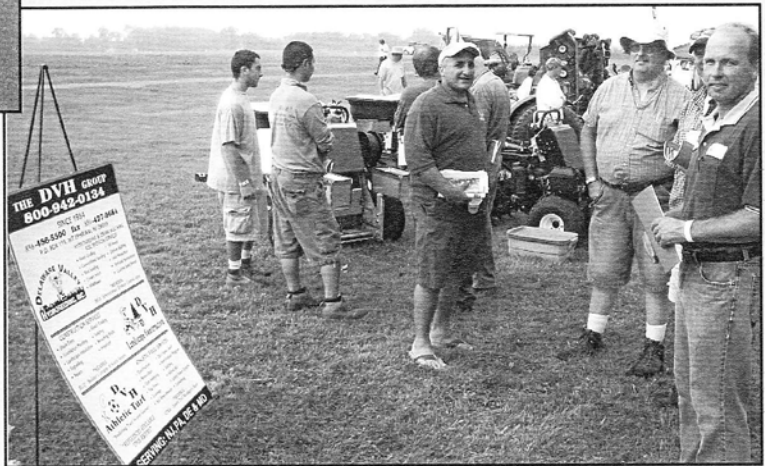
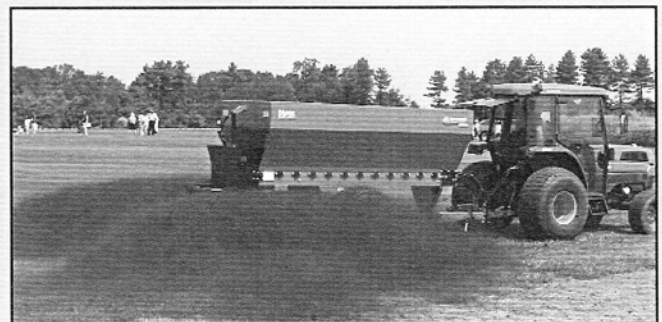
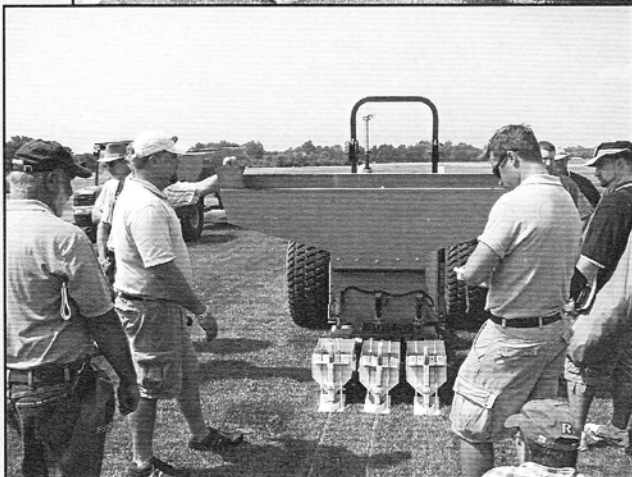
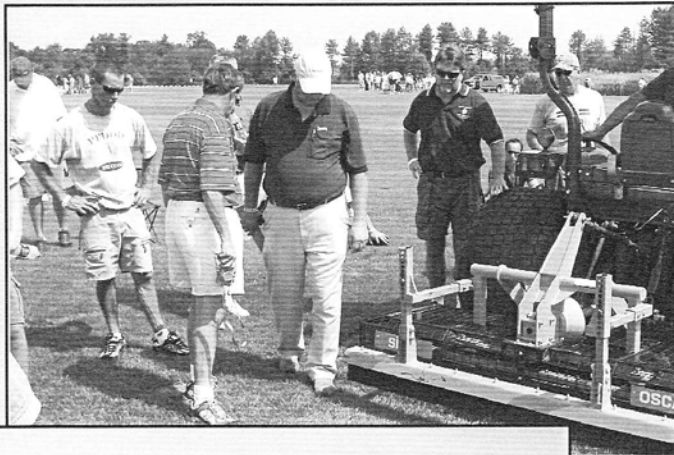
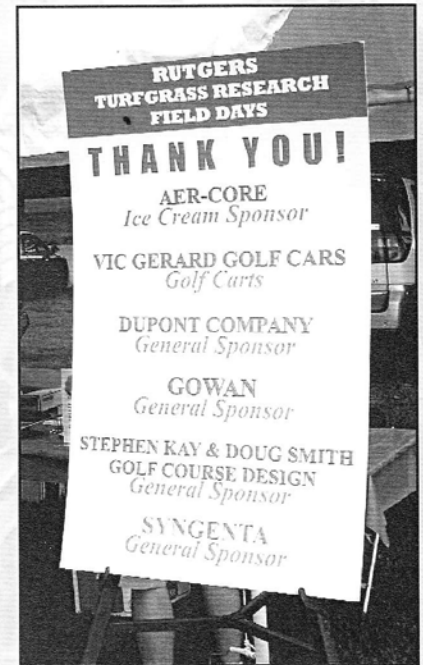
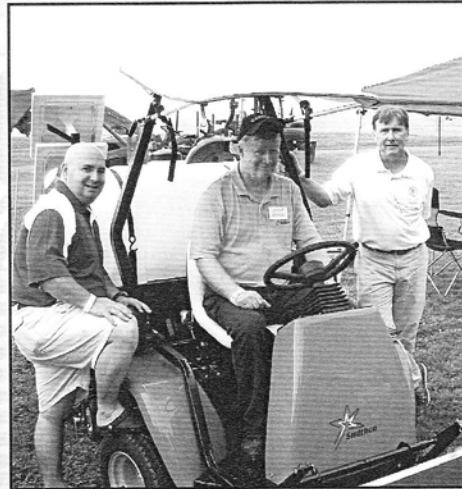


# Sports Turf Research Field Day, Park, Rutgers University



# Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Research Field Day, August 5, 2009 by Brad Park, Rutgers University

(continued from page 11)





**Dr. Henry W. Indyk**  
**Graduate Fellowship**  
**in**  
**Turfgrass Science**

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](mailto:clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu)) or John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling (732) 932-7899 or email: [pearson@winants.rutgers.edu](mailto:pearson@winants.rutgers.edu)

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**Our mail and phone calls have been forwarded since last August, however that will soon stop.**

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**Thank You!**

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# ATHLETIC FIELD GRADING

By Sean Connell

As an athletic field contractor, I constantly read bid documents for athletic fields. To be an athletic field contractor, this action is both unavoidable and mandatory. In a year, I may bid over 100 athletic construction projects. Many times I submit many more bids than what I could actually perform. Of course, competition, the reduced economy and weather are some varying factors of why or why I do not get every job I bid. I do get my fair share and I am happy and thankful for my success.

The interesting part of these bids involves the different methods that are specified regarding athletic field construction. Several components merge to make an athletic field: what grasses you use - cool season or warm season, soil amendments, topsoil depths, and fertilizers. The questions and options are endless. An owner, engineer or a sports field manager has to quantify exactly what he or she wants. The interruptions start from there. It seems that after all parties inject their opinion the result is a watered-down project because one person's options have been sacrificed for another. For example, a specific product may not have been used because an alternate was approved or maybe a different piece of equipment was accepted. Whatever the reason, the original idea has been altered.

It is perceived that athletic fields should be uniform and safe. Reasonable expectations of fields include 100% turf coverage, smooth grading contours (i.e. no 'pot holes') and, of course, good drainage. These conditions are very standard and obtainable. Of course how this is accomplished can vary as much as anything.

Currently, there are several standards in-place to construct athletic fields to achieve better playing conditions. Field construction starts with grading plans. For example, new fields specifically designed for football should have the high point running down the middle of the field (north and south) with slopes draining to both sidelines at 1.0 to 1.5 % (i.e. 1.0% of fall is equal to 1.0-ft of fall per 100 linear

feet). This high point can be extended to the 20 yard line on both ends. A new slope (1.0%) begins at each 20 yard line and falls to the back of each end zone creating a triangle so both end zones have a consistent surface that drains in a sheet off the playing surface.

On baseball fields there are three standards for grading plans. 1) The whole field is sloped from home plate through center field on a 1.0 to 1.5% slope. 2) Incorporate the first method and add slopes to both foul lines of 0.75%. This will add additional sheet flow drainage in 2 directions (toward the foul lines) compared to sheet flowing the entire length of the field. 3) Using a cone shape. This is where you start from the pitchers mound and radiate from there sloping away from the mound with as much 2.0% slope. All bases are the same elevation in the infield and the slope continues through the outfield which is consistent with

*(continued on page 18)*

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# THE POLITICS OF SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT - PART 4 IN A SERIES: Best Practices for Dealing with People

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

"Managing a sports field is easy, people make it complicated". How well we work with the people around us usually equates our success. Here are some Best Practices for Dealing with People:

1. When you try to inflict change upon your people, they will probably resist it. Consider how hard it is to change yourself and you'll understand what little chance you have of trying to change others.
2. Stop- Look- Listen, good advice for crossing railroad tracks, also good advice for dealing with people, especially when you want to effect change. Stop and think about what you want to say or do before you do it. Ask yourself whether or not something needs to be said, something needs to be said right now, or needs to be said by you. Look carefully and objectively at the situation and circumstance and ask a trusted advisor to help you with a "reality check". Listen to both what people are saying and not saying.
3. It is not always about you, what you want or even what you think (I have learned that my opinion is often irrelevant). Serve the needs of other people. To earn the respect of your people you must have an element of humanity otherwise the forces of an organization will work against you. Look out for your people because loyalty is important. Remember that you need not like everyone that you work with, work for or who works for you, but you do need to work with them.
4. We get requests all of the time. Occasionally we get some real doozies! If you are asked to do something, DO IT, DO IT CHEERFULLY and DO IT ON TIME no matter how peculiar the requests may appear to you. You are going to have to do it anyway. When you make a commitment or promise to do something... do it. Do it as promised. Do it when promised. Always keep your promises, so be careful what you promise. People remember what you say. Even if you did all the big things right, mishandling the small details will probably cost you. Remember, "A good excuse is not the same thing as a good job."
5. Avoid bossing people around. It is easier and more efficient to pull than to push. Always say "please".
6. Rewards come in many forms. A simple "Thank You" - that is sincere - is always a welcomed reward. If you don't give credit where credit is due, you will find it difficult to solicit that successful support again; Plus - it is amazing how the organization knows who really did the work anyway and you will wind up the real loser in the eyes of others
7. Communication is important. Beware of emails. Sometimes a phone call works best. Keep people in the loop and your ac-

tions transparent, it keeps small problems from becoming big problems.

8. Mind your own business. Quit micromanaging! Let other people do their jobs. Remember, allowing people the opportunity to make mistakes help them build experience.
9. Always keep your emotions under control when interfacing with others in your organization. Remember that conflict is inevitable and often healthy. Just because you get invited to an argument doesn't mean you have to accept. Always pick your battles carefully. Remember that grass is more forgiving than people.
10. Find a balance in your life. Enjoy your family, friends and the things you love.

*Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and President, SFMANJ*

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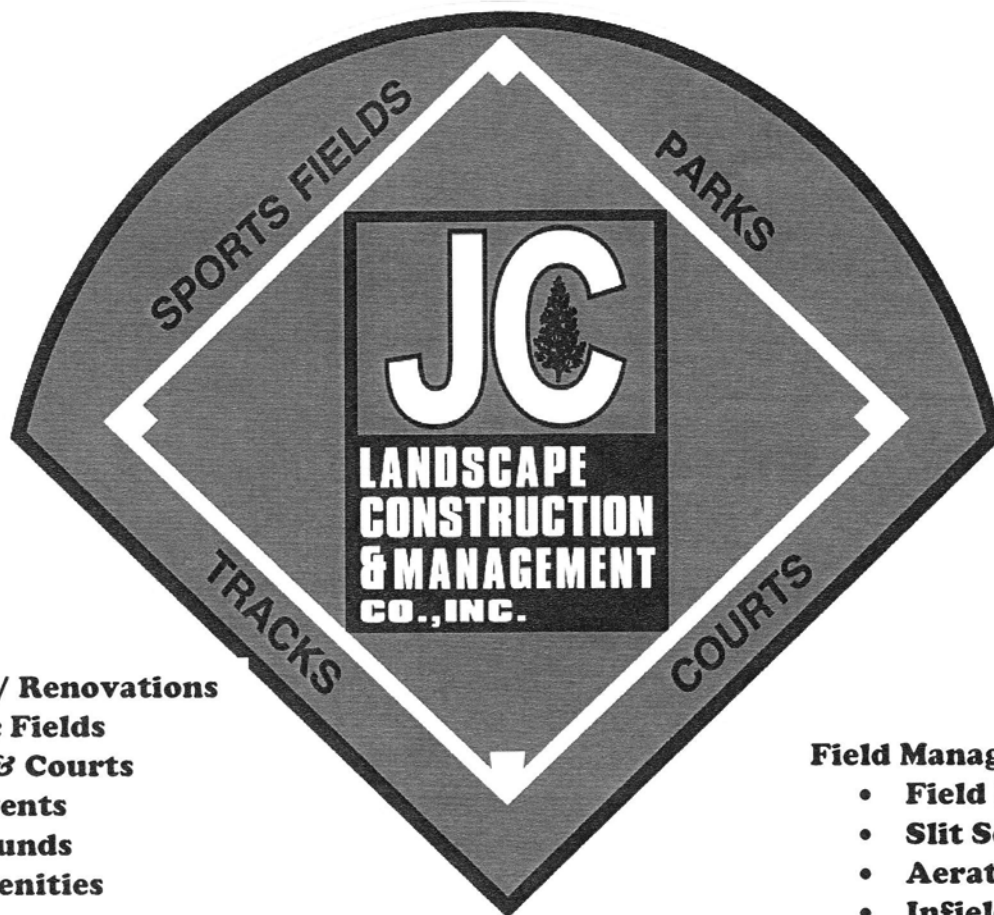
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# ATHLETIC FIELD GRADING

(continued from page 15)

infield. This creates a cone shape and is becoming a more popular design. These methods are acceptable for all new fields.

Grading plans for existing fields and sites often specify slopes in a certain direction because of permanent objects such as buildings, parking lots or fences. Applications like this require balancing the soil in place. By shooting the grades on the field you can approximate the slope and grade of the field to maximize drainage and safety. Budgeting money for a field that has already been constructed but is not performing adequately is always an issue. Native soil fields are typically either worn-out from overuse or suffer from poor drainage, heavy textured soils, etc.

Starting a field project with a solid plan and agronomic knowledge of local conditions is the start of a successful project. You have to marry the concept that all components going into a project will complement each other. Strong technical specifications about procedures, products, materials and machine control laser grading will make your next project successful.

*Sean Connell is Owner and Primary Project Manager, Georgia Golf Construction, Woodbine, NJ, and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*

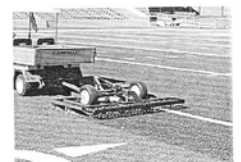
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SFMANJ will hold a Fall Field Day on September 23, 2009 in Monroe Township, NJ. The softball field at Monroe Township was awarded the 2009 SFMANJ Field of the Year.

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