

UPDATE Sports Field



Managers Association of New Jersey

Fall 2017
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P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070 • 856-514-3179 • www.sfmanj.org • e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

Save the Dates:

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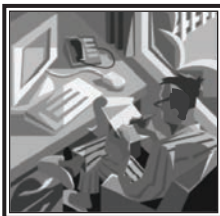
Currently we have 235 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2017 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 856.514.3179 or download the membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

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SFMANJ Update is looking for authors.

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

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

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Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

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National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association
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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.

A Message from the President

Words to live by . . .

By Bernard Luongo

Hello everyone - Happy Turf Time.



At a young age, a lesson learned in our household was that if you are on time, you are late. Going to work early helps ease you into the day, maybe catch up on paperwork or chat with a fellow employee who was taught the same lesson.

Showing up for work is a novel idea. Consistency in attendance promotes reliability, it gives your employer the sense that you can take your job seriously and they can count on you. Joining organizations, networking, attending classes, anything that increases your knowledge and sets you apart from the status quo will increase your value.

Don't fall into the trap that it's just a job! Don't just show up and go through the motions and say "Hey, I'm here for eight hours." Management notices attitudes. If behavior like this continues, you will need to update your resume. If you haven't done any of the positive things previously written, your career and resume will be short.

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

2017 Calendar of Events

SFMANJ Fall Field Day and Trade Show

November 2, 2017

Owens Park, Monroe Township

Gloucester Co., NJ

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New Jersey Green Expo

December 5-7, 2017

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Fall is the time to begin planning for EXPO 2017

December 5-7, 2017

By Brad Park



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

It's time to begin planning your trip to Expo 2017. The New Jersey Green Expo will be return to The Borgata in Atlantic City, NJ during December 5-7, 2017.

A few highlights:

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

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

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

Fellowship... many opportunities exist to meet old friends and to make new ones. Whether on the trade show floor, or in the hallways between sessions, or in the many formal social opportunities, or in the informal social get-togethers, the three days at Expo offer you a great opportunity to learn what others are doing in our business in a relaxed atmosphere. Many attendees have told us that these informal discussions are highlights of the conference!

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

A third year at a new hotel ... The Borgata is the premier Hotel/Casino in Atlantic City and Expo will be returning to The Borgata for 2017!

The Expo mission statement: **The NJ Green Expo is a science based conference and trade show that provides education, business, fellowship, and environmental**

Continued on page 14

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The Intelligent Use of Water

By Heath Traver

It's a quiet summer morning. Although it's early in the day, you can already feel the humidity in the air. It's going to be a hot one.....

We are officially experiencing the dog days of summer. Although the extreme heat and humidity this time of year can make it difficult to work outside, it gives

us a unique opportunity that we will probably not experience for the rest of the year. This is the time of year when the stress of extreme environmental conditions will shine spotlights on any deficiencies in our irrigation systems. If there are weak points in a system, this is when they will fully present themselves. It's the perfect opportunity to perform a mid-season walkthrough.

Upon finding a dry spot, a very common solution is to increase the amount of runtime on that zone (or the entire system). By watering to these weak points, we are overwatering the rest of the property.

In a sports turf application, it is very common to have 5 heads on a zone putting out 10 gallons per minute apiece. If we were to increase this zone's runtime by an additional 15 minutes, we would be applying an extra 750 gallons of water per cycle. If we extend this scenario out over a typical irrigation season (5 months of watering every other day), we are looking at over 50,000 gallons of additional water applied to compensate for one dry area. Perhaps there is a better solution. Is there an issue with one of the heads that we are not aware of because the system is running at night? Could we get more water to this dry spot by simply increasing the nozzle size on one of the heads?

There are many variables which could affect the performance of an irrigation system. The best way to determine what is actually happening is to physically turn on the system, walk the property and observe.

1. **Walk the property.** Make notes on any areas that appear to be water deficient. Also, pay attention to any areas that appear to be oversaturated.
2. **Check the programming on the controller.** It's very possible that the controller could have been tampered with by a coach, or someone else who thought they were helping out.
3. **Observe the system running.** This will be the opportunity to pay attention to any areas that you noticed were being underwatered (or overwatered).



Based on these observations, adjustments and repairs can be made to ensure that the system is running as efficiently as possible. In the event that an issue is more complicated and requires an irrigation professional, the assistance of a Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor (CLIA) can be enlisted. These individuals have undergone training sanctioned by the Irrigation Association, and have been taught the skills necessary to perform a complete system audit. They have been trained to compile data and offer recommendations on how to increase the efficiency of an irrigation system. A full list of Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditors can be found at the Irrigation Association website – Irrigation.org.

Summertime can be a difficult time of the year to work outside, but there are advantages. This is the best time of the year to find deficiencies in an irrigation system. I would encourage anyone who is in charge of managing a system(s) to take advantage of the extreme conditions, and perform a mid-season walkthrough.

Heath Traver (htraver@rainbird.com) is an Area Specification Manager for Rain Bird in the Northeast US.

SFMANJ Fall Field Day

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017
Owens Park
Williamstown, NJ

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MANAGING PARKS IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

By Frank Ravaschiere

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the May 2015 edition of Sportsturf, the official publication of Sports Turf Managers Association.

The City of Long Branch is located on the Jersey shore, just south of Sandy Hook and north of the more well-known Asbury Park. As is the case with any oceanfront resort area, summer sees a seasonal swell in the population and a strain on services.

When I began working for the Public Works Department in 1998, there was virtually no parks maintenance program in place. Fortunately, a city councilman who happened to run the sports field maintenance facilities for Monmouth University was instrumental in establishing a bonafide Parks Department. With a \$70,000 budget, we were able to purchase Toro Z Masters, an Infield Pro, and a Workman. Previously we had used old Cub Cutters for cutting and dragging ballfields. There were no fertilization or treatment programs of any kind in place. Seeding was only something you did for bare spots in the turf. Our four-man crew began attending seminars and training sessions and I studied and tested for my pesticide license. In 2005 I was made Parks Supervisor.

Aside from the seven major parks that are maintained we are responsible for municipal buildings and grounds which include city hall, two libraries, and various riverfront areas and rights-of-way. More often than not we find ourselves scrambling to meet the high demands of recreational schedules of the various local organizations and day camps organized by the summer visitors. If we are lucky enough to acquire extra help seasonally such as college or high school students, they are usually used primarily on the beachfront only occasionally being of help in the parks. This attention given to the upkeep of the beaches also makes it difficult to manage any projects for the parks system at this time of the year. Even something as fundamental as aerating a soccer field can be difficult when all available equipment is designated to beach rakes.

In 2008 the city broke ground on a 20-acre sports complex in a riverfront area known as Manahasset Creek. The sheer size of the complex drastically increased our work load. The initial cost for first phase of construction was \$3.9 million. This would include 14 acres of synthetic fields, one of the largest on the East Coast. In addition to the synthetic components of three soccer fields, a Pop Warner football field and a softball field, there are two natural Little League fields as well as basketball and tennis courts. In 2011, a second phase was completed with a children's play area, putting greens, and a recreation and concession building complete with team rooms and a full kitchen.

In 2012, Super Storm Sandy hit. Although I was told that the synthetic field was undamaged, the debris and river reeds woven into the surrounding fence said otherwise. The synthetic turf at Manahasset Creek Park, designed for downward drainage, was devastated when the storm surge came upward, lifting the carpet off the sub-surface. Initially it was believed that the carpet could be pulled up and the sub-surface rolled and leveled. Testing revealed that the carpet was too contaminated to be re-used. Repairs were completed this past spring at a cost of nearly \$700,000.

Long Branch recently underwent a phase of redevelopment. Once vibrant oceanfront and downtown business areas had become rundown and blighted; these have been replaced with luxury apartments and thriving restaurants and shops. However, when the financial crisis hit the country, much of the revitalization of the city's downtown plans were stalled. Despite the stall, the completed redeveloped areas have been a huge success and a major revenue generator for the city. Ground is just now being broken and many rundown buildings still sit only blocks away from a resort and convention hotel and bustling beaches.

FRUSTRATING LOW-BID PROCESS

Throughout the years a constant frustration for me in the planning, design, and construction of parks has been the low-bid process adopted by most municipalities. I'm sure many of you have experienced when the architect pays more attention to detail and aesthetics than ease of maintenance. I have had a baseball field constructed with a street drain installed in the base line between third and home plate, with a walking path around the field where the warning track should be. When one engineer found himself with a surplus of trees, he planted them beneath larger preexisting trees!

Continued on page 18

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2018 MAKING PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

How well did your sports field do this past year? Did it look and play as you expected it to? Are you satisfied with the results? Many sports field managers' review the past year and make plans (and budgets) now for the upcoming year. It is time to take an honest, hard look at how well the 2017 program worked so that you will know what to keep and what to change. Not sure where to start? Here's a hint: Ask your crew, your owners and user groups for their thoughts. Their answers might surprise you.

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

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

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

How effective is your irrigation? The goal here is to provide enough water to the turf when it needs it, factoring in the amount of natural rainfall and the normal moisture loss due to evaporation and plant transpiration (evapotranspiration). Does your soil absorb the water being delivered, or is there runoff and puddling? Is the

distribution uniform or are there both saturated and dry spots? Does the time of day that you irrigate promote plant health or plant disease? An irrigation audit is a useful tool to measure how efficiently your irrigation system and watering program is working. For information on how to conduct an irrigation audit, visit the Irrigation Association website: www.irrigation.org. Not only does smart irrigation promote better turfgrass health, it saves money and does not waste your time.

Fertilizer certification and School IPM laws have been getting plenty of attention in New Jersey (and elsewhere) lately. Take the time to read and completely understand what is being asked of you. While there are some new guidelines to follow, you will still be allowed to perform the tasks of feeding turf and managing weeds, insects and diseases. Regularly scheduled soil tests and scouting for problems allows you customize your program to your environmental conditions. Based on my sports field's soil test results, I have been able to eliminate Phosphorus and Potassium from some fertilizer applications without sacrificing quality and saving lots of money. "P" and "K" are expensive. Why buy it if you don't need it?

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

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

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Certified Grounds Manager (CGM), Sports Turf Manager, Salesianum School, Wilmington Delaware; Past-President, SFMANJ



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Photo Recap:

Photos by Debbie Savard

SFMANJ Sponsored Trade Show at the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Field Day - July 26, 2017, Adelphia, NJ



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More From SFMANJ Trade Show

Photos by Debbie Savard



Photo by Fred Castenschild →



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Make plans to
be at this year's
Fall Field Day on
Nov. 2, 2017.

On the Road in New Jersey

by Fred Castenschiold

Traveling the roads of New Jersey for a living has gotten crazier than ever. Hardly a day goes by without seeing the results of some sort of accident. Add trailering to the equation and the risk greatly increases. People love to pull out in front of you at the last minute not realizing that it takes considerably more effort for you to stop your vehicle, trailer, and cargo. In addition, other things can also happen!

When trailering anything it is so important to make sure your cargo is strapped or chained down for your own safety, safety of the equipment, as well as those around you. It can all start with the properly sized ball-hitch for the trailer, safety chains, and lights and brake-away line if applicable. In addition, don't ignore tire pressure and wheel lugs which can loosen-up through vibration.

Be sure to always do a visual check to make sure brake and signal lights are functioning on your trailer as well as the electric or surge brakes. To avoid fishtailing (which can result in an accident), be sure to displace the weight of the equipment properly on the trailer so that the majority of weight is ahead of the trailer's axle/axles. I am sure we have all observed this while following an inexperienced person hauling a camper or trailer in the past.

Fortunately for the municipality (see image), they had their Infield Groomer tied down properly; despite that, when rear ended by a distracted driver (cell phone?), things can go terribly wrong very quickly. In this case, had the machine not been tied or strapped-

down in some fashion, the infield groomer would have ended-up in the back of the vehicle pulling it. If going by Department of Transportation (DOT) standards, the cargo should always be tied-down to all four corners of the trailer so that in the event of the trailer flipping, the cargo stays with the trailer!!



Be careful out there my friends!

Fred Castenschiold is Sales Representative, Storr Tractor Company; longest-serving member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors; and recipient of the 2016 Henry Indyk Founders Award, awarded by SFMANJ.

UPDATE

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

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

To access this archive, visit:

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Fall is the time to begin planning for EXPO 2017

Continued from page 5

December 5-7, 2017



stewardship opportunities in partnership with the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers University.

How can you convince your employer to send you? Continuing education and industry connections are crucial to your success and the success of your sports fields. Here are some suggestions to help your employer understand how your attendance at Expo 2017 can add value to the overall operation of your facility.

Educate yourself on the Conference and Exhibition

Provide your employer an overview of the size and scope of Expo 2017 and a copy of the education agenda. This edition of SFMANJ Update provides the Sports Field Managers Program for Expo 2017.

Pinpoint specific sessions you plan to attend, and tie their relevance to your sports facility. It is anticipated that tough-to-acquire New Jersey DEP Category 13 credits will be awarded for attendance during Sports Field Managers sessions in 2017.

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

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

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

Know the Cost

Make a case for efficient and effective use of your facility's training dollars. By attending Expo 2017, you will be exposed to the most relevant education and technology in one place, making it the most effective use of training dollars.

Research travel times and hotel costs. While Atlantic City is feasible day trip from almost anywhere in New Jersey, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association does its part to negotiate reasonable room rates at The Borgata to make staying a night reasonable. Expo 2017 will feature online registration at www.njturfgrass.org

Have an Action Plan

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

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

See you in Atlantic City!

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

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Thinking about a career in the

TURFGRASS INDUSTRY?

You may be surprised about the opportunities out there now...and in the future

by Brian Hayes, Agriculture Teacher, Northern Burlington Regional High School

As an agricultural education teacher, one of my favorite areas to teach about is turfgrass management. Hello SFMANJ members! My name is Brian Hayes, an agricultural educator at Northern Burlington County Regional High School in Columbus, NJ. I was recently introduced to the organization by Bernard Luongo, who also happens to be the Lead Groundskeeper for the school district and SFMANJ President.

As I was saying before, turfgrass management is one of my favorite areas that I teach to students. Northern Burlington has the largest agricultural education program in NJ, and together with three other teachers (plus one more in our middle school), we strive to develop and teach curriculum with agriculture that is relevant, rigorous, and that addresses some of the most pressing issues within agriculture - such how we are going to be able to feed and support an ever-growing population in our country, and in the rest of the world.

But I don't want to get too serious - I also teach about less pressing problems such as proper mowing height, and fertilization practices and regulations for turfgrasses in NJ. I usually spend a good 3 months on turf management in my landscaping class, so students have a much better understanding and take a little more pride in caring for their lawns at home.

In addition, I spend a lot of time discussing careers within the agricultural and horticultural industries with my students, and especially due to the size and economic impact of the green industry in NJ, I explore real jobs and careers areas with them in the classroom - including jobs and careers in the turfgrass management - the industry has a lot of opportunities!

As an agricultural educator, I also focus a lot on preparing students for life after high school - to me, that is a major part of my job - and probably - the most important. Students can take a lot of different paths - college, technical school, military - or simply seek employment after graduation. In a world where guidance counselors push students to pursue what they consider to be high paying jobs and careers such as being a doctor, lawyer, and my personal favorite - veterinarian, I seek to show students some of the other more non-traditional and less costly careers paths.

Students today are being pushed to go to colleges and universities and get 4 year degrees. They major in areas for which there are few jobs available to begin with and the competition is fierce. And as if not being able to find a job was bad enough, they then must begin paying back their students loans - the tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars - money that their parents spent on an education that is essentially worthless. I'm not knocking college (but I am knocking guidance counselors!) - it has its place. Not everyone interested in a career in the turfgrass industry needs a college degree, but they should pursue some type of education along the way. But the bottom line is that there are a lot of good paying jobs in the turfgrass industry in NJ, and they don't all come with an education with a high price tag!

Just in our state alone, the industry is valued at over \$4 billion and will only continue to grow. But students don't understand this - only when I begin to dissect the industry into its different segments do my students begin to gain an understanding of potential opportunities within the turfgrass industry.

When I begin teaching about turfgrass I start with the basics - how it grows, the types of grasses, and the various cultural and maintenance procedures involved with mowing, fertilizing and watering. Initially, I am often met by responses like, 'isn't turfgrass that fake stuff' (meaning artificial turf) or 'no one wants to cut grass for a living', or my favorite - 'my mom and dad pay someone to cut my grass'. They don't realize that the person cutting their grass is probably making a decent living for him or herself.

But what really ties it all together for them is when I start to incorporate the various careers - beyond the person their parents hired to manage their lawn at home. The most frequently asked question is "How much money am I going to make?". My answer is always the same - it depends on four things - where you live, what is the specific job/tasks you are performing, what is your educational background and skills, and most importantly - how hard are you willing to work?

Continued on page 17

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BRAIN FERT

By Bernard Luongo

It is what it is, it was what it was
In the end, it was just because.

Do you ever get tired of hearing that phrase?
It seems to be the generation craze.

What if something different was said?
Something new, something not dead.

Some new ideas with positive force
To change the old path to plot a new course.

Instead of accepting things as they are
Viewing situations from afar.

Why not mix it up and get involved?
Change some thinking; get things resolved?

Will it be easy? No-one said it would.
But what if you didn't when you knew you could?

So put those OSHA boots on your feet.
Get out to your fields where athletes cleat.

Take the knowledge you've learned over previous years/
Make some decisions to show management you care.

Be proud of your jobs and the goals you achieve.
Make all of your naysayers come to believe.

That what you do is important each day.
Regardless of what anyone has to say.

Chins always up – A face with a smile.
Don't let a bad day ruin someone else's mile.

Continuing education plays an important role.
A valuable employee should be a common goal

So join organizations and go to classes.
Learn how to take care of different grasses.

After all that's been written and still on the fence -
Here's a tip, Don't stand around looking like an expense.

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

New Jersey Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference

December 5-7, 2017

The Borgata, Atlantic City, NJ

2017 Sports Field Managers Expo Program

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017

Afternoon session

- 1:00 - 2:00 PM **NJ DEP School IPM Program Update**
Stephen Bross, NJ DEP
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM **Annual Bluegrass Management and Control in Sports Turf**
Dr. Bruce Branham, University of Illinois
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM **Update on Synthetic Turf Research**
Tom Serensits, Penn State University
- 4:00 - 8:00 PM **Trade Show**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017

Morning session

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM **Early Bird Sports Field Managers Networking Roundtable**
- 8:30 – 9:15 AM **Annual Business Meeting and Awards Presentation**
- 9:15 – 9:45 AM **The Year in Review**
Brad Park, Rutgers University
- 9:45 – 10:45 AM **Soil Physical and Chemical Properties: What Do They Mean for Your Sports Field?**
Tom Serensits, Penn State University
- 10:45 - 11:30 AM **Management of Sports Fields and Grounds at Middlesex Boro**
Jim Ianetti, Middlesex Boro
- 11:30 - 2:30 PM **Trade Show**

Afternoon session

- 2:30 – 3:30 PM **Rutgers Football Practice Field Renovation**
Dr. Jim Murphy and Matthew Colagiovanni, Rutgers University
- 3:30 – 4:30 PM **Managing Key Turfgrass Diseases on School and Municipal Sports Fields**
Dr. Bruce Clarke, Rutgers University
- 4:30 – 5:00 PM **Natural and Synthetic Turf Management in the City of Long Branch**
Frank Ravaschiere, City of Long Branch

When I go over specific career opportunities – I always discuss the highest paying jobs first. I explain how golf course superintendents and turf managers of professional sports teams can easily make between \$75,000-\$100,000+ per year. Of course, this is a real attention getter. But then I explore the small and large commercial turf maintenance companies who manage the mowing and fertilization aspects of cemeteries, commercial accounts, churches, institutions, and private residences. I also talk about seed and sod farms. But something interesting happened that changed the way I taught and what I thought I knew about turfgrass and careers within the industry.

A few years ago, I put together a team of students to develop and give a presentation on a turfgrass topic and compete amongst other students giving presentations on other agricultural topics within NJ. These students picked a very interesting and controversial topic – the development of glyphosate resistant (RoundUp) turfgrass by the Scotts Miracle-Gro company. Scotts was working on developing a grass that is greener, denser, grows slower, can be easily managed and that can be used with the herbicide RoundUp to kill weeds and not harm the grass.

It was difficult to get a team of 7 teenage girls to even work together, let alone have them interested and as passionate about turfgrass as I am. But this presentation was transformational as it had opened their eyes about possible career paths in the turfgrass industry.

While developing and researching their topic, they wrote Scotts Miracle-Gro Co. to inquire about the development of this new turfgrass. And then one day, out of the blue, I got a phone call from a gentleman named Bob Harriman who worked for Scotts Miracle-Gro. What happened next was amazing – he invited my students and I out to their corporate headquarters in Marysville, Ohio to let my students present and discuss their presentation on the RoundUp resistant turfgrass. I couldn't believe how wonderful of an opportunity it would be for the team. With the blessing of my supportive school administration, we were able to take the trip out to Ohio and my students were able to ask questions and perfect their presentation. We toured their facilities, visited their turf plots and greenhouses, and we're able to meet with people who had been working on this project for years. It was a dream come true for an educator like myself to be able to have students learn so much and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

But one of the greatest things that my students and I learned on the trip was that it took a team of people who all had followed different career paths to work on developing this new type of RoundUp resistant turfgrass. It took scientists such as botanists and geneticists, people working in sales and marketing, as well as turf seed and sod farmers, professional turf managers and turf agronomists working at Scotts Miracle-Gro on this project.

Many of the people had careers and skills not traditionally or directly related to the turfgrass industry. This experience has fundamentally changed the way that I teach about careers and jobs in the agricultural and horticultural industry to my students. The lesson for me was that yes - the grass will always need to

be mowed, and fertilized, and watered. And perhaps some of my students may someday own and operate their own landscaping or turf care business and find success. Those jobs will continue to exist because we all know the grass doesn't stop growing!

But the true lesson for me was this: It isn't enough for me to simply prepare my students today for jobs that already exist. I must prepare my students for the jobs of tomorrow – jobs that really don't even exist – yet. By developing new turfgrasses, scientists are essentially re-writing the rules on what we know about how to manage turfgrasses. Someday, these new grasses will be on the market and available to consumers. It simply won't be enough for someone to simply mow or fertilize turfgrass anymore, but we will need trained individuals who know how to manage them differently than the grasses with cultivate today.

My advice to youth who are interested in turfgrass management, whether it be managing a golf course, recreational or professional sports field, or turfgrass maintenance business or any other related area but are unsure if there are any good paying jobs in the industry would be to take a second look because there is a lot of opportunity in the industry – an industry that is only going to continue to grow.

Until next time, keep off the grass!

Brian Hayes is an Agriculture Teacher, Northern Burlington Regional High School, Columbus, NJ

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By Fred Castenschiold

I have been selling quality turf care equipment for over thirty years. I am still amazed how so few customers refer to their owners/operator manuals until it is too late or not at all. These manuals are a great source of information for the supervisor, operator and mechanic.

When taking in a trade on equipment, I try to always recover the original manuals from the account to pass on to the new owner. Often the condition of these manuals condition indicates that they have not been referred-to much! It is a good idea to always record the model and serial number of the equipment on the cover of the manual for quick reference when discussing the need for service or parts. It also a good idea to make sure you read and understand the operators' manual for your machine before operating or servicing it. Become familiar with all safety signs (decals) on the machine. Some manufacturers provide operator training videos which help demonstrate procedures for safe operation and daily maintenance.

Preventative maintenance of your equipment will help you to get the most out of your investment. If you do not have a preventative maintenance program it would be good to start one soon. Sometimes we go long stretches between those rainy day opportunities. Doing scheduled maintenance and adjustments will prolong the life of your equipment, help prevent expensive downtime and give the best possible quality of cut and performance. Experience has shown that a high percentage of problems have developed over a period of time and could have been prevented by adjustment, lubrication, or other required maintenance.

When referring to the manual, take into consideration how harsh your conditions are and remember that manufacturer recommendations for service are the minimum requirements. If we have a long dry spell and your equipment is working daily in a particularly dusty environment you may wish to consider oil and air filter changes more often.

Some of my customers have come-up with great maintenance schedules which they live by. Keeping records for each machine insures that maintenance procedures are being performed at the proper time. These records could also help you predict parts to have on hand. By keeping blades, belts, filters, etc. on-hand, you will not be caught in a situation where important maintenance was not performed on-schedule because of a lack of parts.

Know what is contained in your manufacturer's warranty. Most warranties are two years in the commercial field. When talking to a service manager regarding a possible warranty issue you will need to refer to those model and serial numbers. Remember? ... The model and serial numbers you wrote down on the front cover of your manual!

Fred Castenschiold is Sales Representative, Storr Tractor Company; longest-serving member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors; and recipient of the 2016 Henry Indyk Founders Award, awarded by SFMANJ

MANAGING PARKS IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Continued from page 7

The more subtle design flaws in an urban environment occur when fence lines and the placement of buildings and facilities obscure a clear view of less-than-desirable activities during daytime and after hours. On one particular occasion only days before a Veteran's Day ceremony we found a Vietnam War memorial had been vandalized and tagged with gang signs. It took us several attempts with different cleaners and solvents and finally a belt sander to remove the graffiti. I have had many repairs done on holes made in sections of fence where nooks and crannies in the design of the fencing provide a convenient way to sneak in without using a main entrance.

In the same park vandals found it was not at all difficult to use the outside stalls on the comfort station to climb onto the roof and tear the shingle off, throwing them onto the basketball courts. Sadly, during the summer months the majority of the police patrols are focused on the beachfront and the parks take a backseat in any attention that would discourage public drinking and drug use. It's not unusual to come in on Monday morning and find litter baskets full of beer cans and bottles and empty blunt wrappers on the basketball courts.

I've made several attempts in the past few years to remedy some of these problems. Many of the older existing parks were signed off by city officials before we had a viable parks department to supply input as to design and maintenance nightmares. I now try to meet with architects and particularly contractors to give opinions and hopefully solutions to some of the everyday issues that arise. Whenever possible, I try to do walk-throughs with city officials and point out different shortfalls. I have reached out to the police department and have gotten some assistance from Urban Enterprise Unit and community service programs to address cleanups in problem areas. The Recreation Department has begun employing summer help to team up with Public Works to address the excessive litter generated by summer camps and local organizations. I have even had some success with local Eagle Scout programs looking for projects.

I recently reached out to fellow New Jersey sports turf managers and am currently in the process of dealing with poorly designed ballfields at the Manahasset sports complex. They were extremely supportive, even visiting the site and evaluating existing problems with construction and drawing up a comprehensive plan for renovations. I am lucky that my crew, although small, has held on to their enthusiasm and dedication. Hopefully with the help of the community we will be able to keep the quality of our facilities up to the standards everyone deserves.

Frank Ravaschiere is parks supervisor for the City of Long Branch, NJ and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.

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in the City of Long Branch**

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