIELD
ANDREW SCHWARTZ
ADAM SCOLNICK
MICHAEL SHANKO
SCOTT SHAW
DANIEL SHEMESH
ADAM SIMMONS
NEAL D SITZMAN
DAVE SPENCE
CHRIS SPITZNAS

CINNAMINSON BOARD OF ED
FIELD TURF
PISCATAWAY TWP BOARD OF ED
PEDDIE SCHOOL
BOROUGH OF GLASSBORO
NEWYORK RED BULLS
GLASSBORO PARKS & REC
NEWYORK RED BULLS
PISCATAWAY TWP BOARD OF ED
FIELD TURF

MIKE STABILE
DAN STAPINSKI
CHARLES STEEL
JOHN SULINSKI
PETER SZCZECINA
GARY TATTERSAL
JOEL TAYLOR
SAM TEAGUE
GROVE TEATES
JUDITH TEATES
STEVEN TERNOSKY
MARK TINDALL
CRAIG A. TOLLEY
THOMAS J TORPEY
LARRY TOTH
HEATH TRAVER
JAY TRSTENSKY
WALTER TUCKER
DEBBIE UNGER
GEORGE VAN HAASTEREN, CGM
MICHAEL VIERSMA
JACK WARNER
JEFF WELD
BILL WISBESKI

GREENPRO MATERIAL
PERENIAL SERVICES LLC
LINDENWOLD BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE LANDTEK GROUP, INC.
GEORGIAN COURT INIVERSITY
OCEAN TWP BOE
HADDON TWP BOE
DELSEA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALPINE SERVICES
ALPINE SERVICES
MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT
CINNAMINSON BOARD OF ED
COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS
RETIRED
RIDER UNIVERSITY
RAIN BIRD CORPORATION
DELAWARE TOWNSHIP
RETIRED
RANDALL'S ISLAND PARK ALLIANCE, INC
DWIGHT-ENGLEWOOD SCHOOL
THE VIERSMA COMPANIES
TOWNSHIP OF FREEHOLD
BAYER
SOUTH HUNTERDON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



Jersey Soil Blending

Phone: (973) 320-2730
Fax: (973)-667-6599
visit us at njsoil.com
info@njsoil.com

P.O. Box 525
Nutley, NJ 07110



Actual photo – not retouched.

Your grass will be greener and thicker, sooner with CoverSports FieldSaver® Winter Turf Blankets/ Growth Covers.

We've got you covered all year long!
Protect turf from harsh winter conditions!
Promote faster spring growth and green-up!

- 8 Year Limited Warranty
- Heavy 100% woven polypro fabric
- Reinforced hems and grommets all edges



PPL Park, home of the Philadelphia Union, MLS



"The results were incredible...."
Paul Heron, Grounds Supervisor,
Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, PA

Stakes keep covers in place in brass grommets at 5' intervals.



For price quotes, sizes and fabric specs, visit www.CoverSports.com • sales@coversports.com • 800-445-6680

We make covers for all athletic surfaces: Rain Covers, Sideline Tarps, Track Protectors



Humphrys CoverSports
Industrial and Athletic Fabric Products Since 1874



The Liquid Fertilizer Experts & Perfectionists Like You.

800-562-1291 | www.plantfoodco.com





P.O. Box 205
Pennsville, NJ 08070



Or Current Occupant

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

Moving Ahead To Serve You Better

TORO

A Toro Partner

YOUR FRIENDS AT...



**TURF
EQUIPMENT**

AND SUPPLY COMPANY

888-384-8676 • www.turf-equipment.com

