

# Field Day Wrap-up & Innovation Showcase

University and Editor, SFMANJ Update



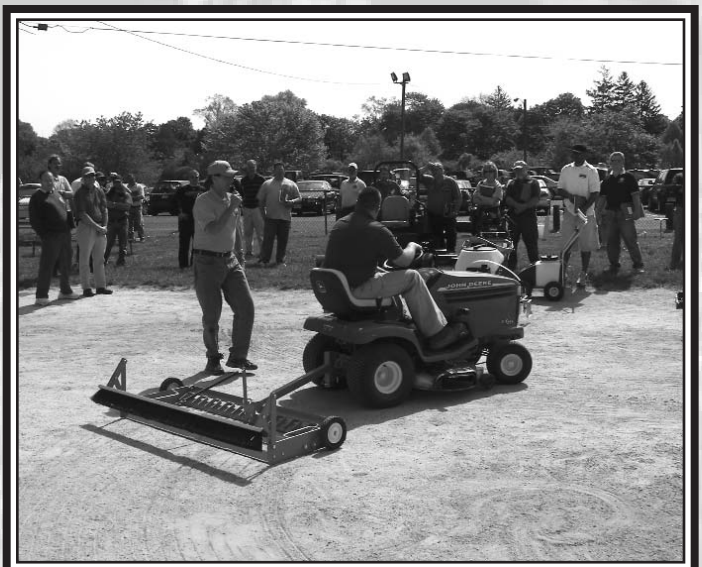
The complexities of irrigating Monmouth Park's oval-shaped thoroughbred turf track and a fixed inside rail necessitate the use of an innovative towline irrigation system.



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TurfTime Infield Float;  
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# SFMANJ Equipment Demonstrations at Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day at Adelphia Research Farm

*(continued from page 1)*

This is a great opportunity for SFMANJ members and other Green Industry professionals to network with peers and industry representatives, examine the latest product offerings at the trade show, and observe the most recent sports field and landscape equipment in action during demonstration tour stops. Education highlights include seeing major advances in turfgrass breeding, new herbicides for landscape turf, identification and control of major insect pests, and the latest strategies for disease control in lawns and sports fields. Pesticide credits will be available to those certified applicators in attendance.

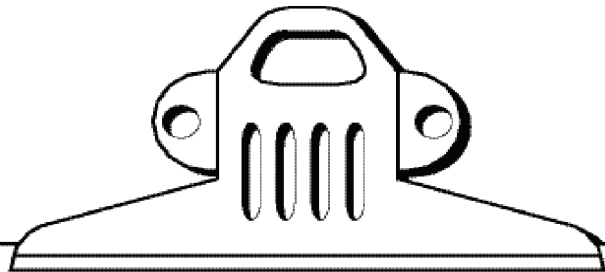
The schedule for July 30 is as follows:

**Adelphia Research Farm, Adelphia, NJ**

7:30 am	Registration and Trade Show Opening
9:00 am	Tours and Demos Begin
1:00 pm	Tours and Demos End
1:00 pm	Lunch

Look for registration materials in the mail. Online registration is currently available on the NJTA website: [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

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

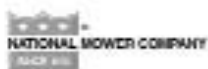


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# 2008 Calendar of Events

## STMA REGIONAL EDUCATION SEMINAR & FIELD DAY

June 27, 2008

Sports Turf Managers Association  
Lincoln Financial Field & Citizens Bank Park,  
Philadelphia, PA

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[www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org)

## 2008 RUTGERS GOLF AND FINE TURF RESEARCH FIELD DAY

July 29, 2008

New Jersey Turfgrass Association and Rutgers University  
Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ

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[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

## 2008 RUTGERS LAWN, LANDSCAPE, AND SPORTS TURF RESEARCH FIELD DAY

SFMANJ-sponsored trade show and equipment demos included

July 30, 2008

New Jersey Turfgrass Association and Rutgers University  
Adelphia Research Farm, Adelphia, NJ

**(973) 812-6467**

[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

## NEW JERSEY GREEN EXPO 2008

December 9-11, 2008

New Jersey Turfgrass Association  
Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort, Atlantic City, NJ

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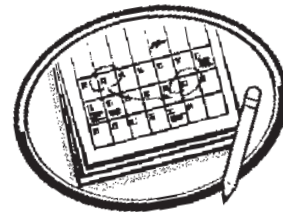
## STMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009

January 13-17, 2009

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# SOMETHING I TRIED THAT DIDN'T WORK. . .AND WHY!!!

By: Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Several years ago I had a number of puddles or "birdbaths" on a sports field. Every time it rained, water would collect in these low areas and would remain for up to 5 days. In order to make the field playable, I would pump the water out the puddle with a hand powered "puddle pump." Then I would run a leaf blower over the wet spot to dry it. Sometimes I would add calcined clay on top to help absorb the moisture. The problem was not getting better and I really needed a better solution.

One summer day, I had a dump truck load of screened topsoil delivered to my school. With a borrowed tractor, I set out to fix these puddles once and for all. Using the front end loader, I shuttled bucket load after bucket load of topsoil to the biggest and deepest puddle spots on my field. I dumped the topsoil right on the surface and worked the topsoil in, leveling and compacting the soil with the bucket and tractor wheels. I hand raked and smoothed each area. The next day I installed sod over each spot and began irrigating. We were careful not to traffic the sod with mowers or feet when it was wet.

As the summer progressed, the sod became established. The field was looking pretty good. About a week before the football pre-season was to begin, we had several heavy thunder showers. I was trying to mark and paint the field. As I was traversing the field with tape measure and string lines, I kept noticing that the new sod areas were really soft and mushy. A couple of days later, these

areas were still wet but the surrounding areas were firm. After subsequent rainstorms, these problem areas became worse. Football practice turned these areas into quagmire. After all that work and money spent, the repair was a failure.

## HERE IS WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY:

1. The sports field had been poorly graded and some settling had occurred following reconstruction 2 years previously.
2. The existing sports field soil texture was a silt loam. The screened topsoil that we brought in was a sandy loam soil.
3. [The screened topsoil was not blended with the existing soil, rather piled on top.
4. Light frequent irrigation was applied only on the new sod for establishment.
5. Soil saturation was not observed until the period of heavy thunder showers.

Here is what was happening. I had created something similar to a bowl of wet oatmeal but with grass growing on top! This "bowl" retained water longer than the surrounding soil. And because this "bowl" had sides, it could not drain laterally. I had placed a layer of sandy loam was on top of a layer of silt loam. Unfortunately, the silt loam underneath would absorb the water at a much slower rate.

*(continued on page 17)*

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**K**  
**RAIN.**

## SOMETHING I TRIED THAT DIDN'T WORK. . .AND WHY!!!

(continued from page 15)

The problem was solved when we renovated the field. First we stripped the sod off the field. Next we loosened the rootzone depth with a box scraper equipped with ripper teeth. We purchased a silt loam soil that was specially blended to match our soil and spread it on our field. Next, we laser graded the field at a 1 to 1.5% slope for positive surface drainage and to eliminate the "birdbaths." Finally we installed sod that was grown in silt loam. We grew it in and managed the traffic on it. The result was the elimination of virtually all of the birdbaths. Because the soil is relatively homogeneous, it drains at a consistent and acceptable rate.

The lesson learned was that layers of dissimilar textured soils do not drain consistently. In some case they do not drain at all. Now when I purchase soil, I make sure that I obtain a physical soil test so that what I buy will be similar to what I have.

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

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## BUILDING CODE CHANGES REDUCE CHOICE IN COMPLIANT BLEACHER PURCHASES

By George Herberger

Recently the State adopted a new building code that requires all new bleachers in the State to be equipped with an aisle with handrails, guardrails and an ADA cutout incorporated into the structure. This is a major change to the Code. This change requires an explanation and I will try to communicate the recent events leading to this change.

Since May 5, 2003, the State's building code document was the International Building Code 2000 (IBC2000). Section 1008.7 dealt with aisle requirements. This section gave eight conditions which if met, would exclude the need for an aisle. The popular 3 and 4 row "Low-Rise" bleachers were designed to conform to these conditions.

When the IBC was revised in 2003, they decided to also publish the International Code Council 300 (ICC300) to deal specifically with bleachers, grandstands and telescoping/folding bleachers. The aisle details, including the eight exceptions, were moved to ICC300 Section 405.1. Section 1024.1.1 of the IBC2003 referred to ICC300 requirements. New Jersey did not adopt the 2003 revisions, remaining instead with the IBC2000 until March of 2008.

The NJ Registry dated 3/3/08 reports the State adopted the revised IBC2006. According to a representative from DCA Code Assistance Unit, Chapter 10, Sections 1025.6.2, 1025.6.3, all of 1025.9, 1025.10, 1025.11, 1025.12, 1025.13, 1025.14 and 1025.15 all pertain to bleachers, along with ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003 for Accessibility. They can be viewed at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/codes/>

IBC2006 Section 1025.1.1 Bleachers is where the ICC300 referral is now located. The State of New Jersey has deleted this section claiming "the IBC2006 contains sufficient requirements for bleachers and the reference to ICC300 standard was not necessary". Since this section was deleted and the eight exceptions for not having an aisle are not included elsewhere in the IBC2006 Code, all new bleachers in the State of New Jersey must have a vertical aisle to meet code. Vertical aisles are usually only installed on bleachers 5 row or higher which then kicks in the guardrail requirement.

The ADA cutout requirement is noted in the ICC American National Standard Institute A117.1 Standard Chapter 8, 802.6, Integration of Wheelchair Space Location, where a wheelchair space shall be an integral part of any seating area.

In plain English, Low-rise bleachers, bleachers without an aisle, without guardrails or without an ADA seating cutout will not meet the current Uniform Building Code of the State of New Jersey. This will translate into higher procurement costs to municipalities trying to improve their facilities. On the bright side, these requirements do provide bleachers that are more comfortable for adults and have better site lines than low-rise bleachers.

*George J. Herberger, Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) is Vice-President of Sales, Ben Schaffer & Associates*

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