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# WELCOME! NEW & RENEWED SFMANJ MEMBERS

Currently we have 157 new & renewed members. In December 2009, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2010 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 856-514-3179 or download the membership form available at [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org). Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

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Cliff Dubasak	Roselle Park Board Of Ed
Theresa A Dunwiddie	NJ Recreation And Park Association
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Tom Ellsworth	Branchburg Township
Robert Erickson	City Of Bordentown
Lance Ernst	Turf Equipment & Supply Co, Inc.

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# 2010 SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTIONS

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## MISSION STATEMENT:

Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

### Contact us at:

**PO Box 205 • Pennsville, NJ 08070**

Web site: [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)

Email: [mail@sfmanj.org](mailto:mail@sfmanj.org)

Phone/Fax: 856-514-3179

### National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association

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

Email: [stmainfo@stma.org](mailto:stmainfo@stma.org)

Phone: 800-323-3875

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*This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.*

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:  
 SFMANJ at (856) 514-3179 or Brad Park at (732) 932-9711, x127  
 Editor: Brad Park, Rutgers University Email: [park@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:park@aesop.rutgers.edu)

SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.



**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)



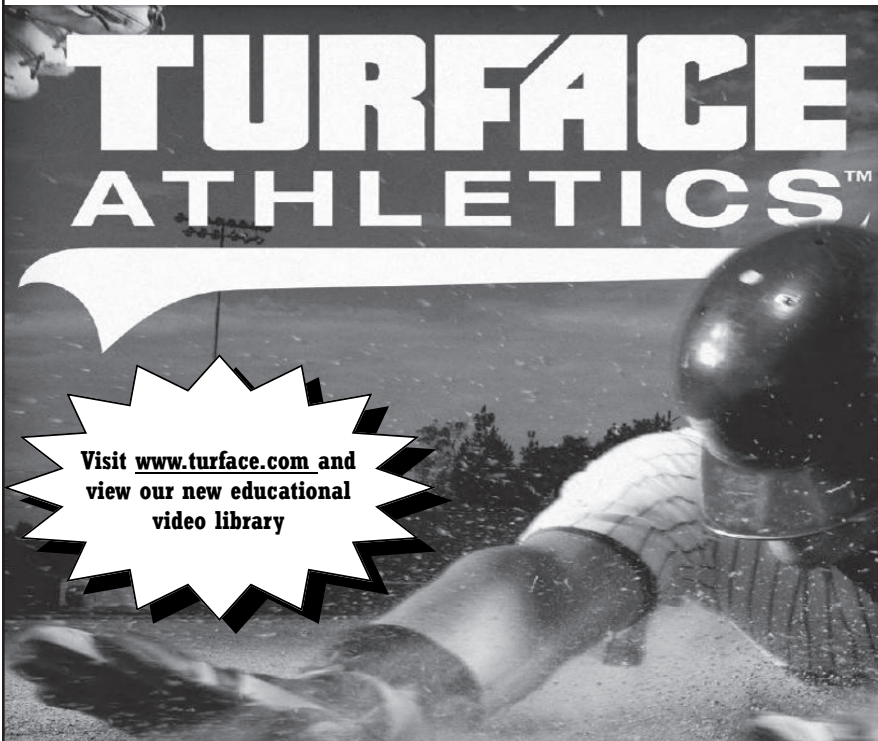
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President's Message:

# NOW WE'RE COOKING WITH GAS!

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM



**F**or the past year our Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Board of Directors and committee members have been tasked at creating value for our members. Look at all we accomplished last year:

- A fiscally healthy, focused SFMANJ organization.
- A 10% tuition discounts for SFMANJ members for select Rutgers OCPE educational courses.
- Spring and Fall Field Days, an equipment show at the Adelphia Field Day and one of our best educational programs at Expo.
- Awarded a Scholarship and sponsored 2 student teams for the Student Challenge Competition at the Sports Turf Managers Association annual conference in Orlando Florida.
- Improved communications to you through our Update Newsletter (published quarterly), our up-to-date website ([www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)), and mass emails to communicate news and information to our membership quicker and cheaper compared to first class mail.
- Expansion of our Field of the Year Contest.
- Improved public relations and alliance building with other organizations such as the New Jersey Turfgrass Association, NJ State League of Municipalities and several others.
- The use of telephone conference calls for efficient and more effective Board and committee meetings.

**At our Early Bird Networking Session at Expo in December 2009, we asked you the question: "What can we (SFMANJ) do for you to make this organization better?" Here are some of the things that you told us:**

- Let us know about other educational activities that are out there.
- Schedule educational activities at better times so we can attend.

- Offer specialized classes for pesticide certification, Certified Sports Field Manager test preparation and career enhancement.
- Have local (District) networking meetings after work at convenient times of the year.
- Give us more information about synthetic fields.

**You spoke, we listened, and here is what we can do:**

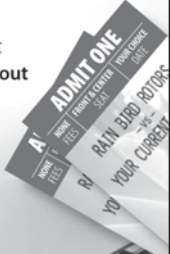
- We will act as a clearinghouse of educational information. For example, if one of our commercial members or another organization is sponsoring an educational event that is open to our members, we will help promote it by publicizing it on our website. Just call us or email us.
- Field Days are useless if you can't attend because you are busy working. This summer, after schools let out for the summer, we are offering a Field Day on June 23, 2010. Stay tuned to the website for more information.
- We are planning after work networking meeting coming to a location near you.
- Getting away from work is difficult. We are planning specialized training sessions using conference calling or webinar formats. Learn new things in real time from the comfort of your home or office.
- We are currently planning a Seminar on Wheels bus trip later this year with the focus on synthetic turf surfaces.

Thanks to all of you for your input, and on behalf of the rest of the Board of SFMANJ, we are looking forward to seeing you soon.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Don SAVARD".

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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# "FIELD OF THE YEAR 2009"

Continued from page 1

The following questions were asked regarding the field history and management.

1. How many games are played on the field each year and what different sports use the field?
2. When was the field built and was any major renovation done in the past 5 years?
3. Did you have any responsibility for the renovation?
4. How is the field irrigated?
5. Do you perform soil testing?
6. What is your philosophy regarding turf care, infield grooming and pitcher's mound/home plate care?

In addition, we discussed cultural practices such as mowing, aeration, topdressing and field rotation. Finally, as is the case with most fields I visit, we discussed field use. The most revealing information I received from each of the turf managers was they were in control of field use. Although each member may not have direct authority to cancel games or limit use, they had the confidence of athletic directors, coaches or administration to control use so the fields would not be abused. Each member understood and more importantly knew how to communicate to others why field use needed to be managed.

After the evaluation process, I had to choose a winner. What made one field stand out from the others? To be honest, this year's winner, J. Casey Parker and Lacey Township, made it easy. All of the other fields were managed and maintained as a 'Field of the Year' should. The difference with Hebrew Park Soccer Field No. 1 was the effort Casey put into renovating a field that was unsafe and barely playable. Casey used his background in site work to design and implement a plan to renovate the field. The scope of the project would have been unaffordable to the town if they went the traditional route of hiring an engineer, soliciting bids and hiring a private contractor at prevailing wages. To save money, Casey utilized the resources available to him. The original field was lower than the surrounding grades and would flood regularly. The playing surface was uneven and there was barely 50% turf cover. The design included raising the field nearly two feet, requiring 2,500 cubic yards of fill and topsoil. The material was spread with bulldozers and finished with a laser-guided road grader. The topsoil was amended with Ocean-Gro to add organic matter. The

field was seeded three times with 90% Tall Fescue mix. All of the work was performed with township employees, saving Lacey Township thousands of dollars. Casey wisely convinced the parks department and soccer club to let the field grow in during the spring and summer. The field was opened for play on September 15<sup>th</sup>, nearly one year after start of construction. Without a doubt, allowing one full season for grow-in, was the most important decision Casey made.

The overall scope of the project, plus Casey's ability to unite the town, turned a liability into an asset for Lacey Township. Our Association would like to congratulate Casey for his SFMANJ 2009 Field of the Year.

All SFMANJ members responsible for managing natural turfgrass fields are encouraged to submit entries for the 2010 Field of the Year. Please see contest rules on page 14 of this issue of SFMANJ Update.

*Scott Bills is a Certified Sports Field Managers (CSFM); Sales Consultant, Northern Nurseries; and SFMANJ Secretary*

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Continued from page 3

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Jeff Hall	Manalapan Township	Ryan Radcliffe	Lakewood Blueclaws
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Kevin Hoban	Storr Tractor Co	Robert Revello	Morristown Beard School
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Gene Huelster	Grass Roots Turf Products, Inc.	Heather Rohde	Profile Products/Turface
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Ingrid Kern	Kearny Dpw, Shade Tree Div.	James Saxton	Glen Rock Dept Of Public Works
Gerard Kerr	Manalapan Twp DPW	Michael Schmalzer	Oak Knoll
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	Applied Landscape Technologies	Fred Testa	Brick Board Of Ed
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James A Murphy Ph.D.		Bernie White	Wilfred Macdonald
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# Scott Bills

## Achieves Certified Sports Field Manager Status

*Congratulations go out to Scott Bills upon passing the Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) examination this past January at the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) conference in Orlando, Florida. Scott serves on the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Board of Directors as Chapter Secretary. Don Savard, CSFM, CGM and SFMANJ President caught-up with Scott to talk with him about becoming a CSFM in this SFMANJ Update contribution.*

### **Please tell us about yourself, Scott.**

I graduated from Cook College, Rutgers University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management. I played varsity baseball at RU for 3 years, earning all-conference and a free agent contract in the Red Sox organization. After a very short stint in professional ball I headed west. I have worked in forestry, tree service companies, as a landscape contractor, built sports fields and golf courses, as an industry consultant and since 2005 in sales with Northern Nurseries, Turf Products Division. My position at Northern allows me to help provide turf, sports field and horticultural solutions to customers I enjoy working with, including schools, municipalities, private sports organizations and construction companies. Baseball is still a passion. I fit in about 40 games per year in an over 30 league as a member of the New Jersey Reds.

### **Why did you want to become a Certified Sports Field Manager?**

With over 20 years in the golf course and sports field industries, I understood golf course superintendents were way ahead of sport turf managers in education, experience and professionalism, as perceived by the public and their own supervisors. I realized I wanted to play a bigger role in bringing more respect to position of 'sports turf manager.'

In addition, as a contractor I was constantly frustrated by the poor designs and construction specifications put out by

engineers and architects. In many cases, these professionals are learning about designing fields on the dime of the public. Over the past 8-10 years, I have worked for several bonding companies, municipalities and school boards doing forensic

work, to determine what went wrong or why athletic fields have failed. I still see specifications with roots zones, grass seed varieties, fertilizer formulations and drainage plans that have been out of date for years or are no longer accepted practice within the industry. In addition, many sports fields are allowed to be built by road builders or other site contractors who have minimal experience and do not understand the nuances of sports field construction. For the above two reasons, I felt to be a respected source of information and guidance, I needed to first qualify for the CSFM test and then pass it.

### **How did you prepare for the exam?**

I referred to the STMA website for required subject matter and what books were available to study for the

test. A CSFM that I know heard I was going to take the test and was kind enough, to lend me six or so books covering Agronomics, Soils, Pest Management, Sports Field Construction, Irrigation, Mathematics, Administration and Sports specific subject matter, all necessary to prepare for the test. Once I dove into reading the books, I had two thoughts, what did I get myself into, and I am actually learning something. The hardest part about studying for the test is not the work, but trying to figure out what was going to be on the test. Am I wasting my time trying to learn all of the soil classifications, how to calibrate a 16' wide sprayer traveling 8 mph with 12 nozzles putting out 60 ounces of fungicide every 20 seconds or does perennial ryegrass produce roots, shoots, tiller or stolons. What I did figure out is if I wanted to be a 'Certified Sports Field Manager' I had better know these answers (or at least 80% of them).



*Scott Bills, CSFM, earned his Certified Sports Field Manager accreditation at the 2010 STMA Conference, in Orlando, FL.*