

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

SFMANJ Fall Field Day

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

DelBarton School

See inside for details!



Inside:

Communication
Abandon Fields
Maintenance Start Up
Intellegent Use of Water
Field of the Year and
Scholarship Wrap-Ups

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Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 219 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey has mailed invoices for 2020 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please register on our website, www.sfmanj.org. Contact us at 856.514.3179 with any questions. Checks can be mailed to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

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Ian Williamson	Individual

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is currently planning our

Fall Field Day

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Please stay tuned for more details

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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
www.stma.org

New Website www.sfmanj.org

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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

We Hope To See You Soon

By Zach Holm, CSFM

While your board and I are disappointed we have not been able to gather at the Spring Field Day or a regularly scheduled Rutgers Field Day we hope that you, your family and your friends are doing well and staying healthy during this time.

While these are trying times, we can look toward the light at the end of the tunnel. One day, hopefully soon, kids and athletes will again take to our fields. Our fields will be the source of hope and "returning to normal" for many and the work you have done during this time will hopefully not go unnoticed.

For those who have been working during this time, thank you. For those who have not been able to maintain your fields please

reach out with anything SFMANJ can do to help. I would encourage everyone to visit STMA's route to recovery page for excellent articles and information on maintaining fields during this time. STMA has made this information free for everyone, even if you are not a member.

Your SFMANJ board is working to put together some online education that can be sent out to members, as well as, planning our fall field day. We hope to see you all soon. Stay Safe.

Zach Holm, CSFM is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), member of the New York Red Bulls sports turf management team, and SFMANJ President



ANNOUNCING

SFMANJ FALL FIELD DAY

at the site of the 2019 SFMANJ Field of the Year

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THE SPORTS TURF MANAGER AS A CRISIS COMMUNICATOR



Sports Turf Managers Association Editorial Staff

Perhaps you will never be faced with responding to a crisis. But, if you ever have an athlete get injured during play, an employee who gets hurt on the job, a disgruntled employee, a weather related disaster, or an environmental incident, you just might find yourself in the spotlight and under scrutiny.

As a manager of people, you may have to deal with an employee's death or illness, a sudden change in top management, or employee issues of sexual harassment. Each one of these can constitute a crisis. You must be prepared for that decisive moment when your response can lead the crisis to better or to worse. An initial negative perception is nearly impossible to reverse.

Crisis Communication Response Tips

- Respond within 24 hours.
- Don't point fingers.
- Always be available to the media.
- Be visible and on-site.
- Tell the absolute truth.
- Never say "no comment."

You are judged within the first 30 seconds of speaking if you and the information you are providing is trusted. Appearing empathetic and caring are the most important characteristics you can exhibit to show "trustworthiness". Your audience will also assess your competence, your honesty and your commitment. Your goal as a communicator is to demonstrate these attributes.

It is important to recognize that the media is usually more interested in covering opposing viewpoints and that bad news and conflict are more newsworthy. Most reporters are working under a tight deadline, have limited scientific and technical knowledge and can be a bit cynical. When preparing to talk with the media, address the principal underlying concern of the audience/questioner/listener keeping your responses short and concise.

In many crisis situations it is important to bring in a third party and to tell the media who you have contacted.

Crisis Communication Interviews

- Take control early by educating the reporter and correcting misunderstandings.
- Clarify the questions.
- Prepare two to three main messages.
- Give facts: who, what, when, where, but don't give how and why.
- Express your concern. Safety is always the top priority.
- Avoid jargon and do not use humor.
- Frame your answers in the positive.
- Tell how fast you responded, how much has been done and what you will do about it in the future.
- Thank or give appreciation to any assistance.
- Avoid words with negative connotations such as lethal, risky, deaths, maimed, toxic.
- Do not repeat the "charges" or any negative words, such as no, not, never.
- Be conscious of your body language. Do not place your hands in a "fig leaf" in front or in back of you, but keep your hands/palms open and above the waist. Avoid touching your face, clapping or clenching your hands and pointing your fingers.

Remember these phrases.

You want to give a sense of more to come, which will help to establish your trustworthiness.

"What I can tell you is ..."

"So far, what we know is ..."

"So far, what we have done is ..."

"What we are planning to do next is ..."

"We will be able to tell you more when ..."

"I'll be glad to talk with you again after we conduct ..."

Source: Susan Santos, Ph.D., FOCUS GROUP, Medford, MA

Continued on page 16

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Abandoned but not forgotten

- Q & A with Dr. Grady Miller

Editor's Note: This article is courtesy of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). It was authored in response to the COVID-19 crisis and was made available as part of The Institute – Route to Recovery at www.stma.org

QUESTION: A stay-at-home order due to the COVID-19 pandemic is preventing me from maintaining our school's athletic fields. I'm an employee of the school system and was sent home. With very little advance notice, I was not able to get my bermudagrass fields ready for "no maintenance". With no idea of when I can return, I do not know what to expect when I do return. What are your thoughts on how these fields will look without any maintenance for months?



ANSWER: In terms of field care, unlike damage from high winds and excessive water, this pandemic resulted in a rapid shutdown with no allowance for a timely return to work. I know the situation is a bit different for everyone. Even within the same county or school district, the ability to work on a field may be different.

For example, our state's pandemic response differentially influenced how different groups can do the same job. If fields were under a maintenance contract from an outside vendor, then the vendor could continue maintaining fields as an essential service unless the property owners restricted access. At the same time, I do not know of any secondary schools that would allow school employees to come onto school property to maintain fields. In a hybrid example, our University research facility had to file an exception request to allow one designated employee onsite to minimally maintain our turfgrass—infrequent mowing, disease prevention, irrigation checks—for two half-days a week. That is about five percent of the man-hours we normally have working in midsummer.

As for your question, you do not know how long it will be until you can return and begin the most basic maintenance tasks. Obviously the longer the fields are abandoned the higher the chance they will be in poor shape when you return. The good news is that you probably already have your pre-emergence weed control in place.

At your location you probably have also applied the first spring fertilizer application. Both these will be to your advantage. But without mowing, the bermudagrass is going to continue growing vertically and laterally. So the field is going to take on the look of a pasture and your baseball and softball fields will see increased encroachment into the clay skinned areas.

In years past, I have worked with several schools that have abandoned fields over the summer due to budgetary reasons. Most bermudagrass fields that are abandon for a few months during the growing season can be returned back to at least moderate condition in a few weeks due to the toughness and resiliency of the grass. Start by scalping the turfgrass to a reasonable height with a rotary mower. With warm temperatures, bermudagrass responds very quickly to fertilizer and water. The bermudagrass is also very tolerant to a wide range of pesticides, allowing a manager to aggressively control most weeds without fear of killing the bermudagrass. Edging and dragging clay can be effective at removing the runners and a some non-selective herbicide can be useful if the encroachment has been widespread.

The better the shape of the field when you left it, the better shape it is likely to be in when you return. If there are not adequate time or resources available for necessary renovation before use, some may decide to scalp down the canopy and overseed the bermudagrass with ryegrass. That can get one through fall and/or spring use until more extensive renovations are made in 2021.

The leadership at the national STMA organization and state chapters have been publishing written information and hosting webinars to help sports turf managers deal with the many situations and stresses this pandemic has caused.

Grady Miller, Ph.D. is Professor and Extension Turf Specialist, North Carolina State University.

**Don't forget to send
in your entry for the
SFMANJ
Field of the
Year Contest
Details at www.sfmanj.org**

A THANK YOU FROM THE 2019 INDYK AWARD WINNER: *Don Savard*

Photo by Debbie Savard

Thank you for selecting me to be the 2019 recipient of the Dr. Henry Indyk Founders Award. I am thrilled, honored and humbled to have been chosen.

I had the pleasure knowing Dr. Indyk. My earliest recollections of Dr. Indyk were from continuing education seminars that I attended in the early 1990's, before the SFMANJ was even founded. At one of these seminars, the late Dr. Richard Caton, past Executive Director of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association was giving a presentation at a hotel ballroom when a disheveled, seemingly inebriated man stumbled in and began harassing and heckling Dr. Caton. As the interaction became louder and more animated, it became evident that this bantering was staged and this was just an act. The antagonist was none other than Dr. Indyk. It turned out to be a very good presentation about professionalism and this was my first encounter with Dr. Henry Indyk. I did cross paths with him a few more times, but it wasn't until 2002 that I had the opportunity to attend a 10 day short course on sports field management at Rutgers conducted by Dr. Indyk. I supposed that my driving each day from Wilmington Delaware caught his attention. Despite my having almost 20 years of experience in the Green Industry at that time, the knowledge I picked up during that course and the people that he introduced me to became the genesis of the sports field manager that I was to become.

Dr. Indyk had a few ironclad rules: Rule # 1-You don't call it dirt- you call it soil. Rule # 2- Always eat a good breakfast. Rule # 3- You give something back. Dr. Indyk was passionate about the care of the soil because without healthy soil, nothing will grow properly. A good breakfast feeds not only the body, but helps the mind learn and think and make good decisions. And giving back makes the world a better place for all. Dr. Indyk generously gave of his time and talents to his community and to many organizations in the Green Industry. He was the inspiration and a force behind the formation of our very own Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

I was privileged to have Dr. Indyk as a mentor. Dr. Indyk encouraged me to attend SFMANJ events and to become an active member. Soon after I was invited to become an SFMANJ Board member. Dr. Indyk was always available to give me advice when I had problems with my sports fields- and not just agronomics, but how to effectively deal with coaches, school administrators and others. He convinced me that I could become a Certified Sports Field Manager and he cheered me on to become a Certified Grounds Manager

and Delaware Certified Nutrient Consultant. It was exciting to serve alongside him at SFMANJ Board meetings where he served as an Advisor.



So, you see, I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Indyk for his inspiration, example, help and encouragement. In closing, I want to thank the members of the SFMANJ Board of Directors, past and present, for their comradeship and support, our membership and commercial sponsors for making our Chapter strong through your participation and to Debbie Savard, SFMANJ Executive Secretary, my wife and best friend, thank you for the love and for helping me be the man I have become.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; an advisor to the SFMANJ Board of Directors and a recipient of the SFMANJ Dr. Henry Indyk Award..

Left: Due to the not being able to be awarded the plaque at the cancelled Spring Field Day, Don Savard being awarded his plaque by Debbie Savard this spring.

SFMANJ Fall Field Day

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

**DEL BARTON SCHOOL
Morristown, NJ**

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www.sfmanj.org**

**Or Call
856-514-3179**

Where do I start to maintain my athletic fields again?

By Adam Thoms and Nick Christians, Iowa State University

Editor's Note: This article is courtesy of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). It was authored in response to the COVID-19 crisis and was made available as part of The Institute – Route to Recovery at www.stma.org

Perhaps you are among the many athletic field managers that have been told to lock the gates to your facilities and not report into work until the COVID-19 situation improves. While we don't fully know how long we will be away from facilities, I'm hopeful this will provide some tips to help you manage your facility and get it back to a safe and high performing athletic field. If you have been deemed as unessential, continue to pressure your boss about the importance of continued maintenance, even if it is a minimal level. No matter how much or little maintenance, once we are allowed back at our facilities, open the lines of communication with your supervisors, because the fields have not had maintenance in a while they will be under a great deal of stress as you try to bring them back into playable condition. Adding high levels of traffic to these fields will only slow the recovery. No matter if you are managing a synthetic or natural playing field, you should start by conducting a visual tour of all of your fields. You don't know who has been on them, and what they may have left behind on the fields that could cause a safety hazard. You can use the STMA Playing Conditions Index and Baseball/Softball or Football/Soccer Safety and Maintenance Checklists as great guides to help you note potential safety hazards that need to be addressed.

Natural grass fields will take some time and stress management, but can be brought back into playable shape. First and foremost keep in mind the 1/3 rule as you try to bring your fields back. Many of you missed mowings, and now the fields are taller than you would typically keep them. You never want to remove more than 1/3 of the leaf tissue in a single mowing. If you missed several mowings, you will want to lower the height of cut back down to where you typically would maintain the playing field over a couple of weeks. You will also want to watch the turfgrass for stress while you are lowering the height of cut, removing too much leaf tissue will result a loss of food reserves and the plant will suffer. Warm-season grasses will typically recover quicker from any scalping injury than cool-season grasses due to the ability to spread by both rhizomes and stolons. If the turfgrass starts to turn yellow you will need to stay at that height of cut for a couple of weeks.

You may also need to provide more frequent irrigation to help lower the stress. Turfgrass needs an inch of moisture per week to sustain active growth, however you may want to apply this in smaller amounts more frequently while dropping the height of cut.

Additionally beware of having large amounts of clippings on the surface, these can smother the turfgrass. If you are leaving large quantities of clippings on the surface you are probably removing more than 1/3 of the leaf tissue in a single mowing. If you see a large amount of clippings or yellow turfgrass after mowings, avoid stressful practices like aeration as this can add undue stress onto the plant. Finally, avoid the temptation to apply nitrogen (especially quick release form) to help grow the plant back in quickly if you are removing more than 1/3 of leaf tissue. You can apply slow release nitrogen to help the plant along, but the last thing you will want to do is increase vertical growth while you are trying to get the athletic field back to a normal cutting height.

A plant growth regulator can help manage vertical growth, and help you catch up with mowing but beware of the rebound affect that can happen when the plant growth regulator wears off. While under plant growth regulation, the plant will not grow as rapidly in the vertical direction but when the growth regulator wears off the plant will over compensate and grow at a rapid pace. If you consider using a plant growth regulator to help you control growth plan on using it for two months or more to ensure you are back down to height and all caught up on mowing. Any use of plant growth regulators will be rate dependent, do not use over the labeled rate as this can cause a lot of harm to the turfgrass on the playing surface. In this case if a little is good, then a lot is not better.

Depending on where your facility is located in the United States, you may have been ready to apply a preemergence herbicide. These herbicides are designed to help prevent summer annual weeds like crabgrass, knotweed, and goosegrass. They should be applied when soil temperatures reach 55°F for three consecutive days and nights. If you missed this window by just a week or two you could use

Continued on page 14



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2019 SFMANJ Fields of the Year

Photos by Debbie Savard



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The Intelligent Use of Water Rain Sensors



By: Heath Traver

Nothing draws public anger quite like an irrigation system running in the rain. This is when the nasty phone calls begin to flood in from the neighborhood watchdogs.

Many inefficiencies exist at all levels within the realm of a public agency, but this scenario is directly in the face of the public. The public sees this as an irresponsible waste of water.

This scenario is easy to avoid by simply adding a rain sensor to the irrigation system. In the state of New Jersey, rain sensors are required on all newly installed systems. However, older systems may not have a rain sensor, or perhaps the sensor has stopped working over the course of time due to a lack of maintenance. This component is inexpensive and easy to install.

A simple rain sensor is merely an on/off switch. The unit itself is filled with cork disks that expand and contract based on how much water they have absorbed. Two wires run from the unit back to the irrigation controller, and are wired into the "rain sensor" terminals in the controller. Think of this wire path as a closed loop when the sensor is dry. When the cork discs collect water, they swell. When they swell to a certain point (determined by the end user),

the closed loop, or circuit, is broken. The controller recognizes this open condition, and suspends irrigation operation until the cork disks dry out. Once the sensor is dry, irrigation activities will resume as programmed.

Installing a rain sensor is very simple, inexpensive and can save a ton of water. When installing the sensor, the location should have a clear view of the sky and represent the conditions of the majority of the grounds that the system will be irrigating. If there is not a suitable location near the controller, a wireless rain sensor might be a better solution. These are easy to install, as well, and might simplify the installation process. Regardless of which type of sensor is installed, some kind of onsite rain monitoring is critical when it comes to ensuring that the system is not irrigating during or following a rain event. This will directly reduce the amount of wasted water and associated nasty phone calls that are received daily throughout the country. After all, the public is within their rights to become enraged when we are senselessly wasting water, our most important resource.

Heath Traver, CID, CIC, CLIA is a Specification Manager for Rain Bird in the Northeast US, and is licensed to practice irrigation in the state of New Jersey. Heath can be reached at htraver@rainbird.com.

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SFMANJ Fall Field Day

September 23
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SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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Where do I start to maintain my athletic fields again?

a preemergence herbicide with some post emergence activity on weeds two examples are Echelon (sulfentrazone + pro-diamine) and Dimension (dithiopyr), or you will want to consider applying a post-emergence product later in the spring such as Tenacity (mesotrione). If you are delayed in applying a preemergence herbicide, keep in mind they will offer control of weeds like crabgrass for 12-16 weeks. If you plan to overseed or add additional turfgrass seed after traffic keep in mind your timing of your preemergence herbicide application and how that may limit germination. Many facilities also are delayed in removing the perennial ryegrass from overseeded bermudagrass fields during this time period, keep in mind it has been recommended that bermudagrass have 100 days without overseeding competition to provide the best surface. Avoid slower or older herbicides like Kerb (pronamide) or Manor (metsulfuron), as these will take longer to remove the perennial ryegrass than newer transition herbicides like Revolver (foramsulfuron), Katana (flazasulfuron), or Monument (trifloxysulfuron-sodium).

If your surfaces are synthetic, you may want to consider sweeping the fibers to stand them back up and collect any debris that may have ended up on the field. Once fibers are no longer upright, they are much harder to manage and often the life of the field is shortened. If the field was used heavily while you were away from it you may want to consider having it tested for surface hardness to see if you need to have a deeper decompaction effort carried out. Even if your field did not have any use while you were kept away it would be a good idea to sweep the field to remove any organic matter that may impede drainage that wind may have blown in.

Baseball and softball infields will also need attention once you are allowed to return to the facilities. Do a visual observation for any larger rocks or stones that may have ended up on the field while you were away, as well as low spots that may hold water. If the conditions were dry while you were away, you will want to scarify the surface and try to work water down into the infield to rebuild the moisture. Regardless of moisture, check the edges of the infield for the formation of any lips or buildup of material. Removing these lips or buildup will limit bad hops from the ball.

While it may seem like a daunting task to start maintaining your athletic field's again after this COVID-19 outbreak, working a little each day will help you achieve your end goal of a safe and high performing playing surface. Keep communicating the importance of needing time to get the fields back into condition, and avoiding undue stress in the weeks that follow the shutdown to help with stress management. Also don't forget to reach out to your fellow STMA members for advice on various questions that may pop up, as they are probably working through the same issues as you are.

Adam Thoms and Nick Christians are Faculty Members, Iowa State University; and frequent presenters at the STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition



SFMANJ FIELD OF THE YEAR

by Scott Bills

The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey received several strong applications for 2019 Field of the Year. The list of entrants ranged from high school baseball and football fields to municipal multi-purpose and baseball fields.

The SFMANJ board found all the applicants deserving, but settled on The Delbarton School, Brian Fleury Varsity Baseball Field as the 2019 Field of the Year. The baseball field is named for former baseball coach and athletic director, Brian Fleury, who died at the age of 39 after losing his battle with cancer.

The Delbarton baseball team has a long-storied history. Just year, they had two players drafted by major league baseball, including Anthony Volpe, SS who was drafted by the NY Yankees in the 1st round. The other player is pitcher, Jack Leiter, son of long-time major league pitcher, Al Leiter. Jack was drafted in the 20th round.

The varsity baseball field is cared for by Bill Menagh, long time groundskeeper for Delbarton. Bill is very detail oriented and a consummate professional.

During the 2017 season, the field experienced a significant turf problem. Bill, with the assistance of former Field of the Year winner, Ricky Tier, who worked at Delbarton until taking over the grounds foreman job for the City of Long Branch, were able to renovate the damaged turf in one growing season. Bill and Ricky had planned

Photos by Debbie Savard

to enter the field in the 2018 Field of the Year contest until the turf issue arose. They were determined to have the field ready to enter it in 2019.

In addition to repairing the turf, the infield was graded, and the infield mix was amended to a higher quality material in 2018.



SFMANJ Secretary Scott Bills with Field of the Year Winner, Bill Menagh of Delbarton School

As major league scouts visit Delbarton to watch some of the best high school baseball players in New Jersey compete, Bill understands the field needs to be consistent and safe.

For all their hard work, Bill Menagh and his team, were deserving of winning the 2019 Field of the Year for the Brian Fleury Varsity Baseball Field.

Continued on page 18

Do you have SFMANJ's Field of the Year? TELL US ABOUT IT

- The playability and appearance of the playing surfaces
- Your maintenance program
- What you did to improve your field
- Your yearly budget for this field

The winners and runner ups will be honored with a plaque at the New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ's newsletter, Update.

Be sure to get your entries in by September 30

To be eligible you must be a member of SFMANJ and must represent a School or Park Natural Grass Field

Entries are limited to 10 color photos.

Please include the name, location and owner of the facility, along with your name, position, and contact number.

Download form on our web site - www.sfmanj.org

Submit by mail or e-mail and must be received by

SEPTEMBER 30

MAIL ENTRIES TO:

**SFMANJ F.O.Y. Contest
P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070**

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mail@sfmanj.org

Call for more info:

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website: sfmanj.org / e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

2019 WINNER

**Delbarton School
Fleury Varsity Baseball Field
Heads Groundskeeper: Bill Menagh**

The Sports Turf Manager as a Crisis Communicator

Crisis Example and Response

Situation: You have a major event that is being hosted in your stadium the next day. As a set of temporary bleachers is being installed, they collapse and your assistant has been critically injured. A reporter is at the stadium asking what happened and why, and if the event is taking place.

Your first response must show concern for the worker and his family. "Our first concern is for Joe Smith and his family. Joe's safety and the safety of all of our workers is always our top priority. What we do know is that a temporary set of bleachers being installed here at King Stadium collapsed about an hour ago. Joe has been taken to Mercy Hospital."

So far, we have cordoned off the area to protect the public. A team of OSHA inspectors are on their way. We'll cooperate in any way to find out what happened. We have also called in a safety engineer to help. We will be able to tell you more about the accident after OSHA and our safety engineer has evaluated the situation.

Your response to whether or not the event will be held the next day depends upon your management teams' decision. If you are going ahead with it, you need to respond with how you are insuring fan safety: "We are going ahead with the concert tomorrow; however to insure the safety of our rock fans, we will be limiting the seating to the built-in seats in the stadium grandstands and offering on-the-floor seating in the end zone." If you are not going ahead, "We will not be holding the concert tomorrow. Fan safety is paramount and until we know why the bleachers collapsed, we will not be holding any events."

We appreciate the help of the city's emergency response team. I'll be glad to talk with you again when we know more.

Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS





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sfmanj.org gets a facelift!

SportsField Managers Association of New Jersey is updating our administrative system and web site. Now information for all events will be posted on our website with registration handled on the website as well!

Now ALL membership renewals, as well as new member registration, will be handled on the website also.

This gives you the ability to enter your profile the way you would like it and add a bio and picture as well. Members who download the Member Directory will see what you want them to see. This is especially helpful to vendors.

How To View and Login To Our Website

Please take the time to explore the new site at sfmanj.org. Use the login instructions and create a password for yourself.

Who Can I Contact If I Have Questions?

If you have problems please contact Debbie by email at: mail@sfmanj.org or by phone at 856-514-3179.

Debbie Savard
SFMANJ Executive Secretary

ZOE-ZOE

By Bernard Luongo

Well, Hello Everyone - I Hope this article finds everyone and their families healthy. Needless to say, it has been a trying and challenging 2020 or ZOZO (ZOE-ZOE) depending on how you write your "2's".

I would like to focus on gratitude and thankfulness. I would like to thank the Garden State Future Farmer of America (FFA) for recognizing and honoring me recently with the honorary Garden State FFA Degree. I was totally surprised and am very honored that they chose me for this award. I was surprised in the fact that all one really has to do is wake up every morning, go to work and care about what you are doing and basically care and treat folks the way you would like to be treated. It is really that simple. I am honored because the organization recognized this. Thank you again.

I would now like to take the time to thank the FFA crew at Northern Burlington Regional BOE: Nan Hamilton, Brian Hayes, Susan Stant, Robin McClean, and Matt Konowitz. This is a dedicated group dripping with passion that has made this FFA Chapter one of the best in the County if not the best in the Garden State.

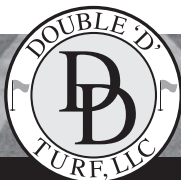
Last but not least, I would like to thank the students that have shown interest in the FFA. Without them, well – I really don't need to complete that sentence, do I?

Until next time, keep on keeping things alive. - Bernard

Bernard Luongo is a retired sports turf manager, immediate SFMANJ past-President, and SFMANJ Poet Laureate.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SFMANJ 2019 \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Alec Nappa

Major: Agricultural Education

GPA: 3.83

Classes: Turf Management, Greenhouse, Advanced Plant Science
Seminars/Field Days: Turf Field Day - SPMANJ 2017

Honors: State FFA Champion - 2015 Agricultural Issues Forum (15 minute presentation about Scott's GMO Turfgrass)
National FFA Bronze Winner - 2015 Agricultural Issues Forum

Presented the speech to the executives of Scott's and toured their facilities

Nursery Intern - Centerton Nursery (May 2019-August 2019)

After my service as a two-year State Officer for New Jersey FFA, I plan to become an agriculture teacher of horticulture topics. This includes, but is not limited to, floral design, greenhouse management, turf management, plant science, etc.

SFMANJ HAS GONE DIGITAL

Visit our new web site:

www.sfmanj.org

Here you can check your membership status, register for events, take out ads in Update, and find out the latest information regarding SFMANJ

SFMANJ FIELD OF THE YEAR

In addition to Field of the Year, the SFMANJ board also presented two additional awards. Frank LaSasso, Grounds Supervisor from Hammonton High School received the Field of Distinction award for the Bob Capoferri Football Field. Frank is a long-time member of the SFMANJ and one of the best sports field managers in New Jersey. All the fields at Hammonton High School are top quality, both in playability and appearance. Frank is always willing and able to provide advise when asked to other sports field managers. Congratulations Frank!



Field of Distinction Winners: Robert Anderson of Riverside Park, SFMANJ Secretary Scott Bills and Frank LaSasso of Hammonton Public Schools

Also, winning a Field of Distinction honor was Robert Anderson, Parks Foreman, Borough of Rumson for the multi-use field at Riverside Park. Robert has the tough tasked of managing two 46/60 ballfields that double as soccer fields in the fall. Playing two sports on the same field is always a challenge for sports field managers. However, Robert has been able to provide the residents of Rumson with high quality sports fields by being a pro-active manager. The programs Robert has put in place and his ability to communicate with user groups has shown in the quality of the playing surfaces. Great job Robert!

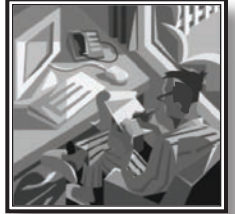
The SFMANJ Field of the Year program recognizes the efforts of member sports turf managers throughout New Jersey. Applications for the 2020 Field of the Year are due by the end of October 2020 and are awarded at the NJ Green Expo in Atlantic City, NJ in early December. In addition to a plaque, the winner will receive a complimentary registration to all education sessions, the two-day trade show, dinner, and one nights lodging at the Borgata.

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

Scott Bills, CSFM, Certified Sports Field Manager, SFMANJ Board Secretary, Public Relations Committee Chairman

**Dont forget to enter the
SFMANJ Field of the Year
Contest**

ATTENTION MEMBERS!



SFMANJ Update is looking for authors.

Please feel free to send Brad Park, Editor, SFMANJ Update (bradley.s.park@rutgers.edu) and/or Debbie Savard, SFMANJ Executive Secretary (mail@sfmanj.org)

an article regarding your fields, your experiences, your problems and your surprises.

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

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



**Do we have your
e-mail address?**

**update your information at
www.sfmanj.org**

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

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

*To access this archive, visit:
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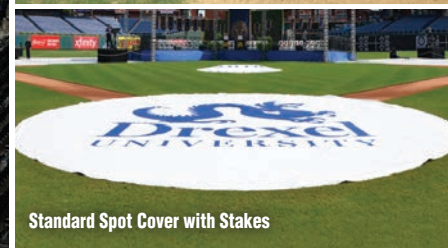
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