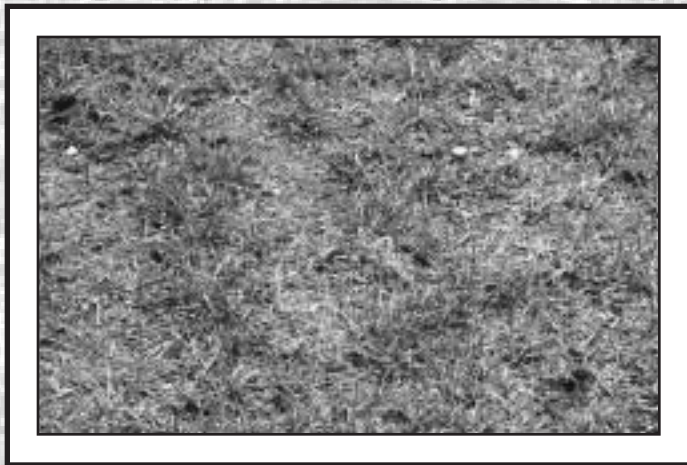


view 2007~

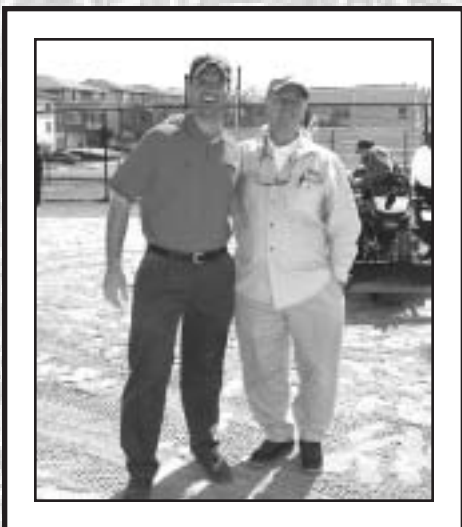
iversity and Editor, SFMANJ Update Newsletter



There has been a significant increase in the use of netted sod for sports field in New Jersey raising concerns over athletic safety and owner and sod grower liability.



A large crowd was on-hand to observe the latest sports turf equipment demonstrated at the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Research Field Day held at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Center, Adelphia, NJ on August 1, 2007.



Brad Park, Rutgers University (l) and Floyd Perry, nationally-known speaker and sports turf guru (r) at a Storr Tractor sponsored-event in Bergen County, NJ in March 2007.



Has the crop circle phenomenon invaded the sports turf world? Even though you may "want to believe", don't attribute aliens to this one. A poorly operating irrigation system can be blamed for the circular patterns of wilting turf on this North Jersey sports field.



The morning before a big game, the American flag flies proudly behind the baseball field at Spotswood High School, Spotswood, NJ.

Calendar of Events

NJ Turf & Landscape Conference and Expo 2007

December 4-6, 2007
Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort
Atlantic City, NJ
www.njturfgrass.org

SFMANJ Synthetic Turf Forum

December 12, 2007
Rutgers University - Cook Campus Center
New Brunswick, NJ
www.sfmanj.org

Sports Turf Managers Association 19th Annual Conference and Exhibition

January 15-19, 2008
Phoenix, AZ
www.stma.org

Three-Day Athletic Field Construction and Maintenance

February 19-21, 2008
Rutgers University - Office of Continuing
Professional Education
New Brunswick, NJ
732-932-9271

Understanding Synthetic Fields

March 6, 2008
Rutgers University - Office of Continuing
Professional Education
New Brunswick, NJ
732-932-9271

Baseball/Softball Infield Skin Construction and Management

March 12, 2008
Rutgers University - Office of Continuing
Professional Education
New Brunswick, NJ
732-932-9271



Dennis DeSanctis, Sr.

Cell: 610-608-3181
Office: 610-327-3390
Fax: 610-327-0581
ddesanctis@aer-core.com

1486 S. Hanover St. • Pottstown, PA 19465 • www.aer-core.com

Specialized Turfgrass Services

- Deep Tine - Solid and Coring
- Drill & Fill
- BLEC Ground Breaker Linear Aeration
- Traditional Shallow Coring
- Sandmaster Drainage
- Top Dressing
- Seeding
- Verti-Cutting
- Total Regrassing

Equipment

Wiedenmann Aerifiers • Dakota Top Dressers • Artificial Turf Groomers • BLEC

many items available
on NJ State Contract

BEN SHAFFER & ASSOCIATES Inc.

Toll Free

1-800-953-2021

sales@benshaffer.com

www.benshaffer.com



PARK, PLAYGROUND & STREETScape SOLUTIONS



- Bleachers
- Benches
- Bases
- Sports Equipment

- Tennis
Nets

- Sport
Goals

- Water
Fountains



and much more!

Experience the Ben Shaffer Difference
Serving NJ since 1921

AERATION: The Root of all "Good"

By Jim Gates, Jim Gates & Co., Inc.

Webster defines aeration as supplying or impregnating the soil with air. As turf managers, we know it is much more than that. Aeration is the process that allows respiration for the roots. Without proper aeration, soil oxygen is depleted and a build-up of carbon dioxide and other toxic gasses occurs. Adequate soil aeration is needed to create a healthy environment for the turfgrass roots and plant – and the beneficial microbes living in the soil.

Soil compaction is one of the most serious problems turf managers must deal with. When the soil porosity is reduced, irrigation is not as effective, organic matter decomposition is slowed, and the nutrients are not used effectively.

What causes the compaction? Running turf maintenance equipment on fields and foot traffic are the main causes of compaction. A black layer develops in the soil profile that the root system cannot penetrate. There are a number of mechanical methods available to remove the black layer. Slicing machines such as the Groundbreaker or the Vertiquake put a vertical slice in the ground and then heave the ground horizontally which fractures the soil in another direction creating the needed air space for gas exchange drainage and efficient use of nutrients. Slicing machines allow for soil penetration up to about ten inches, allowing the root system to develop deeper to provide a healthier turf.

Instead of using blades for deep tine aeration, other machines use solid or coring tines. The solid tines are capable of penetrating regularly maintained turf up to 16 inches with a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to a 1 inch hole. Most of these machines have a kick to fracture the soil further and allow for better drainage and gas and nutrient exchange.

Coring tines are another option. These are especially useful when you are trying to change the soil profile. Cores can be pulled and the soil recycled. Topdressing, then sweeping the new materi-

als into the core holes makes for an enhanced way to change the soil profile.

For optimum results, the deep tine aeration should be done early spring and late fall. These methods are more aggressive than other methods including slicing and use of pencil tines.

The slicing aeration can be used in between the deep tine aeration to stimulate the root growth and encourage the roots to go deeper. This aids the turf in the time of drought when the moisture is far below the surface. The latest innovation to enhance root growth is a system that actually injects air into the soil with hollow tines that have air holes on each side of the tine. This is the way the soil is penetrated from the top and then fractured side to side giving the roots new directions to spread.

There are so many good mechanical devices on the market for aeration which truly enhance the root growth and lead to healthier turf. All you need is the time and money to do it. By having a healthier root system you reduce the need for chemicals and water.

*Jim Gates is President, Jim Gates & Co., Inc.;
and SFMANJ Treasurer*

DID YOU KNOW?

A rhizome is an underground elongated stem (or shoot) with scale leaves and adventitious roots arising from the nodes.



PHILADELPHIA TURF COMPANY

Fifty-five dedicated people with the best parts, products and service for the green industry in Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and New Castle County Delaware.

Phone: 215-345-7200

Fax: 215-345-8132

Web: www.phillyturf.com

Mail: Box 865

Doylestown, PA 18901-0865

Ship: 4049 Landisville Road

Doylestown, PA 18901

- Beam Clay®
- Baseball Diamond Mix
- Pitcher's Mound Mix
- Home Plate Mix
- Infield Conditioner
- Mound Bricks
- Mound Top-Dressings
- Permanent Pitcher's Mound
- & Batter's Box Pads
- Warning Track
- Pro's Choice®
- Diamond Pro®
- Stabilizer®
- Hilltopper®
- Diamond Dry®
- Nail Drags & Scarifiers
- Drag Mats
- Cocoa Mats
- Infield Grooming Equip.
- Mound Bricks
- Mound Building Tools
- Batter's Box Templates
- Cleat Cleaners
- Batting Practice Screens
- Batting Practice Mats
- Backstops
- Batting Cages
- Batting Tunnels

YOUR "ONE-STOP SOURCE" FOR AMERICA'S BASEBALL & SPORTS TURF SURFACES & SUPPLIES!



A SUPPLIER TO EVERY MLB TEAM,
OVER 150 MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS,
OVER 700 COLLEGES AND THOUSANDS OF
TOWNS & SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE!

800-247-BEAM (2326)
www.BEAMCLAY.com

OVER 200 INFIELD & SPORTS TURF PRODUCTS
INCLUDING REGIONAL INFIELD MIXES & RED WARNING TRACKS
BLENDED FOR EVERY STATE & CLIMATE
FROM BULK PLANTS NATIONWIDE!

PARTAC PEAT CORPORATION - KELSEY PARK, GREAT MEADOWS, NJ 07838

"The best infield mix I've ever used!"
— GEORGE TOMA

- FenceGuards™
- DuraPad™
- On-Deck Circles
- Hollywood® & Schutt® Bases
- Rogers® Break-Away Bases
- Soft-Touch™ Bases
- Mautz® Athletic Field Paints
- Athletic Field Stencils
- MarkSmart™
- Layout Systems
- Jifty® Line Strippers
- Field Marking
- Equipment & Material
- Permanent Foul Lines
- Yankee® Rakes
- Midwest Rakes
- Rain Covers
- Safety Fencing
- Windscreen
- Wall Padding
- Ball & Barrier Netting
- Benches / Bleachers
- Watering Equipment
- Water Removal Equipment
- Geotextile Fabrics
- Top-Dressing

The Sports Turf Manager as a Crisis Communicator

Sports Turf Managers Association Editorial Staff

Perhaps you will never be faced with responding to a crisis. But, if you ever have an athlete get injured during play, an employee who gets hurt on the job, a disgruntled employee, a weather related disaster, or an environmental incident, you just might find yourself in the spotlight and under scrutiny.

As a manager of people, you may have to deal with an employee's death or illness, a sudden change in top management, or employee issues of sexual harassment. Each one of these can constitute a crisis. You must be prepared for that decisive moment when your response can lead the crisis to better or to worse. An initial negative perception is nearly impossible to reverse.

Crisis Communication Response Tips

- Respond within 24 hours.
- Don't point fingers.
- Always be available to the media.
- Be visible and on-site.
- Tell the absolute truth.
- Never say "no comment."

You are judged within the first 30 seconds of speaking if you and the information you are providing is trusted. Appearing empathetic and caring are the most important characteristics you can exhibit to show "trustworthiness". Your audience will also assess your competence, your honesty and your commitment. Your goal as a communicator is to demonstrate these attributes.

It is important to recognize that the media is usually more interested in covering opposing viewpoints and that bad news and conflict are more newsworthy. Most reporters are working under a tight deadline, have limited scientific and technical knowledge and can be a bit cynical. When preparing to talk with the media, address the principal underlying concern of the audience/questioner/listener keeping your responses short and concise.

In many crisis situations it is important to bring in a third party and to tell the media who you have contacted.

Crisis Communication Interviews

- Take control early by educating the reporter and correcting misunderstandings.
- Clarify the questions.
- Prepare two to three main messages.
- Give facts: who, what, when, where, but don't give how and why.
- Express your concern. Safety is always the top priority.
- Avoid jargon and do not use humor.
- Frame your answers in the positive.
- Tell how fast you responded, how much has been done and what you will do about it in the future.
- Thank or give appreciation to any assistance.
- Avoid words with negative connotations such as lethal, risky, deaths, maimed, toxic.
- Do not repeat the "charges" or any negative words, such as no, not, never.
- Be conscious of your body language. Do not place your hands in

a "fig leaf" in front or in back of you, but keep your hands/palms open and above the waist. Avoid touching your face, clasping or clenching your hands and pointing your fingers.

Remember these phrases.

You want to give a sense of more to come, which will help to establish your trustworthiness.

"What I can tell you is ..."

"So far, what we know is ..."

"So far, what we have done is ..."

"What we are planning to do next is ..."

"We will be able to tell you more when ..."

"I'll be glad to talk with you again after we conduct ..."

Source: Susan Santos, Ph.D., FOCUS GROUP, Medford, MA

Crisis Example and Response

Situation: *You have a major event that is being hosted in your stadium the next day. As a set of temporary bleachers is being installed, they collapse and your assistant has been critically injured. A reporter is at the stadium asking what happened and why, and if the event is taking place.*

Your first response must show concern for the worker and his family. "Our first concern is for Joe Smith and his family. Joe's safety and the safety of all of our workers is always our top priority. What we do know is that a temporary set of bleachers being installed here at King Stadium collapsed about an hour ago. Joe has been taken to Mercy Hospital."

So far, we have cordoned off the area to protect the public. A team of OSHA inspectors are on their way. We'll cooperate in any way to find out what happened. We have also called in a safety engineer to help. We will be able to tell you more about the accident after OSHA and our safety engineer has evaluated the situation.

Your response to whether or not the event will be held the next day depends upon your management teams' decision. If you are going ahead with it, you need to respond with how you are insuring fan safety: "We are going ahead with the concert tomorrow; however to insure the safety of our rock fans, we will be limiting the seating to the built-in seats in the stadium grandstands and offering on-the-floor seating in the end zone." If you are not going ahead, "We will not be holding the concert tomorrow. Fan safety is paramount and until we know why the bleachers collapsed, we will not be holding any events."

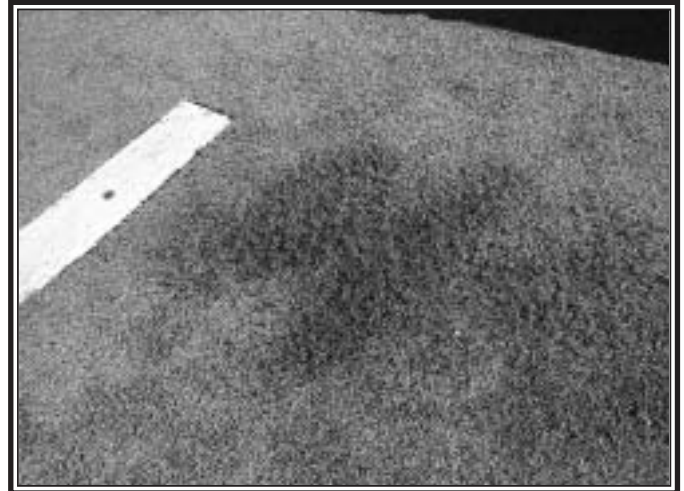
We appreciate the help of the city's emergency response team. I'll be glad to talk with you again when we know more.

Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS

SFMANJ District 4 Synthetic Infill Maintenance Day Photo Recap September 19, 2007 - Recchino Field Complex, Haddon Township, NJ



Not exactly seamless. District 4 Meeting attendees observe a large, not-easily-repairable seam in the playing surface of this synthetic infill system.



Significant fiber deterioration was evident directly in-front of the girls' softball pitching rubber.

(More photos on page 18)



Fisher & Son
COMPANY, INC.

Randy Rider
302-242-6848

Mike Oleykowski
609-410-0709

The "Green Industry" Supplier



BASF

Boyer

EarthWorks

Grigg Brothers

Lebanon Fertilizers

Plant Health Care

Prokaz

Syngenta

Superior Products for the Turf & Horticultural Professional!
110 Summit Drive * Exton, Pennsylvania 19341 * 610-363-5225 * fax 610-363-0563 www.fisherandson.com

Dual Slope Laser Grading



- Automated dual slope
- Accurate to .125" (1/8")
- 1 day service available
- Complete athletic field construction
- Bonded and insured
- Local references

Georgia Golf Construction, Inc.
1441 Route 50
Woodhine, NJ 08270
Tel (609)-628-2597 or (404)216-4445
Fax (609)-628-3087
www.georgiagolfconstruction.com

Increase your field's drainage and playability.

DID YOU KNOW?

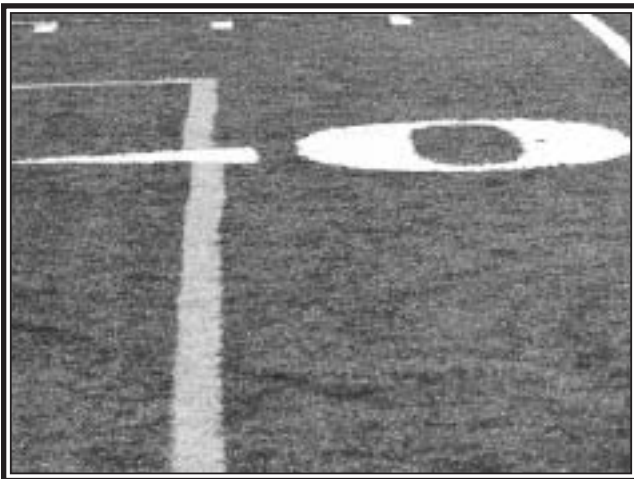
A *stolon* is an elongated stem (or shoot) that grows along the surface of the ground and from which leaves and adventitious roots develop at the nodes.

SFMANJ District 4

Synthetic Infill Maintenance Day Photo Recap

September 19, 2007 - Recchino Field Complex, Haddon Township, NJ

(more photos continued from page 17)



Crooked permanently in-laid lines could be found at various locations throughout this synthetic infill field.



A multitude of permanently in-laid lines designating the playing areas for several sports, painted lines, and use of skin infield-colored carpet for a softball field all in one area creates a visually confusing surface.

EVERGREEN™ Turf Blankets...
...trusted around the world!

**“Results Outstanding...,
Could Not Believe...”**

wrote **Dann Daly**, Park Maintenance Supervisor,
Parks & Recr. Dept., North Smithfield, RI

- Earlier spring green-up
- Faster seed germination
- Deeper root development
- Delays dormancy in fall
- Ideal winter blanket
- 3 & 7 yr. warranty covers
- Best for quick turf repairs
- Available in any size

Want to know more?
CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-387-5808

COVERMASTER™
COVERMASTER
COVERMASTER

MASTERS IN THE ART OF SPORTS SURFACE COVERS

COVERMASTER INC., 100 WESTMORE DR. 11-D, REXDALE, ON, M9V 5C3 TEL 416-745-1811 FAX 416-742-8837



Covers for football and soccer fields are also readily available.



Covered... Uncovered...



INCREASES ROOT DEVELOPMENT

It works on the greenhouse principle, every time!

covermaster.com

E-MAIL: info@covermaster.com



Turf Specialties, Inc.

Thatch Master Verti-Cut



- 4, 5, & 6 Feet Wide
- Carbide Tipped Blades
- Heavy Duty Construction
- Low Maintenance
- 2 Year Warranty



IMPROVING TURF FOR 15 YEARS

For Additional Information or Product CD

Phone: 1-800-201-1031

Email: ThatchMaster@turfspecialties.Net