

UPDATE

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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

Happy New Year 2017



See Inside:

**Recaps: SFMANJ Fall Field Day
New Jersey Green Expo**

CSFM Program Requirements

Soil pH and Use of Lime

Irrigation

What's Your Function?



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Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 332 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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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

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This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the
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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.

A Message from the President

Holy Cow... (Thanks Phil Rizzuto)

By Bernard Luongo



The calendar sure goes around quickly. Spring Field Day, Adelphia Field Day, Fall Field Day, Field of the Year visits, New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) Green Expo and Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Convention, and around it goes again. I would like to thank all the Sports Fields Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Officers, Board Members and the members for a successful year and I am looking forward to working with you all in the coming New Year.

SFMANJ held its Annual Fall Field Day at the Piscataway Township Little League Complex to a record number of attendees. Host of the event was Matt Olivi (Board Member, Past President and Assistant Grounds Keeper at the Complex). He put on a fantastic event. Matt also was a presenter at the Field Day. The pride, passion and dedication are evident at this complex. Piscataway Township Little League and the teams that play on these fields are lucky to have a grounds keeper like Matt on their team. Keep up the good work Matt! People do notice.

If you had the opportunity to be at the Field Day you would have noticed a large influx of young people attending. The young students were from Northern Burlington County Regional High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) Program. SFMANJ and NJ State FFA initiated a pilot program to get high school students aware of the opportunities in sports field management, maintenance of sports fields, maintenance of equipment and job opportunities in the field as they progress through their education.

This all came about innocently enough. As I was weeding a landscape bed outside the agricultural classroom by what I affectionately call the Trojan Cow (mascot of the FFA Program at NBCRSD), Mr. Tim Hagar, an agriculture teacher at Northern, was giving a course overview of what was going to take place over the coming years. It was only the second day of school when these magical words came out of his mouth – "During the school year a semester was going to be dedicated to Turf Management." I looked at the Cow and said, "You got to be kidding me." I jumped up to my feet and stuck my head in the window (there was no screen, I don't know why, but it's not my fault – and I'm sticking to that story) and interrupted the

class. I explained that I belong to this organization that is dedicated and passionate about Turf Management, Safety of Athletic Fields and the education there-of. I explained we were looking for high school students that were interested in this field so we can share what we have to offer. As the weeks passed, not only Tim Hagar, but a few other agricultural teachers, Mr. Brian Hayes and Ms. Nan Hamilton had to endure not only me but the chats and excitement of what was progressing. Most importantly, they also had the excitement and knew an opportunity was at hand.

In the coming weeks, contact was made with Nancy Trivette, State Program Leader, Agricultural Education, and State Advisor for the FFA and with Erin Noble, State Advisor for the FFA. In late September SFMANJ Board Members met with Ms. Trivette and Ms. Noble and Mr. Hagar. Many good ideas crossed the table that night on how both organizations can work together on getting more recognition for students interested in turf-related areas and the opportunities that exist. Although this is in its infancy, both organizations see the unlimited potential moving forward. It is very enlightening and refreshing hatching a new idea in an industry that is full of passionate people looking to do good for the industry and its members.

The SFMANJ Board of Directors and Members are looking forward to working with the FFA, strengthening the relationship and providing the students with the avenue to pursue their ambitions and dreams.

So members, at future Field Days if you see someone that looks like a young student, they probably are. Take them under your wing, Make them feel comfortable, like they belong, because by golly, they are the future of our industry and they deserve a chance.

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



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SFMANJ FALL FIELD DAY 2016:



Piscataway Little League

Last Spring the SFMANJ Board of Directors began discussing ideas for the annual Fall Field Day. During our conversations, a few of our commercial directors who regularly travel throughout the State, mentioned that they noticed a need for some basic education and training for Field Managers that are new to the industry. Many of their long-time customers and potential new clients had recently made personnel changes in their maintenance departments. New employees may not have had any formal instruction before taking on the new role of Sports Field Manager.

This need for education directly supports our mission as an organization. We saw a great opportunity to assist in improving the safety and playability of sports fields throughout New Jersey. So we began our standard procedures for putting together an educational field day. First and foremost, we needed to identify an easily accessible, central location to host the event. After some discussion about potential host facilities, I told the SFMANJ Board of Directors that I would reach out to my part-time employer, Piscataway Little League.

I had been working with them for the past few years as an assistant to the Head Grounds Keeper and had consequently been at the Piscataway Little League complex for several large events. I knew

that the facility would be a perfect location for a field day event from a logistics standpoint. It's easy to travel to via several major highways and could easily accommodate a large number of attendees and vendors. I spoke with head grounds keeper Robert Uhrin as well as the President of the Little League association. After explaining to them what the Sports Field Managers Association had in mind for the event, they were happy to grant us access to the facility. So, we set our date for November third and started planning the event.

The format of the event was probably our biggest gamble. Although we wanted the content of this event to be timely and focus on groundskeepers new to Sports Field Management, we still wanted to incorporate some content that would hold the interest of our veteran members who always attend. It's always our goal to put together an educational event where all attendees can be exposed to at least one new idea or technique that they can take away with them and implement at their own facility. We figured the best way to accommodate everyone would be a clinic format where attendees would rotate from station to station.

The key here was in the registration logistics. Debbie Savard, SFMANJ's executive secretary, suggested grouping attendees

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What's Your Function?

By Kevin Mercer, CSFM, CGM, and LICM

There are a lot of tough questions and pressures that sports turf managers are forced to deal with every day. Whether it's slashed budgets, being shorthanded, staging events on premier sports fields, handling annoying coaches and band directors, applying pesticides without alarming the public and most of all keeping time for yourself and family, the job is demanding to say the least.

How can one turf manager juggle all these things at once? I don't know, but a lot of you do a remarkable job at it. If any of these things apply to you, you're not alone, but how can we make things more simplified?

I think to first understand where we are going and what our goals are in terms of maintenance and projects for our sports fields, we first have to know where we are currently from a starting point. This can be done simply by understanding and documenting evaluation processes and incorporating them into a scoring rating system (from 1-10) for each item listed below for each of your fields.

Recommended Score Card for Natural Grass Fields

1. Shoot each athletic field you may have with a rotating laser each year to evaluate the surface for uneven surface that could impact the safety or function of the field.
2. Average score from GMAX testing results provide soil test results and recommendations of products to achieve desired goals
3. Provide annual square foot cost based off of your maintenance programs for all of your premier and practice fields. (Don't forget to include your equipment maintenance vs acquisition cost and fuel)
4. Provide annual labor hours for each field based off of your programs.
5. Cultivar used for each field and desire cultivar wanted.
6. Five -ten-year budgeting forecast for projects.

Recommended Score Card for Synthetic Fields

1. Shoot each athletic field you may have with a rotating laser each year to evaluate the surface for uneven surface that could impact the safety or function of the field.
2. Average score from GMAXX testing results.
3. Average score crumb rubber at proper infill depth?
4. Average score of turf fibers coming up easy from pulling it?
5. Buildup of paint present?
6. Average score of rips or tears in the fields, especially in goals areas and inlays and seams?

Once all data and costs are collected, you may want to include how many employees you currently have per acre. This will depict the level of service you can provide by breaking down labor hours per task.

When presenting my long and short-term goals to management, I like to use a GIS web-based program called (ArcGIS). This interactive program uses satellite imagery to communication rather than the same old boring power point presentation or spreadsheet. This has worked well for me to obtain new equipment which increases labor efficiency to sell my turf grass programs including high end fertilizers and specialty coated grass seed, pesticides, etc.

This proactive approach will also ultimately help with your relationship with senior management by helping them understand possible problems ahead of time and also will allow them to implement budget safeguards based on your evaluation.

Prioritizing the Needs of the Athletic Field Deficiencies for Project Management

Irrigation
Age of Field
Surface of Fields
Drainages
Poor field design?
Overuse Field?

Last, but certainly not least important, is your crews' "buy in" to successfully drive your maintenance program home. Once senior level management understands and determines what level of service they want for each field, they then should have a meeting with your crew by using the sports turf manager and senior level management to sell the program. Let them know the obstacles they had and what you and senior management are trying to do to resolved it. They will appreciate the fact of just being heard and not ignored.

That's the bigger challenge: the STMA does not currently have any guidelines for sports turf managers to follow for natural grass or synthetic fields. We do have safety checklists in place for all different sports fields, but not recommend guidelines for what types of levels a sports turf manger can provide by in-putting his employees and budgeting per acre.

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The Intelligent Use of Water



By Heath Traver

The sun rises above the horizon and hits the frost-covered ballfield. Winter is coming. All of the frustrations that go hand-in-hand with managing an irrigation system can be placed on the shelf for a few months. Issues that may have been plaguing the site for most of the year are dismissed. "We'll worry about it in the spring", is a commonly heard expression in the irrigation world.

The natural human reaction is to be happy that the irrigation season is in the rearview mirror. However, I believe that winter is the perfect time to reflect on the past irrigation season. How efficient were we with our water usage? Is there anything we could have done better? What can we do differently next year to make our lives easier without breaking the budget?

There are many exciting innovations in the irrigation industry which can help answer these questions.

In parts of the country where water is harder to come by, regulations have been pushing irrigators towards evapotranspiration (ET)-based (or weather-based) watering. This is basically monitoring ET, and replacing this water back to the soil. Evapotranspiration can be defined as the combination of the loss of water due to evaporation from the soil and the transpiration of water through the plant. ET-based watering has the ability to monitor local weather conditions which would affect the rate of evapotranspiration (temperature, sun, wind, humidity, etc.), and adjust the controller according to these local conditions. Even field managers with the MOST time on their hands aren't adjusting their controllers every day to put down the exact amount of water required. In reality, the norm is to set up the programming in the spring, and maybe adjust the times in July/August depending on how hot and dry it has been.

The Irrigation Association (IA) is the leading membership organization for irrigation companies and professionals. The IA has long-maintained that ET-based irrigating with the use of a "smart" controller can greatly improve the efficiency of an irrigation system. Initial data from a trial of climate-based "smart" controllers in Santa Barbara, California found that historically high water usage customers reduced their monthly water use by approximately 26% through the use of climate-based "smart" controllers, with some customers saving as much as 59%.

If conserving the planet's most valuable resource isn't motivation enough, we must consider the rising cost of water. A typical football field, when watered at a normal rate of 1.5" per week, over the course of a 6-month irrigation season, will use approximately 650,000 gallons of water. If we can reduce the amount of water by 25%, which is a conservative estimate, we have saved over 162,000 gallons of water in a single year by using weather-based irrigation practices

Now.... If you were able to stick with me through all of the sprinkler talk and field data, here's the payoff.....

Not too long ago, a complicated Central Control system with the capability to communicate with local weather stations and irrigate accordingly, would normally cost 10's of thousands of dollars. However, with technological advancements in the field of irrigation, these systems have become MUCH less expensive. In many cases, they will pay for themselves in a season or two depending on how much water they are able to conserve. As a matter of fact, many of these new systems have the ability to monitor real-time flow, detect leaks and broken heads, and react accordingly. They are able to shut down the unhealthy zone and send an email to the person in charge of the irrigation system, notifying them about the issue.

Water is our most important resource, and it is our responsibility to use it intelligently. Please consider utilizing the new technologies that are now available in order to move towards a greener future.

Heath Traver is Area Specification Manager, Rain Bird Corporation and a licensed New Jersey irrigation contractor.

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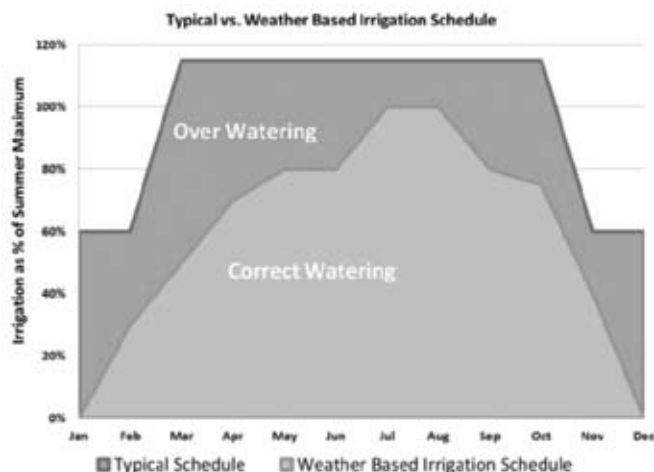
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*Chart taken from SantaBarbaraCA.org shows typical water savings when using ET-based irrigation scheduling.

together based on either their level of experience or affiliation. Making these assignments would give the presenters at each station the flexibility to adapt their talks to their audience in each rotation.

Now that we had a game plan with a location and format, the next step would be to figure out the specific educational content and decide who would speak on each subject. This is where the beauty and value of the network that SFMANJ provides for its members would become very apparent. We knew that we have great resources in all parts of the state as far as competent and experienced personnel who could help out. So, we didn't have to look too far from the event location.

We reached out to a few of our local members who we knew would not have to travel too far to get to Piscataway for the event. After a few e-mails and/or phone calls we were able to recruit Dan Purner from the Somerset Patriots, Mike Morvay from the Lakewood BlueClaws, Ryan Radcliffe from the Middlesex County Vocational Technical Schools, Keith Fisher from Toms River Public Schools and Brad Park and Neil Dougherty from Rutgers University. Naturally, as employees of the host facility, Robert Uhrin and I also volunteered to help with the presentations. We now had a full range of experience on board from Major League Baseball all the way down to the Little League level.

Once our All-Star Line-up of speakers was confirmed, a few planning meetings was all it took to work out the educational content of the event. The Piscataway Little League complex is a five field facility each of which are in close proximity to each other. These five fields formed a perfect perimeter around a vendor and commercial services trade show complete with a complimentary breakfast and lunch prepared by SFMANJ's very own Chef Don Savard.

So with five fields available, we were able to have five separate education stations. One thing we tried this time around was incorporating our vendor equipment demonstrations directly into the educational rotations. By combining maintenance techniques along with science and tools of the trade, we were able to create a true introduction to the major components of Sports Field Management.

Station one featured Mike Viersma of the Viersma companies. Mike demonstrated two separate pieces of infield grading and grooming equipment and explained proper grooming techniques.

Station number two gave attendees a demonstration on baseball field layout and a few techniques for marking out baselines and foul lines. This demonstration included handouts outlining baseball field specifications for both full size major league fields and for smaller scaled little league fields. Keith Fisher from Toms River Board of Education teamed up with Robert Uhrin and I to facilitate this demonstration. Robert and I shared some techniques that have worked very well for us at the little league level and Keith shared a few techniques and philosophies paying attention to fine detail and material differences on the more competitive higher league levels.

The next rotation would bring attendees to meet with Fred Castenchiold and Kevin Hoban from Storr Tractor Company. At Station three attendees had another opportunity to see some of the latest and greatest turf and infield maintenance equipment available on the market. Fred and Kevin demonstrated aeration and

dethatching machines and a few different ways to use them. They even demonstrated the newest version of the Toro Infield Pro and explained some of the optional equipment available with it.

After Fred and Kevin introduced their audiences to some basic cultural practices commonly used by sports field managers they directed them to the next station to meet with Brad Park from Rutgers University.

At Station Four, Brad explained the science behind maintaining healthy turfgrass and the process behind implementing an effective nutrient management program. Attendees were given copies of the soil analysis report from the soil test that was done on that very field. Brad gave everyone a basic understanding of how to interpret that report and how it can be used to make decisions on maintenance practices and resource allocation.

After a good applied science talk, the final rotation on the circuit would move everyone to Station Five.

Here field managers and students had an opportunity to meet with Dan Purner, Mike Morvay and Ryan Radcliffe. This trio of groundskeepers explained techniques for maintaining infield skin surfaces and pitchers mounds. Dan demonstrated how to keep a sharp, clearly defined grass edge along baselines and other transition areas between the turf and infield mix. Mike and Ryan demonstrated how to properly maintain pitchers' mound areas and how to properly scarify and drag the infield and baseline areas. After five rotations, attendees, presenters and trade show vendors had all worked up an appetite.

Once again, Chef Don Savard came to the rescue serving up a traditional SFMANJ field day lunch featuring his famous chili dogs. This gave attendees an opportunity to reflect on what they had learned over a good meal with the good company of their peers. It also gave vendors another opportunity to have some quality facetime with attendees as lunch was served in the center of the trade show.

As always, the Association was very grateful to have the support of its commercial members for this event. Attendees had the opportunity to meet with representatives and gather literature from Georgia Golf Construction Company, Fisher and Son, Shearon Environmental Design, Rain Bird, Storr Tractor Company, Plant Food Company, Levitt's LLC, Site One and the Viersma Companies. The contributions of all of these companies made for a great trade show and great equipment demonstrations. Over one hundred and fifty

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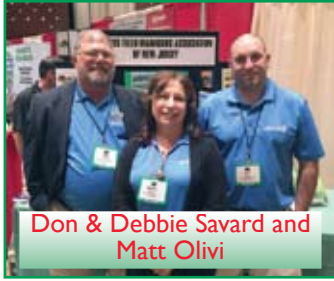
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Don & Debbie Savard and
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Matt Olivi, Bernard Luongo,
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Field of the Year Winner
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SFMANJ FALL FIELD DAY

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Photos by Debbie Savard



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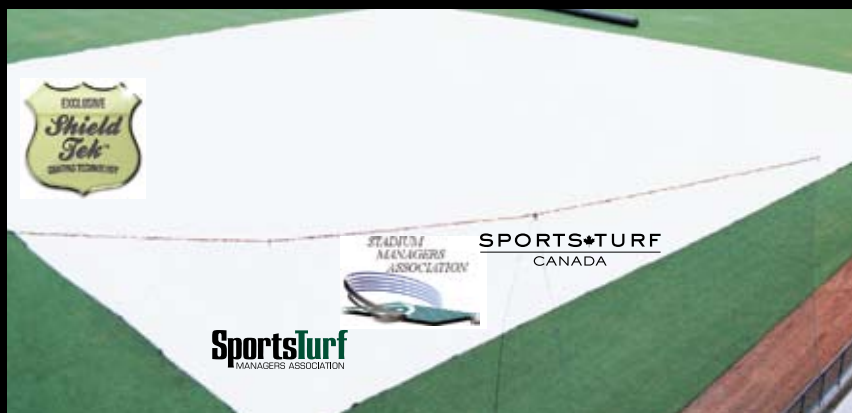
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By Brad Park,

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THE **CERTIFIED SPORTS FIELD MANAGER PROGRAM** – What You Need To Know

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

IN ATHLETICS, it's all about the quality of the game. The quality of the sports field is measured by its safety and playability and to some extent its overall aesthetics. To make this happen, someone has to manage and care for the field. Whether this person directs a professional venue or the local recreational field, it is their skill and knowledge that sets them apart, especially when resources are limited. There is a need for qualified sports field managers, knowledgeable of fiscal management, environmental stewardship and agronomy. Having recognized the importance of fostering and improving professionalism within the sports turf industry, the Sports Turf Managers Association developed the Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) program.

Certification demonstrates that successful sports field job applicants have the knowledge to deliver safe, playable and attractive sports fields. It also demonstrates to employers a significant commitment to career and competence. Quite simply, in an increasingly competitive and changing work environment, certification is an essential investment in one's professional future.

When you become a CSFM, it means that you have taken your professionalism to the next level. After meeting the credentialing standards of education and experience, the applicant takes a written test. This exam is considered by many to be one of the most difficult in the industry to pass, which is one of the main reasons that those who do pass, display their credentials with pride. The sophistication of the exam development process also contributes to the preferred status of the credentials. Overseen by industry experts, the CSFM exams are specifically based on "real world" responsibilities of sports field management professionals. The program also requires that the CSFM stays current with trends and new development pertaining to sports field management through continuing education as well as an industry service obligation.

5 STEPS to becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager

1. Visit the STMA website, click on the Professionalism tab and then scroll down and click in the CSFM Program heading. All of the information that you will need (including forms) is listed there and can be downloaded.
2. Determine if you meet the experience and educational requirements. Experience and education are assigned point values. Forty points is the minimum requirement that needs to be attained in order to go to the next step.
3. Read the CSFM Detailed Competency List. There are 20 pages that list all of the things that you must know in order to pass the test. Everything on the List is part of the essential knowledge base that every CSFM must possess. Compare your expertise with the List and prepare to increase your understanding where you are weak. A CSFM must be capable of managing different sports on all playing surfaces under extreme conditions. Gather your text books, magazines and online articles. The Study Resource List will help get you started. Start reading!
4. Prepare and submit your application form and the requisite paperwork. This includes your resume, completed Educational Requirements Worksheet, your School Transcripts, your signed Code of Professional Practice Form and the application fee. STMA Headquarters will review your application, check your references and notify you of your eligibility to sit for the exam.
5. Schedule your exam. You make take your exam locally with a proctor, or take the exam at the National STMA Conference (the advantage being the exam is administered on the first day and the last day giving a chance to retake sections if necessary). The test is a written multiple choice test comprised of four major Sections pertinent for a Sports Turf Manager. Each Section will be graded individually. A passing grade of 80% will be required for each Section. Sections for testing will include:

Agronomics

- Basic horticultural calculations
- Basic soils
- Turf grasses and their selection
- Turfgrass nutrition
- Water management
- Turfgrass cultural practices

Pest Management -IPM, Cultural, Pesticides

- Weeds
- Insects
- Diseases

Administration

- Budgeting
- Communication
- Supervision/Personnel
- Management
- Safety/Compliance/
- First Aid

Sports Specific Field Management – Field design, layout, dimensions, lining/markings, maintenance, playability, and aesthetics

- Baseball/Softball
- Football
- Soccer, Lacrosse, Field Hockey



Continued on page 16

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SFMANJ
Spring Field Day
Wednesday,
April 19, 2017

2017 Calendar of Events

2017 STMA Conference and Exhibitio~

January 24-27, 2017

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www.stma.org



R

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February 14-15, 2017

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February 21, 2017

Natural & IPM Strategies for Sports Turf

February 24, 2017

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Farewell

By Adam Simmons

As I come to the end of my term on the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Board of Directors, I know it is not an end to what I have built. I have built a strong foundation in turf and infield management. I have forged even stronger friendships that will last longer than any one career. I look back over my years in sports turf and I cannot say I learned as much in any other place.



The members have always been there to field questions and quick to give suggesting. If I had an idea, I wanted to try they would listen and give feedback. Many times I know more then I gave myself credit for.

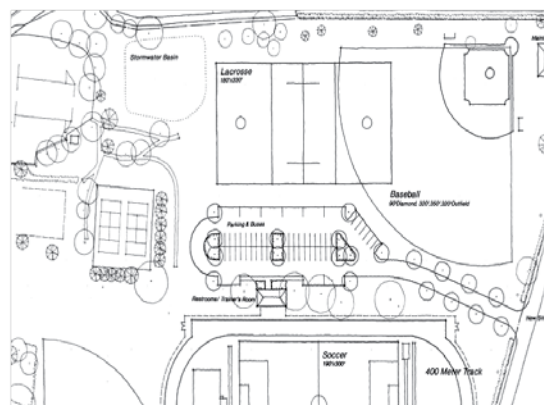
Even though I didn't have the credentials or experience as the rest of the group, they always listen to my ideas. I would encourage anyone looking to make sports turf their career to join this organization. Get involved.

So, I say 'thank you' to the SFMANJ Board for molding me into the manager I have become and I look forward to seeing you and your next event..

Adam

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Piscataway Little League

people attended this year Fall Field Day. All had a great chance to get to know their commercial representatives a little better and see the many tools and resources available to them.

About halfway through lunch, the trade show was wrapping up. SFMANJ President and Field Day Emcee Bernard Luongo, introduced the grand finale of the educational program. Dr. Neil J. Dougherty, recently retired from Rutgers University Kinesiology and Health Department, was kind enough to join us and speak to attendees about potential liabilities issues. Once again, Dr. Dougherty addressed our membership and reminded us to look at our facilities from a different point of view. As sports field managers we usually tend to look down and focus on the turf and playing surfaces. However, after listening to Dr. Dougherty, hopefully we will always remember to look up and pay attention to how we are operating in all areas of our parks and sports complexes.

We were all extremely fortunate to have such a beautiful day and that so many people were able to attend the event. It took a great deal of planning and so many members contributed to putting this Field Day together for everyone. Thanks go out to all who helped us through speaking (Dan, Mike, Ryan, Keith, Brad, Neil and Robert), sponsoring (Rain Bird), demonstrating (The Viersma Companies and Storr Tractor Company) and even for loaning specialized equipment to Piscataway Little League to get the fields looking great for the event (Georgia Golf Construction). Special thanks to Frank Uhrin and the Piscataway Little League Board of Directors for allowing SFMANJ to hold the event at your facility.

Matt Olivi is Sports Turf Manager, Piscataway Little League; Past-President, SFMANJ; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors



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The Certified Sports Field Manager Program

- What You Need To Know

Here are the BASIC REQUIREMENTS

1. The applicant must have a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent.
2. The applicant must achieve a minimum of 40 points earned through a combination of education and experience with the following criteria:

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE POINTS

Education Program Points

STMA Approved Educational Program vary (see current list of approved programs) Note: These points may be in addition to the below listed points. The below listed education points are not cumulative. In other words, an applicant can only receive points for the highest educational level achieved. Experience points are cumulative.

Associate Degree:

Non-turf	2
Turf or Related Plant Science.	8

Bachelor's Degree

Non-turf.. . . .	8
Turf or Related Plant Science.	16

Advanced Degree - Masters or Doctorate

Turf or Related Plant Science.	24
--	----

Experience

Activity Points/year*

Formalized Internship Program.	1 per 100 hrs. worked
Sports Turf Crew	2.5
Supervisory Sports Turf (Assistant, Foreman or Lead position)	4
Sports Turf Manager (Top Position)	6
Experience as assistant golf course superintendent.	1 1/2
Experience as a golf course superintendent	3

NOTE: no more than 50 percent of total experience points can be earned on a golf course.

***a minimum of 1500 hours must be spent on the job to qualify for each claimed year.**

The Application and resume will be evaluated to determine eligibility for Certification.

Please note: If any of the BASIC REQUIREMENTS are not fulfilled at the time of application, the application will be returned to the applicant (NO EXCEPTIONS).

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.

RUTGERS CORNER – Soil pH and Use of Lime

Note that the particle size of a liming material will strongly influence the rate in which the material neutralizes soil acidity. While all liming materials are relatively insoluble, materials with finer particle sizes (greater surface area) have an increased dissolution rate in soils, and therefore will have the effect of neutralizing acidity more quickly than a coarser grade lime source.

Burned lime and hydrated lime are other liming sources. These materials are not generally recommended for use in turf because of their caustic properties for applicators and their potential to cause burn on turfgrasses.

Calcium carbonate equivalent (CCE)

The lime requirement given in the soil test results by the Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory and other labs is based on the use of pure calcium carbonate, which is assigned a relative neutralizing value of 100%. Therefore, a liming material that has the same neutralizing potential as pure calcium carbonate is said to have a calcium carbonate equivalent (CCE) of 100%. If, however, the CCE of the liming material chosen does not have a CCE of 100%, the amount of material to be applied must be adjusted to raise the soil pH to the desired level.

For turfgrass sites, lime requirements made by the Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory are based on pounds of limestone (CCE=100%) required on a 1000 square foot basis necessary to raise soil pH to 6.3.

Based on the CCE of the material being used to lime a turfgrass area, the amount of material needed can be calculated in the following manner: Liming material needed = (Soil test recommendation/CCE of liming material) X 100

Tying it all together

An example of a soil test recommendation for the establishment of a sports field based on a determined soil pH of 5.35 is as follows:

The soil test indicates a strongly acidic soil, of which the pH is below the best range for the growth of most turfgrass. This soil should be treated with 95 pounds per 1000 square feet of limestone. Spread uniformly on the surface, then mix thoroughly to a 6 inch depth by shoveling or tilling.

In the case of this example, if the liming material available for use has a CCE of 85%, then the actual amount of material needed to be applied per 1000 square feet based on the lime recommendation is: $(95/85) \times 100 = 112$ lbs liming material per 1000 square feet.

In the case of established sports fields and other turfgrass sites, lime requirements are often specified such that the amount of lime required is applied over multiple applications.

This article was adapted from the following publications and provide additional reading on the subject of soil pH and liming:

Carrow, R.N., D.V.Waddington, and P.E. Rieke. 2001. Turfgrass soil fertility and chemical problems. Sleeping Bear Press, Chelsea, MI.

Landschoot, P. 1994. Liming turfgrass areas. Penn State Col. Of Ag. Sci., Ag. Res. and Coop. Ext. Extension Circular 415.

Murphy, J. and J. Heckman. Managing soil pH for turfgrasses. Rutgers Coop. Ext. FS 635.

Plaster, E.J. 1992. Soil science and management. Delmar Publishers, Inc., Albany, NY.

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update



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What's Your Function?

To express this in a well thought-out official statement, I would recommend a new Guideline Committee for 2017 that would be composed of sports turf managers, higher education folks and of course our vendors to develop and establish guidelines for natural grass and synthetic fields. The guidelines below could constitute a set of parameters used by senior level management to aid in the decision making process for the safety and function of the sports fields.

I have taken a stab at and developed a list of inputs I think are valuable that pertain to natural grass fields, however, I would challenge all of you, and the STMA Board of Directors, to add your attributes to this list. Perhaps we can build a solid foundation as a starting point from this. I have come up with guidelines based off of our memberships types of facilities. This November 2016, we might be able to have a lot of these numbers ready to use for all three levels of operations to educate administrators, parents, and coaches of the supply cost, problems with the fields, and intensive labor required for safe and functional sport fields for all three levels of maintenance programs.

Natural Grass Guidelines

High End Field: Professional Standers

Employee Per Acre:
Cost Per Acre:
Annual reserved project funds:
How many days a week is the field rested while in Season:
High end maintenance program breakdown

Average Field: College and University

Employee Per Acre:
Cost Per Acre:
Annual reserved project funds:
How many days a week is the field rested while in Season:
Average / baseline maintenance program breakdown

Low Budget Field: K-12 Schools and Parks

Employee Per Acre:
Cost Per Acre:
Annual reserved project funds:
How many days a week is the field rested while in Season:
Low budget and limited employees' maintenance program breakdown

Kevin Mercer is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), Certified Grounds Manager (CGM), Landscape Industry Certified Manager (LICM) and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors

New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Tim Mariner
Rachael Markley
Brett Matteucci
Abbie Maybury
Sean McArthur
Justin McCann
Bill McKenna
AJ Miller
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Nathan Young

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City of New Brunswick Parks Dept.
Bergen County Technical Schools
New Jersey City University
Black Horse Pike Regional School District
Northern Burlington County Reg. School
Edison Public Schools
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