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## Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 224 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2013 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. Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

Anthony Amiano Berkeley Heights BOE **Bob Beutel** Borough of Tenafly Scott Bills, CSFM Dura Edge Chris Carlson Bergen Community College Ray Cipperly Middlesex County Technical High School Student, County College of Morris Tim Cutler Bill Deacon New York Mets Steven Delellis Manalapan Twp DPW Sherwin Williams lim Dickinson Bruce Furstenburg Power Place, Inc. John Helander Aquarius Supply Co. James Hermann Total Control, Inc. High Point Regional High School Jeff Jacobus Hugh Knowlton Bergen Community College Collin F. MacDonnell III Ramapo College of NI Steve Magno Jesco, Inc. Samantha Merrick Genesis Turfgrass Joe Olden City of Linwood Matthew Pinkerton Student, County College of Morris Nick Prusakowski Manalapan Twp DPW Mike Reissner East Brunswick Parks and Rec Steve Sansonese MetLife Stadium Brent | Sliker Twp of Mansfield

# Save the Date THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013

SFMANJ Fall Field Day

featuring Minor and Major League Grounds Managers



Do we have your e-mail address.

Send a note to mail@sfmanj.org to make sure we have it or to make a change.

## 2013 SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **OFFICERS**

President	Matt Olivi, Piscataway BOE
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Secretary	Scott Bills, CSFM, Sports Field Consultant
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#### DIRECTORS

#### **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 Email: mail@sfmanj.org • Phone/Fax: 856-514-3179

#### National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association
www.stma.org

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

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

UPDATE Fall 2013



## A Message from The President . . .

# Looking forward to our fall events

by Matt Olivi

We are now approaching the home stretch of 2013. After another successful summer tradeshow at the Rutgers Research Field Day, SFMANJ is now focusing on the upcoming Fall Field Day on Thursday November 7. Last Fall Hurricane Sandy forced us to cancel what was shaping-up to be a great Field Day Event at East Brunswick Vo-Tech High School (EBVTHS). When EBVTHS athletic director Ray Cipperly made the suggestion to re-run the program this year, the SFMANJ Board of Directors jumped at the idea. Over the past few years, our professional facility members have been very supportive of SFMANI educational programs and they are clearly continuing that tradition this year. Field Managers from the Somerset Patriots, Lakewood BlueClaws, Trenton Thunder, Lehigh Valley IronPigs and the New York Mets, will all be in attendance to demonstrate effective Baseball Field Maintenance Strategies and share their perspectives. The Event will follow a clinic-style format where attendees will be able to focus on one specific area of the field at a time. A tradeshow complete with equipment demonstrations will be incorporated into the educational program so attendees

will be able to see what's on the market to help them achieve their maintenance goals. Admission to the event will be free to all SFMANJ members so don't miss this great opportunity to learn from the pros. Be on the lookout for detailed program brochures and registration information. Please contact the SFMANJ office for event details, sponsorship opportunities and program information.

It's never too early to look ahead to December and the annual NJ Green Expo in Atlantic City. Expo will be held December 10-12, 2013 at the Trump Taj Mahal. It's a great opportunity to expand your technical knowledge and gain a new perspective on field management and maintenance. As always, attendees will have an opportunity to load-up on pesticide recertification credits at any of the sports field management sessions throughout the conference. Come for the education and stay for the annual trade show to catch-up with old friends and colleagues. I hope to see you there.

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

Go to www.sfmanj.org to download SFMANJ registration information

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# State Park and Dr. James Murphy We By Brad Park and Dr. James Murphy We By Brad Park and Dr. James Murphy

Editor's Note: This article was derived from the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet with the same name. The full Fact Sheet, as well as a list of varieties, can be found at http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1186/tall-fescue-varieties-for-nj-sports-fields.asp

Use of tall fescue (Festuca arundinacea Schreb.) as a forage and conservation grass increased in the United States with the release of 'Alta' and 'Kentucky 31' in 1940. It has long been used for control of soil erosion along right-of-ways such as highway roadsides. By the 1960s, 'Kentucky 31' became more widely recognized as a useful turfgrass in the transition zone (boundary between the temperate and subtropical climates) of the United States due to its good heat tolerance and adaptation to a wide range of soil (pH, fertility and moisture) and light conditions.

'Rebel', released in 1979, was the first turf-type tall fescue variety with a reduced vertical growth habit, finer leaf texture and darker green color compared to Kentucky 31 and Alta. Continued turfgrass breeding efforts have provided retail consumers and turfgrass professionals with many choices of improved, turf-type varieties, which has increased the use of tall fescue.

Turf-type tall fescue is a good choice for school grounds, sports fields, and parks in New Jersey and other regions where the mowing height is 2-inches or taller and nitrogen fertilizer and irrigation inputs are minimal. Improved, lower-growing varieties of tall fescue reduce the need for frequent mowing as well as improve turfgrass quality and longevity. Lower irrigation and fertilization requirements of tall fescue compared to Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.) make it possible to maintain

moderate to high quality sports fields utilizing fewer inputs. Meeting the challenges of lower input turf management strategies is important for municipal governments and school districts operating with limited budgets.

Properly established tall fescue exhibits a deep root system, helping it tolerate drought stress and white grub feeding. Additionally, most improved varieties of tall fescue are endophyte-enhanced, which improves resistance to surface feeding insects; however, endophyte-enhanced tall fescue varieties should not be established where livestock grazing is anticipated.

#### **Selecting Varieties**

Selection of tall fescue varieties for sports fields should be based on the characteristics of traffic tolerance, turfgrass quality, and susceptibility to brown patch disease (caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*). Traffic tolerant varieties are more persistent under the combined stresses of wear and compaction, which are very common on sports turfs.

Turfgrass quality is a visual evaluation of a turf's color, density, uniformity, texture (fineness of leaf blades), and freedom from pest and environmental stress damage; these data are available for multiple National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) test locations.

Continued on page 8



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#### New Jersey Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort, Atlantic City, NJ

## 2013 SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS EXPO PROGRAM

#### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013**

Afternoor	Section
Affernoor	ı Sessior

- 1:00 1:45 Implementing Sound Cultural Practices That Reduce Turfgrass Pest Pressure In Morris Township Bill Foelsch, Morris Township, NJ Parks & Recreation
- 1:45 2:15 Weed Control Using Fewer Pesticides On School Sports Fields & Grounds Tom Serensits. Penn State University
- 2:15 2:45 Cultural Strategies To Reduce Turfgrass Diseases On School Sports Fields & Grounds
  Rich Buckley, Rutgers University
- 2:45 3:00 SFMANJ Field of the Year Presentation
- 3:00 4:00 The NJ School IPM Law: What You Need To Know To Comply
  Tim Boyle, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection, Pesticide
  Control Program
- 4:00-8:00 Trade Show
- 5:00 5:30 Core on the Floor
  Dr. John Grande, Rutgers
- 5:45-6:15 Being A Major League Baseball Head Groundskeeper Nicole McFadyen, Baltimore Orioles

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013

#### **Morning Session**

- 7:30 8:30 Early Bird Sports Field Managers
  Networking roundtable
- 8:30 9:00 Annual Business Meeting
- 9:00 9:30 The Year In Review
  - Brad Park, Rutgers University
- 9:30 10:15 Update on Synthetic Turf Research Tom Serensits, Penn State University
- 10:15 11:00 Management Of Turfgrass And Skin Surfaces At Camden Yards

Nicole McFadyen, Baltimore Orioles

11:00-11:30 Sports Field Management At Salem Board of Education Fred Kendall, Salem BOE

#### **Afternoon Session**

- 2:30 3:15 Sports Field Management At The New York Red Bulls

  Dan Shemesh, New York Red Bulls
- 3:15 4:15 IPM Methods To Control White Grubs And Other Insect Pests On School Sports Fields & Grounds

  Dr. Ben McGraw, SUNY Delhi
- 4:15 5:00 Vision For Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA)
  From The President-Elect
  David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, Town of Lexington,
  Massachusetts

# Announcing a new password protected area on our web site!

By Debbie Savard

It is a new Members Only section that will be password protected and only accessible by other SFMANJ members. Within the Members Only section you will be able to access a full roster of our membership as well as the Minutes of our Board Meetings.

To use this Members Only feature you will need to use a **User Name and a Password.** 

The user name for SFMANJ members will be their first and last name as it appears in the directory, using all lower case letters with no spaces. Use only the first and last name with no prefixes, suffixes or middle initials. Please check the Membership Directory, that you should have recently received in the mail, to see how your first name was entered.



For example, in the Directory my name is entered as Debbie Savard, not Debra Savard. I would enter it on the user line as: **debbiesavard**.

In lower case letters on the password line everyone will enter: **sfmanj**.

**Check out this new feature!** If you have a smart phone or tablet, you will always have access to the addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of other members.

(Please call 856-514-3179 if your user name doesn't work.)

# ATTENTION SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS!

Have you sent in your entry for SFMANJ **2013 Field of the Year** 

Deadline Oct. 31, 2013
EASY TO ENTER!
Just call 856-514-3179

or go to www.sfmanj.org - resources tab for easy instructions and/or a downloadable entry form.

# WHAT MANUAL?

By Fred Castenschiold

I have been selling quality turf care equipment for over thirty years. I am still amazed how so few customers refer to their owners/operator manuals until it is too late or not at all. These manuals are a great source of information for the supervisor, operator and mechanic.

When taking in a trade on equipment, I try to always recover the original manuals from the account to pass on to the new owner. Often the condition of these manuals condition indicates that they have not been referred-to much! It is a good idea to always record the model and serial number of the equipment on the cover of the manual for quick reference when discussing the need for service or parts. It also a good idea to make sure you read and understand the operators' manual for your machine before operating or servicing it. Become familiar with all safety signs (decals) on the machine. Some manufacturers provide operator training videos which help demonstrate procedures for safe operation and daily maintenance.

Preventative maintenance of your equipment will help you to get the most out of your investment. If you do not have a preventative maintenance program it would be good to start one soon. Sometimes we go long stretches between those rainy day opportunities. Doing scheduled maintenance and adjustments will prolong the life of your equipment, help prevent expensive downtime and give the best possible quality of cut and performance. Experience has shown that a high percentage of problems have developed over a period of time and could have been prevented by adjustment, lubrication, or other required maintenance.

When referring to the manual, take into consideration how harsh your conditions are and remember that manufacturer recommendations for service are the minimum requirements. If we have a long dry spell and your equipment is working daily in a particularly dusty environment you may wish to consider oil and air filter changes more often.

Some of my customers have come-up with great maintenance schedules which they live by. Keeping records for each machine insures that maintenance procedures are being performed at the proper time. These records could also help you predict parts to have on hand. By keeping blades, belts, filters, etc. on-hand, you will not be caught in a situation where important maintenance was not performed on-schedule because of a lack of parts.

Know what is contained in your manufacturer's warranty. Most warranties are two years in the commercial field. When talking to a service manager regarding a possible warranty issue you will need to refer to those model and serial numbers. Remember? ... The model and serial numbers you wrote down on the front cover of your manual!

Fred Castenschiold is Sales Representative, Storr Tractor Company and SFMANJ Vice President.



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# 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### SFMANJ Fall Field Day

November 7, 2013
East Brunswick Vo-Tech High School
East Brunswick, NJ
856.514.3179
www.sfmanj.org

#### **New Jersey State League of Municipalities**

November 19-21, 2013
Atlantic City Convention Center
Atlantic City, NJ
609.695.3481
www.njslom.org

#### **New Jersey Green Expo**

December 10-12, 2013 Trump Taj Mahal Atlantic City, NJ 973.812.6467 www.niturfgrass.org

#### STMA Conference & Exhibition

January 21-24, 2014 San Antonio, TX 800.323.3875 www.stma.org

2014 Rutgers NJAES OCPE Courses Organic Turfgrass Management January 28, 2014

Two-Day Athletic Field Maintenance February 12-13, 2014

Reducing Pesticide Inputs & Exploring Organic Options for Sports Turf

February 18, 2014

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## TALL FEMME Verteites for New Teresy Sports Fields

Brown patch disease is capable of producing large (I to 2-ft diameter) circular patches of damaged turf during periods of warm, humid weather and is the most problematic disease affecting tall fescue. Varieties and experimental selections are routinely evaluated for susceptibility to brown patch disease in NTEP trials.

Research conducted at Rutgers University on the 2006 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) Tall Fescue Test has identified tall fescue varieties with better traffic tolerance, turfgrass quality, and lower brown patch susceptibility (http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1186/tall-fescue-varieties-for-nj-sports-fields.asp).

#### **Purchasing Seed**

Purchasing certified seed of tall fescue is strongly suggested. Certified seed is grown in fields inspected by a state-certifying agency for genetic purity and also meets standards for germination (viability) and freedom from weeds and other crop seeds.

Identifying the variety of seed in the container allows the buyer to select improved varieties having the genetic traits that are most important for high quality sports field playing surfaces. Conversely, use of poorly adapted varieties can result in extensive turf failure, which increases the likelihood of field downtime and costly repairs. Seed labels that do not identify varieties or report varieties as variety-not-stated (VNS) present a risk to the buyer because the turf quality of the seed is unknown.

#### **Establishment of Tall Fescue**

Tall fescue grows well in moderately well-drained and fertile soil of slight acidity (optimum pH of 6.5 to 6.7). Tall fescue is an excellent choice for low to medium maintenance sports fields where irrigation is either limited or not available. Drought tolerance of tall fescue depends on the turf being well-established, especially after the development of a deep extensive root system, which may take a full growing season. Good rooting will be achieved by proper soil preparation before seeding or sodding and adequate nitrogen fertilization and irrigation during the establishment year. Construction practices and other efforts that limit compaction of the soil will ensure drought tolerance of tall fescue.

Tall fescue lacks abundant rhizomes, which are necessary for aggressive lateral spreading; thus, Kentucky bluegrass is commonly mixed with tall fescue to increase the ability of the turf to spread laterally. The rhizomes of Kentucky bluegrass provide sod strength and facilitate a suitable harvest. Sod of tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass is readily available in New Jersey. Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass seed mixtures should consist of two or more traffic tolerant turf type tall fescue varieties in combination with one or more Kentucky bluegrass varieties with the following standards (percentage by weight): 80-95% Tall fescue; 5-20% Kentucky bluegrass.

Because the seed size of Kentucky bluegrass is much smaller than tall fescue, mixtures that contain 90% tall fescue and 10% Kentucky bluegrass (by weight) have approximately an equal number of tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass seeds. Seed mixtures that are 80% tall fescue and 20% Kentucky bluegrass (by weight) are approximately 70% Kentucky bluegrass and 30% tall fescue (by seed count).

Continued on page 14

## **Volunteering at the 2013**

## League Baseball





This past July, the MLB All-Star Game was held at nearby Citi Field in Flushing, New Members of the SFMANI Board of Directors, including myself, Scott Bills (SFMAN) Secretary), and Brad Park (Editor, SFMAN| Update newsletter) were afforded an opportunity to assist the Citi Field grounds crew with maintenance operations throughout the three day event. Kenny MacNish, Rutgers undergraduate student and Kevin Rundstrom, recent Rutgers graduate also volunteered, both of whom were past participants in the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Student

All-Star festivities started with the Celebrity and Legends game on Sunday, July 14, the Home Run Derby competition on Monday, July 15 and ended with the 2013 All-Star Game on Tuesday, July 16. Despite the added challenges of extreme hot weather, concert performances, ceremonial rehearsals, photo shoots and an overall increased media presence, the professional field management staff accomplished every task on the demanding

Throughout the threeday event, the large number of additional media personnel and all of their additional equipment had to be accommodated. Every effort is made to preserve the turfgrass on the field

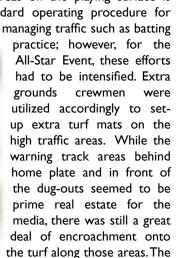
maintenance schedule.

through traffic management and by using protective covers when possible. Protecting sensitive areas on the playing surface is

standard operating procedure for

Grounds staff set-up temporary fences around the turf surrounding the home plate, field logos and other sensitive areas. Not only did the turf require protection, but so did the media crews. Extra turf mats and screens were set-up to protect MLB Network Analysts who were broadcasting from a temporary stage that was set-up just behind third base.

Working as a public employee, I haven't had much experience incorporating advertising andanationaltelevisionproductionintogame day preparation. At the Major League level, each event provides separate sponsorship opportunities and corresponding signage and visual displays that need to be set-up. For the All-Star events, the grounds staff had specific tasks and instructions for sign Continued on page 13







**UPDATE Fall 2013** 





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