

# Seriously advancing the way you cut grass.



## Groundsmaster® 360 Quad-Steer™

The all-new Toro Groundsmaster 360 reinvents the way a mower performs. This machine utilizes revolutionary Quad-Steer all wheel steering to maximize productivity. Climb hills with ease. Make 180° turns without tearing turf. Hug the turns or side hills while mowing in total comfort. Save time without sacrificing quality. Intuitive controls and unparalleled maneuverability turn work into play. To learn more visit:

[toro.com/360](http://toro.com/360)

©2012 The Toro Company. All rights reserved.

  
Storr Tractor Company

Storr Tractor Company  
Branchburg, NJ 908-722-9830  
[storrtractor.com](http://storrtractor.com)

**TORO**

Count on it.

# Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 198 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2012 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.

Joe Bassolino	Florham Park Recreation
Chuck Bergamo	John Deere Landscapes/LESCO
Mike Boekholder	Philadelphia Phillies
William D. Cannon	Tower Hill School
Ray Cipperly	Middlesex County Technical High School
Sean Connell	Georgia Golf Construction, Inc
Tony Cuccaro	Town of Westfield DPW
Bill Deacon	New York Mets
William Dent	Rancocas Valley Regional High School
Michael Disko, Jr.	Disko Associates
Chris G. Fox	New York Red Bulls
Fred Goble	Washington Township
Jeffrey K. Graydon	Princeton University
Jeff Hagenbush	Florham Park Recreation
Frank Hines, Jr.	Kingsway Regional School
Scott Klein	Rancocas Valley Regional High School
T.J. Lawson	Rutgers University
Glenn Liebehenz	Northern Burlington County Reg. School Dist.
Bernard Luongo	Northern Burlington County Reg. School Dist.
Colin F MacDonnell III	Ramapo College of NJ
Ken W. Mathis	Brick Township
Matt Pinkerton	County College of Morris
Daniel Purner	Somerset Patriots
Heather Rohde	Profile Products/Turface
Michael Shannon	Hanson Aggregates - BMC
Daniel Shemesh	New York Red Bulls
Kevin Shipman	Kingsway Regional School
Neal D. Sitzman	New York Red Bulls
Craig Tolley	County College of Morris
Rob Tyndall	Holganix

## Save the Dates!

**Rutgers Lawn,  
Landscape and  
Sports Turf Field Day  
at Adelphia**

**Wednesday, August 1**

**SFMANJ Fall Field Day  
Thursday, November 8**

## 2012 SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

President ..... Matt Olivi, Piscataway BOE  
Vice President ..... Fred Castenschiold, Storr Tractor Co.  
Secretary ..... Scott Bills, CSFM, GreenPRO Materials  
Treasurer ..... Sean Connell, Georgia Golf Construction

### DIRECTORS

Ray Cipperly ..... Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools  
Brad Park ..... Rutgers University  
Matt Pinkerton ..... Byram Township  
Don Savard, CSFM, CGM ..... Salesianum School  
Kevin Shipman ..... Kingsway Regional High School  
Craig Tolley ..... County College of Morris  
Mike Viersma ..... The Viersma Companies  
Rich Watson ..... Pine Hills Public Schools  
Advisor ..... Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University  
Executive Secretary ..... Debbie Savard

### 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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Rutgers Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Field Day .....	cover
New and Renewed SFMANJ Members .....	3
2012 Board of Directors .....	3
Message from the President .....	4
"SAFE PLAYING FIELDS": What does it really mean? .....	5
Field Renovation with Sod is a Natural Fit on this Busy Sports Field .....	6
Vendor re-cap of Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Spring Field Day 2012 .....	10
2012 Calendar of Events .....	14
The New Jersey Fertilizer Law: Update on Certification, Enforcement, Penalties and Preemption .....	15
Speaker re-cap of SFMANJ Spring Field Day 2012 .....	19

*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 (848) 932-6327  
Editor: Brad Park, Rutgers University, Email: [park@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:park@aesop.rutgers.edu)  
Layout and Design: Debra Savard, Email: [debbiesavard@aol.com](mailto:debbiesavard@aol.com)*

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



# A Message from the President

By Matt Olivi

Spring has come and gone and we are off to another great start. We're starting to see the positive results of our off-season preparation efforts and the results of applying newly acquired ideas and field maintenance concepts to our facilities. As the dog days of summer are rapidly approaching, we'll be prepared to adjust our maintenance programs accordingly.

The adjustment of a field maintenance program is a regular practice of a sports field manager. However, there are basic cultural practices that all field managers center their fine-tuning around. This was the theme of the recently held SFMANJ annual Spring Field Day on April 19, 2012. Members of the Association gathered this year at Ginty Field in Morris Township to collaborate on the concepts of regular mowing, aeration, topdressing, overseeding and pest control. After a quick breakfast sponsored by Green Pro Materials and the Viersma Companies, the field day began with an introduction and background presentation of the Ginty Field facility by host Bill Foelsch. Bill shared the site-specific turf maintenance and pest control challenges faced by his field managers with attendees.

Once everyone had become familiar with the facility and its needs, the field day program kicked into action with equipment demonstrations by Storr Tractor Company, Wilfred MacDonald and The Viersma Companies/TurfTime Equipment. Attendees had the opportunity to see some of their options for the high quality equipment that is available to them to perform regular infield skin maintenance. After the demonstrations, there was plenty of time to take a closer look at the equipment and speak with the professional representatives of each company.

After infield skin maintenance options were explored, the focus shifted to pest control. Tech Terra Environmental introduced attendees to a new mechanical form of broadleaf weed control as an alternative to traditional broad leaf weed herbicides. As we all know, some turf pests can be controlled simply by regular mowing. This gave TrimaLawn from Staten Island, NY an opportunity to introduce their Ventrac equipment to NJ sports field managers and demonstrate the versatile tractor/mower options available to them. During this segment, Wilfred MacDonald also demonstrated the Smithco Sweepstar 60 as an effective option for removing any kind of debris from playing areas in order to maintain a safe and healthy turf grass.

A safe and healthy natural playing surface begins with good soil. The next segment of the SFMANJ Spring Field Day program focused on educating attendees on soil properties and how to interpret soil analysis reports. Attendees had an opportunity to hear from Brad Park from Rutgers University and Scott Bills

CSFM from Green Pro Materials. Their thorough soil analysis presentation was followed by a presentation from Professor Craig Tolley from the County College of Morris. Craig reiterated some of the concepts introduced by the other speakers, stressed the importance of good cultural practices and explained how to apply them to a successful IPM program.

Once attendees had digested the theory behind maintaining a healthy turf grass, the commercial members in attendance again assisted in demonstrating some of the best equipment on the market to help field managers implement their turf maintenance programs. Storr Tractor, TrimaLawn, and The Viersma Companies/TurfTime Equipment demonstrated aeration equipment that can be used to fracture the soil or pull cores which will improve air flow and drainage to the root systems of the turf. The cores that remained on the turf after the aeration equipment was demonstrated provided a great opportunity for Wilfred MacDonald to show-off the Sweepstar 60 once again. The machine removed the debris and prepared for the next step in the renovation project. The final segment of demonstrations included top-dressing equipment from both Storr Tractor Company and The Viersma Companies/TurfTime Equipment. The two machines effectively spread the top-dressing donated by Green Pro Materials.

Once the project was completed, attendees and vendors gathered for lunch and were provided with some timely legislative updates from the New Jersey Green Industry Council. After lunch, the educational program continued with an injury-risk assessment

*Continued on page 9*

## **NATIONAL SEED PROFESSIONAL TURF PRODUCTS**

**Specializing in Quality Grass Seed  
to Meet All Your  
Turf Performance Standards**

Call for a Catalog

# **800-828-5856**

Carrying a full line of quality mixtures  
especially formulated for:

**SPORTS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS**

**LOW MAINTENANCE AREAS**

**GENERAL GROUNDS**

**GOLF, LAWN AND RECLAMATION**

**Technical Agronomic Support and  
Custom Blending Available**



# "SAFE PLAYING FIELDS":

## What does it really mean?

### Part 1

By Rich Watson

Over the course of the past year, anyone involved in New Jersey's turf industry has heard the term "Safe Playing Fields" used by a variety of people in regards to the safety of our children. The sports field manager has been portrayed as someone who is trained only to apply pesticides on a schedule to deal with pests and is not aware about safer alternatives that prevent these problems long term. I have heard terms like careless, uninformed and misguided to describe sports field managers who apply pesticides on athletic fields. These types of statements are what led me to stand up and try to bring some clarity to the conversation about safe playing fields. Lost in this conversation are the dedication, time and energy that sports turf managers put into their craft. Most people don't see the pre-dawn irrigation checks, the weekend visits on site, and the amount of time spent at home researching, plotting and planning updates to their turf plan. The first thing considered at all times is the safety of the athletes that use our facilities. With that being said, let's look at what a safe playing field really is.

I don't know if there is one true definition for a safe playing field. However, turf quality is a good place to start the discussion. If a field has a smooth, well rooted and groomed surface it is more than likely to provide a safe playing surface for just about any sport. The key ingredients for quality sports turf are fertility, proper seeding, good cultural practices and responsible pest management (IPM).

New Jersey's fertilizer law is in full swing these days. After passing the certification test, don't let the law scare you from keeping fertility up on your fields. The law in regards to sports fields is fair and can be adapted to fulfill your field's needs. It will take some thought and close monitoring though. Consistent fertility applications throughout the year are very important to maintain quality turf. Spring turf requirements call for moderate amounts of nitrogen (my choice is ammonium sulfate), while summer stress can be dealt with by introducing an organic or

*Continued on page 12*

**PLANT FOOD COMPANY, INC.** **S25 SPRAY-PRO®**  
Registered trademark of EarthWay Products, Inc.

*Spray-Pro is the perfect tool to apply your High Quality Plant Food Liquid Fertilizers!*

**Ideal for Sports Turf, Schools, Parks and Residential Properties**  
-6.6 gallon Spray Tank!  
-Adjustable 2-5ft Spray Width!  
-Includes 3 different spray nozzle tips for altered rate applications

**1-800-562-1291**  
[www.plantfoodco.com](http://www.plantfoodco.com)

20-0-3 25%SRN  
16-0-8 50%SRN

# Field Renovation with Sod is a Natural Fit on this Busy Sports Field



by Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Someone once described Salesianum School in Wilmington Delaware as a sports program with a high school attached. With over 117 State Championship banners hanging in our gym, this private college preparatory school for young men trains very hard. The 8.5 acre outdoor athletic field complex features two native soil, cool-season multipurpose sports fields. Primarily a practice facility, 6 of the 14 sports programs offered by the school call these fields home. Baseball, soccer and lacrosse teams (at all 3 levels) play their home games here, as do the freshman and junior varsity football teams. The Varsity football team plays their home games offsite.

This location hosts over 850 events annually which include practices, games, camps, winter intramurals and physical education. On any afternoon in the spring or fall, there are 6 teams outside practicing on the fields. High trafficked areas get worn out and damaged. But safety and playability are important at this school. Post season usually means renovation, and renovation means new sod. Truck loads of new sod!

Our decision to re-sod is a matter of necessity. For example, in late November when the football season is over, the roughly 2.5 acre upper field practice football area is worn down to bare soil from our three football teams that practice on it daily. In the spring, this area will transform to a baseball infield and outfield with a lacrosse field configured on it. We need the quick turn-around that sod provides.

The lower field has just over 5 acres of multipurpose sports turf. In the springtime, the field is configured with a varsity baseball infield, the outfield serving 2 lacrosse fields in both right and left field. We re-sod the worn lacrosse goal creases just after Memorial Day as these areas also serve as a soccer pitch in the fall. Depending upon the amount of wear, we might install up to an acre of sod on the lower field. In a school with a successful soccer program, a smooth turfgrass surface means better ball handling!


Sports field renovation requires specialized equipment and people with the know-how to get the job done, especially when timelines are tight. Soil preparation begins by stripping off the worn surface and hauling off the debris. Next, the area is laser graded to plane off the high spots and fill in the low spots. Often, additional soil is brought in to improve the grade. The surface is decompacted and fertilized to enhance rooting. The trucks arrive with sod and a crew skillfully installs it. The size and shape

of the area determines whether we use big rolls or slabs. Freshly cut sod is perishable so it must be installed quickly whether it is the first week of December or the first week of June. For these reasons, we hire an experienced sports field construction contractor to renovate our fields. Sean Connell, owner of Georgia Golf Construction of Woodbine New Jersey has been our renovation contractor since 2006.

We choose a turf type tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass mixture sod because it adapts well to our site. We oversee with Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass around Labor Day through late October, skipping the completely bare, heavily worn areas that result from teams constantly running drills in the same spots (there really is nowhere for teams to move around to). Completely worn areas usually require additional topsoil and laser grading at the end of the playing season as the soil has become displaced and the surface is uneven.

*Continued on page 18*

**Georgia Golf Construction, Inc.**  
Athletic Field and Track Specialists



- ◆ Native soil athletic field construction
- ◆ Synthetic field base construction
- ◆ Laser grading
- ◆ Pitcher's mound building

- ◆ Synthetic track repair and installation
- ◆ Sodding and seeding
- ◆ Infield laser grading
- ◆ Aerification services

Georgia Golf Construction, Inc., 1441 Route 50, Woodbine, NJ 08270  
www.georgia-golfconstruction.com/609-628-2597/404-216-4445



***You're safe!***  
**On TURFACE**  
***#1 Conditioner on America's  
 most playable fields***

**TURFACE ATHLETICS**

**ABCA**  
**SportsTurf**  
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION  
Experts on the Field. Partners in the Game.

**MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

Find us on **Facebook**  
facebook.com/Turface

Find a distributor and field maintenance videos  
[www.Turface.com](http://www.Turface.com) or 800-207-6457



**We know you work hard.  
 Let us work harder.**

Lean on us for some of your business demands - we know we can work harder for you. This is why we've implemented the Partners Program and Business Solutions, and the Px3 Maintenance Package.

Px3 helps you with the planning process by providing customized bids for each project. We can accurately estimate the square footage of any property.

Customers who join our Partners Program earn points on every John Deere Landscapes purchase and redeem those points at an online store, for various industry events, or for cash on account. Program members are also eligible for our Business Solutions, which can help reduce your day-to-day business expenses.

Please contact your local branch to learn more about these opportunities. We are eager to help you with as many of your business challenges as possible!



**JOHN DEERE  
 LANDSCAPES**

800-347-4272  
[www.JohnDeereLandscapes.com](http://www.JohnDeereLandscapes.com)

equipment and/or services during a demonstration stop at Adelphia. In previous years, vendors have demonstrated mowers, aerification equipment, debris collection machines, line painting tools, drill-and-fill and slice-and-fill machines, and turf removal and sodding methods.

Demonstrations will be available to potential sponsors for purchase from SFMANJ in 5-minute periods per piece of equipment demonstrated. Vendors who wish to demonstrate equipment must purchase a trade show booth. Three demonstrations will occur per tour stop; thus, vendors will have the opportunity to show their equipment to the Red, White, and Blue attendee groups per 1 hour rotation.

A total of twelve demonstrations are available. The first twelve vendors to reserve a demonstration will be allocated 5 minutes of demonstration time per piece of equipment. If all twelve equipment demonstrations are not sold within two weeks of the Field Day, the first vendor to reserve a demonstration will be provided the opportunity to purchase an additional demonstration.

Following the turfgrass education and demonstration period, a fine lunch will be served to all of those in attendance. The trade show will also be open during this time. Following lunch, New Jersey DEP pesticide recertification credits, and credits from neighboring states

per approval, will be available to attendees. Attendees will also have the option to remain onsite and attend an NJ DEP Core credit session after lunch.

## See you on August 1!

### Please note the following:

Attendees may register online by visiting the NJTA website: [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org); (o) 973.812.6467; (email) [execdirector@njturfgrass.org](mailto:execdirector@njturfgrass.org)

Those vendors interested in reserving a trade show booth or a trade show booth and demonstration are encouraged to contact SFMANJ for more information and appropriate paperwork (website) [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org); (o) 856.514.3179; (email) [mail@sfmanj.org](mailto:mail@sfmanj.org)

### The schedule for August 1 is as follows:

6:30 am	Vendors may arrive
7:30 am	Registration & Trade Show Opening
9:00 am	Research Tours & Equipment Demos
1:00 pm	Lunch & Open Trade Show
2:00 pm	Optional CORE Pesticide Credit Session
2:30 pm	Conclusion

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors since 2003.



## 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)



Our newsletter advertisers are invited to submit articles to Update profiling themselves, their company, their services or their products.

Entitled "Spotlight on our Advertisers", these 1/2 page articles can include your local salespersons' names, phone numbers, and email addresses along with any local events you are sponsoring.

It can run next to your company's ad or be in a separate area of the newsletter.

## AND IT'S FREE!

Deadline for the Fall issue is August 10



# A Message from the President

Continued from page 4

presentation by Dr. Neil Dougherty from Rutgers University. Dr. Dougherty identified some of the many other non-turf related safety hazards to athletes that we need to be aware of as sports field managers. The theme of safety continued into our final presentation of the program as Brad Park from Rutgers addressed the proper criteria for interpreting a pesticide label. At the end of the program, attendees were awarded NJ pesticide recertification credits for all of the education that they had received throughout the day.

The 2012 SFMANJ Spring Field Day proved to be a great success as we received a great deal of positive feedback from the event. Our sincere thanks to all of our commercial members who made the Ginty Field renovation project a huge success, our professional guest speakers who took the time to address and educate our membership and most importantly, the hard-working administration, staff and grounds crew in Morris Township that hosted the event. Our thanks to Geese Chasers, Cover Sports, Levitt's and Grass Roots for their support in the trade show portion of the program. For those of you who were able to attend, we thank you for your feedback on the day of the event. Please contact us and keep us updated on the challenges you're facing and/or any specific training that you may need. As always, feel free to contact me or any other SFMANJ board members directly. Our contact information is available on the SFMANJ website at [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org).

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

## ATTENTION SPORTS FELD MANAGERS!

Have you sent in your entry for SFMANJ  
**Field of the Year**

Very easy to enter. Call 856-514-3179 or go to  
[www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org) - resources tab for easy instructions.



**Your #1 Turf Supplier**

**Fertilizers/Seed  
Plant-Protectants  
Soils/Sands**

**The Turf Trade**  
517 Franklinville Road  
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062  
**856-478-6704**

Alan Phillips 609-226-9303  
Steven Segui 302-354-7209  
Michael Nicotra 856-472-2733

[www.theturftrade.com](http://www.theturftrade.com)

## Grass Roots Turf Products

A company focused on Service, Technical Support  
and Quality Products.



### We carry a variety of products to fit your needs.

(We carry many products, this is just a sample. See our website and catalog for full line.)

- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Soil Amendments
- Field Conditioners
- Mound Clay
- Stripping Paint
- Guideline
- Spreaders
- Tools



Address: 4 Middlebury Blvd.  
Suite 14  
Randolph, NJ 07869

Phone: 973-252-5455  
Fax: 973-252-2881  
Website: [www.griturf.com](http://www.griturf.com)



## Low Impact Pesticides

Organic Based  
Fertilizers

Plant Health Care Products  
for the Landscape Industry



**(609) 468-1905**

[www.techterraenvironmental.com](http://www.techterraenvironmental.com)



# Vendor re-cap of Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Spring Field Day 2012

