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(continued on page 7)

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This newsletter is the official bi-monthly publication of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

**For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
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~A Look Back at Expo 2006~

Brad Park*

The 31st Annual New Jersey Turf and Landscape Conference and Expo was held December 5-7, 2006 at the Trump Taj Mahal. Presented by New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) and New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association (NJLCA), cooperating organizations include Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey (GCSANJ), Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), and Rutgers University.

Expo 2006 featured talks on synthetic infill fields delivered by Dr. A.J. Powell, University of Kentucky, and Joel Taylor, Haddon Township Board of Education. Dr. Powell discussed his investigation into the cost comparisons between natural and synthetic fields. Joel Taylor followed by describing his positive and negative experiences managing a synthetic infill system one year after installation.

School IPM was the focus of Tuesday afternoon, December 5. The concepts of turfgrass IPM and indoor IPM procedures were described by Rutgers University representatives Brad Park and Dr. George Hamilton, respectively. Mr. Bruce Reimbold, NJ DEP, followed by discussing the intricacies of the School IPM law as well as fielded questions from the audience. To conclude the session, Rich Watson, Pine Hill Schools, and George Van Haasteren, Dwight-Englewood School participated on a panel and shared their experiences in implementing the School IPM law at their locations.

For the second year in a row, Expo featured an Early Bird Sports Field Managers Networking Roundtable on Wednesday morning, December 6. This year's roundtable was again a success as attendees shared their thoughts on potential programming for Expo 2007.

Ken Mathis, SFMANJ Past-President, presided over the Association's annual business meeting on Wednesday afternoon, December 6 and randomly selected the "Sponsor in the Spotlight" from the list of Proud Sponsors published in every issue of *Update*. The Sponsor the Spotlight is awarded a one-half back-page ad in this issue of *Update*. The Sponsor in the Spotlight featured in this issue is Ben Shaffer & Associates, Inc.

Recognition of participation and achievement was the theme of the annual business meeting. Those boards of education and municipal agencies that submitted Field of the Year entries were acknowledged with certificates by Karl "Chuckie" Singer, SFMANJ Board Member. Bob Walker, Borough of South River Department of Public Works was presented with a plaque recognizing his hard work in making the Edward Grekowski Park baseball field in South River the 2006 SFMANJ Field of the Year Winner. Ryan Radcliffe, SFMANJ Board Member, presented Jon Bokmeyer, a Rutgers PhD candidate conducting research on wear tolerance in tall fescue, with a SFMANJ student member scholarship.

The Expo 2006 trade show proved to be an excellent location to investigate the latest product offering from green industry vendors, network with other industry professionals, and take advantage of the complimentary food and drink. This year's trade show was unique in that the NJTA-NJLCA partnership brought new vendors to the trade show floor and subsequently introduced attendees to new products and services.

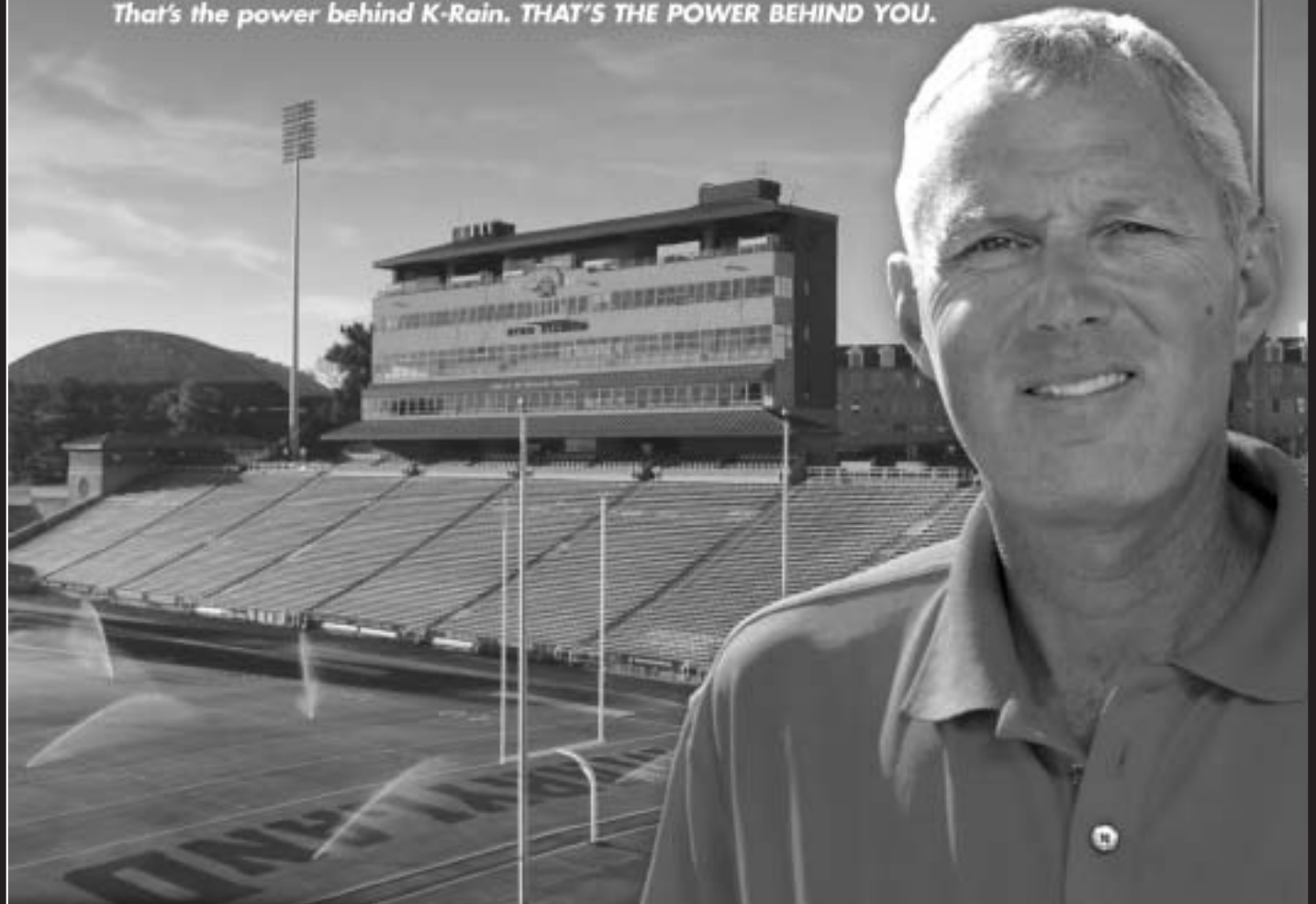
As this January/February issue of *Update* is being assembled, printed, and mailed, Expo 2007 is already in the early stages on planning. SFMANJ and other organizations involved with Expo hope to see everyone in Atlantic City in December 2007 for 32nd Annual New Jersey Turf and Landscape Conference and Expo.

* Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coord., Rutgers University; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

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**Dr. Henry W. Indyk
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As many of you know, the turfgrass industry lost a dear friend and colleague in September 2005. We will all miss Henry very much and would like to insure that his legacy lives on. The Indyk family would like to establish a memorial fellowship to support graduate students interested in applied turfgrass science. This fellowship is being created to help assure that tomorrow's graduate students have the financial resources to get an advanced degree in turfgrass science at Rutgers University. To fund a full graduate assistantship each year in Henry's name, we will need to raise a total of \$400,000. Your generous support at this time will bring us closer to reaching this goal.

To make a tax-deductible contribution today, please send a check payable to the Rutgers University Foundation, 7 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Be sure to indicate "Indyk Fellowship, Turfgrass" in the memo portion of your check. If you desire, you may provide a donation in the form of a pledge payable over several years.

For information on other ways to support this fellowship, please contact Dr. Bruce B. Clarke, Director - Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science (732-932-9400, ext. 331; or clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu) or John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling (732) 932-7899 or email: pearson@wirants.rutgers.edu



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WINTER SPORTS FIELD TIPS

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 1½ 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.

*James A. Murphy, PhD. is Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University; and SFMANJ Advisor



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SFMANJ awarded a Rutgers student a scholarship at the 2006 Rutgers Awards Banquet on November 4, 2006 on Cook Campus. Dan Purner (r), Rutgers Student and SFMANJ member, was presented a scholarship by Brad Park (l), Rutgers University and Editor, SFMANJ Update at the banquet.

DID YOU KNOW?
 Of the total acreage consisting of turfgrass in New Jersey in 2001, 76% was associated with households, 18% was categorized as "other sectors" (including parks, schools, houses of worship, airports, highways, and businesses), and 3% was golf courses.
-NJ Turfgrass Industry Economic Survey

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EXPO 2006 PHOTO RECAP

Jon Bokmeyer, PhD candidate in Plant Science, Rutgers University, received a SFMANJ scholarship at Expo 2006 in Atlantic City. A component of Jon's research involves wear tolerance of tall fescue cultivars. Pictured (l-r): Ryan Radcliffe, Lakewood Blueclaws and SFMANJ Board Member; Jon Bokmeyer, SFMANJ Scholarship recipient and SFMANJ member; and Karl "Chuckie" Singer, City of Bayonne, and SFMANJ Board Member.



With the Rutgers vs. Kansas State Texas Bowl emblem as a backdrop, Ken Mathis, Past-President, SFMANJ, conducted the Association's annual business meeting at Expo 2006.



Fred Castenschild (l), Storr Tractor Co. and SFMANJ Board Member presents a plaque to Steve Fischer (r), Turf Course Superintendent, Monmouth Park Racetrack in recognition of Monmouth Park's hosting of the 2006 SFMANJ Spring Field Day held on April 13, 2006.



Robert Walker (center) is presented with a plaque during SFMANJ's annual business meeting at Expo 2006 recognizing his hard work in making the Edward A Grekoski Park baseball field, South River, NJ the Field of the Year in 2006.