

UPDATE

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Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey



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Happy New Year

From SFMANJ

See Inside For:

New CEO for SFMA

Fall Field Day Recap

Outsourcing

Water Mangement

Winterising Sports Fields

Expo Recap and Awards



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Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) ended 2022 with 269 members, with 32 renewed for 2023. The Association recently generated invoices for 2023 membership dues. 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.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS FOR 2022

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Ismael Rivera	NYC Parks & Recreation
Robert Scelza	Upper Freehold Regional School District
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Michael Yannetta	Central Turf and Irrigation Supply
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NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS FOR 2023

James Betts	Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.
Fred Castenschiold	Individual Member
David De Boer	Individual Member
Rick De Leon	Somerset County Park Commission
Gregory Debuck	Debuck's Sod Farm of NY, Inc.
Dennis DeSanctis	Double 'D' Turf, LLC
Dennis DeSanctis	Double 'D' Turf, LLC

Continued on page 16

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association

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

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
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Layout and Design: Debra Savard, email: mail@sfmanj.org

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

On the Road in New Jersey

By Fred Castenschield



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. 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 Castenschield is a retired salesperson, Storr Tractor Company; and was the recipient of the Dr. Henry Indyk Memorial Award in 2016 (awarded by SFMANJ).

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SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION NAMES

LAURA SIMMONS NEW CEO



SPORTS FIELD
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
WHERE THE GAME BEGINS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 6, 2022

(LAWRENCE, Kan.) – Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) – the non-profit, professional association for the 2,700 men and women who manage sports fields worldwide – has appointed Laura Simmons as CEO, a role where she will lead the association's growth initiatives and execute its strategic plan.

After reviewing hundreds of applicants and conducting numerous rounds of interviews, the SFMA Board of Directors concluded Simmons was the right candidate to lead the organization into the future. Her duties include enhancing SFMA's role and profile as an advocate and positioning the Association as the leader in the field for years to come. Additionally, Simmons will oversee efforts to expand educational opportunities, forge new partnerships, diversify revenue and add programmatic offerings that promote long-term member value and enhance SFMA's existing networking platform.

"Laura brings both a wealth of knowledge on how to effectively manage professional associations and an infectious energy for the sports field management industry," says SFMA President, James Bergdoll. "Under Laura's leadership, I am confident her fresh perspective will help us achieve our goals and we cannot wait for her to get to work on our members behalf."

Simmons has a proven track record of association leadership, including developing innovative programs, growing membership, managing finances/budgets and implementing strategic plans. Most recently, she served as Deputy Director for the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards and has more than two decades of experience serving associations and working in the world of property management.

"I've always had immense respect for the men and women who prepare safe, enjoyable playing surfaces at all levels, be that professional and college fields or the communal spaces that serve communities of all sizes," says Simmons. "My goals are to help our

members reach new heights in their profession, raise the profile of the industry and build a sustainable and bright future for SFMA."

Simmons received her MBA from Webster University and a BA from the University of Kansas, and has been recognized as a Certified Association Executive (CAE) from the American Society of Association Executives. She currently resides about 45 minutes outside of Kansas City. She officially assumed the CEO role on December 1.

SFMA members will have the opportunity to meet Laura and hear more about her vision for the association during the 2023 SFMA Conference and Exhibition, taking place in Salt Lake City from January 16-19. To register for the event or learn more, please visit <https://events.american-tradeshow.com/sfma2023/registration>.

Since 1981, SFMA has provided members education, information and practical knowledge in the art and science of sports field management. Today, more than 2,700 members across 32 local chapters oversee the fields at professional sports stadiums, universities, colleges, schools and parks and recreation facilities.

About SFMA

SFMA is the non-profit, professional association for men and women who manage sports fields worldwide. Since 1981, it has provided education, information and practical knowledge in the art and science of sports field management. More than 2,700 members across 32 local chapters oversee facilities at schools, colleges and universities, parks and recreational facilities, and professional sports stadiums. Sports include football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, softball, rugby and horse racing.

*MEDIA CONTACT: Austin McConnell Buffalo Agency 252.474.4410
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**Don't forget to send in your entry
for next year's
SFMANJ
Field of the Year Contest
Details at www.sfmanj.org**

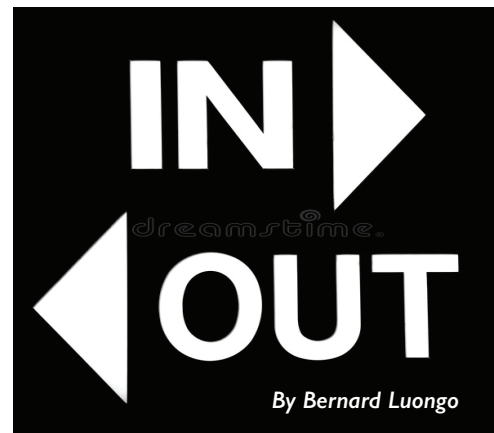


**Do we have your
e-mail address?**

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www.sfmanj.org**

IN HOUSE OR OUT HOUSE

Editor's Note: This article was written when the author was a sports field manager at a Board of Education in Central New Jersey; the author is now retired from that role.



Since I became a grounds person, it has always been in the back of my mind how as a part of our team we can produce a better product – more efficiently and on our time schedule.

This meant having things in our control. Having control meant having the knowledge, product and equipment to do as many things in-house as practical. By doing this, it lessens the chance of your group being privatized and also removes the stigma of, “They just cut grass!”

There is no reason in the world why a grounds department cannot seed, aerate, fertilize, spread lime, build batting cages, pitcher's mounds, batter's boxes, work skins, fix irrigation issues, and yes, even have time to line fields, set-up fields, set-up goals and even cut that crazy grass.

The point being made is that the more you do in-house the more valuable your crew becomes. It saves your district money. It gives you the control over the timing of when things are done that

are best for your work load and your property. It also increases the quality of your product because you can time applications to conditions, which as we all know change constantly from season to season.

Now don't get me wrong, I am not here to bash outside contractors by any stretch of the imagination. Contractors play a vital role in the success of your property. They not only help you maintain the achievements that you have accomplished, but they also move the quality of your property forward.

Let's be realistic. Boards of Education cannot afford to buy every piece of equipment needed to perform every task required for completion your property. However, they should be aware of the basics that need to be performed to at least maintain a resemblance of a quality property. Here are a few suggestions the Board of Education and you should try and achieve for the grounds staff:

Continued on page 18

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PHOTO RECAP SFMANJ Fall Field Day

Oct.19, 2022 - Memorial Sports Complex

Photos by Debbie Savard



**See You At
Our Next
Event!!**

PHOTO New Jersey Green Expo RECAP Dec. 6-9, 2022 - Atlantic City, NJ

Photos by Debbie Savard

Wednesday Morning Sports Field Session and SFMANJ Award Winners



Early Bird Session



**Brad park
Year in Review**



**Rutgers Scholarship
Winner
Trevor Watson**



**Field of Distinction
Larry Mayerowitz**



**Field of the Year Winner
Joe Anderson**



**Tim Hamfeldt
Twp. of Morris**



**Field of Distinction
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**Indyk Award Winner
Larry Mayerowitz**

Continued on page 13



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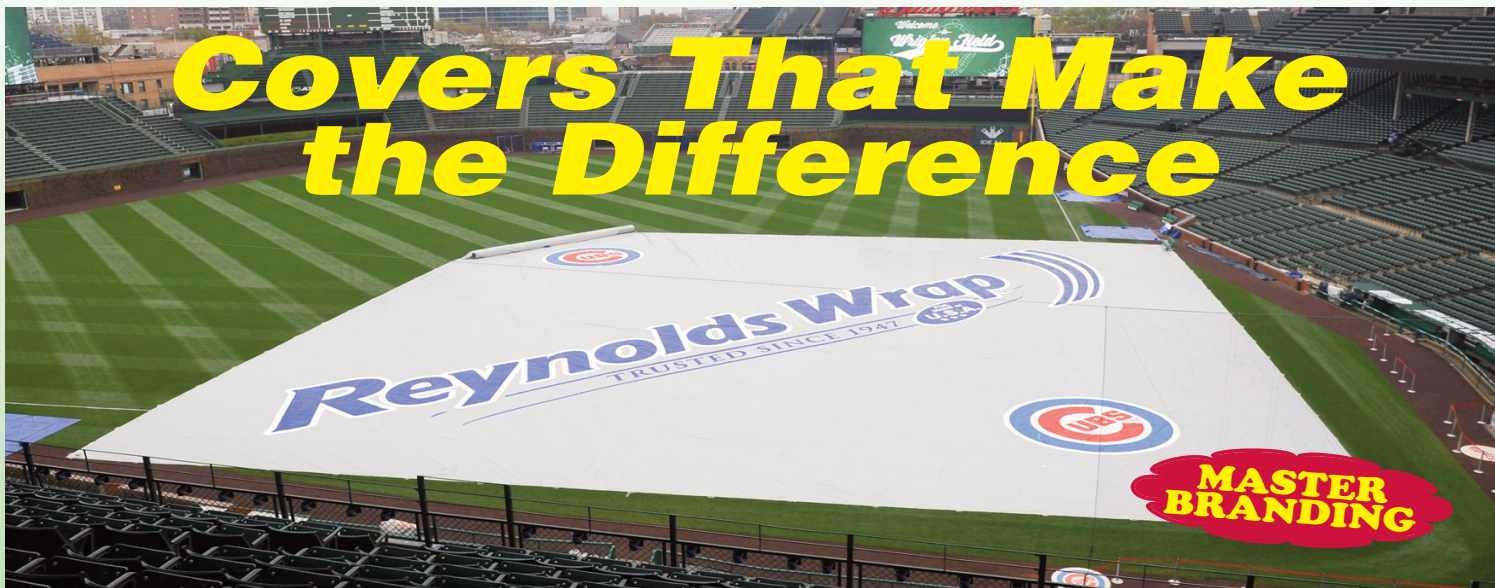
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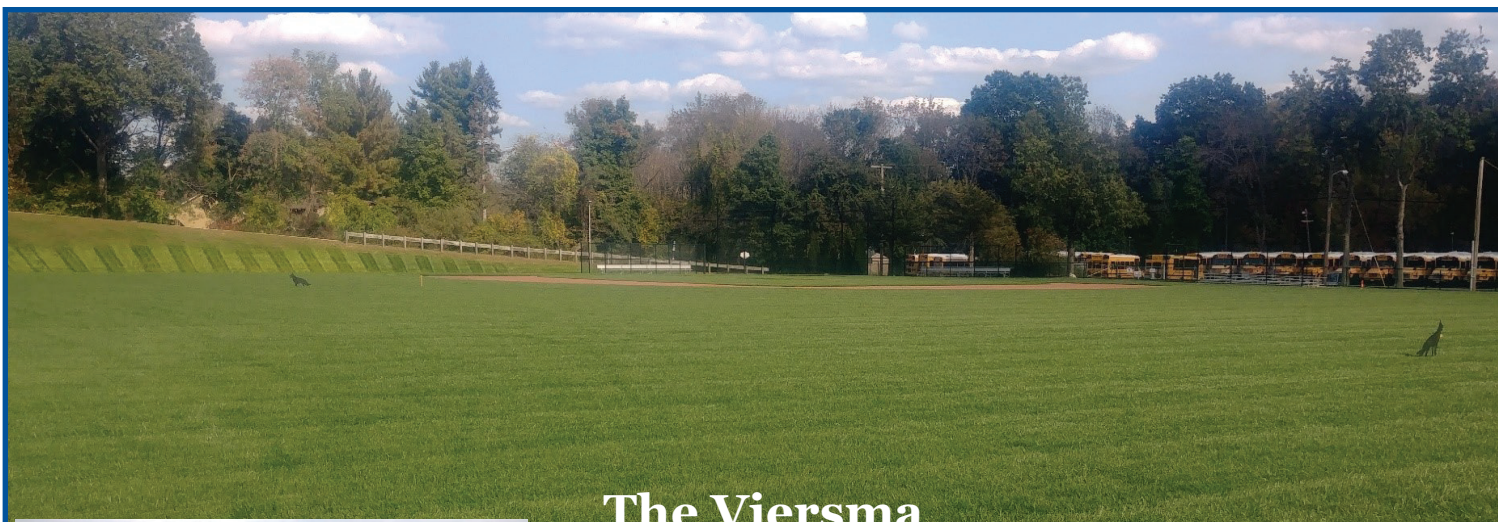
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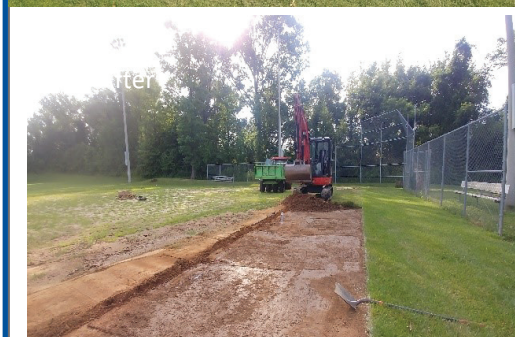
Before



After

It's Time to Get Back to It!

The Viersma Companies is dedicated to servicing athletic fields from offering simple tune-ups to full field reconstruction. Although last year presented additional challenges, we were able to complete projects for both existing and new clients. These tune-ups, renovations and reconstruction projects included amending existing topsoil, drainage installation, built-up lip removal, laser grading and installing infield mix, as well as, sodding renovation projects and entire athletic fields. As we look forward to a great 2021 season, let us know if we can assist you in any way.



After



PHOTO New Jersey Green Expo RECAP Dec. 6-9, 2022 - Atlantic City, NJ

Photos by Debbie Savard

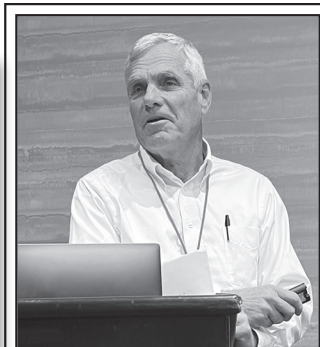
Wednesday Afternoon Sports Field Session and Trade Show *Continued from page 8*



Dr. Gerald Henry



Dr. Eric Watkins



Fred Castenschiold



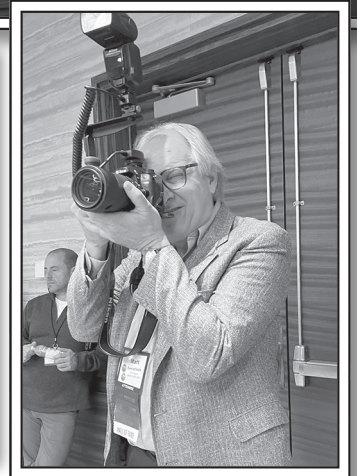
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Fred Castenschiold, Two Award Winner
Larry Mayerowitz, Brad Park



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Dennis DeSanctis, Sr. and Jr., Double 'D'



Fred Castenschiold and Jeff Olszyk



Larry Mauriello and Rich Watson,
Laurel Lawn Mower



Managing Water for Playability - Part 1

By Brad Park

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in Sports Turf Manager (Autumn 2015) the official publication of Sports Turf Canada.

Much has been written about sports field drainage - an essential element in the playability of sports fields. Dr. Andrew McNitt, Penn State University, described methods in practical terms to improve sports field drainage in an article titled, Understanding Field Drainage that appeared in Sports Turf Manager (McNitt, 2006). The textbook, Sports Fields: A Manual for Design, Construction and Maintenance (Puhalla et al., 1999) provides excellent details on sports field drainage. The most comprehensive textbook in which the author is aware on the subject is Practical Drainage for Golf, Sportsturf and Horticulture (McIntyre and Jakobsen, 2000).

This article will attempt to add to the existing base of knowledge on this subject by discussing the author's own observations in dealing with sports field drainage as well as baseball/softball skin surface water management issues in a University Extension setting.

Sports field design and construction

It has been the experience of the author that many sports field architects and engineers have unrealistic expectations concerning the way native soils or sand-modified soils drain internally. Architects and engineers will often develop a specification for a sports field calling for construction using a sandy loam soil (or finer in texture), perhaps native to the site, and design the field with minimal surface pitch (i.e. slope) with the expectation that it will exhibit rapid internal drainage. Following field construction, often performed by a contractor who employs heavy road building equipment to manipulate soils during construction, the field drains poorly, negatively impacting the playability of the surface.

A sports field can be constructed with minimal surface pitch (e.g. 0.5%) if the rootzone conforms to specifications for golf course putting green construction developed by the United States Golf Association (USGA). While subtle deviations (i.e. greater fine and very fine sand, silt, and clay) from the USGA specifications may still allow for acceptable internal drainage and limited surface pitch, McIntyre and Jakobsen (2000) do a very nice job describing how the internal movement of water through soil profiles (including 'golf' sands with too many fines and sandy loams) becomes increasingly restricted under greater compaction levels - compaction being a more-often-than-not sports field construction reality.

The most pragmatic strategy in working with non-USGA conforming rootzones and certainly native soils is to design sports fields using these soils with adequate surface pitch. For example, in the design of a soccer/lacrosse/North American football field using a native soil (e.g. sandy loam, silt loam, etc.), the plans should include a "crown" that has no less than 1.5% surface slope from the middle of the field (goal to goal; or endzone to endzone) towards the sidelines.

The multipurpose field dilemma

A reoccurring sports field design problem entails the creation of multipurpose fields constructed using native soils or soils poorly modified with sand that are tipped diagonally from one corner of the field to the other. These designs are desirable from the perspective of athletic directors, coaches, business administrators and other decision makers as an appearance is created that field space is maximized. Who could not resist fitting a baseball field, softball field, and soccer/lacrosse/field hockey field in one two-and-half acre footprint? The author has often observed the placement of a baseball or softball skin surface in the lowest corner of the field where water is forced to surface drain (i.e. run down hill) onto the infield skin.

On the issue of multipurpose fields, Puhalla et al. (1999) note that sports fields should be treated as individual drainage units, and should not be expected to perform acceptably with water running onto a sports field from an adjacent field; moreover, within each field, an infield skin surface should not be lower than the outfield.

Brad Park is Research & Outreach Agronomist, Rutgers University; a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors; and Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter.



Welcome New Board Member

JOE GUANILL

I am Joe Guanill, Municipal Territory Manager for Storr Tractor. I live in Mt. Olive with my wife and 11-year-old daughter. My educational background is a Bachelor of Science in Turfgrass Science from The Pennsylvania State University in 2009 and I am a Certified Public Works Manager as well as a Certified Public Manager. I have over 11 years of experience in the Golf Course industry from Grass Roots, Baltusrol Golf Club and The Rock Spring Club. I also have 8 years of experience in Public Works as a Parks Foreman and Assistant Superintendent. I am seeking a position on the board of Sports Field Managers so I can add my knowledge and experience to the board and continue to grow the Association.

WINTER SPORTS FIELD TIPS

By James A. Murphy, Ph.D.

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 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; Director, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science; and Advisor, SFMANJ



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February 23, 2023

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Alison Flynn
Joe Guanill
Vinnie Helms
Bob Kaufman
Jason Lehmann
Timothy Lomerson
Kevin Malone
Kevin Mitchell
Dave Mitchell
Dick Neufeld
Zach Owen
Tom Pepe
A. Charles Perkins
Brandon Perrine
Ted Platz
Kevin R. Pratt
Michael Rasile
Michael Ryan
John Sulinski
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Larry Mayerowitz, Middlesex County Parks: Dr. Henry Indyk Memorial Award Recipient for 2022

By Brad Park

The Dr. Indyk Memorial Award for 2022 was presented to Larry Mayerowitz, General Supervisor, Middlesex County Parks at the New Jersey Green Expo in Atlantic City on December 7, 2022. The Award is presented by the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Board of Directors to an individual who has made an exemplary contribution to the sports field management industry.

The Award is named in honor of Dr. Henry Indyk (1921-2005), Professor at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. For more than 30 years, Dr. Indyk was the consummate Turfgrass Extension Specialist who had an extraordinary interest in serving sports field managers, evidenced by his lead role in creating Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

Larry Mayerowitz has been a long-standing member and supporter of SFMANJ. In his position as General Supervisor for the Middlesex County Parks Department, Larry is responsible for the safety and playability of numerous sports fields throughout the County. In fact, his considerable efforts were recognized when the football field at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park was awarded the prestigious Field of the Year in 2013 and the baseball field was recognized as a 'Field of Distinction' two times. In 2014, Larry and the Middlesex County Parks Department hosted the 2014 Fall Field Day. Rarely a Sports

Field Managers Association of New Jersey Field Day went by where Larry and his Middlesex County Parks Staff were not in attendance. His tireless commitment to ensure that his staff received ongoing sports field training is a model for all those serving in a supervisory capacity in the management of sports field and grounds.



For all of his service to the sports field industry, the SFMANJ Board of Directors is proud to honor Larry Mayerowitz as the 2022 recipient of the Dr. Henry Indyk Memorial Award.

The list of Dr. Henry Indyk Award winners is as follows:

2015	Ray Cipperly (posthumously)
2016	Fred Castenschiold
2017	Eleanora Murfitt
2018	Frank Ravaschiere
2019	Don Savard, CSFM
2021	Bernard Luongo
2022	Larry Mayerowitz

Brad Park is Research & Outreach Agronomist, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.

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 Winner will receive free registration and one nights stay at the New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December.

The winner and runners up will be honored with a plaque at Expo and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ's newsletter, Update.

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

Submissions by mail or e-mail
MUST be received by **SEPTEMBER 30**

MAIL ENTRIES TO:
SFMANJ F.O.Y. Contest
P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070

OR E-mail to: mail@sfmanj.org Call for more info:
856-514-3179
website: sfmanj.org / e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

2022 WINNER

Williamstown-Monroe Twp. School Dist.
GEORGE ORMSBY MEMORIAL STADIUM
FOOTBALL FIELD
Joseph Anderson III, Grounds Manager

IN HOUSE OR OUT HOUSE

1. For starters, sending the grounds staff to Field Days, conferences and classes. They should realize that an educated, knowledgeable work staff pays large dividends down the road.

2. Build a reliable, quality, stable of vendors for products and equipment. In most cases you need at least two for quoting purposes. Believe me, you won't get hurt having seven, eight or more. Just having contacts is not enough, you must build relationships with these vendors. They are your partners and are a valuable asset to help increase the quality of your product. This does not happen overnight or in a few weeks. It takes years. Just like your properties, relationships are always moving forward. Taking on the shape of the effort you put into it. You should always work on maintaining and strengthening your business relationships that you currently have and always be on the prowl looking for new ones to assist you in enhancing your product.

3. This is the most important part of the equation: You must have a good working relationship with your Facilities Director, Business Administrator and Superintendent. They must know your intentions and goals for the property. Having them understand your intentions and goals is of the most importance if you want them to invest in your team. Basic equipment (i.e.; mowers, etc.) once secured, leads to the next level: aerating and fertilizing equipment. Explaining this can be a delicate conversation, but if you have been communicating your plight on a regular basis, they are already on board. Once this process has started, then it snowballs. It will go well beyond basic equipment and products. Items on the table will now include turf blankets, agricultural tractors, state-of-the-art infield equipment and so forth.

4. I am not here to tell you the dollar pipeline is limitless, but if you can continue to produce quality product with the same amount of people, save the Board of Education money by doing this, it really will be hard for them to say, 'no'. You have created the monster and they have to feed it and if not it would be like standing in the way of progress. Who would want to stand up and wear that title? On the other hand, you do not want to feed the Board of Education poor or incorrect information either. The recommendations that

you make have to be honest, straight forward, with nothing but the best interest of the property in mind. The last thing you want to do once you have gained their trust is to do something negative or buy a piece of equipment that is not needed. If that should ever happen, then the game is over. All the hard work that was done in the past doesn't matter anymore. Make well-educated decisions, take your time, think things through and do your research. Make sure that you don't make any spur of the moment or emotional decisions.

5. Remember that you cannot do everything. Your core of contractors are very important to your careers as well as to your properties. The Board of Education cannot buy all the equipment you need or want and there are also time constraints and man hour issues. For example, I do not expect my Board of Education to buy me laser grading equipment for our baseball and soft ball skins. Nor do I expect the board to purchase the proper equipment that is needed for pre- and postemergence applications on twenty-seven athletic fields. I also don't expect them to purchase the equipment for major ball field or turf field renovations.

6. I would suggest if you are new to your District, lay out some realistic goals, have a two year time frame to attain these goals and share them with your Facilities Director and Business Administrator. Tell them how you plan to accomplish these goals and what support you will need from them to help move the property forward. Make them part of the solution to your team's goals. Let's face it: They are stakeholders in the good of the district and you cannot do it without them. Never make it us against them, it will not work. If this is what some of you are dealing with, then you have much work to do to change that mentality. It will not be easy, but great accomplishments never are. Tap into the membership at Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey, come to Field Days and chat with people that have been through it. You will be surprised at what you will take back with you – I mean, that's why you are a member – correct?

Bernard Luongo was recipient of the Dr. Henry Indyk Memorial Award in 2021; is a SFMANJ Past President; and current member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors



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