

UPDATE

Spring 2024

Vol. 24, No. 1

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 SPRING FIELD DAY

WOLCOTT PARK
Eatontown, NJ
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

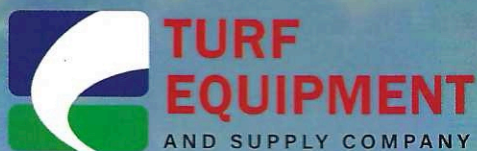
See Inside For:

SFMANJ Field of the Year
Winners

SFMANJ Spring Field Day

SFMA's New Mentorship

Clean Air Calculator



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Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members for 2024

Currently we have 142 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) has generated invoices for 2024 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.

Daniel Andrus	Blair Academy
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Adam Hettenbach	Twp of Morris Parks & Rec
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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
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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.

Mark Your
Calendar!

SFMANJ Spring Field Day

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 • Wolcott Park - Eatontown, NJ

Hosts: Keith Ferrugia and Matthew Frederick, Borough of Eatontown

7:00 AM	Vendors May Arrive and Set-Up	11:00 – 11:30 AM	Turf Management at Wolcott Park Softball Field No. 3 <i>Matthew Frederick and Eatontown Sports Field Staff</i> Natural Turf Equipment Demos – SFMANJ Vendors
7:30 – 9:00 AM	Attendee Registration and Trade Show		
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Pass-The-Mic, Introductions <i>Natural Turf Equipment Demos</i>		
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Softball Field Skin Surface Management and Weed Control at Wolcott Park Softball Field No. 2 <i>Matthew Frederick and Drew Edson, Borough of Eatontown</i> Skin Surface Equipment Demos – SFMANJ Vendors	11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Softball Field Line Marking 101 Softball Field No. 3 <i>Matthew Frederick and Eatontown Sports Field Staff</i>
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Skin Surface Management for Municipalities – Softball Field No. 1 <i>Patrick Coakley, DuraEdge</i>	12:00 – 12:30 PM	Where Do I Start? Infield Layout and Surveying <i>Jason Rega, Sports Field Services LLC</i>
		12:30 – 1:00 PM	Liquid sprayer calibration demo - Pavilion <i>Drew Edson, Borough of Eatontown & Brad Park, Rutgers University</i>
	1:00 PM	Credits, Door Prizes and Adjourn	

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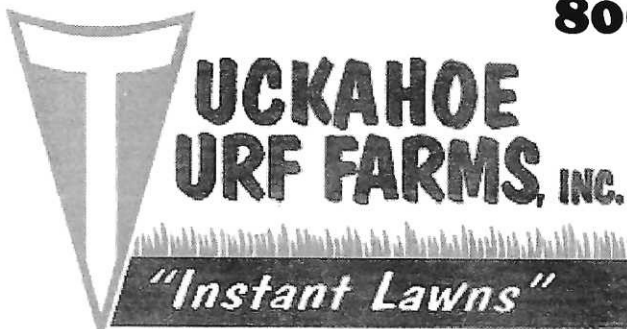
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SFMANJ Field of the Year - 2023

By Scott Bills, CSFM

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) received two applications for 2023 Field of the Year. The list of entrants included two 60/90 high school baseball fields, including a newly renovated field and a field that was constructed in 2014.

The SFMANJ board found the applicants deserving but settled on the high school baseball field at Cherry Hill East High School, 1750 Kresson Road, Cherry Hill, NJ. Facilities Manager, Jeff Schofield explained in his application, "Consistency, playability, safety and aesthetics are key words that should be used when talking about a high school varsity baseball field. However, that wasn't the case with this particular field. Consistency only happened when there was no moisture present for days. Playability was non-existent given the marl soil, grass baselines, uneven terrain and a mixed batch of infield mix from over the years. From a aesthetics standpoint the field looked good but it was far from good. The dugouts were old block style with decaying roofs. The backstop was old pressure treated wood covered by red padding, the fencing was falling apart and the infield had a very uneven playing surface that was hazardous to the athletes.



This wasn't going to be a short term project to bring it up to our standards. Five years of planning, budgeting, researching the best options to remove the current issues and concerns at hand. Not to mention getting declined several times because of budgeting, procurement laws, finding a reputable vendor on Co-Op that could handle such a large project and dealing with prevailing wage issues was also a hurdle. However, in the Spring of '23 we finally accomplished what we set out to do 5 years ago. Which was provide a complex that was safe, aesthetically pleasing and provided the key missing element of consistent playability."

Jeff discussed the issues with the field since he first started working for the Cherry Hill Board of Education, "It's been an on going battle since my arrive in Aug of 2018 to help make this field both playable and safe for our athlete's. The grass base lines acted as a dam for water exiting from the outfield to the home plate area and having marl soil just added to the overall nightmare. We entertained installing a herringbone drainage system, a sand slit drainage and a surface style drainage. When reviewing overall cost of each system and maintenance that would be needed. We moved forward with the surface style drainage as we had the general grade, direction the water needed to get moved to and a runoff area for the water to go. We began the planning of the overall long term project, which consisted of shooting grades, planning on dugout and batting cage

locations and any future structures that might disrupt the surface flow of water getting removed from the playing surface. We also removed over 150 tons of morl soil and replaced it with top soil and sand. We also performed a Drill & Fill on the infield area to prevent any infield saturation which was a major concern given this was the low point on the field. We were able to direct the water off in 3 different locations 1st, 3rd and home plate areas compared to just the home plate area previously.

This was roughly a six month project between the grading, removal of waste, installation of the dugouts, backstop, batting cage and the entire perimeter fence, drill & fill, re-grading and installation of sod and infield mix. When dealing with a project of this size one of the biggest obstacles was making sure we followed all the procurement guidelines with our purchasing department. Knowing the guidelines and working as a team with our Purchasing department. we were finally able to move forward it the renovation."



Jeff explained his maintenance budget is approximately \$4-5,000 and includes soil testing, aeration, overseeing, fertilization and weed control. This year Jeff said they have incorporated a dethatching program as a thick layer of that

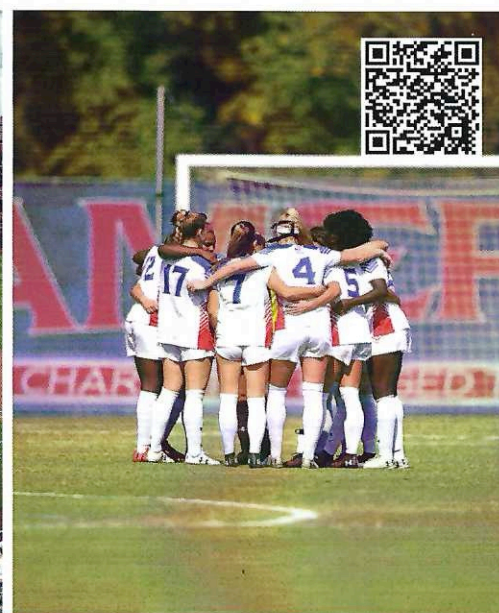
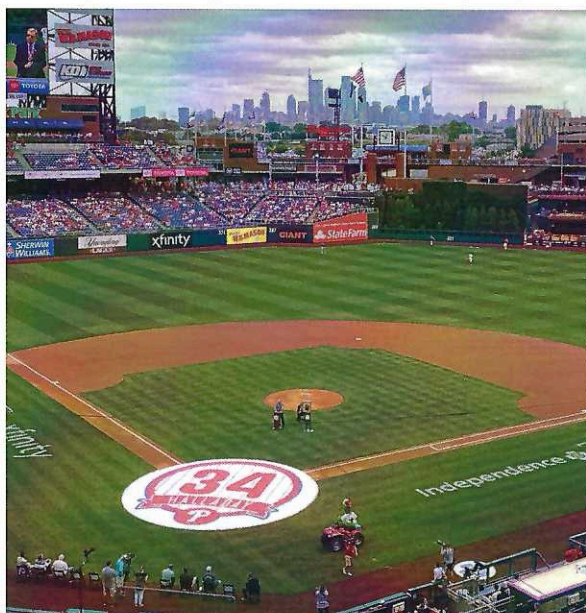
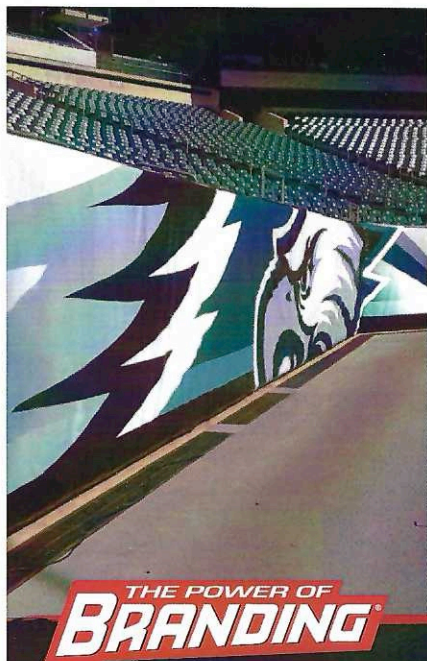
had accumulated over the years. Jeff also uses a Vertique aerator owned by the school district several times a year to help decompact the marl soil and help with overall drainage.

The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Board of Directors would like to congratulate Jeff, his staff and the Cherry Hill Board of Education for their efforts to renovate the Varsity Baseball Field at Cherry Hill East High School and being selected as the 2023 Field of the Year.

The runner-up in 2023 was the 60/90 baseball field at Piscataway Vocational School, 21 Suttons Lane, Piscataway, NJ. The Head Grounds Foreman, Mike Morvay, is a very experienced and highly respected Sports Field Manager. In fact, Mike has participated in field days for the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

Mike offered the following details about the field. "Piscataway Vocational Schools baseball field was built in 2014 on native soil. The field

Continued on page 15



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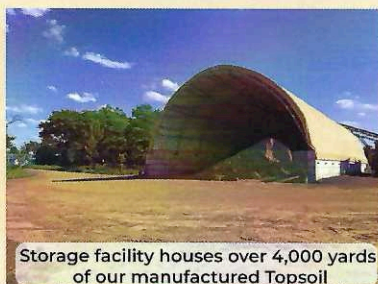
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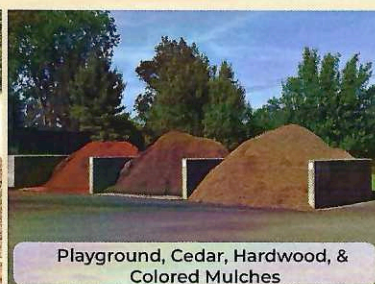
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SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (SFMA) LAUNCHES NEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the February 2024 issue of SportsField Management magazine and is reprinted here by permission of the author and SFMA.

By John Kmita

The Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) launched a new mentorship program, developed and implemented by the SFMA Learning Initiatives Committee.

According to SFMA Education Manager Jennifer McLendon, M.Ed., an SFMA mentorship program has been discussed and desired for many years, and the 2023 Learning Initiatives Committee collaborated to make it a reality.

"We are extremely excited for this program to launch," said McLendon. "To grow the industry and the turfgrass profession, several factors were discussed. The common theme that continued to resurface was the need for individuals to feel supported and encouraged to grow professionally and individually."

McLendon added that there are many individuals within SFMA willing to serve as mentors, and now that the program has launched the hope is that many will see the value in becoming a mentee and will apply to the program.

According to the Learning Initiatives Committee, the program will enhance knowledge and skill transfer among members, boost career development and advancement, develop meaningful and collaborative relationships within the industry, increase confidence and motivation for the mentee and bring awareness and solutions to difficult topics and situations that sports field managers encounter.

Learning Initiatives Committee Chair Alpha Jones, CSFM, said the mentorship program provides a recognized, board-approved mechanism to connect SFMA members who have qualifications and subject matter expertise that closely match the needs of the mentee.

"The energy that drove the creation of the program was primarily the knowledge that members were asking for mentors and to be mentors," said Jones. "The buzz about the need grew louder after a presentation at the 2023 SFMA Conference about a mentoring relationship."

"Mentor is defined by most dictionaries as (noun) an experienced and trusted advisor, or (verb) to advise or train someone, especially a younger colleague," said Learning Initiatives Committee Member, Michael Goatley Jr., Ph.D. "John Clintsman and I presented 'Mentoring for the Sports Field Manager' at the 2023 SFMA Conference in Salt Lake City, and it elicited some nice discussion with our audience – many of whom attended our presentation to share their mentoring experiences."

Goatley and Clintsman originally met at SFMA conference eight years ago when Clintsman purchased a copy of "Sports Field Management: Design, Construction and Maintenance" (a book co-authored by Goatley) and asked Goatley to sign it.

"You never know how, when or where a mentoring relationship might develop," said Goatley. "For John and me, that was the beginning of a professional relationship that we have maintained and expanded as the years passed. As our mentoring relationship evolved, it became one of John's goals for us to present together at conference – and the topic he wished to partner on was mentorship."

According to Goatley, a lot of research went into the creation of the presentation, as did a survey of SFMA members. That data – along with feedback from colleagues and information from various business leaders – helped Goatley and Clintsman create an outline of the characteristics of a good mentor. That list included the willingness to share, demonstrating a positive attitude and acting as a positive role model, taking mentoring seriously, enthusiasm for the field, continued learning/growth, the respect of colleagues, the ability to set and meet professional goals, motivating others and valuing the opinions of others.

Jones added that he feels selflessness is the number-one trait that makes someone a good mentor. "A willingness and commitment to sharing yourself with others," he added. "Empathy is another trait of a good mentor – the ability to walk in another's shoes, to hear their story to better guide their mentee through challenges and successes."

According to SFMA the mentorship program cycle begins in spring and concludes at each SFMA conference. Participants should be willing to commit one to two hours per month to the program, and mentors may have up to five mentees. Each mentor must be a current member of SFMA, be willing to commit time to the program, have significant and relevant experience in the sports field management industry and must submit an online application. Each mentee must also be a current member of SFMA willing to commit time to the program, and is required to submit the online application.

According to Jones, the first step to becoming a mentor is to ask yourself if you want to mentor someone and then evaluate what you have to offer a mentee.

Jones added that any SFMA member, new or seasoned, who desires to have guidance toward professional and personal development should apply to be a mentee.

Following the application process, mentor and mentee applicants are evaluated and matched. According to Goatley, SFMA will do its best to try to match people with similar interests based on survey responses. Both parties will then formally indicate a commitment on their part as an informal "contract" to be part of the program. There will be multiple possibilities in identifying what will become

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CLEAN AIR CALCULATOR:



Quantifying How Natural Grass Sequesters Carbon

By Scott Bills, CSFM and Cindy Code



The following article is a synopsis of a presentation at the Sports Field Management Association national conference by Cindy Code, Executive Director of Project EverGreen and Scott Bills, CSFM, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey board member and President of Project EverGreen.

Project EverGreen is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 by a group of like-minded green industry professionals who understood the need to educate those outside the industry, reclaim the word 'environmentalist,' and tell 'our' story.

The mission of Project EverGreen is, 'Bringing people together to make a difference in how our yards, parks and communities create a greener, healthier, cooler Earth.' The vision is, 'A Greener, Cooler Earth. Healthier, Happier People.'

In 2006, the GreenCare for Troops Program was launched as green industry professionals came together to provide complimentary lawn care and landscape services to families of deployed military personnel across the country.

To date more than 7,000 landscape professionals have provided more than \$15 millions dollars of in-kind services to more than 12,000 registered military families in all 50 states.

With the success of GreenCare for Troops, as sister program, SnowCare for Troops was launched in 2010 and has been just as successful.

In 2008, GreenCare for Communities was launched and to date the program has revitalized parks and green spaces in more than 100 cities including more than 200 million square feet of grass and public green spaces. Some successful projects have been completed in Detroit, MI, Cleveland, OH, New York City, NY, Phoenix, AZ, Savannah, GA, West Palm Beach, FL, Daytona, FL, Denver, CO, San Diego, CA, Washington, DC. This year projects are scheduled for Raleigh, NC, Detroit, MI, and New York City.

Before Project EverGreen chooses a park, sports field or green space we quantify the number of people using the park, track community events, sporting events and overall activity in the park. We engage citizen groups and local companies to listen to what their needs are and how upgrading the park will improve their community.

After the project is completed, Project EverGreen observes a buy-in from the associated parks departments, increased home sales, fewer vacancies and improved property values. The positive impacts on the communities is tangible.

Although the 'good feeling' is palpable, Project EverGreen needed a better way to quantify how improving a green space can and will positively effect the environment in and around the park, sports field or public green space.

In 2022, Project EverGreen partnered with the Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association and Green Cities Foundation to develop the 'Clean Air Calculator.' Project EverGreen is the sole licensee in the United States. The mapping data measured for the 'Clean Air Calculator' is through ESRI, www.esri.com, the global market leader in geographic information system (GIS) software, location intelligence, and mapping. The ESRI technology is used by thousands of businesses, governments and private organizations to make data driven decisions.

Finally, now the green industry has a tool that is a Game Changer. The 'Clean Air Calculator' will be a web-base tool, available through the Project EverGreen website that will allow professional lawn care operators, landscape contractors, sports field managers, golf course

Continued on Page 13





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Photo Recap: SFMANJ at the NJRPA Conference Atlantic City, February 26 & 27, 2024

Photos by Debbie Savard



SFMANJ at SFMA Conference Datona Beach, FL Jan 22 -25, 2024



The Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) Conference and Exhibition was held in Daytona Beach, FL during January 22-25, 2024. New Jersey attendees included (pictured, l to r): Jason Rega, Sports Field Solutions, LLC; Brad Park, Rutgers University (SFMANJ Board); Scott Bills, CSFM, Sports Field Solutions, LLC (Board Secretary, SFMANJ); Zack Holm, CSFM (President, SFMANJ and Board Member, SFMA); and Joe Gaunill, Territory Manager, Storr Tractor (Board Member, SFMANJ).

SPORTS FIELD DAMAGER

By Miguel De Jesus

Dear sports field damager,
I'm the Sports Field Manager,
and just in case you never knew,
The sports field maintenance crew,
Perform the task they were taught to do,
I appreciate their work and you should too,
Please don't use your own tools so you can play,
Because you ultimately are just messing up the clay,
and making the conditions worse for the following day,
We have experience and none of us are new to this,
But honestly, you really have to stop doing this,
Because we will never ever be cool with this,
We all studied and went to school for this,
So please just put down the squeegees,
You're hurting us, please believe me,
You may think you're helping us,
But you're overwhelming us.

Miguel DeJesus is Supervising Greenskeeper, County of Passaic –
Department of Parks and Recreation

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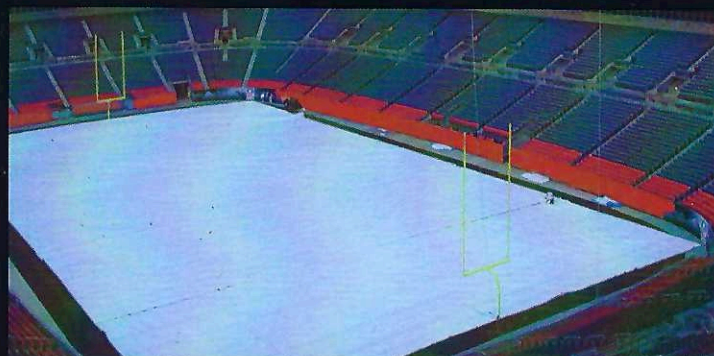
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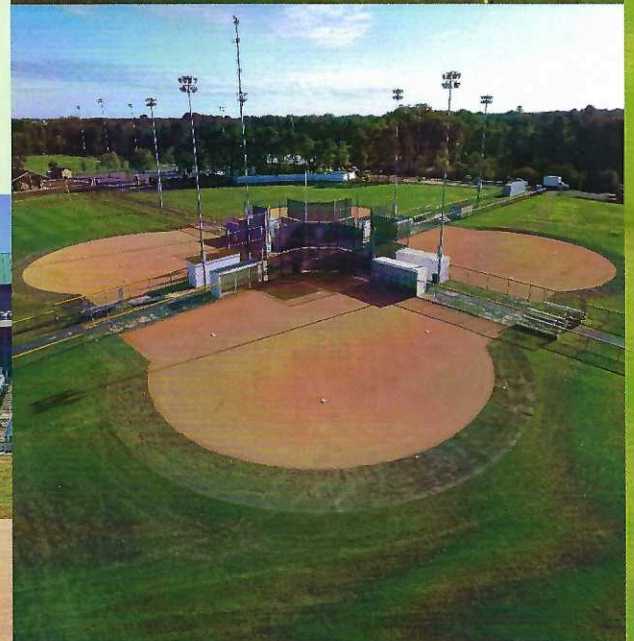
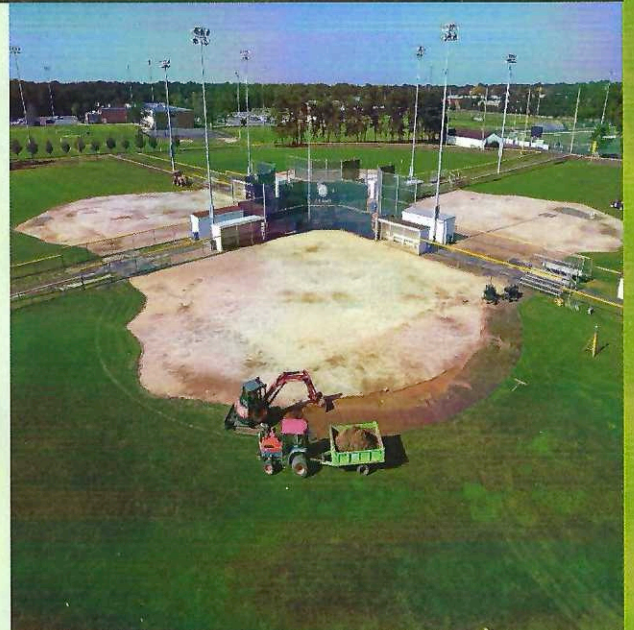
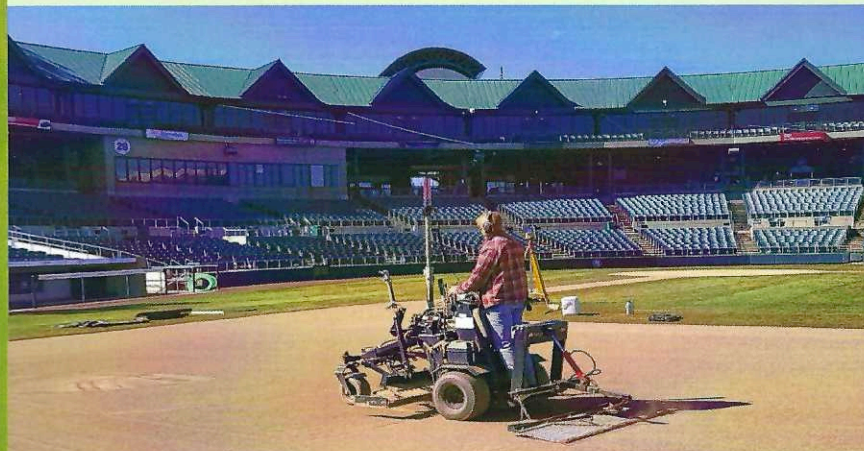
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As we look forward to a great 2024 season, let us know if we can assist you in any way.

Give Us a Call!



CLEAN AIR CALCULATOR:

Continued from page 8

Quantifying How Natural Grass Sequesters Carbon

superintendents, other green industry professionals, businesses, municipalities and school districts to measure how natural grass and green spaces sequesters carbon. The genesis of the 'Clean Air Calculator' includes a research paper published by the University of Guelph, 76 additional references from across North America and peer reviews from The Ohio State University, Texas A&M University and the Soil Health Institute.

The Gross Carbon sequestration is defined as the total Carbon that is left over in the soil (turfgrass) and in wood (trees) after respiration and decay. The Net Carbon sequestration represents the Gross Carbon sequestration subtracting the Hidden Carbon Costs of production and maintenance practices (mowing, nitrogen escape, fertilizer production and irrigation.) The amount of detail in the literature and research allows for an accurate assessment of the Hidden Carbon Costs and therefore leads to a robust Carbon sequestration calculation for turfgrasses and other green spaces.

I guess now you're asking how is this going to help me? To answer that question we have to look real hard at our industry. We are constantly under attack from 'activists' who think properly managing turfgrass and green spaces is not necessary or is actually dangerous, natural grass sports fields are being replaced by synthetic turf at the rate of approximately 1,200 per year, the amount of green space in many states and cities is being reduced by up to 30 percent and green industry professionals are not educated, experienced or responsible. For many years we have had to be 'Reactive.' Now, with the 'Clean Air Calculator' we can be 'Proactive.'

Green Industry Professionals can:

- Provide customers and constituents with real, quantitative environmental values of the services they provided.
- Share how more grass, trees and shrubs helps the environment and how removing these green spaces hurts the environment.
- Engage customers and constituents in participating in the health of green spaces and sharing the story.

Green Industry Associations can:

- Provide their members with a tool that will help quantify the benefit of their services to their customers.
- Advocate with governments and businesses to invest in turfgrass and green spaces by showing how they clean the air and help the environment.
- Educate and inform the public and those with opposing opinions that poorly managed or stressed turfgrass can actually releases 'Carbon Dioxide' back into the environment when respiration exceeds photosynthesis.
- Have a tool to assist in advocacy for turfgrass and green spaces with environmental groups that want to regulate our industry.

- Help fight the elimination of turfgrass and replacement with synthetic turf because the environmental value of natural, well maintained grass is not understood.
- Prevent the reduction of turfgrass and green space coverage by providing a tool that actually measures the value of these spaces and the amount of carbon sequestered.
- Educate governments and businesses as to how the 'Clean Air Calculator' can help with ESG goals.

Businesses can:

- Use the 'Clean Air Calculator' to quantify and meet ESG goals.
- Invest in a tool that quantifies the benefits of managing turfgrass and green spaces.
- Become advocates for the green industry.

There is no question that since the industrial revolution, Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere has increased dramatically. The only natural resources that can sequester Carbon Dioxide in large quantities are land (soil, grass, groundcover, shrubs and trees) and

Continued on page 14

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Quantifying How Natural Grass Sequesters Carbon



the oceans. Unfortunately, as our oceans acidify they aren't as efficient as they used to be. That leaves turfgrass and green spaces. Think about it, the reduction of these spaces doesn't make sense if we don't want to make our air less healthy to breath.

During the presentation at the national Sports Field Management Association conference, Project EverGreen provided some examples of sports fields that were replaced with synthetic turf and how that affected the environment. One local example in the state of New Jersey was a 9.6 acre (420,000 SF) athletic field complex behind a school that was planned for conversion to synthetic turf. Using the 'Clean Air Calculator' determined that if the natural grass fields would have been removed, the property would have lost the ability to sequester 243,236.14 lbs of Carbon Dioxide. This is enough to provide clean air to 261 people for the year and offset a driving distance of 372,606.96 miles (or the equivalent to taking 27.6 vehicles off the road).

As a sports turf manager, the major problem I have and we have as an industry, is that if the school district and town would simply invest in hiring a professional sports turf manager and provide the proper resources, the fields would not have even been considered for replacement to synthetic turf at a projected cost of over eight million dollars.

On a larger scale, as per the National Recreation and Parks Association, there were approximately 13,000 synthetic athletic fields in the United States in 2020. At an average size of 65,000 SF (soccer field) that equates to approximately 845,000,000 Square Feet or 19,398 acres of synthetic turf. This does not include playgrounds, dog parks, putting greens, resort lawns or residential yards (California/Arizona). The amount of Carbon Dioxide that could have been sequestered if these areas were still natural grass is approximately 490,100,000 lbs. This volume could have provided 525,194 people with clean air and offset 749,649,717 miles driven or take 55,575 vehicles off the road.

With the 'Clean Air Calculator' the green industry can now truly and quantitatively show the benefits of what we do. Help Project EverGreen to continue fighting our fight by investing in the tool and our mission to 'bring people together to make a difference in how our yards, parks and communities create a greener, healthier, cooler Earth.'

Scott Bills is Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); owner/operator Sports Field Solutions, LLC; Board Secretary, SFMANJ and President, Project EverGreen; Cindy Code is Executive Director, Project EverGreen

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Field of the Year - 2023

was sodded with a blend of 5 different varieties of Kentucky bluegrass. The late summer/early fall of 2021 we over seeded with a ryegrass blend of 35% Revenge GLX, 35% Manhattan 5 GLR and 30% Paragon GLR. Our fertilizer plan starts on April 1st with a granular fertilizer application with a pre-emergent herbicide control. May 1st we apply another granular fertilizer application with a pre-emergent herbicide control and a broadleaf weed control. May 15th a liquid application of iron and micronutrients is applied. In July we make a light application of a granular fertilizer with an application of insecticide or fungicide only if necessary. September 1st and November 1st we finish out the year with granular fertilizer applications.

The field has a Hunter acc irrigation system that consist of 12 zones for the turf and 2 zones for the infield dirt. There is a quick connection behind the mound for hand watering if needed.

The infield dirt is a blend of Blend of 60% Sand, 18% Silt and 22% Clay which is manufactured by the DuraEdge Company. Pro's Choice infield conditioner is applied throughout the season to the infield surface. At the beginning of the season 30 bags are applied evenly on the infield surface and worked into the top profile of the infield dirt. 10 bags of conditioner are applied during the season every week to maintain a consistent layer. The mound and home plate areas consist of 100% clay. We repair the areas after each game to maintain the proper slope to the mound and a level surface at home plate. The infield and warning track are edged 4 times a year (March, April, May and October).

Core aeration is done in April and September. The cores are vacuumed up after. Overseeding occurs after the cores are all cleaned up with a slice seeder after the fall aeration. The rates of seeding changes year to year depending on how thin the turf is. We at the Middlesex County Magnet Schools take great pride in the athletic fields."



The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Board of Directors would like to congratulate Mike, his staff and the Middlesex County Magnet Schools for their efforts maintaining the Baseball Field at Piscataway Vocational School at a high level and being selected as the 2023 Field of Distinction.

All entrants should be proud of their accomplishments and continued efforts to not only improve their own fields, but to be an example of what it takes to be a 'Professional Sports Field Manager.'

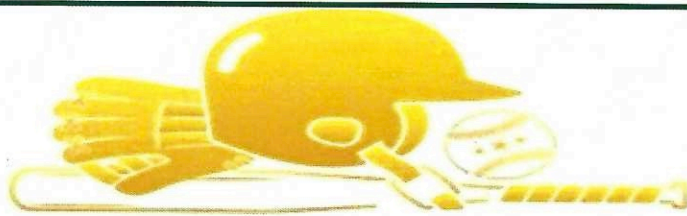
The SFMANJ Field of the Year program recognizes the efforts of member sports turf managers throughout New Jersey. Applications for the 2024 Field of the Year are due by the end of September 2024 and are awarded at the NJ Green Expo in Atlantic City, NJ in early December. In addition to a plaque, the winner will receive a complimentary registration to all education sessions, the two-day trade show, dinner, and one night lodging at the Borgata.

Scott Bills is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), owner/operator Sports Field Solutions, LLC, SFMANJ Board Secretary, and SFMANJ Public Relations Committee Chairman

Your Field Could Be The Next Field of the Year TELL US ABOUT IT

The Winner will receive free registration and one-night 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 like the one above in SFMANJ's newsletter, Update.

Download form from our web site - www.sfmanj.org
and mail or e-mail your entry to us!



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SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (SFMA) LAUNCHES NEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



successful mentor/mentee relationships, with the ultimate goal being that both parties will grow professionally their roles.

As part of the mentorship program, SFMA will provide mentor training to equip mentors with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively guide and support their mentees. Training will cover active listening, effective communication, goal setting and providing constructive feedback. A roadmap to success will be provided to each participant to highlight monthly goals. Resources will also be provided each month to align with the roadmap.

SFMA will conduct regular check-ins with mentors and mentees to ensure that the program is running smoothly. The Learning Initiatives Committee will offer resources, guidance and support to mentors and mentees as needed. Mentorship program participants will also be recognized and rewarded. Mentorship program achievements will be highlighted in the monthly SFMA News Online, service points will be offered to participants, and participants will be acknowledged during the SFMA Conference and will be able to take part in a mentor/mentee meet and greet at the conference.

"Not every mentor/mentee relationship is going to succeed," said Goatley. "It truly is a two-way street for which personalities must also match. Both parties have something to gain. Mentors usually will transfer knowledge to a younger generation, and have the satisfaction of knowing that they can help someone else succeed. Mentees who are receptive to that knowledge and grow their relationship with their mentors will grow professionally and one day assume a similar role for others."

According to Goatley, when asked for descriptors of what makes for successful mentor/mentee relationships, the leading words submitted by survey respondents were patience, supportive, leadership, believe, truthful, trust, care, teachable, respectful and responsible.

"There was nothing surprising about any of these," he said. "In reviewing the complete answers by our survey respondents, we felt there was one best answer that applies to either mentor or mentee – just be who you are!"

As SFMA embarks on its own formal mentoring program, it offers a unique professional opportunity for members to serve their peers and industry as mentors and mentees.

"There no doubt will be some tweaking to the program as time passes," said Goatley. "But all committee members felt very strongly that this program was a great opportunity for our membership to grow professionally and personally in roles as either mentor or mentee. We encourage you to consider participating by completing the survey. If our membership benefits from these relationships, then the association and those we serve will benefit as well."

Added Jones, "The ultimate benefit of the mentorship program is the creation of long-lasting relationships that – through committed effort – build the individual members involved, weaving a closer connection and strengthening SFMA and the industry well into the future."

John Kmita is associate publisher and editorial brand director of SportsField Management magazine.

New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Kyle Irwin
Frank Jacheo
David Junkerman
Rich Kalish CTP
Bob Kaufman
Leo Kelly
Jim Kelsey
Tim Kerper
Richard Kerr Jr.
Dave Kuczynski
Frank Lasasso
Lisa Lattarulo
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Continued on page 18

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2024 Calendar of Events

SFMANJ Spring Field Day - 2024

April 24, 2024

Wolcott Park, Eatontown, NJ

Hosts: Keith Ferrugia and Matthew Frederick,
Eatontown, NJ
856.514.3179
www.sfmanj.org

Rutgers Turf Research Golf Classic

May 6, 2024

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
Bedminster, NJ
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days

Golf & Fine Turf

July 30, 2024

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July 31, 2024

Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm
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New Jersey Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference

December 10-12, 2024
Borgata Hotel & Casino
Atlantic City, NJ
973.812.6467
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2025 Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) Conference & Exhibition

January 13-16, 2025
Palm Springs, CA
800.541.4955
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Plant Food Company
Players Development Academy
City of Perth Amboy - Office of Recreation
Fisher & Son Company
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Jersey Soil Blending LLC
New Jersey Turf Grass Association
Plant Food Company
South Jersey Turf Consultants
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Middlesex County Parks
Upper Freehold Regional School Dist.
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Turfware, Inc.
Piscataway BOE
Somerset Patriots
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Advanced Landscaping Inc
North Brunswick Twp.
Syngenta
Rutgers University
Ocean County Utilities
SFMANJ
Cherry Hill BOE
Peddie School
Metuchen BOE
Somerset County Park Commission
Sports Field Management Association
Plainsboro Township
Twp of Burlington Rec Dept
Holmdel Township
The Landtek Group, Inc.
Twp of Morris Parks and Rec.
Readington Township
Twp. of Burlington Parks and Rec
Cinnaminson Board of Ed
County College of Morris
Individual Member
Sport Care Synthetic Field Maintenance
Delaware Township
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