

UPDATE

Summer 2024
Vol. 24, No. 12

**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

RUTGERS

Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day

**Includes SFMANJ-sponsored Trade Show &
Equipment Demonstrations**

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

(See Schedule Inside)

See Inside For:

**Information on Rutgers Lawn,
Landscape, and Sports Field Day**

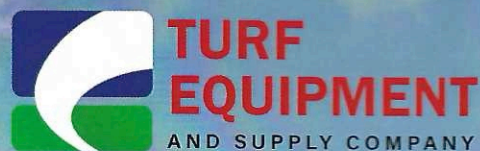
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Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members for 2024

Currently we have 180 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.

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Tell your story in SFMANJ UPDATE

If you would like to share anything about your fields, such as new construction, working with coaches, field maintenance, weed control, multi purpose fields, use of pesticide, fertilization, etc., please do not hesitate to let us know.

There are many other sports field personell who have the same issues and problems and would benefit from your story.

Please contact

Brad Park at 848-932-6327 / bradley.s.park@rutgers.edu
or Debbie Savard at 856-514-3179 / mail@sfmanj.org

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

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National Organization
Sports Turf Managers Association



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

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
SFMANJ at (856) 514-3179 or Brad Park at (848) 932-6327
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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.

RUTGERS LAWN, LANDSCAPE AND SPORTS TURF FIELD DAY

SAVE THE DATE - Wednesday, July 31, 2024

By Brad Park

Including SFMANJ-Sponsored Trade Show and Equipment Demonstrations
Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, 594 Halls Mill Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA), Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), and Rutgers University will again collaborate to hold the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day. This year's event will again be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Freehold, NJ.

A trade show will be sponsored and administered by SFMANJ and is open to all vendors who sell products and services to the Green Industry. Coffee, bagels, Danish pastries, etc. will be served during the trade show. The trade show provides a great opportunity for attendees to network with other Green Industry professionals and examine the latest product offerings from Industry-supporting vendors.

After opening remarks from Rutgers University representatives, the education portion of the program will begin at 9:00 am. Groups will rotate between three tour stops per hour. This year's Field Day will again incorporate sports field and landscape equipment demonstrations into the tour stops. Two 3-stop rotations will consist entirely of turfgrass education; two additional rotations consist of turfgrass education and SFMANJ-sponsored equipment demonstration.

The Summer Field Day has proven to be a great venue for vendors to show their latest equipment offerings and for attendees to observe equipment being operated in-the-field. This edition of

SFMANJ Update provides the Field Day agenda for July 31.

Following the turfgrass education, a fine lunch will be served to all of those in attendance. The trade show will also be open during this time. Following lunch, New Jersey DEP pesticide recertification credits, pesticide credits from neighboring states per approval, and ProFACT fertilizer credits will be available to attendees. An optional CORE pesticide credit session will also be offered following lunch.

See you on July 31 at Adelphia!

Please note the following:

Attendees may register online by visiting the NJTA website: www.njturfgrass.org; (o) 973.812.6467; (email) execdirector@njturfgrass.org

Those **vendors** interested in reserving trade show space and equipment demonstrations are encouraged to contact SFMANJ for more information and appropriate paperwork (website) www.sfmanj.org; (o) 856.514.3179; (email) mail@sfmanj.org

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

See schedule on next page

UPDATE

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

Past issues of Update, dating back to 2001, can be assessed through the Michigan State University

To access this archive, visit:

<http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/updat>



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"Spotlight on our Advertisers" contributions should be submitted as one 1/2-page article that may include local salespersons' names, phone numbers, and email addresses along with any local events you may be sponsoring.

It can run next to your company's ad or be in a separate area of the newsletter.

AND IT'S FREE!

RUTGERS

2024 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day:

Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Freehold, NJ

Wednesday, July 31, 2024 • 7:30 to 9:00 AM

Trade Show sponsored by

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ)



9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM

Stop # 1: Postemergence broadleaf weed control
Speakers: Dr. Matt Elmore and Dan Tuck

Presentation Synopsis:

This presentation will discuss the efficacy of various active ingredients and how they contribute to products for tough-to-control broadleaf weeds including lespedeza, clover, and prostrate knotweed. Attendees will learn about the biology and life cycle of these weeds and how herbicides can be used to control them in various parts of the life cycle.

Stop # 2: Remote sensing imagery of high throughput phenotyping to select elite turfgrass cultivars
Speakers: Haoguang Yang, Stacy Bonos, and Bingru Huang

Presentation Synopsis:

This presentation will discuss remote sensing technology, specifically how aerial imagery with multiple spectral and RGB cameras carried by a drone, can be used to assess turfgrass quality and performance. This technology could be useful to select stress- and disease-resistant cultivars under different management regimes or environmental conditions. This presentation will demonstrate the multiple spectral and RGB cameras carried by a drone at the field site.

Stop # 3 Sports Field Managers Association of NJ-
Sponsored Equipment Demonstrations

10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

Stop # 4: Shade Research in Cool-Season Turfgrasses
Speaker: Mr. Eric MacPherson

Presentation Synopsis:

Shade affects many homelawns and golf course greens throughout the world. The development of shade tolerant turfgrass would improve the quality of homelawns and putting greens under shade. The traits important for shade tolerance and the best species of cool-season turfgrass to use in shade will be discussed.

Stop # 5: 2022 NTEP Perennial Ryegrass Test + Breeding for Gray Leaf Spot Tolerance - Field 302
Speaker: Dr. Stacy Bonos

Presentation Synopsis:

Characteristics and uses of perennial ryegrass will be discussed. Breeding for disease resistance such as gray leaf spot, brown patch and stem rust and will be discussed.

Stop # 6: Establishment and performance of warm-season grasses in New Jersey
Speaker: Mr. Mark LaBarge

Presentation Synopsis:

Hotter and dryer summers in New Jersey has elevated the importance of testing warm-season grass performance in New Jersey. Bermudagrasses and Zoysiagrasses with improved winter performance were planted in 2022. Disease tolerance, persistence, establishment and overall performance will be discussed.

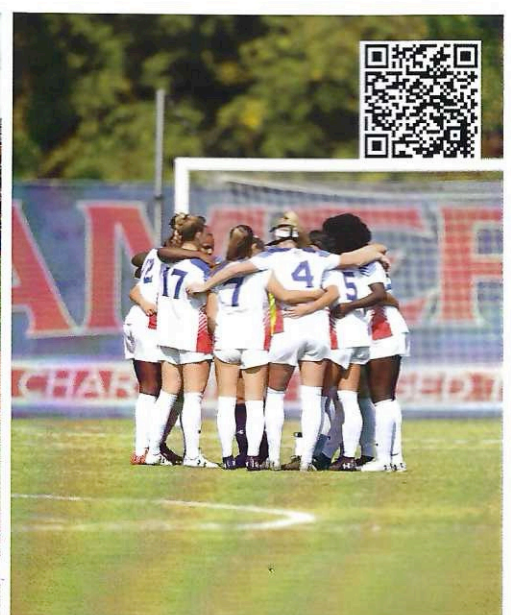
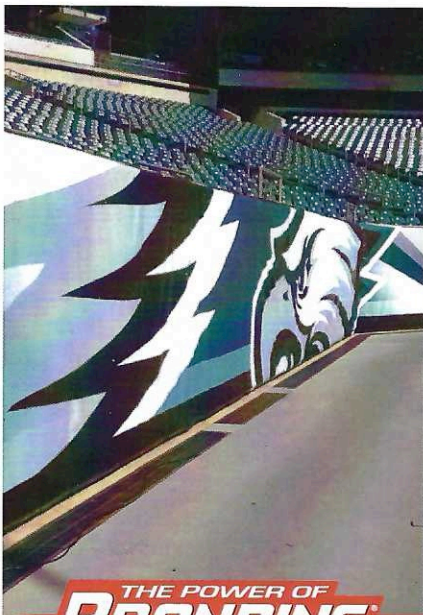
11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

Stop # 7: 2023 NTEP Kentucky Bluegrass – Breeding for improved disease resistance in Kentucky bluegrass
Speaker: Ryan Earp

Presentation Synopsis:

Characteristics and uses of Kentucky bluegrass will be discussed. Breeding and selection techniques used to develop Kentucky bluegrass cultivars will be described. Cultivar tolerance to important diseases such as rust, leaf spot, and summer patch will be discussed. The latest advances in molecular marker technology will also be discussed.

Continued on page 15



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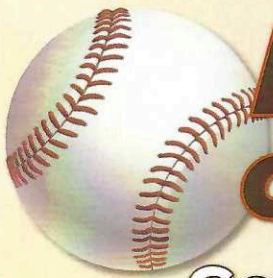
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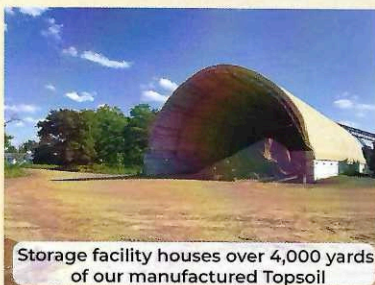
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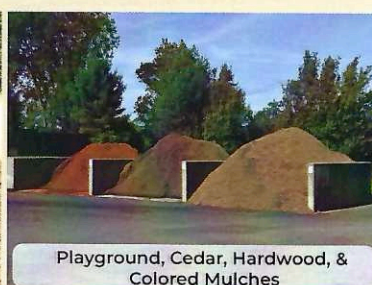
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Lip Service

by Nicole Sherry

Editor's Note: The following article was written in 2006 when the author was Head Groundskeeper of Trenton Thunder, Double-A affiliate of the New York Yankees.

Usually, when I am called to look at fields in our area I notice the same thing over and over again: huge lips. I am talking about lips you could step-off and break a neck. So what causes this problem? I believe it all depends on maintenance practices. The first problem entails too much material on the infield. After it rains and you notice a pool of water in spots on your infield skin, the first cure is to add more material, right? Wrong. Yes, add material to soak up extra water and dry out the puddle, but afterwards remove all that extra stuff you added. Have you ever been to a rainy ballgame and the grounds crew comes out inning after inning with drying agent to help the teams get through the game? Well, what you don't know is that the next day we are scooping all of that extra material off the infield. Why? If we did not, those players would soon be playing on a beach. I went to visit one field last week and the lips on the field were two feet high and five feet wide. They thought they would need to strip all of the grass and add more root zone to get the grass even with the lips. I asked them to look at the field from a side view. "Look at your infield," I said. "See how it is raised almost two feet compared to the rest of the field? Imagine a giant knife slicing through the point at which the existing grass meets the lip and continuing all the way through to the backstop." I noted that it appeared as though loads of material just kept building-up so that it made almost a two-foot difference between the outfield grass and the infield skin.

The second problem for lips is wind. Wind will take hold-of that topdressing and blow it everywhere. A lot of it ends up in the grass edge. Can you ever stop lips from forming? No. You can, however,

help control them by putting in a little extra effort about once per week. After each home stand, I have my crew use street sweeping brooms with really stiff bristles and broom from six to eight inches in the grass back towards the skin all the way around the field including inside edges, base paths, and the mound and plate grass edges. This will damage your grass a little bit. Try to make sure you only broom the same spot a couple times and move on. Also, if it's a hot sunny day, your grass may yellow a little. Cloudy days are perfect. Once a month I sharpen all the grading rakes (iron rakes) and stand on the dirt. I place the rake in the grass edge about six inches back and rip through the hump in the grass pulling towards the dirt at an angle then go back over in a different direction and angle. It will rip the grass. Don't worry; it will also loosen up all the compacted lip areas. When done, broom all of your edges again to clean them out and then you can roll the edges and use an edger to even it out again. In extreme cases like the one mentioned above, you might have to use a sod cutter to rip out those lips, find a level grade, re-sod, and take out some of your infield material.

Let's face it, I know we all have different things going on in our lives; however, if we try to spend a couple of hours on the lips of our fields and our finished product is correct (level) the first time, it's easy to maintain. Let's give our players a field that is safe. There is nothing worse than someone trying to field a ball, and cannot focus because he or she is worried about tripping on the field and getting hurt.

Nicole Sherry is Head Groundskeeper, Baltimore Orioles; and 2018 recipient of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Dick Ericson Award

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A Friendly Reminder

By Bernard Luongo

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Our properties tell us when they are healthy and when they are sick. We see the symptoms if we our paying attention. This is how they talk to us.

In return, we must stand-up for our athletic fields against foolish abuse. As guardians, we must speak on their behalf. We know what they need through soil tests, when they need to be rested and what normal wear is during a season.

Everyone's fields need the support of the Athletic Director, Facilities Director, Business Administrator, and Superintendent. If we do not protect our fields from foolish abuse, it puts our children at risk of unnecessary injury.

We must emphasize the fact that turf is a living and breathing entity on this planet and must be treated with the same respect as every other living organism. The end result is a safe playing field for our children and a good looking field also.

Bernard Luongo is a former Sports Field and Grounds Manager at a NJ Board of Education; and a current member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors

Student members of SFMANJ are welcome to enter this year's scholarship contest.

All you have to do is to send us a 500-word essay entitled

"Why I Think I Deserve The SFMANJ Scholarship"

Send to www.sfmanj.org or mail to PO Box 205, Pennsville NJ 08070 by October 30, 2023

Please be sure to include:

- Name, address, and e-mail
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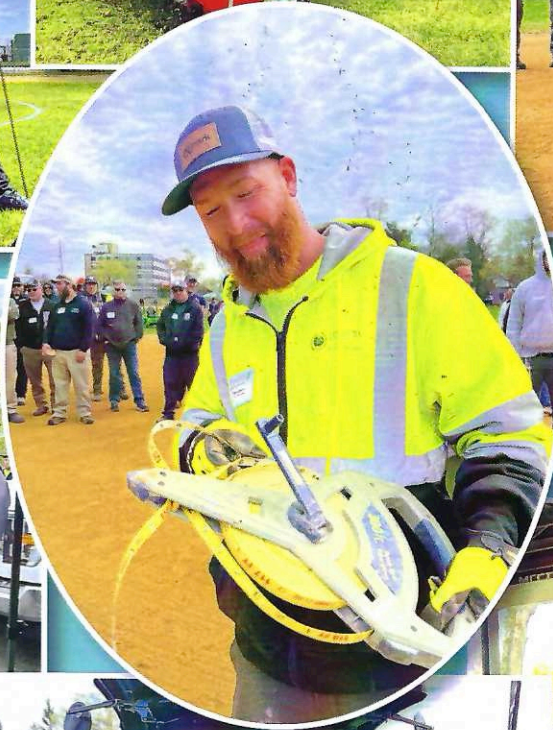
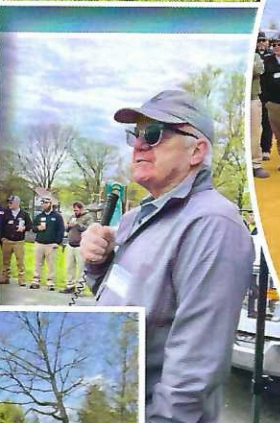
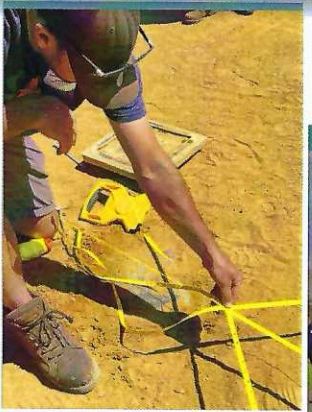
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Hope you were able to make it!

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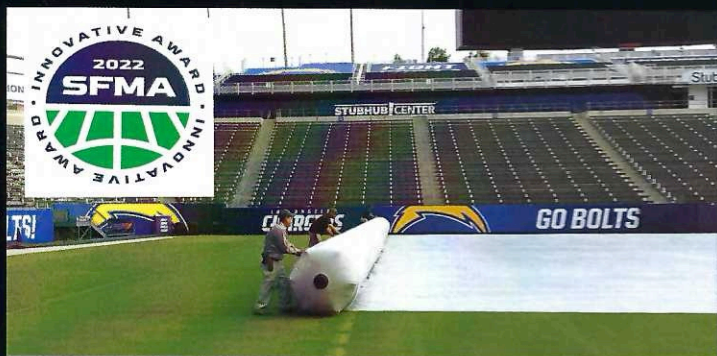
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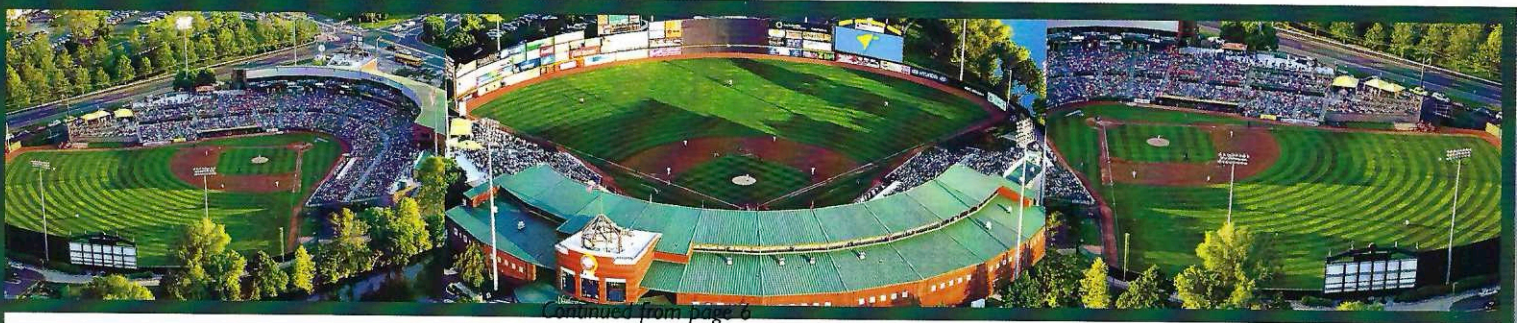


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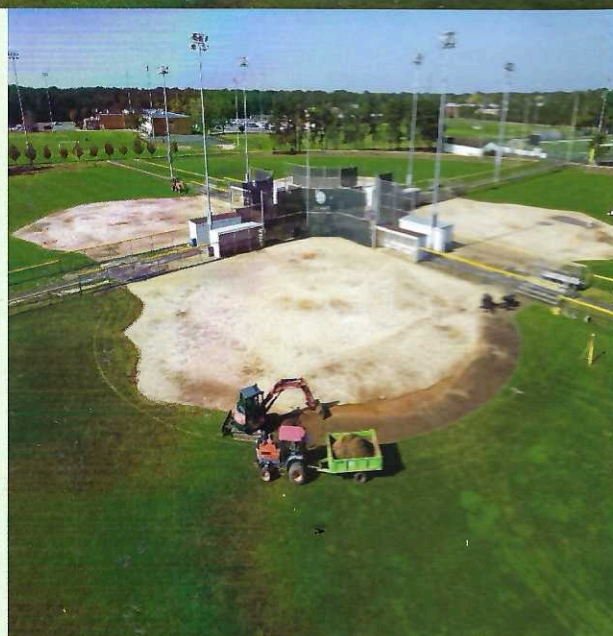
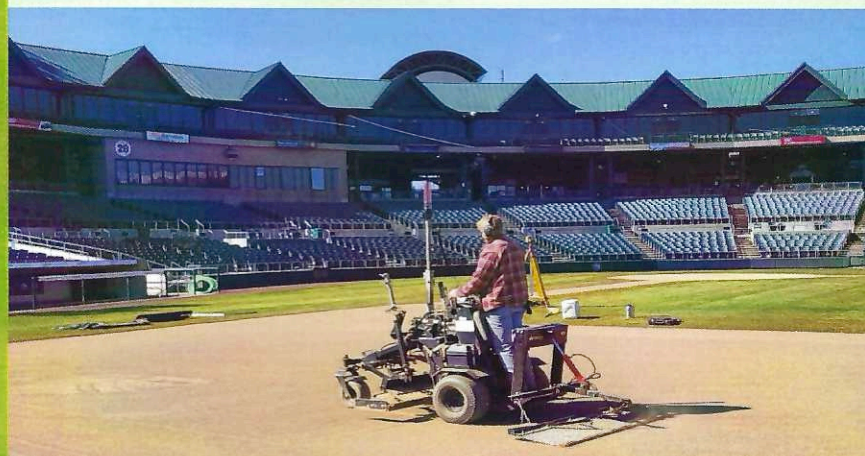
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As we look forward to a great 2024 season, let us know if we can assist you in any way.

Give Us a Call!



Summertime

By Rich Watson

Summer has always been my favorite season of the year. I am not a big fan of winter. I have plowed and shoveled enough snow for one lifetime. Winter seems like it will never end and I spend most of it wondering when the weather will warm up.

Summer is a different story. When I open the door in the morning, I don't cringe from the bone chilling temps. I don't look ahead for colder weather and it seems like there is always something to do outside when the weather is warm. No offense to winter fans but I bear the scars from working outside for many harsh winters.

Summer is king and New Jersey is a great place to live when it comes to professional sports venues for summer events. Professional soccer, Major and Minor League Baseball, Professional as well as Major College football all are within driving distance from anywhere in New Jersey.

Warm weather has always been connected to baseball for me. Playing the game as a kid, it has always been part of summer. As an adult, I make it to several major league games a year and find myself waking up on the couch after watching many more.

I live in the southern portion of our great state and can get to see a Phillies game in about twenty minutes. The same can be said for those of you in the northern half of the state that can get to see the Yankees and Mets play with relative ease.

I really enjoy a summer's night at the ballpark (truth be told, something I don't enjoy enough). The game itself is great. It is still "America's Pastime" but I also enjoy watching the grounds crew work their magic on the field. The pregame transformation from warmup to game ready is a thing of beauty. It's nice to get there early and watch the process unfold.

During my time as a sports field manager, I tried to reproduce the type of pregame maintenance on my high school field that I witnessed at the pro level and had some success. We never had the time or labor to do everything like the big leaguers but we used some of the concepts like water management, painting the bases as well as the pitching rubber and home plate, striping of the turf, bullpen maintenance and a general cleaning of the area around the field.

Even though it was a high school game, we wanted the teams and spectators to feel like they were at a special event. Those are some things that can be done no matter what your budget is. Some of my fondest memories as a groundskeeper took place just before a game talking to coaches, players, umpires and sometimes spectators about how we made our high school field feel like a pro stadium. There were days when I would wonder if all the hard work was worth it. Those special moments I spent talking about my craft with people who really appreciated what we were doing made all the hard work seem like it had a purpose.

Find your moment and have a great summer.

Rich Watson is a Sales Consultant, Laurel Lawnmower; former Sports Field and Grounds Manager as at South Jersey BOE; and current SFMANJ Vice-President

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New Jersey Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference

December 10-12, 2024

The Borgata, Atlantic City, NJ

2024 Sports Field Managers Expo Program

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024

Afternoon session

- 1:00 - 1:30 PM New Jersey School IPM Update
Spencer Kerkhof, NJ Dep. of Environmental Protection
- 1:30 - 2:00 PM Operations at MetLife Stadium and preparation for World Cup Soccer
Tyler Morris, CSFM, MetLife Stadium
- 2:00 - 2:30 PM Reducing turfgrass disease pressure at schools using cultural practices
Rich Buckley, Rutgers University
- 2:30 - 3:00 PM SFMANJ Annual Business Meeting
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM Granular fertilizers and pesticide applications at schools and municipalities: Particle size and calibration considerations
Brad Jakubowski, Penn State University
- 4:00 - 8:00 PM Trade Show

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024

Morning session

- 8:00 - 8:30 AM Early bird sports field managers: Precision pesticide use and operating in compliance with NJ School IPM
Zack Holm, Central Park Conservancy
- 8:30 - 9:00 AM Sports field and grounds: The year in review
Brad Park, Rutgers University
- 9:00 - 10:00 AM Dealing with wet sports fields from playability to diseases
Dr. Doug Linde, Delaware Valley University
- 10:00 - 11:00 AM How to use weather data to time pesticide and fertilizer applications
Brad Jakubowski, Penn State University
- 11:00 - 11:30 AM Fielding Excellence: Mastering the Challenges of Sports Field Maintenance
Miguel DeJesus, Passaic County Parks Department
- 11:30 - 2:30 PM Trade Show

Afternoon session

- 2:30 - 3:30 PM Conventional and non-conventional strategies for white grub control at schools and municipalities
Dr. Ben McGraw, Penn State
- 3:30 - 4:30 PM Cool-season turfgrass options to reduce disease and insect issues on school and municipal sports fields
Dr. Stacy Bonos, Rutgers University
- 4:30 - 5:00 PM Synthetic turf: Working with vendor partners to fulfill municipal needs
Virgil Caputo, Township of Monroe, NJ

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RUTGERS

2024 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day:



Stop # 8: 2023 Tall Fescue Trial
Speaker: Jennifer Halterman

Presentation Synopsis:

Characteristics and uses of tall fescue will be discussed. We will describe various selection procedures used to improve these important traits. Breeding objectives of tall fescue including important traits such as drought, rhizome formation, brown patch and gray leaf spot resistance will be discussed.

Stop #9 Sports Field Managers Association of NJ-
Sponsored Equipment Demonstrations

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Stop 10: Summer patch management in Kentucky bluegrass

Speaker: Dr. Ming Yi Chou

Presentation synopsis

Participants will learn about the best management practices for the control of summer patch, a destructive root disease in Kentucky bluegrass, as well as the chemical control measures of this devastating disease. The presentation will focus on understanding favorable environmental conditions for disease development and the impacts of cultural practices such as soil management, fertility and mowing regimes to minimize disease severity. Effective fungicide programming such as fungicide modes of action, application rate, interval and timing will also be discussed in this presentation.

Stop # 11: 2020 Fine Fescue NTEP trial
Speaker: Dr. Stacy Bonos

Presentation Synopsis:

Characteristics and uses of fine fescues will be discussed. Breeding objectives of fine fescues including disease resistance will also be discussed. Selection work for summer patch tolerance, leaf spot and dollar spot will be described.

Stop # 12: Influence of application methods and adjuvants on postemergence crabgrass control
Speakers: Dr. Matt Elmore and Dan Tuck

Presentation Synopsis:

The presentation will discuss the effect of different application methods and carrier volumes on postemergence crabgrass control. Field trials showcasing low and high carrier volume applications compared to a standard volume will be presented. Low carrier volumes are designed to simulate ride-on sprayers and high-volume applications will simulate the "Chemlawn gun", both often used

by applicators for postemergence weed control. The importance of adjuvants and adjuvant rates will also be discussed. Various herbicides and herbicide programs for crabgrass control will be discussed.

1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM

LUNCH

2:00 PM

OPTIONAL CORE: Mock New Jersey DEP Inspection

Speaker: Spencer Kerkhof, Environmental Specialist I, Pesticide Compliance & Enforcement, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Presentation Synopsis:

- The presentation will address the following subjects:
- Pesticide applicator/operator basics
- Proper equipment maintenance
- Licensed Service Vehicle inspections (Lawn Care Service Vehicle on-site for Mock Inspection)
- Office inspections
- Regulations and legalese
- Common violations
- Liability of misuse



Vendors - Register with SFMANJ
website - www.sfmanj.org;

Attendees - Register with NJTA
website - www.njturfgrass.org;



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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:

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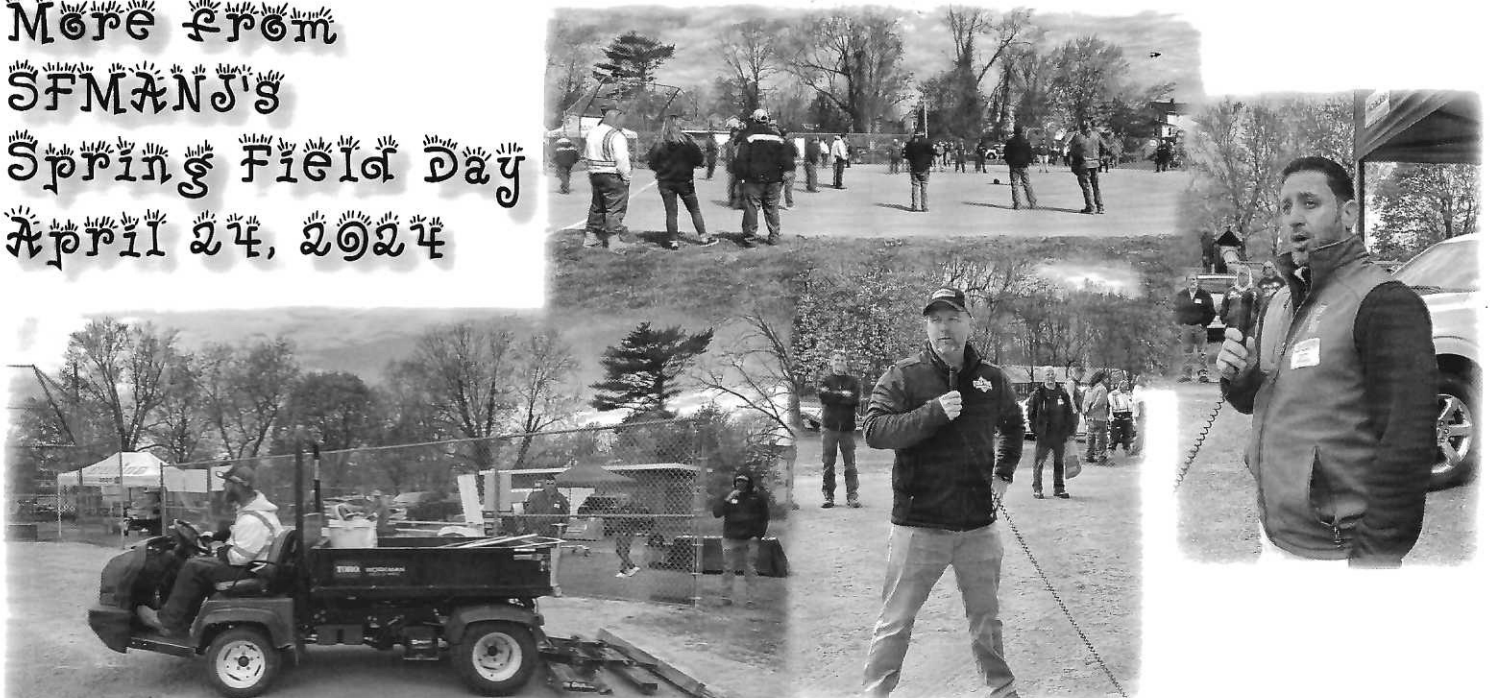
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Jeff Schofield, Facilities Manager

Plan to attend the SFMANJ Sponsored Trade Show at the 2024 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day

Vendors - SFMANJ website - www.sfmanj.org • phone - 856-514-3179 • email - mail@sfmanj.org

Attendees - NJTA website - www.njturfgrass.org • phone - 973-812-6467 • email - execdirector@njturfgrass.org

More from
SFMANJ's
Spring Field Day
April 24, 2024



Hope to see you in Adelphia

2024 - 2025 Calendar of Events

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days Golf & Fine Turf

July 30, 2024

Rutgers Hort Farm No. 2

North Brunswick, NJ

Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Includes SFMANJ-sponsored Trade Show & Equipment Demonstrations

July 31, 2024

Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm

Freehold, NJ

973.812.6467

www.njturfgrass.org

New Jersey Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference

December 10-12, 2024

Borgata Hotel & Casino

Atlantic City, NJ

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www.njturfgrass.org

2025 Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) Conference & Exhibition

January 13-16, 2025

Palm Springs, CA

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www.sportsfieldmanagement.org

See you there!

**Watch Your E-mail
for information on our
2024 Fall Field Day
October 2024!**

In the Fields

By Miguel DeJesus

In fields of green, where dreams take flight,
We labor each day to keep them bright.
With rake in hand while mower's hum,
We tend these grounds, our labor's sum.

In the morning dew, with tools in hand,
Field managers tend to community land.
We mow and rake with tender care,
Crafting a canvas, lush and fair.

Each blade of grass, a brushstroke fine,
In the masterpiece of the sports field line.
With measured steps and practiced grace,
We shape the turf, our sacred space.

We mend the scars of cleats and spikes,
With care, we tend to all alike.
For every divot, every hole,
Is a challenge that we try to control.

We battle weeds and pests alike,
To keep the field a pristine sight.
With watering hoses and rolling carts,
We tend to every inch, from end to start.

Through sun and rain, through heat and cold,
Our obligation's revered and should be told.
For in these fields, where passion thrives,
We're the stewards of these sporting lives.

For on these fields, where visions take flight,
Where victories are won in the heat of the fight,
The field manager's touch, both subtle and strong,
Ensures the game's legacy will forever live on.

So here we stand, with pride and grace,
The keepers of this hallowed space.
For in the heart of every game,
Are echoes of every field manager's name.
So, here's to the ones who toil unseen,
To nurture the grounds where champions gleam.
Their artistry shines in every play,
In the fields, where memories forever stay.

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

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