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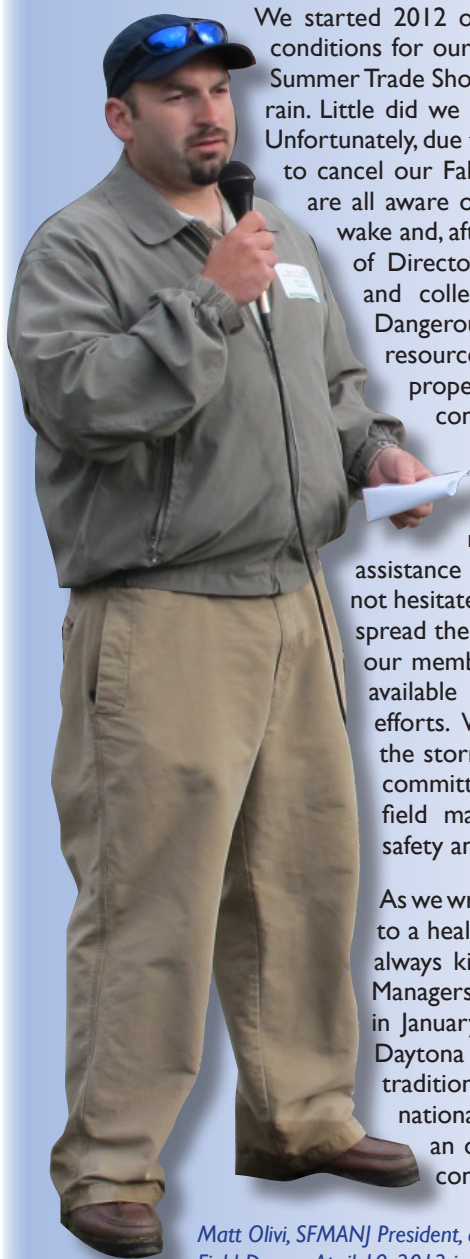
Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

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A Message from The President

By Matt Olivi



We started 2012 off with great weather and perfect conditions for our Spring Field Day event. Then, our Summer Trade Show Event was cut short by torrential rain. Little did we know, the worst was yet to come. Unfortunately, due to Hurricane Sandy, we were forced to cancel our Fall Field Day event all together. We are all aware of the devastation Sandy left in her wake and, after considerable thought, the Board of Directors felt it best to let its members and colleagues focus on higher priorities. Dangerous travel conditions, limited fuel resources and recovery from severe property damage around the state all contributed to the decision to cancel the event. While some areas of New Jersey were severely damaged, others sustained very little. Field managers and organizations needing assistance rebuilding or repairing fields should not hesitate to contact SFMANJ so that we can spread the word to the membership. Many of our members and colleagues have resources available to help with ongoing recovery efforts. We realize that a full recovery from the storm will take a long time and we are committed to helping New Jersey sports field managers continue to maintain the safety and playability of their fields.

As we wrap-up another year, we look forward to a healthy start to 2013. Each new year is always kicked-off by the annual Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) conference in January. This year we will be traveling to Daytona Beach, Florida. SFMANJ has a proud tradition of being well represented at this national event. The conference provides an opportunity for us to compare and contrast what we are doing with other

Matt Olivi, SFMANJ President, addresses attendees at the 2012 Spring Field Day on April 19, 2012 in Morris Township, NJ.

STMA chapters throughout the country. Members of the Board of Directors in attendance will be introduced to new strategies that can be effectively implemented here in our New Jersey Chapter. We strongly encourage our local membership to attend the conference if possible. The educational event always proves to be extremely rewarding to all of those in attendance. The educational sessions focus on the latest turfgrass research and field maintenance practices. If you're interested in the latest equipment and tools of the trade, the STMA Conference hosts a two-day trade show that is second to none. We hope to see you there.

SFMANJ is always interested in supporting the next generation of field managers through our scholarship program. We are proud to award both Kyle Genova and Erik Taylor from Rutgers University with scholarships for academic excellence in 2012. Congratulations to Kyle and Erik. We are proud of your accomplishments. As the financial health of the chapter continues to strengthen, SFMANJ has budgeted to double the scholarship funds available to students for 2013 and hopes to continue to increase available funds to deserving students as we move forward.

Despite the challenges we've faced throughout 2012 the state of our New Jersey Chapter of Sports Field Managers is strong. Please continue to provide your Board of Directors with feedback as we move into the New Year. Let us know how the association can best serve its membership. We always accomplish more through collaboration and team work. Keep an eye out for advertisements as our events schedule for 2013 comes together. We look forward to seeing you at future meetings and events.

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