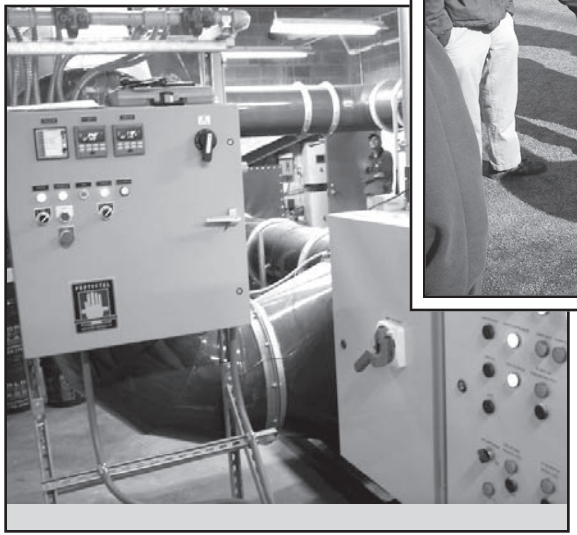


OF THE 2010 SFMANJ Seminar on Wheels

Wednesday, November 10, 2010. Stops included Baker Athletic Field Complex, Columbia University, New York, NY and Red Bull Arena, Harrison, NJ.

by Brad Park, Rutgers University





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 or

John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling
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Pesticide Applicator Licensing: *A Ticket to Professionalism*

By Matt Olivi

Continued from page 4

football field in a stadium complex, our thresholds will likely reflect a very low tolerance for pests such as broadleaf weeds. Routine assessments of broadleaf weed cover (perhaps a percentage or index rating) may clearly identify a pest problem that can not be resolved through proper cultural practices alone. In this case, the applicator would have to document turfgrass maintenance practices and make a case for using a non-low impact pesticide (i.e. 2,4-D) as a last resort. As mentioned before, this process leading up to an application can be lengthy and is more tedious than traditional methods. Despite this lengthy assessment and record keeping process, there are benefits to its complexity. As a licensed Category 13 applicator, I am forced to expand my knowledge of proper cultural practices. A better

understanding of these practices makes record keeping even easier. Such methods, now documented, become justification for occasional use of non-low-impact pesticides.

Expanding knowledge of proper pesticide use and techniques for alternative pest control methods can be achieved through recertification courses held throughout the State. Applicators, as well as potential applicators, have the options of attending courses at Universities, privately operated state-approved pesticide training centers or state-approved trade association seminars. I've found that a combination of the three options will provide an applicator with the means to maintain the necessary amount of credit hours for each category over the five year recertification period. By utilizing all

three of these resources, applicators will find a great deal of flexibility in finding course and seminar topics that will best meet the needs of their individual pesticide programs.

Possibly, the most important resources a pesticide applicator has available are his and her peers. Sometimes a conversation with a fellow applicator over dinner or in line at a trade show registration table can be more valuable than a predetermined course topic. It's been my experience that as an applicator's knowledge grows and his or her experience level increases, so will their level of professionalism and credibility in the industry.

Matt Olivi is Sports Turf Manager, Piscataway Board of Education, Piscataway, NJ; and member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.

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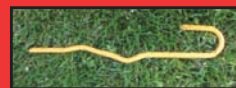
Paul Heron, Grounds Supervisor
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SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2011

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)



Sommerset County Parks Commission, Torpey Field
SFMANJ's Field of the Year 2010

AWARDS:

The winner will be honored with a plaque at the New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December 2011 and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ's *Update* newsletter.

The winner will also receive a stay at the Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City and free registration to education courses and trade show at Expo 2011.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:

- All entries are to be submitted by mail or e-mail and must be received by September 30, 2011.
- 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 2011 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

News and Notes from 2010

Continued from page 9



Articles. Interested in contributing to *Update*? Do you have a turfgrass or skin surface tip that you would like to share with *Update* readers? Have you observed something unique going on at your facility in which you care to report? Can you share information on working with coaches, parents, and others who have a stake in the sports fields you manage? How are you dealing with reduced budgets? All sports field topics are fair game and we would like to expand our list of regular contributors. Articles can be sent to: park@aesop.rutgers.edu

Good luck in 2011!

Brad

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update.

Be sure we have an e-mail address for you so we can let you know about everything we have in store for our members in 2011!

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Judgment Day

for a synthetic turf field?



Brad Park

What does a municipality or board of education do with a synthetic infill field when it's time to replace the surface? Does the public body have a **plan** and/or the **resources** to tear-out, dispose-of, and replace the carpet and infill? How many officials will simply kick the 'can' down the road and arrive at the decision to "get another year out of it" when faced at the costs of replacement? Will they kick it again going into 2012? How about 2013?

While visiting family over Thanksgiving, I read an article in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* published on November 25, 2010 regarding a suburban Pittsburgh school district contemplating the replacement of their 8-yr-old all-rubber infill synthetic field. The article titled, *Study to find whether new turf needed* was authored by Heidi Dezayas and can be digitally acquired at www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_710871.html

The article serves as an example of what I have observed to be a common oversight related to synthetic turf fields. That is: Many governing bodies don't have a clue how they're going to come-up with the funds to replace their synthetic turf fields, particularly in these times of fiscal belt tightening.

According to article, Gateway School District's Athletic Director indicated that the turf is falling apart in some places

and maintenance crews are involved in gluing numbers and lines back into the carpet. The Athletic Director was reported to have received a letter from East Suburban Sports Medicine saying that this year was the first year where athletes received a lot of skin burns. He attributed it to the synthetic field behaving like "a carpet in your house; it wears and starts to flatter ... as it flattens, it becomes more of a safety hazard".

The article stated that the projected replacement costs range from \$300,000 to \$350,000.

The response from the school board? The article quoted on member as saying, "Besides the warranty being over ... is there anything saying it's not safe? ... Gluing and re-gluing is normal".

A second Gateway school board member provided his own insight as to the source of the field's gluing and re-gluing problems. He surmised that, "... the problem could be that the field is used for too many things."

Lastly, Gateway board member Scott Williams chimed-in on the funding issues for replacing the synthetic turf field and reminded all that when the existing field was installed 8 years ago there were discussions to allow advertising on the scoreboard to help offset the future costs of field replacement.

The advertising never happened.

The article reported that the school board agreed to tour the field and an independent contractor was being sought after to test the field and determine if it is safe. While the article did not specify the nature of testing, the questions arising at this school district underscore the argument in support of independent field



SFMANJ Update Editor Brad Park holds a permanently inlaid line that came unglued on a poorly managed synthetic field (Photo by Matt Olivi)

testing to assess field performance – particularly surface hardness.

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has developed the Standard Specification for Shock-Absorbing Properties of North American Football Field Playing Systems as Measured in the Field (ASTM F 1936-98) and describes methodology and field locations to be tested with equipment conforming to Test Method F 355, Procedure A.

Regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with the nature of surface hardness testing, or the stringent nature of the performance requirement "... the average G_{max} of one or more of the tested points is in excess of 200 average G_{max} , the surface system should be replaced in full or in part", the reality of surface hardness testing is that it amounts to a **quantification** of field characteristics and can be incorporated into the field replacement decision making process.



A lack of attention to synthetic fields may result in severe seam damage as in the case of this all-rubber infill synthetic field (Photo by Matt Olivi).

Finally, the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* article reported that Gateway athletic director made the judgment that the turf could hold-up for another year, but officials should begin to consider how to pay to replace it. He was quoted as saying, "We have to have a plan ..."

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update.

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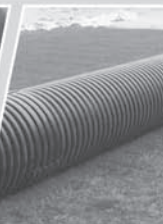
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