fields to encourage faster turf establishment. The SFMANJ would also like to thank Bernard and the Northern Burlington County School District for hosting the 2013 Spring Field Day.

Dave Kuscinsky, grounds supervisor at the Torpey Athletic Complex once again submitted an application for the baseball field. Dave inherited a field that was designed poorly, with most of the



infield pitched towards home plate. As a result, Dave is constantly doing hand work to keep the field playable. SFMANJ President, Matt Olivi visited with Dave at the field and as usual was thoroughly impressed by Dave's enthusiasm and knowledge. In an attempt to improve drainage, Dave explained he had the field laser graded this year. His turf program continues to show positive improvements with a very playable infield and outfield. Dave continues to aerate and topdress on a regular basis.



RichWatson and Scott Bills visited Adam Simmons of the Borough of Glassboro at the main park on South Delsea Drive. Adam entered the football field for 2013 Field of the Year. During the visit Rich and Scott were thoroughly

impressed with Adam and the results he was able to achieve on the football field. Despite visiting the field in later November, the field had signs of minimal wear and consistent turf coverage. Adam explained his turf program, but feels he still has a lot to learn. Much like Michael Collins of Cumberland County College this once only the first year Adam was fully in charge of the athletic fields. Due to his efforts, Adam Simmons will be hosting the 2014 Spring Field Day. The all day program will include a trade show, equipment demonstrations and educational session that will include DEP credits.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey congratulates Michael Collins of Cumberland County College, Bernard Luongo of Northern Burlington County School District, Dave Kuscinsky of the Somerset County Park Commission and Adam Simmons of the Borough of Glassboro for their efforts to provide safe and playable fields.

2013 Field of the Year

Larry Mayerowitz, General Supervisor, Middlesex County Parks Commission submitted an application for the football field at Waterfront Park, South Amboy, NJ. Larry and Middlesex County have been members of SFMANJ since inception and have submitted field of the year applications in the past.

Matt Olivi, SFMAN President visited with Larry on a rainy day. Despite the gloomy weather, the field glowed. Matt couldn't believe that after dozens of Pop Warner and high school games the field looked like it was the beginning of the season.

Larry has maintained the field with a consistent turf management program including balanced fertilizer applications and weed treatments as needed. In addition, the cultural practices put in place by Larry many years ago continue to show benefits. The field is mowed no less than twice per week. In addition, wear areas are inspected and overseeded after each use. Finally, the field has been aerated and topdressed every fall. Continued on page 12

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UPDATE Spring 2014

SFMANJ Names its 2013 Field of the Year

In addition to heavy use, the field was also covered with several feet off brackish water after super storm Sandy in October 2012. If it was not for the consistent turf management program the field would never had the recuperative powers to withstand this type of stress.

Perhaps more impressive that the physical condition of the field were the letters of commendation and thanks by several user groups who plan on the field and interact with Larry on a regular basis. In fact, one user group commented that he would put the natural turf field at Waterfront Park up against any synthetic field.



Larry was awarded the 2013 Field of the Year plaque at the NJ Green Expo conference in Atlantic City on Tuesday, December 10, 2013. In addition, Larry was honored by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen

Freeholders at their monthly meeting. Several board members of SFMANJ once again presented the award to Larry in front of the freeholders and his peers. During the presentation, a slide show with pictures of the field was observed by all in attendance.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey congratulates Larry Mayerowitz of the Middlesex County Park Commission for winning the 2013 Field of the Year award.



The SFMANJ Field of the Year program recognizes the efforts of member sports turf managers throughout New Jersey. Applications for the 2014 Field of the Year are due by the end of October 2014 and are awarded at the NJ Green Expo in Atlantic City, NJ in early December. In addition to a plaque, the winner will receive a complimentary registration to all education sessions, the two day trade show, dinner and one night lodging at Trump Taj Mahal.

If you have any further questions regarding the program please feel free to contact the SFMANJ office.

Scott Bills is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Secretary, SFMANJ; and SFMANJ Public Relations Committee Chairman

Be sure to return your REGISTRATION REGISTRATION LOUINE RECEIVING JOUIN COPY OF Update And other SFMANJ information! And please update your information for the directory

HAVE YOU CHECKED-OUT OUR WEB SITE LATELY?

Check our <u>Events</u> page for upcoming events and pictures of past SFMANJ functions.

Check our <u>Resources</u> page for past issues of our Newsletter Update, Minutes from past Board Meetings, links to useful information and job postings.

Check our <u>Contact Us</u> page for direct links to all of the Board of Directors. Call us with any questions or comments.

Check our <u>Vendor</u> page for interactive links to our advertising vendors' web sites and a complete list of all our vendors. Call them first! They are happy to answer any questions.

Check our New <u>MEMBERS ONLY</u> Section on the Home Page for Membership Directory and Minutes

OVERBROOK'S FIELD OF DREAMS : A Coach's Perspective



It was 7 AM on a Saturday morning as I pulled into the parking lot. On the baseball field was a group of three men; one with a rake, one with a spreader, and one on a tractor. All were working to put the field in playing condition after a night of rain. It was not raining hard, but it was still raining. My immediate thought was, "No game today," but having these three men on the job gave me hope. A light mist was still falling, but head man, Rich Watson, assured me the game would be played and it was. Hand raking wet areas,

adding drying agent and even cutting away wet grass allowed the game to begin five hours later. The pride and diligenceof Rich Watson, Bill Loftus, and Carmelo Anguila made this game and a host of others a reality on a day when very few games, if any would take place. This was March 31, 2012, but it could have been any day during the baseball season.

Being able to play on Overbrook High School's baseball field is a privilege any baseball coach or player would be lucky to have. Going on my eighth year as head baseball coach I know our team will practice and play each day on a facility that provides

the ultimate in beauty and function. The grass is always green, cut to a perfect length, and dandelion free. Rich and his crew pick them out by hand. The pitcher's mound would make any Major League hurler content as it is free of any cumbersome holes. The home plate area is level and lines from home to the foul poles straight and true without a hint of white peeking out from the corners of first or third base. They also tend to our outdoor batting cages and L-screens.

Perhaps the most important aspect of working with Rich, Bill and Carmelo is their commitment to the safety of the players. Our infield plays very true. The dirt portion is smooth and free of clumps and clods that might cause bad hops. It is dragged and leveled each day with almost loving care. The infield grass is mowed two or three times a week to insure true bounces. Unlike my lawn at home the turf is carpet like and fast without being dangerous to the fielders. Crabgrass has been eliminated as well.

One of the new problems is geese. They love ball fields and generally evidence of their presence can be found on the field each morning. Our guys work tirelessly to keep the area as free of their mess as possible. There is a realization of the danger to the health of our players, coaches and fans.

Communication between the coaches and grounds crew is essential. Baseball in the Northeast during early spring when the weather is very unpredictable makes interaction between our staff and the grounds crew important. Rich provides hourly updates on the weather, field conditions and progress on any work necessary to make the field playable for that day. Our staff and Rich's staff have great respect for one another. They are well aware of the need for us to have use of the field and

we realize his concern for both our players and the field.

We recognize our staff as leaders in their work. The crew at Overbrook has provided seminars in field care and I receive emails from time to time from other coaches asking for contact information for our crew. They have committed to a level of perfection and love their work. No one shirks any task. Anyone who visits the complex can see the pride and effort that has been for all the fields, football,



soccer, and hockey as well as the baseball field. In fact, our field has been a requested facility for The Diamond Classic tournament and the Parochial State Final.

Over the years a partnership has developed between the baseball team and the grounds crew. Rich Watson,

Bill Loftus and Carmelo Anguila are as responsible for any success of the baseball program as the players and coaches. They are as important to our team as any player or coach. As a coach there are so many aspect of the position that causes worry. Knowing that our field is in the hands of individuals who possess tremendous expertise and care has taken a major concern off of me. I feel as if we play on a field that is as good as any in the area, and that includes professional ballparks as well.

Chuck Marciano is an English Teacher, Varsity Baseball Coach, and Varsity Basketball Coach, Overbrook High School, Pine Hill Public Schools, Pine Hill, NJ.

Continued on page 1 A Message from The President and Board...

and New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association Conference. He has authored articles for SFMANJ Update as well as Sportsturf Magazine.

We highlighted the educational effort Rich has made with elected representatives of the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly on how he performs turf management and Integrated Pest Management program at his school facilities. He has done a superb job and shown the highest degree of professionalism representing SFMANJ and sports field managers across the State of New Jersey in this area. He is a valuable credit to the sports field management profession both in New Jersey and nationally.

Rich is clearly deserving of the STMA Ericson Award and the SFMANJ Board of Directors could not be happier to have him as a part of our organization.

On a personal note, I will be transitioning out of the Presidential role over the course of this year and I could not be more confident in the direction that the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is going. The leadership and professionalism of the current board and executive officers will ensure that SFMANJ will continue to provide members with timely education and a collaborative voice within the industry in the years ahead. Please give us your feedback so that we can continue this positive trend.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Spring Field Day in Glassboro on Tuesday April 22, 2014. Join us for a fun day of sports field education incorporated with a tradeshow and equipment demonstrations.

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

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For information on other ways to support this fellowship, please contact Dr. Bruce B. Clarke, Director – Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science (848) 932-6295, ext. 331; or clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu or

Turfgrass" in the memo portion of your check. If you desire, you may provide a donation in the form



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Planning Next Year's Budget: Do You Know your Costs?

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM .

It's that time of year again and sports field and grounds managers are planning the Operating Budget for the next fiscal year. Unlike a Capital Budget which is for the purchase of major pieces of equipment, or a Program Budget which is for special projects such as a major field renovation or construction, an Operating Budget is a financial plan for managing the day-to-day operations of a sports field or grounds maintenance operation. We are talking about things like grass seed, mowing and marking paint. Whether you have been given a dollar amount to work with or are starting from zero and must justify every expense, your must mission is to learn what your costs are and estimate what you expect to spend. If you don't know where to begin, here are some tips to help you get started.

Track your historical data. Collect receipts, and all records pertaining to your facilities grounds or sports field operations for the last fiscal year. A ledger book or a computer spread sheet program will be very helpful for organizing this data.

Find out what is expected. You must know exactly what the site will be used for. For example, is it an open space used for a variety of activities, or will it is used for a single purpose such as exhibition baseball games? What are the expectations of the owner? Will certain rules or conditions apply such as the amount and severity of use, use during inclement weather? Different sites will have different budgets based on their maintenance levels. Find out the expectation of the owner first. Without the support of the owner, it will likely waste your time to budgeting for a higher level than what your owner envisions. Consider the following differences in maintenance levels.

Maintenance Levels:

- Level I Showpiece facility (professional sports facility)
- Level 2 Comprehensive stewardship (College facility or high end sports facility)
- Level 3 Managed care (well maintained high school or park)
- Level 4 Reactive management (minimal care, mowing, no irrigation, occasional fertilizer)
- Level 5 Crisis response (neglected, occasional mowing)

Inventory the Site. Take measurements of the area, identify weed and pest pressures and grass types and have a complete chemical and



physical soil test performed. This information is necessary for designing a turf maintenance program. Perform an irrigation audit to

quantify the effectiveness of the irrigation system and the drainage of the soil. Evaluate the effectiveness of the current maintenance system. Determine the thresholds for acceptable wear damage, weeds or pest pressures that you will tolerate before corrective measures will be taken? Think about what can go wrong and how you would respond.

Conduct an inventory of your resources. Who will do the work? What equipment, materials, and time will be needed to get the work done? You will also need to find out how much money was spent in the past and whether it was adequate to meet expectations.

Make a list of all the activities in your program. For each activity list:

- The frequency of each activity
- Number of people and the man-hours required and the cost
- Time constraints
- The equipment needed and cost
- Materials needed and the cost

Create a calendar showing when the activities will occur. This is helpful for scheduling resources and time around scheduled events. This will help you create a realistic picture of what tasks your organization can do in-house, outsource or eliminate. Be sure to include any overhead expenses that your operation is charged, such as rent, utilities, or other line items.

Check your figures carefully and submit your budget. Present your proposal neatly, in an easy to read and understandable format such as a spread sheet. It is likely that your budget will be challenged by a budget committee. Above all, remain flexible. The people we work for often are unaware of the true costs of maintaining a safe and playable sports field, so remember to be tactful, diplomatic and professional.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.



Navigating the new password protected area on our web site!

By Debbie Savard

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.)

SFMANJ Spring Field Day

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014

Featuring Tony Leonard of the Philadelphia Eagles and John Torres of the Philadelphia Union. Sponsored by Profile Products

See Registration form on page 18

Or Call 856-514-3179

Continued from page 7

A Student's Perspective on the 2014 Sports Turf Managers Association Conference and Exhibition

When the lectures were over, we attended the annual meeting luncheon, where the new STMA Board of Directors was introduced and awards were given. A short film made on STMA was also shown, one that will play on PBS and is informative to viewers about the industry and the importance of those who work it in. Afterwards, we walked the tradeshow floor - on the hunt for any clues and help we could obtain to help us in the student challenge. We visited Hunter Irrigation, Diamond Pro, Toro, Jacobsen, John Deere, and many other booths. Members of the turf club were able to speak with professionals in the industry and look for potential jobs and internships. It was a wonderful networking opportunity and a perfect time to see the new equipment that is being integrated into the industry.



The primary reason the Rutgers Turf Club made the trip to San Antonio, Texas was to compete in the Student Challenge. On Friday morning of January 24, in walked our two teams of four, ready to compete against the other colleges and universities. We competed against 21 teams and had one team place in 5th; this team consisted of Nicholas Delmar, Kyle Genova, Jianlong (Jason) Sun, and Lorabeth West. Our second team included Elizabeth Holmes, Josh Moehler, Michael Monzón, and Ariane Vasilatis. The scoring was close, but all in all we

Continued on page 17





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.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey



Continued from page 16

A Student's Perspective on the 2014 Sports Turf Managers Association Conference and Exhibition

were very pleased with the results, having six out of our eight members being first time attendees. The student challenge is an exam made up of multiple components that include short answer, identification, and multiple-choice aspects. We studied our turfgrasses, weeds, insects, diseases, all chemical components, soils, and equipment parts. The Turf Club is eager to attend the STMA conference in 2015 in Denver, Colorado to compete in Rutgers honor.

Once again, we would like to thank Rutgers University, SFMANJ, STMA, and Rutgers Turf Club for enabling us to attend. We also would like to thank our advisors, Brad Park, Sabrina Tirpak, Dr. Bruce Clarke, and Charles Schmid, without them we never would have made it. It is an honor to represent the turfgrass program at Rutgers University, as well as work besides some of the most knowledgeable people in the industry. Our appreciation is endless for these opportunities. Thank you for your support!

> Lorabeth West is an undergraduate student at Rutgers University and a 2014 STMA student challenge team member representing Rutgers University



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EDUCATIONAL TOPICS

We are pleased to announce that there will be a special presentation by **Profile Products/Turface** on field conditioning. We will also offer **pesticide and fertilizer credits** and have special appearances by **John Torres** from the Philadelphia Union and **Tony Leonard** of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Education provided will cover topics such as the fertilizer law, weed control, irrigation, grasses, and field maintenance.

SPRING FIELD DAY AGENDA

- 7:30 8:30 Vendor Registration and Set-Up
- 8:30 9:30 Attendee Registration Trade Show Open (Coffee and Donuts)
- 9:30 10:00 "Infield Conditioning Strategies", Profile Products
- 10:00 10:30 Equipment Demonstrations
- 10:30 11:00 "Weed Control on Public Parks and School Grounds" Brad Park, Rutgers University
- 11:00 11:30 "The NJ Fertilizer Law: What You Need to Know" Dr. Jim Murphy, Rutgers University
- 11:30 12:00 Equipment Demonstrations
- 12:00 1:00 Lunch / Vendor Intros
- 1:00 1:30 "General Irrigation Concepts for Good Cultural Practices" Craig Tolley, County College of Morris
- 1:30 2:00 "Repair of Wear Areas and Overall Care of a Professional Soccer Field" John Torres, Philadelphia Union
- 2:00 2:30 Equipment Demonstrations
- 2:30 3:00 "New Information on Bermuda and Zoysia Grasses" Tony Leonard, Philadelphia Eagles
- 3:00 Closing Remarks / Distribution of Pesticide and Fertilizer Credits



SFMANJ 2013 Field of the Year Runner-Up: Football Field at South Delsea Park, Glassboro, NJ 08028. Adam Simmons, Crew Leader

DIRECTIONS TO SOUTH DELSEA PARK

152 South Delsea Drive, Glassboro, NJ 08028

FROM NORTH USING ROUTE 295

- Take Rt. 295 S to Rt. 42 S.
 Follow 42 S for approx.
- 2 miles
- Take Rt. 55 S to Exit 50 (Glassboro/ Rt. 322 exit)
 Turn left on Rt. 322, follow
- to Delsea Dr. (Rt. 47)
- Turn right on Delsea Dr.
 Go through New St.
- intersection (pass Wawa and KFC)
- 7. Continue on Delsea Dr. past Rita's on right
- 8. Fields will be on left (You will see basketball courts and South Delsea Drive Park sign)

FROM SOUTH USING RT. 55

- 1. Take Rt. 55 N to Glassboro/Rt 322 E exit
- 2. Make right on Rt. 322, follow to Delsea Dr. (Rt. 47)
- 3. Follow Directions from #5 aboveabove
- FROM GARDEN STATE PARKWAY
- 1. Take Atlantic City Expwy W to Exit 41 (Berlin-Crosskeys Rd.)
- 2. Turn left at top of ramp
- 3. Go approx. 7 mi.
- (Berlin-Crosskeys Rd turns into New St.)
- 4. Continue on New St to Delsea Dr. (Rt. 47)
- 5. Turn left onto Delsea Dr.
- 6. Follow Directions from #7 above

Pre-Registration SPRING FIELD DAY Tuesday, April 22, 2014 FREE ADMISSION TO ALL

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The results were incredible... Paul Heron, Grounds Supervisor,

Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, PA