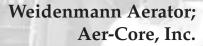
# FIELD DAY RECAP



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## SPORTS FIELD IRRIGATION AUDITS - PART II

(continued from page 8)

As a result of conducting an irrigation audit on my site, I was able to save over \$2,000.00 dollars in my irrigation budget and over 150 hours of my personal time.

Remember that the idea is to irrigate the soil, not the turf. Consider the concept of the soil as an H<sub>2</sub>O bank account for your turf. Just like your personal checking account, try to maintain a prudent balance of moisture in the root zone so as not to become overdrawn and stress the turf.

#### References

Delaware Cooperative Extension

Puhalla, J., J. Krans, and M. Goatley. 1999. Sports fields: A Manual for design, construction, and maintenance. Ann Arbor Press, Chelsea, MI.

> Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors

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## 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SFMANJ District 4

#### Synthetic Infill Maintenance Demonstration Day

September 19, 2007 Reccino Field Complex Haddon Township, NJ 908-730-7770 www.sfmani.org

## New Jersey State League of Municipalities 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

November 13-16, 2007 Atlantic City Convention Center Atlantic City, NJ www.njslom.org

### 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 2008 Conference

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



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# Use the Easiest Non-Verbal Communication Strategy to Enhance Your Professionalism

Sports Turf Managers Association Editorial Staff

Good communication is the cornerstone of great professional relationships. One communication strategy that is often overlooked is dress. How you dress is another way you communicate to your peers, your staff, your employer and the end users of your sports fields.

Dressing in a professional manner suggests that you are well organized and portrays self

confidence. The impression is of one who is knowledgeable and in control. (Wow, all of that from a pair of Dockers and a golf shirt!). Obviously, we aren't talking coat and tie — unless the occasion calls for it. When you are physically working beside your staff on the field, of course you will be wearing work clothing, but think about keeping a change of clothing at your office for meetings or when you will be spending several hours in the office more visible to your employer.

Consider providing collared staff shirts to bring a more unified appearance to your crew, but wear a different color shirt so that you are distinguishable as the manager in charge. Be conscious of what your clothing says about you — faded tee shirts promoting old rock groups may bring a bit of nostalgia to your day, but they do not do much to position you as a professional sports turf manager.

Impressions do count. According to Ollie Stevenson, author of 101 Great Answers to the Tough-

est Job Search Problems, found that in an interview situation, interviewers make an immediate overall judgment about you in the first **five** seconds. That applies to all first impressions. Five seconds isn't long so you are being judged on what you wear and how you react. Make the first five seconds count. Be dressed appropriately and remember, professionals do shake hands. Be sure your grip is firm and sincere and you make direct eye contact when you greet someone.

How do you dress for your chapter meetings? What type of role model are you for those who are just entering the profession and what type of message are you sending to them?

The job of a sports turf manager requires a strong knowledge of agronomy, pest management, environmental issues, sports strategies, and intimate knowledge of rules and regulations so that you can manage safe playing surfaces for your athletes. Be recognized for the knowledge, skills and abilities you bring to the game and garner the respect you deserve. Don't let a sloppy appearance downplay your importance when it is so easy to dress more professionally.

Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS



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