

Scott Bills (continued)

Tell us what the test was like?

The test was given in 4 sections (Agronomics, Pest Management, Administration and Sport Specific). The Agronomics and Sport Specific sections were 100 questions each, the Pest Management and Administration were 50 questions each. All questions are multiple choices with 4 possible answers.

Numerous questions involved calculations (had to brush up on my Algebra), but most were simply knowing the right answer. Some questions were very easy, leaving you wonder if it was a trick question. In hindsight, it was probably just my mind playing tricks on me. I was able to finish the test in 3 hours; the allowable time is four hours.

How does it feel now to have passed the test?

Earning the designation as a 'Certified Sports Field Manager' gives you the feeling of accomplishment and confidence. Any existing sport turf manager who has considerable field experience, but is not taken seriously by their peers, supervisors or administrators, will immediately feel more

competent. Knowledge, confidence and communication skills are needed to succeed in this business (and most others). The CSFM process is a big step (but still only a step) in a sports turf managers career. Individual career development through continued education, networking, and chapter involvement will help bring the sports turf management industry to a higher professional level one person at a time.

What advice do you have for anyone thinking about becoming a CSFM?

Don't be afraid to jump in. I found out I can still swim. Any existing sports turf manager who feels they qualify for the designation of 'Certified Sports Field Manager,' should apply to take the test. Simply go to the STMA website, submit the required documents and get qualified. The test can be taken during the annual STMA conference (Austin, TX - January 2010) or in your own state with a proctor. As was my experience, any existing CSFM, is more than willing to help. This is something you can do for yourself to advance your career.

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See: www.turf.rutgers.edu/research/reports

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SFMANJ Announces

SUMMER FIELD DAY IN LACEY TOWNSHIP

By Matt Olivi

The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Activities & Education Committee is actively coordinating a Summer Field Day scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2010. The event will be held in Lacey Township, NJ (Ocean County), winner of the Association's 2009 Field of the Year. This year's event will once again provide Association members as well as prospective members a chance to meet, greet, and eat while keeping-up with the latest techniques in turfgrass management – as well as showcase 2009 Field of the Year.

Attendees will be able to examine a variety of turfgrass maintenance equipment on display during the trade show portion of the program and will have opportunities to take advantage of multiple education seminars. As always, pesticide credits will be available at the event for those who need to keep their professional certifications up-to-date. At the end of the program, SFMANJ members will be updated on Chapter events and have an opportunity to provide feedback to the SFMANJ Board of Directors.



Updates outlining the program and schedule of events will be available at www.sfmanj.org and will be mailed to all members as plans are finalized over the next few months.

Matt Olivi is Sports Field Manager, Piscataway Board of Education, Piscataway, NJ; and Board of Directors, SFMANJ



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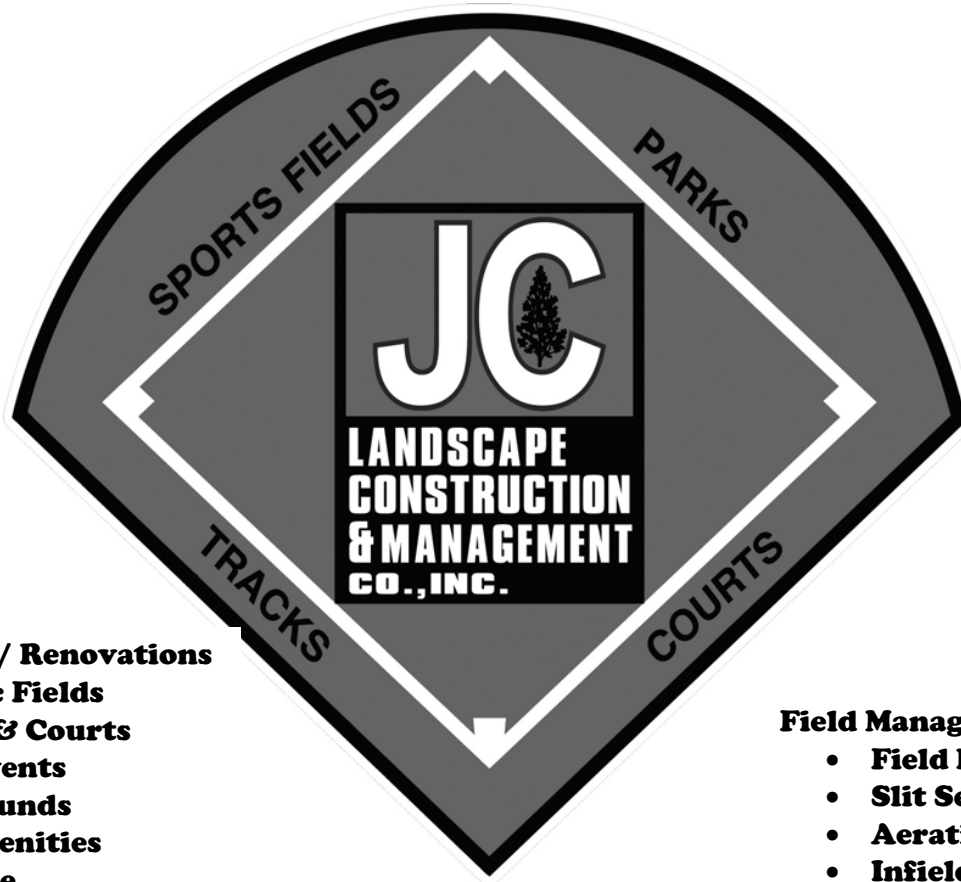
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References Available Upon Request

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

May 3, 2010
NJ Turfgrass Assoc.
Fiddler's Elbow CC, Bedminster, NJ
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org



NJ State League of Municipalities Conference

November 16-19, 2010
Atlantic City Convention Center
609.695.3481
www.njslom.org

SFMANJ Summer Field Day

June 23, 2010
Sports Field Mgrs. Assoc. of NJ
Lacey Township, NJ
856.514.3179
www.sfmanj.org

New Jersey Green Expo

December 7-9, 2010
NJ Turfgrass Assoc.
Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days

Golf & Fine Turf

July 27, 2010
Rutgers Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ

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July 28, 2010
Rutgers Adelphia Farm, Adelphia, NJ
www.njturfgrass.org
www.sfmanj.org
www.turf.rutgers.edu

STMA Annual Conference

January 11-15, 2011
Sports Turf Mgrs. Assoc.
Austin, TX
1-800-323-3875
www.stma.org



SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2010

Lacey Township Soccer Field - SFMANJ's Field of the Year 2009

ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be a current member of SFMANJ
- Only school and parks/recreation fields are eligible
- Must be a natural grass field/fields

AWARD WILL BE BASED ON:

- Playability and appearance of the playing surfaces
- Description of your maintenance program and what you did to improve your field
- Description of your yearly budget for this field
- (Sports groups may be used in your photos)



Lacey Township Soccer Field - SFMANJ's Field of the Year 2009

AWARDS:

The winner will be honored with a plaque at the New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December, 2010 and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ's "Update" newsletter.

The winner will also receive a two-night stay at the Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City and three full days of education and trade show admission at Expo 2010.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:

- All entries are to be submitted by mail or e-mail and must be received by September 30, 2010.
- Entries are limited to 10 color photos. Please include the name, location and owner of the facility, along with your name, position, and contact number.

Mail Entries to:

SFMANJ 2009 F.O.Y. Contest
P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070

OR E-mail to:
mail@sfmanj.org

Call for more info:
856-514-3179

website: sfmanj.org / e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

Photos will not be returned and may be used on SFMANJ website and promotional settings

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

from a Certified Sports Field Manager

By Joe Warner, CSFM

As you read these words you're not going to find anything that you have not read before. Just about everything we know about turfgrass has already been written. Hopefully, after you finish, you'll realize that all the words written are a matter of interpretation. Not interpretation as to right or wrong, but as to how you can apply it to your personal situation.

Even though years of study and research have gone into compiling the information that we have right now, there are many successful field managers who cannot relate to a solution as presented, and instead, take bits and pieces and put it all together, in their own particular application, and form a very efficient operation. The important thing that educators are trying to get across is that with a good mix of education and practical experience you can be quite successful.

Success is not measured by methods; success is measured by results. Have you ever had a problem, or attempted a project, and you knew that what you read, or were told by someone wouldn't get you the results you wanted? Well, don't get discouraged and don't be too quick to criticize the suggestion. Your circumstances may be totally different from the case you read about or were told about. The thing you have to remember is: Did any part of the suggestion work? If it did, how can you build from it and expand it? Maybe all it would take is a little imagination and some thought on your part to solve your problem.

How many times have you sat-in on a class or a lecture and thought to yourself, "Yeah, this guy works in a lab or in some research field or in an office, how does he/she know the problems I'm faced with?" Well, they may not know your situation exactly, but you can bet they know that with the information that they are trying to relay to you, you can put together a workable plan.

Never be afraid to ask a question if you cannot relate to a topic that is being presented. That instructor would feel more satisfied in spending the entire time making sure you understand, than making his or her entire presentation and not be understood. The next time you're sitting in on a lecture stay focused on how you can apply that bit of information to your situation.

Never give-up on trying to learn all you can about a topic. Participate in Chapter workshops and field days; read publications and newsletters. Remember, the more information you can gather will give you a much better chance of solving your particular problems.

Joe Warner is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Owner, E MAE Company; and a member of SFMANJ.

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SFMANJ STUDENT CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS

SFMANJ helped sponsor two student teams for the Student Challenge Competition at the Sports Turf Managers Association annual conference in Orlando Florida.



Rutgers University: (l-r): Brad Park, Rutgers Staff, Eric Koch, Mike Morvay, Will Reardon, Stephanie Alea, Don Savard, CSFM, SFMANJ President



County College of Morris: (l-r): Kevin Taylor, Evan Sharpe, Craig Tolley, Professor and Don Savard, CSFM, President SFMANJ



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THE SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

By Stephanie Alea

This year I was one of four students from Rutgers University that travelled to Orlando, FL in January 2010 to participate in the Sports Turf Managers Association Student Challenge. I had an idea of what to expect because I also participated in 2009 in San Jose, CA. This year, I was more relaxed and it was even more rewarding compared to last year. Getting to see Mickey was nice too.

Since I am a senior this year, I had set certain goals for myself when I got to Orlando: make as many contacts as I possibly could (other students and industry); attend lectures; pass-out my resume; do well on the student challenge; and absorb as much as possible. STMA made it easy to accomplish all my goals.

The student challenge is fun. Although, at the same time, a little stressful. Returning from winter break and changing your focus from the holidays back to studying can be tough, especially when you are a senior. You are in the home stretch and you have to manage taking classes and making choices to get you where you want to go. Whether your plans are going to graduate school or getting a job, you need to know the right people, which is where making contacts comes into play.

It is impossible to meet everyone at the conference, no matter how much I would have liked to. It is reassuring to know they had a bulletin board where I was able to post my resume and look at internship and job listings.

The time I got to spend with my student peers, at the student luncheon and outside the lectures, was also time well spent. To some it was great being able to catch up with intern buddies they spent the summer with. We spoke

about our experiences at our different schools, the similarities and differences between programs, about previous internships, and future goals.

The lectures I was able to attend were interesting and I believe information I have taken from them will help me in the future. I went to lectures with one or more of my fellow Rutgers students. Afterwards we would briefly talk about it. It was a way to bond with my classmates and learn what their experiences in or out of the classroom had taught them.

The down time when everyone congregated in the halls was one of my favorite parts of the conference. As I walked along, I could overhear conversations of advice, frustrations,

questions and answers, and of course funny anecdotes too. I found it refreshing that no matter the topic I could hear the passion everyone has in their voice for their jobs. It made me feel really happy to have joined this fellowship and look forward to attending the annual conference after I graduate.

This experience would not have been possible if not for the generosity of SFMANJ's sponsorship of our trip and for that I am grateful. I look forward to a point in my career that I can contribute to the future of our field and be as generous as those I have met along the way.

Stephanie Alea is a Rutgers undergraduate student and STMA Student Challenge participant



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TOP TEN STEPS TO NETWORKING

Courtesy of Sports Turf Managers Association

Anyone can talk with their established contacts, peers and friends. How do you expand your network to attain the most value, especially if you consider yourself to be more reserved and introverted? In a recent survey by career services firm DBM, 61% of respondents cited networking as the source of their new jobs. This percentage was 10 times greater than the percentage who found jobs through Internet job sites and print advertisements. Good networking skills **can** be learned and are far easier than you might think.

STMA members tell us that networking is one of the top reasons to join STMA and the upcoming conference and exhibition has more than 15 hours dedicated for member-to-member networking. Here are 10 easy to implement techniques to help you build relationships in your network.

1. Fight the temptation to just 'hang out' with the people you already know. The more diverse people you build relationships with, the more opportunities will arise, both for your own benefit and for theirs. Say your hellos, chat for a few quick minutes and then make plans to get together at some other time (maybe even later that night) to REALLY catch up. The message is, "Yes, I really want to spend more time with you, but not right now - I want to network a bit, first!"
2. Set a networking goal. For example, tell yourself that you want to meet 10 new people during the STMA conference. Keep track of that goal, and each day remind yourself about the number of new people you must meet.
3. Know that a great way to network is to simply introduce yourself to anyone who is standing alone.
4. Engage them by being curious about them - ask something about who they are, who they work for, who they know, etc., or start with a statement: "I'm interested in hearing about how you ..." Get engaged by asking questions you don't already know the answers to.
5. Ask for a business card so that you can remember their names, have a record of who you talked to and how to reach them, and you can use the back of the card to write down what you want to remember and what might be a relevant next step to take. If you didn't exchange business cards and you run into someone you already met but can't remember their name, simply say "Hello again. Remind me of your name." Then remind them of your name.
6. Give the people you talk with your undivided attention.
7. Treat everyone as equals. There is no real value in title or prestige alone. Value is in the information and support people can give, and that often comes from surprising sources. A network is not a bureaucracy or a hierarchy. It is a level and fair playing field. Give just to give. Don't give with the sole purpose of getting something back.
8. When the conversation lulls, move on - "Excuse me, there's someone I want to meet (that person standing alone over there)," is a perfectly acceptable thing to say. Smile and then walk away.
9. Be a network catalyst. Introduce two people you know to each other. This is the ultimate in flattery when someone takes the time out of their day to make the effort to make introductions.
10. Say 'thank you' for those who have shared their time and advice.

Sources: Donna Messer, ConnectUs Communications; Diane Darling; Barry Zweibel, GottaGettaCoach!

Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS

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