



Fred Castenschild leading participants through demonstrations.

145 in ATTENDANCE FOR FIELD DAY

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey's First Annual Fall Field Day was held on August 8th at Harry Dunham Park in Bernards Township. Thanks to Bernards Township's Parks Director Dan Callahan and his hard working staff, the day went smooth

Equipment demonstrations were the high light of the day. There were 31 demonstrations of various turf equipment and 42 vendor booths where vendors displayed their latest products. With the help of many vendors we were able to aerate and topdress an entire soccer field. 145 participants enjoyed one very large pig roast, compliments of "Have Pig Will Travel".

Topics and speakers for the Sports Turf Sessions were: "Optional Renovation Techniques, 5+ Soccer Goal Scenarios," presented by Jim Hermann CSFM, Total Control; "Apply soil Test Information to Your Maintenance Program," by Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University Extension Specialist and Dr. Henry Indyk, GSI Consultants – TurfCon Div.; and a panel discussion on "Do's & Don'ts of Writing Maintenance Specifications," lead by Eleanor Murfitt, Washington Township Parks & Recreation; the panel included Dr. James Murphy, Dr. John Grande, Rutgers Snyder Farm Research, Dr. Henry Indyk, Jim Gavigan CSFM, Lesco and Jeff Cramer, Plainsboro Township DPW.

SFMANJ appreciates the support and donations from the following vendors:

*SFMANJ Members

- Aer-core Inc., Downingtown, Pa , Donated hats
Demoed the Southern Green Soil Reliever & Drill & Fill
- Ben Shaffer & Associates Inc., LK. Hopatcong, NJ
- *Deer Stopper/Goose Stopper, Chester, NJ

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This newsletter is the official bi-monthly publication of the Sports Filed Managers Association of New Jersey. For information regarding this newsletter, contact: SFMANJ at 908-236-9118

- *The DVH Group, Mt. Epraim, NJ
Donated free laser grading of one softball infield
- E&M Golf Supply, Pittstown Twp., Pa
Demoed the RotaDairon Soil Renovator & Rink Topdresser
- Earth & Turf, New Holland, Pa
Demoed the MS300Twin Spin
- *Ferti-Soil Turf Supply, Scotch Plains, NJ
- *Ferti-Soil, Kenneth Square, Pa Donated topsoil
Continued on page 2.....

SFMANJ BUSINESS

- Next Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, September 16, 5:30pm at Rutgers University Horticulture Farm 2, Geiger Conference Room, Ryder's Lane, New Brunswick.
- The chapter is accepting nominations for Board of Directors for the year of 2003. Anyone interested in serving on the Board see the article on next page 9.

**2002
SFMANJ BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

**President..... Eleanora Murfitt
Washington Twp Parks & Recreation**

**Vice President..... John Salisbury
Garden State Sports Turf**

**Secretary..... Fred Castenschiold
Storr Tractor Company**

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Dean's Lawn & Landscape**

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Dr. James Murphy - Rutgers University

Dr. John Grande - Rutgers Snyder Research

Bud Perdun - North Brunswick School

Jim Hermann, CSFM - Total Control Inc.

Tom Torpey - Township of Monroe Parks

Jeff Cramer - Plainsboro Township DPW

**Advisor.....Dr. Henry Indyk
TurfCon GSI Consultants, Inc.**

"SFMANJ Update" Newsletter Co -editors
Jim Hermann & Eleanora Murfitt

MISSION STATEMENT

Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers in New Jersey 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.

STMA - 1-800-323-3875 - www.sportsturfmanager.com

Continued from page 1.....

- ***Finch Services, Inc.**, North Wales, Pa
John Deere 1200A, Aerator -1500 & Ty-Crop 1800
- ***Fisher & Son Co. Inc.**, Malvern, Pa
Donated a roundup sprayer
- **Rain Bird Corp.**, Allentown, Pa
- **Graco Inc.**, Pleasant Valley, NY, Donated jacket
Line Lazer III w/ self propelled, & Line Lazer 3000 Walk Behind
- **GreenTech, Inc.**, Richmond, Va - Turf Modules
- ***JDL Equipment**, Doylestown, Pa, Donated \$30
Topline TXE battery Powered Limemarker

"Welcome New & Renewed SFMANJ Members"

Our membership is growing fast. Currently we have 230 members. If you haven't renewed your membership send in the membership form from this newsletter or call (908) 236-9118.

Steve	Blehl	Environmental Renewal, LLC
Vincent	Bono	College of Staten Island
Bob	Borelli	Northern Nurseries
Cathy	Brown	Ferti-Soil Turf Supply
Charles	Bullerjohn Jr.	Jonathan Green
Dennis	DeSanctis	Finch Turf Equip
Salvatore	Fama	Sherwin Williams Co.
Brandon	Fezenko	Mulch Pro Inc
Fred	Goble	Washington Township(Morris)
Brian	McCormick	College of Staten Island
Brian	Meola	Washington Township(Morris)
Pedro	Perdomo*	Rutgers University Extension
Jeff	Prosser	Prosser Sports Field Services
Steve	Ratto	Bergen County Dept. of Parks
Walter	Ricciardi	Ricciardi Bros., Inc.
Marc	Russo	Lesco
David	Smith	Ferti-Soil Turf Supply
Scott	Van Demark	Mahwah Board of Education

- **Leon's Sod Farm**, Pittstown, NJ - Donated sod
- **Mid-State Equipment Co.**, Titusville, NJ - Kubota Zero turn
- **Millcreek Manufacturing Co.**, New Holland, Pa
Millcreek Turf Tiger
- ***Moyer & Son**, Plant Nutrients, Souderton, Pa
Donated \$100 gift certificate for products
- ***National Seed**, New Brunswick, NJ
Donated seed & Home Depot certificate
- **Pennington Sales & Services/John Deere Co.**
N Pennington, NJ John Deere 1600 Turbo wide
- ***Prosser Equip. Co. LLC**, Pennington, NJ
Bannerman BA600 Core & Bannerman Fracture Tine Aerator,
BTD 20 & Earthquake Soil Decompactor & Orbit Screener
Donated 20ft. aluminum retractable flag pole w/ flag
- ***Rutgers Extension Service**, Cook College, New Brunswick
- ***Sherwin Williams Co.**, Edison, NJ
Donated 6 Yankee tickets and parking pass
- **Simplet Partners**, Pine Bush, NY, Donated a windshirt
- ***Storr Tractor Company**, Somerville, NJ
Aeravator AVS/Dingo & Toro GM4000 & Toro GM3500
Toro Workman Donated time and equipment & electric trimmer
- ***S.T.S. by Saul Brothers**, Livingston, NJ
Deep Time & Drill & Fill
- **Terre Company**, Clifton, NJ
Donated seed & an array of tools
- ***Till Paint Company**, Woodbury Hts., NJ
Field Painters, Donated 5 gal. line paint
- ***Wilfred MacDonald Inc.**, So. Hackensack, NJ
Turfco CR-10 Topdresser & Redexim Vertidrain-Smithco
Super Star AFC, National IS-22 Walkbehind Striping
Rotary
Donated an Husqvaens electric weed trimmer ▲

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEW JERSEY RECREATION & PARKS ASSOC.

September 25 – Skatepark Risk Management Workshop - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
 Red Hill Activity Center, Middletown, NJ
 Contact: NJRPA at (732) 568-1270
 Registration: \$80.00 NJRPA member, \$100.00 non member

NEW JERSEY TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

December 10-12 - New Jersey Turf and Landscape Expo 2002, Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ. (Athletic Field Educational Sessions begin Wed., Dec. 11 from 4pm to 6pm. & Thurs. Dec. 12 from 10am to 3:30pm with annual SFMANJ meeting at 1pm, Thursday).

Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm

Outreach Field Day in Cooperation with SFMANJ
 October 10 – at Snyder Farm in Pittstown, NJ from 11:30am to 3:30pm. See Turfgrass demonstration plots, earn pesticide credits and discuss drought issues. Lunch included. Watch for registration forms in the mail soon or call with question at (908) 713-8980 (See page 4)
 Members \$15.00
 Non-Members \$25.00

“A Look at the Growth Cycle & Field Care of Grass Seed” by Mark Sellman, Simplot/Jacklin Seed

Planted in the spring, the seed is laid in narrow rows by a special grass seed drill. Normal irrigation and fertilization follows stand establishment. About 16 months following planting, the first crop is harvested. Subsequent harvests are possible every year thereafter until field age results in a yield decrease. A typical year in the cycle of a mature grass field is illustrated below:

1. IRRIGATION

Field irrigation of the seed begins in early April. The seed has now passed its winter dormancy and started its vertical growth. Irrigation continues through late June, when the seed matures.

2. WEED CONTROL

After establishment of the grass, weeds are sprayed with various chemicals to insure weed-free fields, producing high quality seed. Oftentimes fields are weeded by hand in the spring if a selected chemical is not available for successful weed control. If weed problems arise in mature fields, they are quickly solved by spring or fall herbicidal applications.

3. FIELD ROGUING

Rouging (the weeding out of foreign plants and inferior or diseased seed heads) continues from spring through early June. Continued on page 15.....

Athletic Field Maintenance and Renovation Field Day

October 10, 2002

11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

At Snyder Research & Extension Farm

Sponsored by:

Rutgers University Sports Turf Outreach Program in cooperation with the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey will hold a fall field day at the Rutgers University Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Hunterdon County New Jersey.

Registration Fee: \$15.00 for SFMANJ members \$25.00 for non members

Featuring: *Lunch Included*

➤ **Tours And Discussions Of Turfgrass Demonstration Plots**

1. Summer athletic field renovation programs including irrigated and non irrigated comparisons in high wear and low wear areas
2. Weed control programs including summer crabgrass control in established and new seedings
3. Fall wear tolerance of summer seeded ryegrass and tall fescue and impact of top dressing and fertility on wear tolerance established tall fescue and ryegrass
4. Low maintenance tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass varietal comparisons
5. Constructed wetlands demonstration site as a water runoff filtration and control system and wildlife habitat area

➤ **The Drought Of 2002** – Open discussion period reviewing issues related to water conservation and turfgrass management

➤ **NJDEP Pesticide Credits** – Core 3 Credits & 3b-1Credit, 6b, 8b-1 Credit, pp2-1 Credit

➤ (Calibration, Drift Control and Applicator Safety)

Directions

FROM NORTH: Take I-78 to Exit 15. Turn left (south) at bottom of exit ramp onto Pittstown Road (Route 513S). Stay on Pittstown Road for approximately 6 miles (**DO NOT TURN WHEN ROUTE 513 BEARS RIGHT**). Turn left onto Locust Grove Road at Rutgers sign. Snyder Farm is 1/2 mile on the left.

FROM SOUTH: Take Route 202/31 North to the Flemington traffic circle. Take Route 12 West at circle. Go approximately 5 miles to Pittstown Road (second right after Texaco Gas Station). Turn right (north) and go 3.5 miles to Locust Grove Road (look for Rutgers sign) and turn right. Snyder Farm is 1/2 mile on the left.

*** Any questions Call Snyder Research & Extension Farm at (908) 713-8980**

Watch your mailbox. Registration forms will be in the mail shortly.

"Give It What It Needs"

Address for Success by Jim Hermann CSFM

Late summer is the ideal time to address the needs of your turf. A yearly soil test in August will give you the foundation with which to develop your overall turf management strategy. Be sure to achieve and maintain the proper pH in the soil along with optimum levels of the major nutrients such as phosphorous and potassium. These two nutrients are especially important this time of year for among other reasons, root development and recovery from results of any drought stress imposed during the prolonged hot dry weather most of us have been experiencing.

With the onset of cooler nights and higher levels of soil moisture, a healthy application of nitrogen along with P & K indicated by your soil test will help to jumpstart the turf and promote the growth necessary to help withstand the inevitable pounding caused by fall sports. Be aware of the different nitrogen sources and utilize a source or combination of sources that compliment your fertility strategy. A slow release nitrogen source is especially important this time of year to minimize burn potential and provide a longer lasting benefit.

In addition to soil fertility, aeration is also just as or more important this time of year as it is any other time of year. With the early onset of dry conditions most athletic fields were not aerated at the end of the spring season. Many facilities have had summer activities, which further add to the compaction of the fields. Effective soil aeration at this time of year will benefit literally all the functions of the turf necessary to develop a deep strong root system and dense more durable turf cover. Caution should be exercised when aeration is followed up with fertilization. The potential for burn from both fast acting nitrogen and potassium is further increased at this time. These materials should be watered in immediately after application. If water is not an option, a slow release form of nitrogen would again be recommended. Potassium sulfate as apposed to potassium chloride, would be recommended as a potassium source due to the lower salt index and burn potential of the material.

An application slowly but surely taking a foothold in the sports turf community is topdressing. I am a firm believer in the benefits of topdressing. In my opinion, with the current turf conditions we are experiencing, topdressing can aid in the protection of the new turf currently developing from the seemingly dead brown crowns. Along with providing this protection, an application of a "compatible" material can aid in the moisture holding capacity of the soil. Many fields that don't have the benefit of irrigation are currently dangerously hard. Topdressing of a 1/4" or so in conjunction with aeration can provide a little safety cushion to the players. Improved soil seed contact is another benefit when topdressing is incorporated into your overseeding program.

As I walked many of the fields I maintain over the past few months, in many cases, the only green I came upon was of the broadleaf variety. Weeds have the upper hand when it comes to hot and dry. If you have been diligent with your IPM pest control program, spot weed control is probably all that will be necessary to control current weed populations. If a blanket application is indicated, be careful not to make the application to turf that is still under drought stress. Also, do not apply weed control to an area where you anticipate overseeding in the near future. In this situation it becomes a judgment call as

to whether existing weed populations are such that they will significantly affect the success of overseeding. If weed populations are excessive, weed control should take the front seat with an application as soon as possible, followed by seeding, timed according to the label recommendations of the weed control product. If weed populations are such that you feel they will not significantly affect the new seeding they can be dealt with after the fact when the new turf has been mowed a few times.

"Overseeding" and "turf renovation" are two very broad terms defining procedures whose individual components are left to the discretion of the turf manager. A persistent, well thought out overseeding program is sometimes the determining factor in the improvement or maintenance of existing field quality. Although we many times become disheartened over the course of a typical season, persistence is the key. Periodic overseeding of the wear areas has proven to improve turf density and playability of the turf.

Continued on page 14.....

ATHLETIC TURF BOOKS RECEIVE 20% OFF FROM "Ann Arbor Press/Sleeping Bear Press"

- \$64 – Sports Fields: A Manual for Design, Const. & Maint.
- \$48 – Fundamentals of Turfgrass Management
- \$56 – Destructive Turfgrass Insect Pests
- \$76 – Color Atlas of Turfgrass Diseases
- \$28 – Mathematics of Turfgrass Maintenance
- \$28 – Picture Perfect Mowing Techniques
- \$48 – Practical Drainage
- \$16 – Turfgrass Mgmt Info Directory
- \$48 – IPM Handbook for Golf Courses

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"Seven Traits of Effective Leaders"

1. **Make others feel important:** If your goals and decisions are self-centered, followers will lose their enthusiasm quickly. Emphasize their strengths and contributions, not your own.
2. **Promote a vision:** Followers need a clear idea of where you're leading them, and they need to understand that the goal is valuable to them. Your job as a leader is to provide that vision.
3. **Follow the Golden Rule:** Treat your followers the way you enjoy being treated. An abusive leader attracts few loyal listeners.
4. **Admit mistakes:** If people suspect that your covering up your own errors, they'll hide mistakes too. You'll also lose valuable information needed for making decisions.
5. **Criticize others only in private:** Public praise encourages others to excel, but public criticism only embarrasses and alienates everyone.
6. **Stay close to the action:** You need to be visible to the members of your organization. Talk to people, visit other offices and work sites, ask questions, and observe how business is being handled. Often you will gain new insights into your work and find new opportunities for motivating your followers.
7. **Make a game of competition:** The competitive drive can be a valuable tool if you use it correctly. Set team goals, and reward members who meet or exceed them. Examine your failures, and celebrate your group's success. ▲

Source: Sensible Software Inc., ClipNotes, The Toastmaster

Drainage:

"Why Your Field May Not Be Performing" by Dr. John Stier, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The majority of the problem fields I've seen were caused at least in part due to poor drainage issues. Poor drainage reduces turf growth and rooting, resulting in thin turf that is less resistant to wear which ultimately gives way to bare soil and weeds. There are two types of drainage: internal and surface. Internal drainage is a function of the soil type(s), compaction, water table, and organic matter. While sand-based root zones may be capable of draining more than 1" water per hour, most native soils have internal drainage rates of less than 0.1 to 0.25 inches per hour. In many fields with poor drainage there is at least one incompatible soil layer. Such layers are commonly installed by well-meaning developers during construction. Placing a fine-textured soil (i.e., topsoil) over a coarse-textured soil (i.e., sand) prevents water from being readily able to percolate downward and keeps the water near the surface. A common mistake is to place 1-3 inches of "black dirt" on top of the existing soil in an attempt to provide enriched soil for turf roots. If this problem exists at your site, the best way to correct it short of scraping off the turf and "black dirt" is to core aerate several times annually to "mix" the soil layers.

Surface drainage is often overlooked for its importance in sports turf. Developers tend to disregard the need for surface drainage in order to please vocal coaches who demand a "flat" field for better play. Developers ought to know better—anyone who has ever built a home or had a home inspected for purchase has been made aware of the need for proper grade to drain water away from the home. In many cases surface drainage will be more important than internal drainage. To provide sufficient surface drainage, fields must be built with a 1-2% crown. Though coaches, particularly soccer, insist a crown will ruin players' ability to see the ball and will interfere with the game, it will not do so to any appreciable extent. We have built a field for FIFA (Federation Internationale de Futbol) for the 1994 World Cup soccer championship which had a crown, and the players as well as FIFA officials pronounced the field "perfect". We just never told them it had a crown. If the situation (e.g., coaches) don't allow a crowned field, build a flat field with a 1-2% slope. The area to which the water drains may need a tile or gravel trench designed to drain the water off-site. ▲

For more information on drainage, see the new book "Practical Drainage for 'golf, Sportsturf, and Horticulture" published by Ann Arbor Press (SFMANJ members receive 20% off by ordering through our web-site at www.sfmanj.org).

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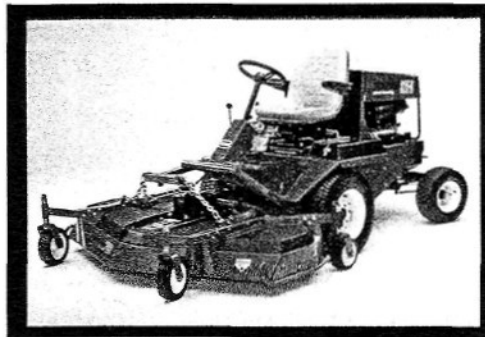
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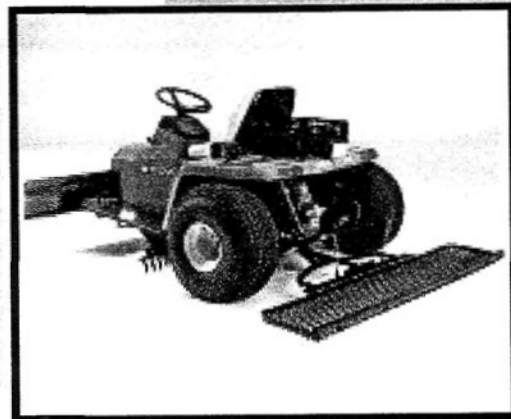
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First Annual Problem Solving Contest

First prize - \$150 w/ 1 yr. membership SFMANJ
Second prize - \$75
Third prize - \$50
Who is eligible? SFMANJ members
All forms must be postmarked by November 27th, 2002

Responding to "Problems" is recognized as a critical component of sports field management. Whether it's overuse, misuse, vandalism etc. dealing with problems in a proactive manner is a critical component of sports field playability. Problem solving-problem resolution can be applied to many aspects of sports field management. Sports Field Managers on a routine basis deal with agronomic issues, coaches, staff, parent organizations and administrators. Problem solving can be simple or complex in nature.

Problem solving contest rules: All contestants must use this format:

1. State The Problem: In 12 font, 85 words or less tell us what the problem was and why the problem developed.
2. Describe The Method Implemented To Solve The Problem: In 12 font, 170 words or less tell us the steps employed to address this problem in the order that you dealt with the problem. Describe stumbling blocks and how you managed to deal with them.
3. Share With Us The Results Of Your Problem Solving Effort: In 12 font, 100 words or less tell us how your problem solving efforts enhanced the goals of your program.

4. Tell us if your were recognized for your efforts in solving the problem, who recognized you and how were you recognized. If no one recognized your efforts tell us that also, it will not affect the selection of winners in the contest.
5. You may send pictures but they are not mandatory.

Please mail completed problem solving form to:
SFMANJ Problem Solving Contest, Dr. John Grande
Rutgers Snyder Research Farm
104 Locust Grove Rd.
Pittstown, NJ 08867

Winners will be announced at the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo at the athletic field session on December 12 at the Business Meeting, 1pm. (see Calendar of Events)

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Student.....\$10

STMA Members deduct \$10)

Send with Check or voucher to:

SFMANJ

P.O. Box 370

Annandale, NJ 08801

NOMINATIONS WANTED FOR SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2003

Here is your chance to have a voice in 2003-04 leadership of the SFMANJ. We are now accepting nominations for Board of Directors.

There are 12 people representing Parks & Recreation, Schools, Colleges, Professional DPW, Facilities, Education/Extension, Commercial/Contractors and Buildings & Grounds who serve on the chapters' Board of Directors. Each Director serves a two year term beginning January 1, 2003. There are six openings. A nomination committee will select members based on the following criteria:

1. Have been interested and active in SFMANJ (a member in good standing)
2. Are proven leaders
3. Are representative of the entire organization, both professionally and geographically
4. Are willing to commit time to the development of our organization
5. Understand when accepting this nomination you are expected to attend one meeting a month (evening), be a Chairperson of one committee, report on that committee at the monthly meeting and help with field days.

If you or someone you know are interested in serving on the Board of Directors fax or send your name, address, phone where you can be reached. E-mail or fax by Oct. 25, 2002 to:
SFMANJ

PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801 or fax to 908-236-9118 ▲

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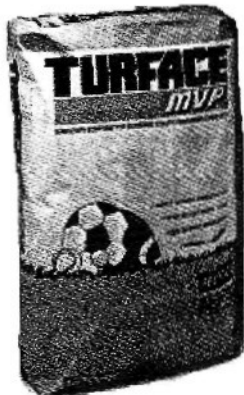
South Hackensack, NJ 07606

DID YOU KNOW? New Turf Pest Fact sheets are available at your county Rutgers Cooperative Extension office or on the web at: www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs

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EXPO 2002 & YOU!

The New Jersey Turfgrass & Landscape Expo 2002 will be held at Trump Taj Mahal Casino.Resort, Atlantic City, NJ on December 10,11,& 12th. The turfgrass industry continues to grow and prosper. Plan to join the annual trade show and education convocation.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey will hold, for the 3rd year, the sports turf educational sessions. Because of the great response last year we have been given an additional ½ day of educational classes. Classes begin Wednesday, Dec. 11th at 4pm – 6pm and Thursday, the 12th at 10am to 3:30pm. Our Business meeting and elections for Board of Directors will be held at 1pm. Thursday.

(SFMANJ members may vote at this meeting). Pesticide credits will be given both days.

Topics include:

- “**Successes in Athletic Field Improvements**”,. Four speakers from a municipality, university, extension service and high school will share with you their experiences on athletic field renovations.
- “**Developing an IPM Program for Athletic Fields**” (Pesticide credits)
- “**Athletic Field Problems and Their Solutions in the UK**”
- “**Mowing Management as it Effects Turf Quality**”
- “**Recognition of Performance, The Sports Turf Management Certification Program & The STMA Survey Update**”
- “**Expectations of Athletic Fields from the Prospective of the Coach, Engineer/Architect, Administration, Sports Field Manager, Contractor Services.** (This is a panel which will include discussion/questions).
- “**Keeping up to Date on Pesticide Regulations**”(pesticide credits)

Sports Turf Managers and any person involved in the Turf industry are encouraged to attend. Schools and municipalities, this is a good time to ask your supervisor for a chance to enhance your knowledge to help you improve your athletic fields. Watch for more information to follow. ▲

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"Sports Turf Manager or what"?

by John Mascaro from Turf-Tec Digest, Vo. 7 # 1 March 2001

I have to pass these words of wisdom to you. The Golf Course Superintendents Association has spent lots of money and time promoting the name "Golf Course Superintendent". You can go to any golf course in the country and ask for the Golf Course Superintendent and they know who you are talking about.

Likewise, the Sports Field Managers Association is also dedicating much time and money to promoting the name Sports Field Manager. However all you Sports Field Managers still have different titles. I understand that municipalities get kind of crazy about titles and it seems that the more letters in your title, the more money you make, however, if this

profession doesn't get unified, the Sports Field Manager will be lost in the shuffle.

With a common name, comes recognition, with recognition, comes salary increases. I challenge everyone, go to your office supply store, plunk down \$6.22 for a sign to hang on your door that says: Mark Clay, Sports Field Manager". Also, the next time business cards are printed, add the line under your official city title of "Sports Field Manager". This will not cost any money at all but it will gain you the recognition you deserve. It also adds 18 new letters to your official title for the accountants to observe. ▲

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SFMANJ SHIRTS FOR SALE

If you are a member of Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey, you may be interested in owning a collared knit shirt with our logo. To purchase one of these fine shirts just send a check for \$25.00 to SFMANJ Chapter at PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801

"Skinned Area Mixes"

by Pam Sherratt, sherratt.1@osu.edu

There are few scientific publications on soil choice but there are numerous articles written in the popular press (Sports Turf, Landscape Management, Athletic Turf etc.). Choice of soil material for skinned and mound areas would appear to be based upon personal choice but there are some selection guidelines available in books like "Sport Fields" (Puhalla, Krans and Goatley, 1999). They suggest a mixture of about 60% sand, 20% silt, and 20% clay.

There are many factors to consider when selecting a mix. Can the area be covered? How Much use does it get? Some of the municipal fields that have no capacity to cover may use more sand in the mix to encourage better drainage, while collegiate and professional mixes may have higher clay contents to produce faster surfaces. Mixes with more than 20% silt may cause problems if the surface can't be covered. These mixes will not dry out as quick and may become "slick". Calcined clays or diatomaceous earth

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

products may also be used in some mixes as a soil conditioner. With regard to analysis, if these products are used in a mix and the particle sizes are smaller than 2mm, they can behave like a sand during physical analysis and become impossible to quantify.

In relation to the numbers of field managers that get their material tested, Dr. Norm Hummel has some points to make:

"Sports Field Managers typically do not test their ball diamond mixes. Much in the selection of mixes I think is by word of mouth. We test maybe 20 samples a year, which is a very small number when you consider the amount of mix sold. When we test a ball diamond mix, we do make recommendations for particle size. In fact, I am on a committee in ADTM that developed guidelines for construction of skinned areas of ball diamonds, so I am privy to the particle size guidelines that will soon be a national standard. We have a test we call "Ball Diamond Mix Test". This includes a particle size analysis and color (from a Munsell Color chart). The cost is \$85/sample.

Continued on next page.....

Murphy's Law

Dr. James Murphy is an Associate Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management for Rutgers, department of Plant science. Ask Dr. Murphy your questions: E-mail us at hq@sfmanj.org

Question: The soccer fields in our area are currently dormant, brown and dry as a bone. If these conditions continue can permanent or excessive damage to the turf result from typical play on the fields?

Answer: Absolutely!

Dormant turf has very low vigor. Dormant turf has prepared itself to survive without water; but not to withstand intense traffic. Thus, the low vigor of the dormant turfgrass plants will only be able to tolerate a very limited amount of traffic.

Signs of severe damage include thin open turf and bare soil. The lower leaf sheaths and crowns of the turfgrass plants have been and will continue to be damaged once you start to see bare soil in the playing field. This is a serious problem because regeneration of new healthy shoots and roots come from the crowns. Dead crowns translates into dead grass with no hope for recovery (I can not word it more bluntly)!

If you can still find crowns as a fresh, translucent green appearance, then the turf can recover. Dried up, brown crowns are severely damaged and have a high probability of being dead. Weed invasion is another problem with intense use (traffic) under dormant turf conditions. The dormant turf wears out very quickly with use. Once natural rains return or irrigation is applied, the dormant weed seeds in the soil have ample opportunity to germinate, emerge, and infest the field. Thus, you will likely observe greater weed problem on fields that receive significant play (use) under dormant conditions. ▲

NEWS RELEASE * NEWS RELEASE

JIM HERMANN ACHIEVES

CERTIFIED SPORTS FIELD MANAGER STATUS

James Hermann, CSFM, President of Total Control, Inc. of Lebanon, New Jersey, has completed all steps to achieve the Certified Sports Field Manager designation. This Certification Program was developed and is coordinated by The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) to denote those individuals who have gone above and beyond the requirements of job performance and have demonstrated a superior level of competence.

Since 1986, Mr. Hermann has been President of Total Control, Inc., an athletic turf and field and commercial turf management and consulting company which also handles residential lawn care. In this capacity, Mr. Hermann has renovated and maintained several sports fields in the local area. Prior to 1986, Mr. Hermann served as farm manager for Sterlingbrook Farms in Pittstown, New Jersey, where he constructed and maintained a thoroughbred turf race track.

Just as great sports accomplishments raise the bar for all competitors, excellence in field care raises the level of expectations for all sports field managers. The results are better fields and safer fields at all levels of sports competition.

In order to qualify for the opportunity to test for certification status, the individual must achieve, and document the achievement of, a minimum of 40 points earned through a combination of education and experience.

While management of athletic playing surfaces requires a solid foundation in the principles of agronomics and turf physiology, there are certain elements of the process an individual must acquire through experience. The sports field manager must sometimes "tamper" with the laws of science to achieve immediate, short-term results. Then the manager must apply scientific principles to correct those inconsistencies and bring field conditions back in compliance with the same laws previously manipulated. Hands-on experience is required to do this successfully.

After verification of achievement of the 40 points in education and experience, the individual must take the Certified Sports Field Manager in-depth, four part written examination. This examination addresses competencies established by professionals, educators and researchers within the industry on agronomic, administration, pest management, and sports specific issues. In order to achieve certification, the individual must score a minimum of 80 percent on all four segments of the examination.

Those achieving CSFM status have demonstrated their personal level of professionalism and their ability to apply those professional standards in their own sports field management program.

The Certified Sports Field Manager status is designated by the initials CSFM after the name of a certified individual and the use of the CSFM logo on business cards, stationery and other correspondence. The three-year certification renewal cycle is designed to keep Certified individuals responsive to industry progress and technological advances.

If you are interested in meeting Jim or learning more about maintaining safe athletic fields you can attend the Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm Fall Field Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Day on October 10th in Pittstown, NJ. For registration forms call (908) 713-8980. (See page 3 for details).

For more information on the Certified Sports Field Manager program, or the Sports Turf Managers Association and its goals and objectives, please contact:

STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty at 712/322-STMA or 800/323-3875, Fax: 712/366-9119 or e-mail: STMAHQ@st.coxmail.com. Visit STMA's website at: www.sportsturfmanager.com.

Or contact the New Jersey Chapter at 908-236-9118, Eleanora Murfitt, President ▲

Continued from page 12 "Skinned Area Mixes"

There is a 1990 publication (STP 1073) by American Society for Testing and Materials in which basic recommendations for baseball field safety are outlined. The ASTM also had a working committee on particle size guidelines for baseball fields that will soon be a national standard. ▲



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(Soil Science Simplified, 4th Ed., Milo Harpstead, pg 30)



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opportunity to participate in round-table discussions call your Committee Chair from your district, let them know you want to get involved.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is growing rapidly as we have over 230 members to date. We would like to see more activities in the North and South. This is a great way to meet people in your area who have similar problems and answers about fields and equipment.

District I – Committee Chair, John Salisbury (201) 390-6025, Committee members, Steve Ratto Eleanor Murfitt Hudson, Sussex, Passaic, Morris, Bergen, Essex, Union

District II – Committee Chair, Fred Castenschiold, (908) 722-9830, Committee members, Jim Gavigan, Dean Marzocca, Jim Hermann Hunterdon, Somerset, Warren, Middlesex

District III – Committee Chair, Bud Perdun, (732) 289-3048 Committee Members, Tom Torpey, Jeff Cramer Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington

District IV – Committee Chair, Larry George (800) 942-0134 Gloucester, Atlantic, Salem, Cumberland, Camden, Cape May.

DON'T DELAY---CALL TODAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ▲

Continued from page 5 "Give It What It Needs"

Last but not least is league participation. Include the leagues using your fields in your maintenance plan. As the leagues see improvement in the field quality and feel a part of that improvement they will continue to help in your endeavors. Set up practice goals and designate practice areas off the field to minimize traffic in the game goals. If at all possible redelineate the fields mid season to minimize traffic in the wear areas and allow for more effective overseeding and repair of these areas.

Everything that occurs on your field has either a positive or negative impact on the quality of your field. The positives have to outweigh the negatives. Your only hope of maintaining or improving the quality of your fields is to have a plan in place, which addresses all those forces impacting on quality. Remember, "Address for Success". ▲

SFMANJ Membership Districts

The following Districts were created in order to increase membership as well as serve you better. Our objective is to have meetings during evenings or weekends where sports field managers can gather in or near their areas to discuss similar problems as well as have the opportunity to bring in a speaker. A dinner could be served or you can gather at a picnic grove as a small group.

Here is another opportunity to get involved. We are trying to make it easier by keeping Districts small so you will not have far to travel. We are looking for members who are interested in helping get this off the ground.

If you are interested in gathering with others who are in the same situation as yourselves and would like an

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

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Recreation Program Coordinator/ Sr. Activities person.

Minimum one year experience in recreation programming. Associated degree or certification in recreation preferred.

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Continued from page 3 "A Look at the Growth Cycle"

4. SWATHING

Swathing the cutting of early maturing varieties, starts in late June and continues through July.

5. WINDOW CURING

The swathed grass then lies in windrows, curing for at least 20 days prior to harvesting.

6. COMBINING

After the grass is cured, it is picked up by means of a draper mechanism attached to a combine. The seed is threshed and augured into the combine bulk bin.

7. BULK TRANSPORTATION

From the combine, the seed is transferred to mobile bulk field bins or trailers. The bins or trailers are then transported to a central storage area.

8. BULK ACCUMULATION AND STORAGE

On arrival at the central storage area the seed is hydraulically dumped into a RADER Pneumatic Air System of rapid transit to bulk storage bins. From this point seed is transferred to the primary warehouse for processing and bagging.

9. FIELD BURNING

From mid-August through September, just as soon as harvesting is completed, straw is removed and baled to help eliminate emissions. Fields are then burned. This controlled burning serves to physiologically stimulate seed head production and subsequent seed yield. In addition, the burning controls disease, insects, rodents and weeds, while returning minerals to the soil.

10. IRRIGATION

Immediately after burning, fields are watered, causing the grass to break dormancy, putting forth a green, fall flush of leaves.

11. FERTILIZATION

After watering, the mobile irrigation pipes are removed and the grass is fertilized.

12. FIELD DORMANCY

During the late fall, just prior to winter dormancy; the grass develops seed head primordia deep within its crown. Although essentially dormant, during the winter months, the grass plant continues to develop internally with individual seed florets forming within the crown. This formation continues until early spring at which time the plant starts its vertical growth.

TYPICAL BLUEGRASS CLEANING LINE

As the seed moves from the field in large trailers, it is delivered to the warehouse and transferred into large field boxes holding up to 2,000 pounds of unconditioned seed. Each box of seed is identified by the bar code with the grower's name, variety name, certification information and grower's field number. The computer reads the bar code and the boxes are identified with the appropriate information.

1. FIELD BOXES

Field-run material from bulk bins is fed into the system.

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3. DEBEARDERS

Deawns and defuzzes seed, conditions seed for easier conditioning on the following machines.

4. DELTA CLEANER

Cleans seed by width, thickness and length. Also removes lightweight material. Has 21 screens and two air separations.

5. CARTER DISC

Removes straw and weed seeds.

6. CLIPPER CLEANER

Continue sizing with screens and air. Has four screens and two air separations.

7. CARTER ASPIRATOR

Removes more lightweight seed in preparation for the gravity.

8. GRAVITIES

Removes by specific gravity foreign weeds and seeds, also lightweight grass seed.

9. CARTER INDENTS

Removes final small weeds by size.

10. CARTER AIR FILTER

Filters air, making the entire plant a better working environment. It returns cleaner air than it was originally on the intake. In cold seasons, it heats the air and returns it to the plant.

BLENDING AND PACKAGING

11. CLEAN SEED BULK BOX

Provides storage prior to blending.

12. BLENDER

Blends all conditioned seed to a precalculated blend.

13. BAGGING AND WEIGHING

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