

**2002
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"SFMANJ Update" Newsletter Co -editors
Jim Hermann & Eleanora Murfitt

MISSION STATEMENT

Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers in New Jersey 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.

STMA - 1-800-323-3875 - www.sportsturfmanager.com

Continued from page 1.....

- ***Finch Services, Inc.,** North Wales, Pa
John Deere 1200A, Aerator -1500 & Ty-Crop 1800
- ***Fisher & Son Co. Inc.,** Malvern, Pa
Donated a roundup sprayer
- **Rain Bird Corp.,** Allentown, Pa
- **Graco Inc.,** Pleasant Valley, NY, Donated jacket
Line Lazer III w/ self propelled, & Line Lazer 3000 Walk Behind
- **GreenTech, Inc.,** Richmond, Va - Turf Modules
- ***JDL Equipment,** Doylestown, Pa, Donated \$30
Topline TXE battery Powered Limemarker

"Welcome New & Renewed SFMANJ Members"

Our membership is growing fast. Currently we have 230 members. If you haven't renewed your membership send in the membership form from this newsletter or call (908) 236-9118.

Steve	Blehl	Environmental Renewal, LLC
Vincent	Bono	College of Staten Island
Bob	Borelli	Northern Nurseries
Cathy	Brown	Ferti-Soil Turf Supply
Charles	Bullerjohn Jr.	Jonathan Green
Dennis	DeSanctis	Finch Turf Equip
Salvatore	Fama	Sherwin Williams Co.
Brandon	Fezenko	Mulch Pro Inc
Fred	Goble	Washington Township(Morris)
Brian	McCormick	College of Staten Island
Brian	Meola	Washington Township(Morris)
Pedro	Perdomo*	Rutgers University Extension
Jeff	Prosser	Prosser Sports Field Services
Steve	Ratto	Bergen County Dept. of Parks
Walter	Ricciardi	Ricciardi Bros., Inc.
Marc	Russo	Lesco
David	Smith	Ferti-Soil Turf Supply
Scott	Van Demark	Mahwah Board of Education

- **Leon's Sod Farm,** Pittstown, NJ - Donated sod
- **Mid-State Equipment Co.,** Titusville, NJ - Kubota Zero turn
- **Millcreek Manufacturing Co.,** New Holland, Pa
Millcreek Turf Tiger
- ***Moyer & Son,** Plant Nutrients, Souderton, Pa
Donated \$100 gift certificate for products
- ***National Seed,** New Brunswick, NJ
Donated seed & Home Depot certificate
- **Pennington Sales & Services/John Deere Co.**
N Pennington, NJ John Deere 1600 Turbo wide
- ***Prosser Equip. Co. LLC,** Pennington, NJ
Bannerman BA600 Core & Bannerman Fracture Tine Aerator,
BTD 20 & Earthquake Soil Decompactor & Orbit Screener
Donated 20ft. aluminum retractable flag pole w/ flag
- ***Rutgers Extension Service,** Cook College, New Brunswick
- ***Sherwin Williams Co.,** Edison, NJ
Donated 6 Yankee tickets and parking pass
- **Simplet Partners,** Pine Bush, NY, Donated a windshirt
- ***Storr Tractor Company,** Somerville, NJ
Aeravator AVS/Dingo & Toro GM4000 & Toro GM3500
Toro Workman Donated time and equipment & electric trimmer
- ***S.T.S. by Saul Brothers,** Livingston, NJ
Deep Time & Drill & Fill
- **Terre Company,** Clifton, NJ
Donated seed & an array of tools
- ***Till Paint Company,** Woodbury Hts., NJ
Field Painters, Donated 5 gal. line paint
- ***Wilfred MacDonald Inc.,** So. Hackensack, NJ
Turfco CR-10 Topdresser & Redexim Vertidrain-Smithco
Super Star AFC, National IS-22 Walkbehind Striping
Rotary
Donated an Husqvaens electric weed trimmer ▲

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEW JERSEY RECREATION & PARKS ASSOC.

September 25 – Skatepark Risk Management Workshop - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
 Red Hill Activity Center, Middletown, NJ
 Contact: NJRPA at (732) 568-1270
 Registration: \$80.00 NJRPA member, \$100.00 non member

NEW JERSEY TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

December 10-12 - New Jersey Turf and Landscape Expo 2002, Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ. (Athletic Field Educational Sessions begin Wed., Dec. 11 from 4pm to 6pm. & Thurs. Dec. 12 from 10am to 3:30pm with annual SFMANJ meeting at 1pm, Thursday).

Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm

Outreach Field Day in Cooperation with SFMANJ

October 10 – at Snyder Farm in Pittstown, NJ from 11:30am to 3:30pm. See Turfgrass demonstration plots, earn pesticide credits and discuss drought issues. Lunch included. Watch for registration forms in the mail soon or call with question at (908) 713-8980 (See page 4)
 Members \$15.00
 Non-Members \$25.00

“A Look at the Growth Cycle & Field Care of Grass Seed” by Mark Sellman, Simplot/Jacklin Seed

Planted in the spring, the seed is laid in narrow rows by a special grass seed drill. Normal irrigation and fertilization follows stand establishment. About 16 months following planting, the first crop is harvested. Subsequent harvests are possible every year thereafter until field age results in a yield decrease. A typical year in the cycle of a mature grass field is illustrated below:

1. IRRIGATION

Field irrigation of the seed begins in early April. The seed has now passed its winter dormancy and started its vertical growth. Irrigation continues through late June, when the seed matures.

2. WEED CONTROL

After establishment of the grass, weeds are sprayed with various chemicals to insure weed-free fields, producing high quality seed. Oftentimes fields are weeded by hand in the spring if a selected chemical is not available for successful weed control. If weed problems arise in mature fields, they are quickly solved by spring or fall herbicidal applications.

3. FIELD ROGUING

Rouging (the weeding out of foreign plants and inferior or diseased seed heads) continues from spring through early June. Continued on page 15.....

Athletic Field Maintenance and Renovation Field Day

October 10, 2002

11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

At Snyder Research & Extension Farm

Sponsored by:

Rutgers University Sports Turf Outreach Program in cooperation with the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey will hold a fall field day at the Rutgers University Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Hunterdon County New Jersey.

Registration Fee: \$15.00 for SFMANJ members \$25.00 for non members

Featuring:

Lunch Included

➤ **Tours And Discussions Of Turfgrass Demonstration Plots**

1. Summer athletic field renovation programs including irrigated and non irrigated comparisons in high wear and low wear areas
2. Weed control programs including summer crabgrass control in established and new seedings
3. Fall wear tolerance of summer seeded ryegrass and tall fescue and impact of top dressing and fertility on wear tolerance established tall fescue and ryegrass
4. Low maintenance tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass varietal comparisons
5. Constructed wetlands demonstration site as a water runoff filtration and control system and wildlife habitat area

➤ **The Drought Of 2002** – Open discussion period reviewing issues related to water conservation and turfgrass management

➤ **NJDEP Pesticide Credits** – Core 3 Credits & 3b-1Credit, 6b, 8b-1 Credit, pp2-1 Credit

➤ (Calibration, Drift Control and Applicator Safety)

Directions

FROM NORTH: Take I-78 to Exit 15. Turn left (south) at bottom of exit ramp onto Pittstown Road (Route 513S). Stay on Pittstown Road for approximately 6 miles (**DO NOT TURN WHEN ROUTE 513 BEARS RIGHT**). Turn left onto Locust Grove Road at Rutgers sign. Snyder Farm is 1/2 mile on the left.

FROM SOUTH: Take Route 202/31 North to the Flemington traffic circle. Take Route 12 West at circle. Go approximately 5 miles to Pittstown Road (second right after Texaco Gas Station). Turn right (north) and go 3.5 miles to Locust Grove Road (look for Rutgers sign) and turn right. Snyder Farm is 1/2 mile on the left.

*** Any questions Call Snyder Research & Extension Farm at (908) 713-8980**

Watch your mailbox. Registration forms will be in the mail shortly.

"Give It What It Needs"

Address for Success by Jim Hermann CSFM

Late summer is the ideal time to address the needs of your turf. A yearly soil test in August will give you the foundation with which to develop your overall turf management strategy. Be sure to achieve and maintain the proper pH in the soil along with optimum levels of the major nutrients such as phosphorous and potassium. These two nutrients are especially important this time of year for among other reasons, root development and recovery from results of any drought stress imposed during the prolonged hot dry weather most of us have been experiencing.

With the onset of cooler nights and higher levels of soil moisture, a healthy application of nitrogen along with P & K indicated by your soil test will help to jumpstart the turf and promote the growth necessary to help withstand the inevitable pounding caused by fall sports. Be aware of the different nitrogen sources and utilize a source or combination of sources that compliment your fertility strategy. A slow release nitrogen source is especially important this time of year to minimize burn potential and provide a longer lasting benefit.

In addition to soil fertility, aeration is also just as or more important this time of year as it is any other time of year. With the early onset of dry conditions most athletic fields were not aerated at the end of the spring season. Many facilities have had summer activities, which further add to the compaction of the fields. Effective soil aeration at this time of year will benefit literally all the functions of the turf necessary to develop a deep strong root system and dense more durable turf cover. Caution should be exercised when aeration is followed up with fertilization. The potential for burn from both fast acting nitrogen and potassium is further increased at this time. These materials should be watered in immediately after application. If water is not an option, a slow release form of nitrogen would again be recommended. Potassium sulfate as apposed to potassium chloride, would be recommended as a potassium source due to the lower salt index and burn potential of the material.

An application slowly but surely taking a foothold in the sports turf community is topdressing. I am a firm believer in the benefits of topdressing. In my opinion, with the current turf conditions we are experiencing, topdressing can aid in the protection of the new turf currently developing from the seemingly dead brown crowns. Along with providing this protection, an application of a "compatible" material can aid in the moisture holding capacity of the soil. Many fields that don't have the benefit of irrigation are currently dangerously hard. Topdressing of a 1/4" or so in conjunction with aeration can provide a little safety cushion to the players. Improved soil seed contact is another benefit when topdressing is incorporated into your overseeding program.

As I walked many of the fields I maintain over the past few months, in many cases, the only green I came upon was of the broadleaf variety. Weeds have the upper hand when it comes to hot and dry. If you have been diligent with your IPM pest control program, spot weed control is probably all that will be necessary to control current weed populations. If a blanket application is indicated, be careful not to make the application to turf that is still under drought stress. Also, do not apply weed control to an area where you anticipate overseeding in the near future. In this situation it becomes a judgment call as

to whether existing weed populations are such that they will significantly affect the success of overseeding. If weed populations are excessive, weed control should take the front seat with an application as soon as possible, followed by seeding, timed according to the label recommendations of the weed control product. If weed populations are such that you feel they will not significantly affect the new seeding they can be dealt with after the fact when the new turf has been mowed a few times.

"Overseeding" and "turf renovation" are two very broad terms defining procedures whose individual components are left to the discretion of the turf manager. A persistent, well thought out overseeding program is sometimes the determining factor in the improvement or maintenance of existing field quality. Although we many times become disheartened over the course of a typical season, persistence is the key. Periodic overseeding of the wear areas has proven to improve turf density and playability of the turf.

Continued on page 14.....

ATHLETIC TURF BOOKS RECEIVE 20% OFF FROM "Ann Arbor Press/Sleeping Bear Press"

- \$64 – Sports Fields: A Manual for Design, Const. & Maint.
- \$48 – Fundamentals of Turfgrass Management
- \$56 – Destructive Turfgrass Insect Pests
- \$76 – Color Atlas of Turfgrass Diseases
- \$28 – Mathematics of Turfgrass Maintenance
- \$28 – Picture Perfect Mowing Techniques
- \$48 – Practical Drainage
- \$16 – Turfgrass Mgmt Info Directory
- \$48 – IPM Handbook for Golf Courses

Order from our website at www.sfmanj.org to receive your discount, just use the link for books or call (734) 475-4411. Don't forget to say you read it in "SFMANJ Update".

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"Seven Traits of Effective Leaders"

1. **Make others feel important:** If your goals and decisions are self-centered, followers will lose their enthusiasm quickly. Emphasize their strengths and contributions, not your own.
2. **Promote a vision:** Followers need a clear idea of where you're leading them, and they need to understand that the goal is valuable to them. Your job as a leader is to provide that vision.
3. **Follow the Golden Rule:** Treat your followers the way you enjoy being treated. An abusive leader attracts few loyal listeners.
4. **Admit mistakes:** If people suspect that your covering up your own errors, they'll hide mistakes too. You'll also lose valuable information needed for making decisions.
5. **Criticize others only in private:** Public praise encourages others to excel, but public criticism only embarrasses and alienates everyone.
6. **Stay close to the action:** You need to be visible to the members of your organization. Talk to people, visit other offices and work sites, ask questions, and observe how business is being handled. Often you will gain new insights into your work and find new opportunities for motivating your followers.
7. **Make a game of competition:** The competitive drive can be a valuable tool if you use it correctly. Set team goals, and reward members who meet or exceed them. Examine your failures, and celebrate your group's success. ▲

Source: Sensible Software Inc., ClipNotes, The Toastmaster

Drainage:

"Why Your Field May Not Be Performing" by Dr. John Stier, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The majority of the problem fields I've seen were caused at least in part due to poor drainage issues. Poor drainage reduces turf growth and rooting, resulting in thin turf that is less resistant to wear which ultimately gives way to bare soil and weeds. There are two types of drainage: internal and surface. Internal drainage is a function of the soil type(s), compaction, water table, and organic matter. While sand-based root zones may be capable of draining more than 1" water per hour, most native soils have internal drainage rates of less than 0.1 to 0.25 inches per hour. In many fields with poor drainage there is at least one incompatible soil layer. Such layers are commonly installed by well-meaning developers during construction. Placing a fine-textured soil (i.e., topsoil) over a coarse-textured soil (i.e., sand) prevents water from being readily able to percolate downward and keeps the water near the surface. A common mistake is to place 1-3 inches of "black dirt" on top of the existing soil in an attempt to provide enriched soil for turf roots. If this problem exists at your site, the best way to correct it short of scraping off the turf and "black dirt" is to core aerate several times annually to "mix" the soil layers.

Surface drainage is often overlooked for its importance in sports turf. Developers tend to disregard the need for surface drainage in order to please vocal coaches who demand a "flat" field for better play. Developers ought to know better—anyone who has ever built a home or had a home inspected for purchase has been made aware of the need for proper grade to drain water away from the home. In many cases surface drainage will be more important than internal drainage. To provide sufficient surface drainage, fields must be built with a 1-2% crown. Though coaches, particularly soccer, insist a crown will ruin players' ability to see the ball and will interfere with the game, it will not do so to any appreciable extent. We have built a field for FIFA (Federation Internationale de Futbol) for the 1994 World Cup soccer championship which had a crown, and the players as well as FIFA officials pronounced the field "perfect". We just never told them it had a crown. If the situation (e.g., coaches) don't allow a crowned field, build a flat field with a 1-2% slope. The area to which the water drains may need a tile or gravel trench designed to drain the water off-site. ▲

For more information on drainage, see the new book "Practical Drainage for 'golf, Sportsturf, and Horticulture" published by Ann Arbor Press (SFMANJ members receive 20% off by ordering through our web-site at www.sfmanj.org).

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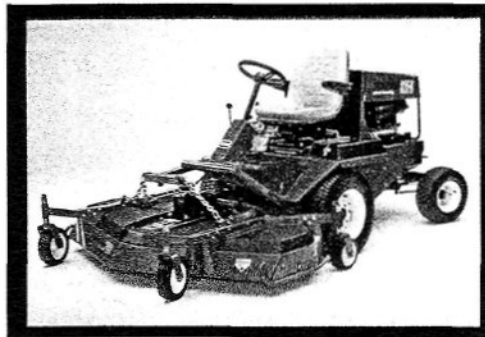
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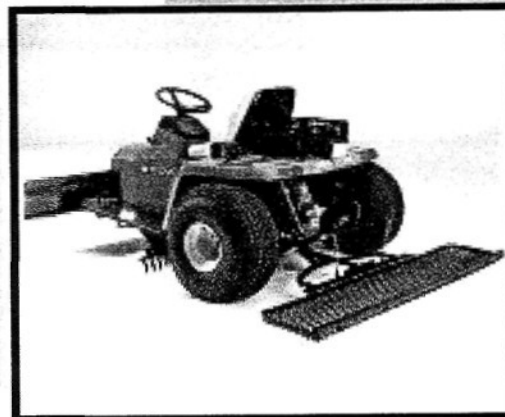
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First Annual Problem Solving Contest

First prize - \$150 w/ 1 yr. membership SFMANJ
Second prize - \$75
Third prize - \$50
Who is eligible? SFMANJ members
All forms must be postmarked by November 27th, 2002

Responding to "Problems" is recognized as a critical component of sports field management. Whether it's overuse, misuse, vandalism etc. dealing with problems in a proactive manner is a critical component of sports field playability. Problem solving-problem resolution can be applied to many aspects of sports field management. Sports Field Managers on a routine basis deal with agronomic issues, coaches, staff, parent organizations and administrators. Problem solving can be simple or complex in nature.

Problem solving contest rules: All contestants must use this format:

1. State The Problem: In 12 font, 85 words or less tell us what the problem was and why the problem developed.
2. Describe The Method Implemented To Solve The Problem: In 12 font, 170 words or less tell us the steps employed to address this problem in the order that you dealt with the problem. Describe stumbling blocks and how you managed to deal with them.
3. Share With Us The Results Of Your Problem Solving Effort: In 12 font, 100 words or less tell us how your problem solving efforts enhanced the goals of your program.

4. Tell us if your were recognized for your efforts in solving the problem, who recognized you and how were you recognized. If no one recognized your efforts tell us that also, it will not affect the selection of winners in the contest.
5. You may send pictures but they are not mandatory.

Please mail completed problem solving form to:
SFMANJ Problem Solving Contest, Dr. John Grande
Rutgers Snyder Research Farm
104 Locust Grove Rd.
Pittstown, NJ 08867

Winners will be announced at the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo at the athletic field session on December 12 at the Business Meeting, 1pm. (see Calendar of Events)

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STMA Members deduct \$10)

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SFMANJ

P.O. Box 370

Annandale, NJ 08801

NOMINATIONS WANTED FOR SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2003

Here is your chance to have a voice in 2003-04 leadership of the SFMANJ. We are now accepting nominations for Board of Directors.

There are 12 people representing Parks & Recreation, Schools, Colleges, Professional DPW, Facilities, Education/Extension, Commercial/Contractors and Buildings & Grounds who serve on the chapters' Board of Directors. Each Director serves a two year term beginning January 1, 2003. There are six openings. A nomination committee will select members based on the following criteria:

1. Have been interested and active in SFMANJ (a member in good standing)
2. Are proven leaders
3. Are representative of the entire organization, both professionally and geographically
4. Are willing to commit time to the development of our organization
5. Understand when accepting this nomination you are expected to attend one meeting a month (evening), be a Chairperson of one committee, report on that committee at the monthly meeting and help with field days.

If you or someone you know are interested in serving on the Board of Directors fax or send your name, address, phone where you can be reached. E-mail or fax by Oct. 25, 2002 to:
SFMANJ

PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801 or fax to 908-236-9118 ▲

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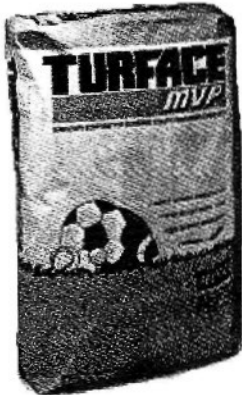
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DID YOU KNOW? New Turf Pest Fact sheets are available at your county Rutgers Cooperative Extension office or on the web at: www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs

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EXPO 2002 & YOU!

The New Jersey Turfgrass & Landscape Expo 2002 will be held at Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort, Atlantic City, NJ on December 10, 11, & 12th. The turfgrass industry continues to grow and prosper. Plan to join the annual trade show and education convocation.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey will hold, for the 3rd year, the sports turf educational sessions. Because of the great response last year we have been given an additional ½ day of educational classes. Classes begin Wednesday, Dec. 11th at 4pm – 6pm and Thursday, the 12th at 10am to 3:30pm. Our Business meeting and elections for Board of Directors will be held at 1pm. Thursday.

(SFMANJ members may vote at this meeting). Pesticide credits will be given both days.

Topics include:

- "Successes in Athletic Field Improvements",. Four speakers from a municipality, university, extension service and high school will share with you their experiences on athletic field renovations.
- "Developing an IPM Program for Athletic Fields" (Pesticide credits)
- "Athletic Field Problems and Their Solutions in the UK"
- "Mowing Management as it Effects Turf Quality"
- "Recognition of Performance, The Sports Turf Management Certification Program & The STMA Survey Update"
- "Expectations of Athletic Fields from the Prospective of the Coach, Engineer/Architect, Administration, Sports Field Manager, Contractor Services. (This is a panel which will include discussion/questions).
- "Keeping up to Date on Pesticide Regulations"(pesticide credits)

Sports Turf Managers and any person involved in the Turf industry are encouraged to attend. Schools and municipalities, this is a good time to ask your supervisor for a chance to enhance your knowledge to help you improve your athletic fields. Watch for more information to follow. ▲