

UPDATE Sports Field

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Managers Association of New Jersey

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Welcome 2018

See Inside for:
Water Usage
Professional Writing Tips
Budgeting Guidelines
Winter Sports Field Tips
Recap of Fall Activities
Professional Development

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Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

We have 326 new & renewed members for 2017 and 87 members so far for 2018. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2018 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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Welcome New Members from SFMANJ's Fall Field Day

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Continued on page 17

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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
Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

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

A Message from the President

The Calendar has flown by once again.



By Bernard Luongo



Hello everyone - The Calendar has flown by once again. Sometimes not as fast as you like, other times too fast. I guess it depends on your situation. By the time this is read, most of us will be trading in our seed and fertilizer for magnesium pellets and salt, mowers for plows, seeders and aerators for snow blowers and spreaders. Well, that's our work life.

The volunteer life at SFMANJ has a fast calendar also. Spring, Summer, Fall field days, Green Expo. It all comes about very fast. Lots of planning, meetings, phone call conferences, all takes time but very rewarding.

I'm sure most of you have been to one or more of these events during your careers. Some members do all four. "The Quadfecta". I didn't purposely forget to include the national event, STMA Convention. The fore-mentioned events are all in New Jersey. What if one year the STMA convention was held in New Jersey? By golly it is the Garden State, members would have an opportunity to be present at five events in one year and in their back yard, north east,

winter what better place to be to enjoy the season. I do not know if it has ever been mentioned in planning meetings. If not the seed has been planted. No pun intended.

Hey, old news, new year, new magazine. I can't say enough about the importance of continuing education weather (just kidding) whether it's field days, conventions or short courses at Rutgers, refreshing or expanding your knowledge is very important for your existence and your employer's assurance that their employees are going to deliver a quality product.

At Northern Burlington this practice has been ongoing for years. Administration has recognized the importance of continuing education and has strengthened the program going forward.

Keep up the good work.

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

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Tuckahoe Turf Farms

Photos from The Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Student Awards Dinner

By Matt Olivi

Photos courtesy of Rutgers-NJAES OCPE

This year's SFMANJ Scholarships were presented to three recipients at The Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Student Awards Dinner that was held on November 15, 2017.

SFMANJ was represented at the event by past-president Matt Olivi. Matt presented awards to Hui (Eric) Chen, Meaghan Wells and Trent Lucas. The SFMANJ Scholarship is presented to students who are moving towards or currently working in careers in Sportsfield Management. SFMANJ is proud to support students who represent the future of the Industry. Congratulations to Eric, Meaghan and Trent!



SFMANJ Past-President Matt Olivi with SFMANJ Scholarship Award winners Meaghan Wells, Trent Lucas and Hui(Eric) Chen at the Rutgers Turfgrass Student Awards Dinner



Matt Olivi presents SFMANJ scholarship award to Eric Chen



Matt Olivi presents SFMANJ scholarship awards to Meaghan Wells and Trent Lucas

Visit our web site: www.sfmanj.org

SFMANJ Spring Field Day

Details regarding date and time to be announced soon.

It promises to be a good one!

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The Intelligent Use of Water

By Heath Traver, CIC, CLIA

It's 7 AM, and the grounds crew begins to arrive. Every time the door creaks open, a cold blast of air enters the room. The crew is joking around and sharing humorous internet videos with one another. The tone of the room feels festive. The difficulties and challenges of the long turfgrass season are in the rearview mirror. Winter is here.



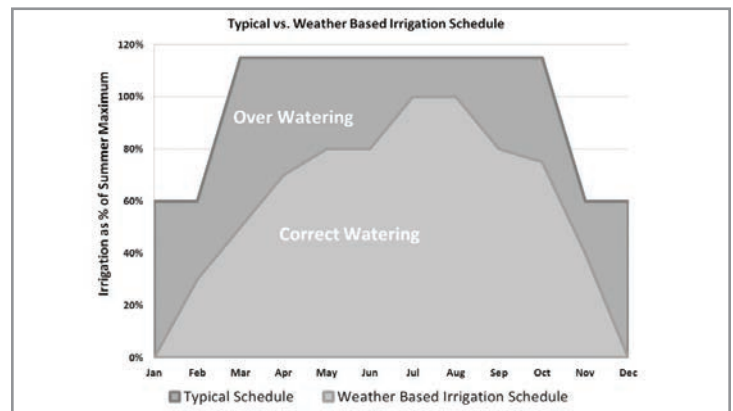
A very common saying in the irrigation world is "We will worry about it in the spring." After all, the irrigation system has been put to bed for the winter, and all of those minor issues that have recently popped up can be placed on the shelf for a few months. The natural human reaction is to be happy that the irrigation season is over. However, I believe that winter is the perfect opportunity 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 killing 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 ET-based (or weather-based) watering. Basically, this is monitoring evapotranspiration, and only replacing the water that is needed back to the soil. Evapotranspiration (ET) can be defined as the combination of the loss of water due to evaporation from the soil and the transpiration of water "sweating" out of the plant. This represents the amount of water which must be put back into the soil to maintain the health of the plant material. ET-based Smart Controllers have the ability to communicate with local weather stations which monitor weather conditions that affect the rate of evapotranspiration (temperature, rainfall, wind,

humidity, etc.) The controller has the ability to use this data to calculate runtimes, only putting down the amount of water needed by the turf. 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 America's leading membership organization for irrigation companies and professionals. The IA has long-maintained that ET-based irrigating with the use of a Smart Controller greatly improves 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 these controllers, with some customers saving as much as 59%.



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

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

Continued on page 15



FALL FIELD DAY 2017

By Jessica Phillips

Hi, I am back again to wrap-up the 2017 SFMANJ Fall Field Day (Williamstown, NJ; November 2, 2017). My name is Jessica Phillips and I am a sales representative from Turf Trade - a seed, fertilizer and plant protectant company. We had a great turnout at the Fall Field Day with a lot of new and familiar faces.

SFMANJ is always great for networking and learning, not for just participants but for vendors as well. As a vendor, I continue to learn new aspects and methods at every field day.

The educational portions by different professionals in the industry are great because you get to understand their point of view on each topic.



Moreover, vendors get a chance to demonstrate new and upcoming products or technology that are emerging in the industry. For example, being able to try out a lawn mower and a paint machine at the same time is invaluable for time and productivity. Allowing field managers and professionals a chance to ask as many questions and gain knowledge is beneficial to both turf managers and vendors.

Thank you to all the hard-working people who continue to make SFMANJ Field Days a worthwhile experience. It's always a day I look forward to, and pray it doesn't rain! Until next time.

Jessica Phillips is a Sales Representative, Turf Trade, Mullica Hill, NJ; and a newly-elected member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors

Please watch your e-mail for more details on the SFMANJ Spring Field Day.

If we don't have your e-mail address, please call the office at 856-514-3179 or send us an e-mail to mail@sfmanj.org

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.

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Things I Wish I Knew

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Remember how you worked so hard to get your field in great shape during the off-season? You endured the weather extremes and scrounged for tools and resources to get the results you were looking for. Diseases, weeds and insects showed-up, but you nursed the turf back to health each time. No matter what problem you encountered, whether it was machine breakdowns, someone on your crew not showing up for some reason or your boss assigning you an extra project you didn't see coming, you stayed the course. Why you even checked up on the field nights and weekends on your own time just to be sure everything was all right.

You never gave up.

Now, the team has begun their season and they are starting to systematically destroy everything you worked hard to build. Why it seems as though the coaches are having the players wear out parts of the field on purpose, for spite! And to add insult to injury, they are leaving trash around, not even using those new trash cans you provided (Plastic bottles everywhere- no respect!). You feel a range of emotions; anger, frustration and negativity (and maybe some self pity mixed in).

Sound familiar?

I used to dread pre-season because I thought my fields were being abused. I was taking it personally! In our business, we can't let that get us down. A mentor, much wiser than I, took me aside once and explained to me (in simple terms) some essential things I needed to learn.

Field wear and tear is a given.

Sports fields are meant to be used. Our job is to create and maintain safe, playable sports surfaces. Expert sports turf management is all about reacting effectively to field use (and overuse). Traffic from players causes surface wear, such as abrasion to the plant tissues, soil compaction and divoting. Even synthetic surfaces are not immune from wear - infill becomes displaced, fibers break down and seams tear. Fortunately, the science of sports field management is expanding and there are more new tools, techniques and technologies to help us do our jobs better.

The best strategy is a well thought out management plan and good site specific cultural practices. These include proper mowing;

Earlier

a nutrient management plan based on soil test results, soil aeration, irrigation, overseeding (or sodding) with improved turfgrasses and appropriate control methods to manage weeds insect and diseases. If resources are scarce, take pictures and document what is happening to show the owners. This will help to make a case for better tools and materials.



Getting mad doesn't make it better, and can make it worse.

Someone once told me that an expectation is a resentment waiting to happen. Don't expect others to care about your field like you do. A sports field manager carrying resentment can easily become a target for ridicule and will have a hard time commanding respect and credibility. Don't let that happen. Relax! Take care of yourself. Are you eating right, getting enough exercise and sleep? Make time to recharge and heal the body, mind and spirit. Sometimes the negativity doesn't go away easily. Don't let it eat away at you. Vent! Otherwise you risk taking it out on your family, friends or co-workers. Try to find a trusted advisor, perhaps another sports field manager and talk it out. Damage to your field is going to happen, the question is when. When it does happen, deal with it like a professional.

Pride is one of the seven deadly sins.

It is good to feel good about the work that you do. Taking the feel good to the extreme can be unhealthy. Avoid letting your work define you. You are more than just your job. When your work distracts you from your family and friends it can make you dull. Having other interests keeps your mind sharp. There is more to life than your or my sports field. Yep, it's true. Really!

Unless you paid for it, you don't get to make the rules.

Acceptance of what you have to work with gives you power because you don't have to waste time dwelling on what is wrong (it is what it is). Instead, you can now focus on doing the next right thing. The

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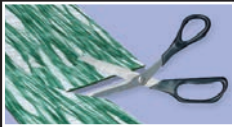
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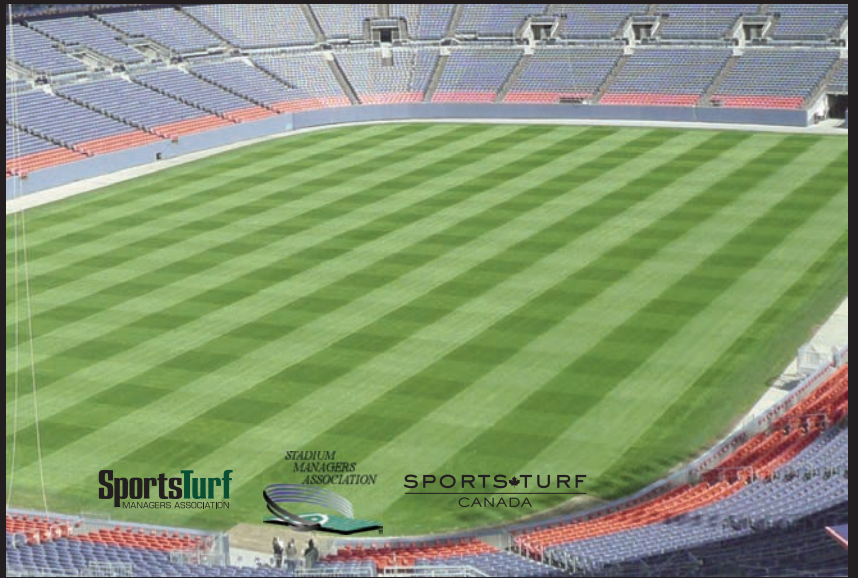
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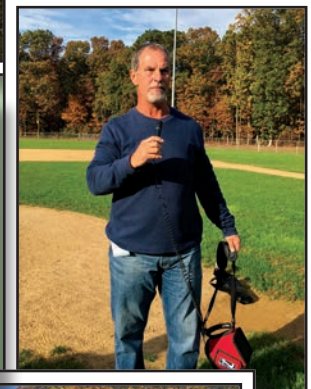
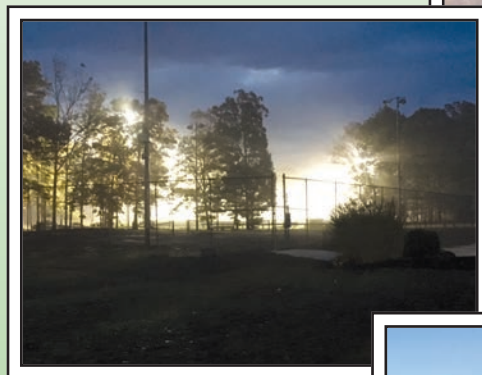
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Photo Recap: **SFMANJ Fall Field Day** Owens Park, Willianstown, NJ • Nov. 2, 2017

Photos by Debbie Savard



Hope you were able to make it!

More From SFMANJ Fall Field Day

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SFMANJ would like to thank Storr Tractor, RainBird, Turf Equipment and Supply and Lawn and Golf, for sponsoring our Fall Field Day on November 2. Without sponsorship from vendors such as these, we would not be able to keep our field days free for those who wish to attend. Thank you again!

We would also like to thank RainBird, Laurel Lawnmower, Lawn and Golf, Sherwin Williams, Sod Solutions, Sports Field Solutions and Storr Tractor for providing door prizes to help keep our event fun for everyone.

And, last but not least, we would like to thank John Patton of PBI Gordon, our 50/50 winner. This was our first 50/50 raffle, the proceeds being earmarked for our student scholarship fund. John so graciously donated his winnings back to the SFMANJ to further support the program. Thank you John. You are amazing!



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PHOTO RECAP: New Jersey Green Expo

Atlantic City, NJ • December 5 & 6, 2017

Photos by Adam Simmons and Debbie Savard



See you next year!

Planning Next Year's Budget- *Do You Know Your Costs?*



Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

It's that time of year again and sports field and grounds managers are planning the Operating Budget for the next fiscal year. Unlike a Capital Budget which is for the purchase of major pieces of equipment, or a Program Budget which is for special projects such as a major field renovation or construction, an Operating Budget is a financial plan for managing the day-to-day operations of a sports field or grounds maintenance operation. We are talking about things like grass seed, mowing and marking paint. Whether you have been given a dollar amount to work with or are starting from zero and must justify every expense, your must mission is to learn what your costs are and estimate what you expect to spend. If you don't know where to begin, here are some tips to help you get started.

Track your historical data. Collect receipts, and all records pertaining to your facilities grounds or sports field operations for the last fiscal year. A ledger book or a computer spread sheet program will be very helpful for organizing this data.

Find out what is expected. You must know exactly what the site will be used for. For example, is it an open space used for a variety of activities, or will it be used for a single purpose such as exhibition baseball games? What are the expectations of the owner? Will certain rules or conditions apply such as the amount and severity of use, use during inclement weather? Different sites will have different budgets based on their maintenance levels. Find out the expectation of the owner first. Without the support of the owner, it will likely waste your time to budgeting for a higher level than what your owner envisions. Consider the following differences in maintenance levels.

Maintenance Levels:

- Level 1 Showpiece facility (professional sports facility)
- Level 2 Comprehensive stewardship (College facility or high end sports facility)
- Level 3 Managed care (well maintained high school or park)
- Level 4 Reactive management (minimal care, mowing, no irrigation, occasional fertilizer)
- Level 5 Crisis response (neglected, occasional mowing)

Inventory the Site. Take measurements of the area, identify weed and pest pressures and grass types and have a complete chemical and physical soil test performed. This information is necessary for designing a turf maintenance program. Perform an irrigation audit to quantify the effectiveness of the irrigation system and the drainage of the soil. Evaluate the effectiveness of the current maintenance system. Determine the thresholds for acceptable wear damage, weeds or pest pressures that you will tolerate before corrective measures will be taken? Think about what can go wrong and how you would respond.

Conduct an inventory of your resources. Who will do the work? What equipment, materials, and time will be needed to get the work done? You will also need to find out how much money was spent in the past and whether it was adequate to meet expectations.

Make a list of all the activities in your program. For each activity list:

- The frequency of each activity
- Number of people and the man-hours required and the cost
- Time constraints
- The equipment needed and cost
- Materials needed and the cost

Create a calendar showing when the activities will occur. This is helpful for scheduling resources and time around scheduled events. This will help you create a realistic picture of what tasks your organization can do in-house, outsource or eliminate. Be sure to include any overhead expenses that your operation is charged, such as rent, utilities, or other line items.

Check your figures carefully and submit your budget.

Present your proposal neatly, in an easy to read and understandable format such as a spread sheet. It is likely that your budget will be challenged by a budget committee. Above all, remain flexible. The people we work for often are unaware of the true costs of maintaining a safe and playable sports field, so remember to be tactful, diplomatic and professional.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.

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How to Write Like a Pro

By Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Editorial Staff

O.K., so you don't like to write and you didn't go to turf school to focus on writing. However, good written communication skills are critical to your job success. Being able to communicate well in writing can help you in a myriad of ways. A well-written memo can persuade your employer to authorize budget dollars for products, equipment, personnel and training. Or, an e-mail that confirms your understanding of a discussion with a coach or athletic director can make the difference between success and failure.

Effective written communication in the workplace will position you as a professional to your peers, your employer and your staff. To extend that recognition to a broader audience, consider writing articles for your chapter newsletter, regional turf publication or the STMA Sportsturf Magazine. You have excellent experiences to share about your work and help others learn. Use these five easy tips to help you put together the right message for strong writing.

5 Tips to Write it Right

1. Use the three "S" structure. Keep your sentences Simple, Short and Succinct. Shorter sentences are easier to read and understand.
2. Use "Active" voice rather than passive. Better - Ex: Our field management program uses IPM to provide healthy turf and safe playing conditions. Not as good: Ex: IPM was used as a management program to provide healthy turf and safe playing conditions.

3. When possible, use "Action" verbs, which communicate authority, a solution orientation, and allow you to highlight accomplishments. 40 verbs for stronger writing include: Accomplish, Achieve, Advise, Analyze, Complete, Control, Create, Conduct, Design, Develop, Direct, Evaluate, Execute, Facilitate, Generate, Identify, Implement, Improve, Increase, Innovate, Introduce, Launch, Manage, Monitor, Negotiate, Organized, Overhaul, Plan, Prepare, Prioritize, Recommend, Research, Resolve, Restructure, Specify, Streamline, Strengthen, Supervise, Train, Upgrade.
4. Write down the three specific messages you want to communicate through your writing at the top of your document. Three is a magic number. People can remember and comprehend messages and ideas in groups of three. Make certain that each sentence you write supports one of the messages, and that you are not including miscellaneous, non-essential information. Be sure to delete your outline before you send your document.
5. 5) Set your memo, article or other written communication aside for at least an hour -- a day if possible. Go back and reread it to catch errors in spelling and grammar and rework weak sentences.

Sports Turf Managers Association,
Lawrence, KS

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The Intelligent Use of Water

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.



In addition, many of these new systems have the ability to monitor real-time flow, detect issues in the system, and react to these issues. They are able to shut down the unhealthy zone, continue to water the rest of the property and send an email to the person in charge of the irrigation system. This notification gives the irrigation system manager the opportunity to be proactive about an issue that may have otherwise gone unnoticed. After all, most of these systems run overnight.



Another nice leap in functionality with new controllers is the ability to operate them without being onsite. These days, everyone

is looking to do everything using their smartphones. These new systems give you the ability to use your smartphone to monitor and operate the system from anywhere, including remotely shutting down the system if there is an issue.

Technology in the irrigation industry is constantly evolving. Winter is the perfect time to familiarize yourself with new tech, and to determine which of these innovations can make your life easier. I would encourage you to take some time to check out the many resources available online or contact your manufacturer rep for a live demonstration.

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, Certified Irrigation Contractor (CIC), Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor (CLIA) (htraver@rainbird.com) is an Area Specification Manager for Rain Bird in the Northeast US.

2018 Calendar of Events

2018 STMA Conference and Exhibition
FORT WORTH January 16-19, 2018
Fort Worth, TX
800.323.3875
www.stma.org

2018 Rutgers NJAES OCPE Courses
Two-Day Athletic Field Maintenance
February 12-13, 2018
Natural & IPM Strategies for Sports Turf
February 20, 2018
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GROUNDKEEPER OF DREAMS

By Bernard Luongo

On the property before the dawn
Sunrise on horizon, ground mist, a fawn

Serenity at peak, then the yellows arrive
The property awakens, it's a different alive

Keeper needs not to be anywhere near
Too much noise hurts the ear

Grab a shovel, grab a rake
Grab whatever it's going to take

If mower is your choice of portal
Transform you to dreamer from a mortal

Hop on your magical dream machine to places never known
Corners of your mind that you thought have never grown

Both tanks are full, field under deck
The tour has begun, you're now just a speck

Past the goal mouths that never show wear
Past all the athletes that never leave gear

To all the swing joints that never leak
Sprinkler heads that never need a tweak

Past the fields where paint is always fine
Where athletes never run the lines

Past all the skins - no lips on edges
No infield weeds that grow like hedges

Past the landscape beds that never need weeding
Past the fields that never need reseeding

Grass always full - never needs fert.
From a keeper that never needs a cert.

The radio crackles the word is spreading
A call the keeper is always dreading

An oversight of epic proportion
Has given our dream state a fit of distortion

All hands-on deck, it's the ripple of FEARS
We need a table with eight chairs

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

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Things I Wish I Knew Earlier

only thing that you own and control is your personal "brand". Your brand is how your skill set, knowledge and personal style define the overall results that others perceive. Take any two sports field managers, put them on the same site with the identical resources and conditions and you will likely see some differences in the operations and end results. While you might be powerless over certain aspects of the job, you still have control over your brand, quality of work, attitude and finding opportunities for personal growth.

Grass is more forgiving than people.

In spite of your best field management practices, things beyond your control happen. One time, I was informed that my field was going to be used as a parking lot for an event! Whether or not there is rational thinking behind an owner's decision, what will be remembered most, is how well you as the sports field manager dealt with the news. Which response do you think is the best - An outright "Oh hell no!" followed by sulking or "Let me think about it and get back to you— oh yes, we can do this but here are the costs and potential consequences?" Either way, in the end you will have to deal with the aftermath. And the "can do" sports field manager will always come out ahead because he or she makes things happen and give the owners what they want again and again.

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



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New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

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Welcome New Members from SFMANJ's Fall Field Day, continued

Kevin Howarth Gloucester County Special Services
Edward Hyman Twp of Hamilton DPW
Tony Jacobs Cumberland Regional High School
Andrew Jaconski Twp. of Monroe
James Jensen Twp of Hamilton DPW
Joseph Jiannotti Gloucester County Special Services
John Lafferty Gloucester County Special Services
Jay Leavey Pine Hill BOE
Russ Lewis Pine Hill BOE
Jeanne Marston Gloucester County Special Services
Michael Massi Palmyra BOE
Michael McBride Cape May Technical H.S.
Bill McKenna Twp. of Monroe
Scott McLean Wayne Township
Chris Meyers Somerset County Park Commission
William Montag Harvey Cedars
Curt Moore
Brian Myers TLC Landscape Co.
Arthur Olsson Cape May Technical H.S.
James Owens Cape May Technical H.S.
Brian Pavan Black Horse Pike Reg. School Dist
Juan Piñas Plainsfield BOE
Terry Poole Gloucester County
Tyler Randt Twp. of Burlington-Rec Dept
Clark Sabo Hopewell Twp.
Lance Seibert Somerset County Park Commission
Blair Sencer Twp. of Burlington-Rec Dept
Matt Shearon Shearon Environmental
Gary Shupper Somerset County Park Commission
Joe Slater Pensauken BOE
Sheryl Smith Pine Hill BOE
Brian Stevens Twp. of Burlington-Rec Dept
Chris Swanson Hopewell Twp.
Jordian Turiano Somerset County Park Commission
John Vargas Cherry Hill BOE
Brian Wasilewski Black Horse Pike Regl School Dist
Bill Weingartner Rainbird Corporation
David Werner Somerset County Park Commission
Rick Winter Maple Shade BOE
Zak Wojtech Somerset County Park Commission
Steve Wooton Hammonton Twp.
Andrew Yoblonski Aquarius Supply
Henry Zamora Plainsfield BOE

Welcome New Members for 2018

Daniel Andrus Blair Academy
Carmelo Anguilla Pine Hill Public Schools
Robert Autorino Paramus Board of Ed
Kathy Bauer St. Augustine Prep School
James W. Betts Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.
Scott Bills, CSFM Sports Field Solutions LLC
Steve Bradley Storr Tractor Co
Gary Brick Mainland Regional High School
Paul Bruni Delaware Valley Spray Service, Inc.
Jay Buck Shearon Environmental
Lou Carty, Jr. Jersey Turf, Inc.
Fred Castenschiold Storr Tractor Company
Joe Castoro Ramapo College
Mike Clifford Wilfred Macdonald
Robert Curry Covermaster, Inc.
John Dasilva Middlesex County Parks
Gregory M. Debuck Debuck's Sod Farm of NY, Inc.
Lee Defreitas Shaw Sports Turf
Rick Deleon Somerset County Park Commission
Michael Disko M. Disko Associates Consulting Engineers
Keith Disko M. Disko Associates Consulting Engineers
Robert R. Duncan Freehold Twp Recreation
Frank Ennis Caldwell-West Caldwell BOE
Daniel Fick Profile Products, LLC/Turf
Brian Gjelsvik Seeton Turf
Ken Griepentrog Jersey Seed
KJ Griepentrog Jersey Seed
Pamela Griffin New Jersey Recreation & Parks Assoc.
Erik Hammerdahl Morris-Union Jointure Commission
Hank Hampton Cherry Valley Tractor Sales
Kevin Hoban Storr Tractor Co
Blake Hoerr New York Jets
Bruce Hoffman Martin Stone Quarries, Inc.
Fred Hoge Humphrys Coversports
Zachary Holm New York Red Bulls
Ronald S. Holt Palmyra BOE
Rob Johnson Fisher & Son Co., Inc.
Harold Jones Palmyra BOE
John Kavanaugh Caldwell/West Caldwell BOE
Scott Klein Rancocas Valley Reg. H.S.
Dave Kuczynski Somerset County Park Commission
Judson La Londe Millburn Short Hills Youth Baseball
Jeff Langner Profile Products, LLC/Turf
Joe Lash Seeton Turf Warehouse
Barry Levitt Levitt's LLC
Adam Lieb Chisholm Community Center
Mike Linkewich Seeton Turf
Kevin Malone, CSFM The Landtek Group Inc.
Joshua Marden Profile Products LLC
Michael Massi Palmyra BOE
Michael Mccann Caldwell/West Caldwell BOE
Gregory S. Moore US Pitchcare
Steven Mulholland New Jersey City University
Dick Neufeld Plant Food Company
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WINTER SPORTS FIELD TIPS

By Dr. James A. Murphy

Clean-up. Leaves, sticks, and other debris that accumulate on the grass over the winter should be raked up when weather permits. Debris lying on the turf too long can smother the grass and create bare spots. Bare spots will probably transform into weeds later in the season.

Mowing. Winter is a good time to clean, lubricate and repair your mowing equipment. You do not want to find out that your mowers do not work properly at first use in the spring. Because of the chance for wet weather and rapid shoot growth any delay in mowing at the start of the season (spring) can turn into a "behind the eight-ball" scenario very quickly.

Fertilization. Plan for your fertilization needs by testing your soil to determine whether liming is necessary to adjust soil pH (6.0 to 6.7 recommended) as well which nutrients are needed and how much. If you applied a thorough late season (autumn) fertilization, your turf probably will not need as much fertilization in early spring (March - April). Without a fall fertilization program, the turf may require some rather aggressive fertilization to encourage recovery from play or winter damage or to enhance spring green-up. An application of 2/3 to 1 1/2 pound of actual N per 1000 sq. ft. is a good starting fertilization rate in early spring. Fertilization with phosphates or potash should be based on soil test results.

Winter Seeding. Winter seeding is a risky practice; the probability of the seed washing away and being eaten by birds is very high. Work the seed into the soil if you choose to seed during winter and realize that is likely to you will need to re-seed when warmer weather returns. Seeding when air temperature consistently exceeds 50 degrees Fahrenheit provides a better chance for success.

Drainage Assessment. Winter is good time to assess your fields for areas of poor drainage. Identifying and mapping out these areas now will give you a record of where you need to treat with your aerifier this spring. If aeration is not enough, maps of the poorly drained areas will provide documentation that you can use to show facility administrators where improvements such as slit drainage are needed.

Cover Skinned Infield Areas. Wet winter weather can lead to considerable erosion of skinned areas on baseball/softball infields. Consider covering these areas during the winter to eliminate much of the skin restoration headaches this spring. Type "baseball field covers" in any of the popular internet search engines to see examples of numerous companies that can supply covers in various sizes and shapes.

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

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New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Tony Pavelec, Jr	Jersey Soil Blending, LLC
Tom Pepe	Plant Food Company
Wes Perrine	Greenpro Materials
Chuck Pfluger	Berlin Twp. BOE
Ted Platz	Plant Food Company
Marie Pompei	F.M. Brown's Sons, Inc.
Robert Pritchard	Caldwell/West Caldwell BOE
Gerard Redmond	Metuchen School District
Mike Reed	Synatek
Ed Roessler	Ramapo College
Edmund Rohland	Millville Babe Ruth Sports Complex
Michael Ryan	The Landtek Group, Inc.
James Saner	Ocean Township Board of Ed
Dan Saunders	Shearon Environmental Design
Don Savard, CSFM, CGM	Salesianum School
Fred Schneider	New Jersey City University
Jeffrey Schofield	Cinnaminson Board of Ed
Andrew Schwartz	Field Turf
Michael Shanko	Peddie School
Gary Shupper	Somerset County Park Commission
Charles Steel	Lindenwold Board of Education
John Sulinski	The Landtek Group, Inc.
Chris Sutton	Northern Burlington Co. Reg School Dist.
Gary Tattersall	Ocean Twp BOE
Joel Taylor	Haddon Twp BOE
Sam Teague	Delsea Regional School District
Mark Tindall	Cinnaminson Board of Ed
Larry Toth	Rider University
George Van Haasteren, CGM	Dwight-Englewood School
Howard Viersma	The Viersma Companies
Jeff Weld	Bayer
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