

Expo 2005 – The “Taj Mahal” of Turf Education!

By Brad Park*
park@aesop.rutgers.edu

It's no coincidence that the New Jersey's annual Mecca of turf education just happens to be held at the Taj Mahal – and attendees are spared purchasing plane tickets to India!

The famous Trump property in Atlantic City was the location of the New Jersey Green Industry Expo 2005 from December 6-8. Presented by The New Jersey Turfgrass Association, Expo 2005 was held in conjunction with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of NJ, Rutgers



Eleanora Murfitt-Hermann is presented a plaque by Don Savard, CSFM at Expo 2005 in recognition of her service as SFMANJ President from 1999-2005.

Cooperative Research and Extension, United States Golf Association, and Sports Field Managers Association of NJ (SFMANJ).

Sponsored by Fisher & Son, Inc., the opening Sports Field Managers Session on Tuesday, December 6 featured Amy Fouty, CSFM. Ms. Fouty is the Athletic Turf Manager at Michigan State University and is responsible for the high-profile Spartan Stadium, home of Michigan State's football team. Her work in providing a premier playing surface for the Big Ten Spartans is a prime illustration of how proper

Inside This Issue

Welcome New & Renewed Members	3
Membership Form	3
SFMANJ Board of Directors	3
Did You Know?.....	3
A Note from the Editor	4
Building a Better Toolbox.....	5
Shoulda, Woulda, Coulda.....	6
2005 Field of the Year Winner.....	7
SFMANJ Photo Corner.....	8
Calendar of Events.....	12
Did You Know?.....	12
Proud Sponsors	14

This newsletter is the official bi-monthly publication of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
 SFMANJ at 908-730-7770 or Brad Park at 732-932-9711 x127

Editor

Brad Park, Rutgers University
 Email: park@aesop.rutgers.edu

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

turfgrass management can result in a well-performing natural surface.

Tuesday afternoon began with a five-person panel consisting of grounds managers, an athletic director, and administrator. Moderated by Don Savard, CSFM, SFMANJ Vice-President, the panel provided viewpoints related to communication and developing positive relationships. Many of the ideas generated by the panel could be applied by those in attendance to their own workplace environments.

Following the General Session on Wednesday morning, December 7, a fine lunch was provided to all those in attendance compliments of Storr Tractor Co.

Pesticide credits were made available to those certified

Continued on page 4

SFMANJ Business

Next Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the Rutgers University Geiger Building on Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 4:30 pm



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2006

Welcome New & Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 124 new & renewed members. In the beginning of November, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2006 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at (908 730-7770 or download the 2006 membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Remember to mail your renewal/payment direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801.♦

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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.

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Continued on page 10

A Note from the Editor

By Brad Park, Rutgers University
park@aesop.rutgers.edu

At a monthly Board Meeting last year, I accepted the editorial responsibilities for our SFMANJ Update newsletter beginning with the November/December 2005 issue. As a frequent contributor and self-described amateur writer and photographer, I felt then as I do now that I can make a positive contribution to our publication as Editor.

I would like to express my sincere praise for the work of Jim Hermann, CSFM and Eleanora Murfitt-Hermann, CRS who served as co-editors of SFMANJ Update since its inception. The growth of our newsletter in circulation and information quality, along with addition of color formatting is a direct result of their efforts.

I would also like to acknowledge our many advertisers who make publication of this newsletter possible.

It is my high priority to maintain SFMANJ Update as a source of practical sports field information as well as a means to report on the activities to which SFMANJ is engaging to fulfill its mission to improve the safety, playability, and appearance of athletic fields.

While the current newsletter format has been tremendously successful, I would like to reach-out to other Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Chapters across the country to include articles from their newsletters in SFMANJ Update. In return, I would offer our articles to other STMA Chapters. This strategy will allow our readers to learn from sports field managers outside of our Chapter as well as give our SFMANJ contributors national exposure.

Your comments are always welcome. – Brad

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Don Savard, CSFM*

The Information Toolset- Gather the Facts!

Grounds management is challenging! It is more than keeping the grass cut; rather, it is an art and science of handling change. We have little control over funding and no control over the weather. Often we work with limited resources. Whether their grounds management operation is big or small, well funded or not, successful grounds managers use good information about their site to make informed management decisions. This information is another tool in the management toolbox.

Every site has its positives and negatives. When you know what you have to work with and you can predict with certainty how it will perform under different conditions, you will have an advantage. To get to that point, you will need to inventory what you have, and then evaluate it. I like to start with a basic tool- a property survey that includes the following items:

1) An accurate property area measurement, expressed in square feet or acres will be helpful for purchasing materials or hiring services such as aeration. It is useful for calibration purposes and for budgeting. It is very important for regulatory compliance and record keeping.

2) An inventory of the desirable turf grasses or ornamental plants growing on your site. With this information, you can predict how much fertilizer is needed to keep it healthy, what problems it might have, and what its cultural needs are. You might find plants growing outside of their normal temperature zone. Note the condition that the plants are in, good or bad, and ask why? Be sure to look around for clues to support your findings.

3) A list of pest problems and populations. Is there any insect, disease or weed activity at the present time, or is there evidence of past damage? Even if there is no evidence of pest problems or damage, that is also significant. Find out why.

4) An evaluation of how the site has been maintained. Is the maintenance good or bad, and why? Notice how the site has

been used or abused? Are there noticeable traffic or use patterns?

I like to survey my site often. It forces me to look critically at the site, discover problems early and evaluate how well my program is working. I like to photograph the site too. Document the date and time on this document as well as the photo image. It provides a good progress report.

Soil testing is the next tool in the information tool set and in the area of turf management and horticulture is used to measure the fertility levels, the physical texture and the soluble salts present on your site. Samples are collected, labeled and sent to a soil testing lab, either at a land grant University, or a private laboratory. You provide the information that the lab requests and indicate which tests you require and pay the fee. The lab will test the soil, and send you a test report and give you nutrient recommendations. I like to test my soil annually at the same time each year. Doing this provides me with a good "snapshot" of my soil conditions and helps me evaluate my progress each year. I use the same lab each year because the testing protocols are consistent from year to year. A good testing lab can be helpful for tests other than soil. Plant pathology labs can detect and identify insect and disease problems in samples and can diagnose nutrient deficiencies in plant tissues. Water quality tests quantify levels of contaminants or imbalances in irrigation water.

Obtain or draw an accurate site map showing the property boundaries, and the locations of buildings, utilities, trees and site amenities. If you can, get a topographic survey map of the site. A detailed map is an important tool for communicating your ideas, planning site improvements and for correcting drainage problems.

Good information will help you get the best results. Results will improve your credibility with the people that you work for. And there is nothing like success to make your job easier.

* Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager, Vice President of SFMANJ, and Director of Athletic Facilities and Grounds at Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE. ♦

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“Shoulda, Woulda, Coulda” - Three Limiting Factors in a Turf Management Program

Jim Hermann, CSFM

I “shoulda” fertilized in September but the turf didn’t look as yellow as it does now. I “woulda” applied preemergent crabgrass control if I had known it was going to be like this. I “coulda” budgeted for grub control but I forgot how badly they damaged the turf last year. Been there, done that.

There are two basic means of dealing with turf management. The first and typically most effective management method is a proactive method. This consists of developing a program that anticipates reoccurring problems and deals with those problems preventatively, before they reach damaging levels in the turf environment. The probability of occurrence and the decision to treat preventatively should be based on effective record keeping and knowledge of prior incidence. If left unchecked, history will repeat

itself.

Prime examples of a proactive program would be the spring application of a preemergent crabgrass control product to prevent unacceptable populations of crabgrass or the scheduled application of fertilizer at a rate determined to maintain or boost turf quality.

With any program, be it proactive or reactive, the overall affect of an application or procedure should be understood prior to its implementation. As with preemergent crabgrass control, a spring application can have adverse effects on desirable seed germination for up to four months or more after the application.

Typically, a proactive maintenance program will provide a higher level of quality than a reactive program given the same level of understanding on the part of the technician.

I have observed that spring, fall and

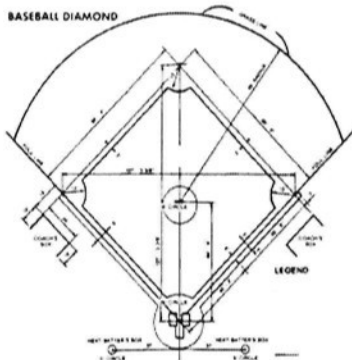
late fall applications of fertilizer, spring and fall aeration and overseeding (allowing consideration for crabgrass control), along with an application of broadleaf weed control every two or three years would significantly increase the quality of most athletic fields not receiving these procedures.

The second strategy (or lack of) and unfortunately a very common strategy in dealing with turf management issues is a reactive strategy. If you get grubs, treat for them. If the turf turns yellow or dies, test the soil and address deficiencies. I think we can all see the lack of wisdom in this type of program.

In general, a basic proactive turf management program will require less expertise than will an effective reactive program. However, a basic understanding of turf nutrition and common pest problems and their control is extremely beneficial and highly recommended. This is the primary reason for continuing education

In truth, the most effective turf management program is a program that is both reactive and proactive in nature. This program utilizes and

Continued on page 7



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Delaware Valley Regional High School Wins 2005 Field of the Year

By Ken Mathis*

Congratulations to Delaware Valley Regional High School for winning the 2005 SFMANJ Field of the Year. The winning SFMANJ members were Dennis Anderson and James Stryker. The Supervisor of Building and Grounds and Athletic Director are William Hunt and Susan M. Hammerstone, respectively. Dennis and James did an outstanding job of renovating their school softball field that originated back to the early 1980's. The pride these men had in their work shows as "Terrier Field" looked magnificent when Del-Val hosted the Group IV State Semi-Finals. Most schools would be very proud to have a field as good as theirs.

I would like to thank all the contestants this year and we look forward to having more of you participate for next year's award. Remember, the winner receives 2 free nights stay at NJTA Expo 2006 in Atlantic City, NJ and paid access to the entire 3 days of educational sessions and trade show.

* Ken Mathis is President, SFMANJ; 2005 SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest Committee Chair; and Superintendent, Brick Township Dept. of Parks

reacts to historical data on a given turf area while continually monitoring and scouting for new problems based on the probability of their occurrences. The information gathered is utilized to formulate and initiate a proactive management program based on the establishment of pest population treatment thresholds, the probability of reoccurring pest infestations and the desire for a predetermined level of safety, playability and turf quality. In addition, every turf management program should always utilize the most effective products with the least potential for negative impact on the environment.

In essence, this is the principle behind an IPM pest management strategy. Not only is IPM environmentally responsible, if you are a part of a school system in New Jersey it's the law.

* Jim Hermann is a Certified Sports Field Manager, a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors, and has over 20 years experience in sports field management as President, Total Control, Inc. ♦

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Delaware Valley Regional High School won the 2005 SFMAA of the Year contest. Here, Del-Val pays respect to the victims barbaric 9-11 attacks on our Nation.

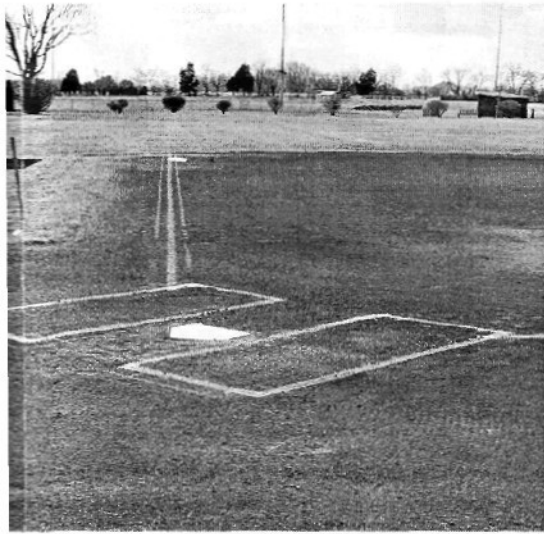
Continued from page 1

applicators in attendance following the Wednesday afternoon Sports Field Managers session. Jeff Fowler, Penn State University Cooperative Extension, described research linking increased pesticide exposure to those applicators who do not use gloves when handling pesticides. Dr. George Hamilton, Rutgers University, provided an update on the controversial New Jersey School IPM law and a spirited discussion among those in attendance ensued.

Wednesday afternoon also featured Mike Andresen, CSFM. Mr. Andresen is the Athletic Turf Manager at Iowa State University and is also President-Elect of the national Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). He addressed the issue of synthetic infill turf management as well as described techniques for maximizing limited finding for athletic field maintenance.

As always, Expo proved to be a great source of information and networking. We'll see you next year in A.C. for Expo 2006!

* Brad Park is Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors; and Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coord. at Rutgers University ♦



! - The infield at Del-Val Regional High School in managers Dennis Anderson and James Stryker and that detail is important.



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Did you know?

Infiltration and percolation are two terms often used interchangeably in reference to water movement into and through soil. However, infiltration refers to the downward entry of water in the soil; whereas percolation is defined as the downward movement of water through the soil profile. ♦



Expo 2005 featured panelists who explored methods to develop positive relationships among administrators, coaches and user groups. Panelists (l-r) – Barry Imboden, Hunterdon Central High School; Don Savard, CSFM, Salesianum School; Mike Hart, Salesianum School; Rich Watson, Pine Hill Public Schools; Mark Prusina, Borough of Mountain Lakes.



Frank LaSasso (right) receives a plaque from SFMANJ Vice-President Don Savard, CSFM at Expo 2005 in appreciation for his hosting of the successful 2005 Spring Field Day at Hammonton High School.



Dennis Anderson (left) receives a plaque presented by SFMANJ at Expo 2005 in recognition of his efforts contributing to the 2005 SFMANJ Field of the Year awarded to Delaware Valley Regional High School.

Calendar of Events

Rutgers University Athletic Field Short Courses

Athletic Field Maintenance and Construction

February 21-23, 2006

Understanding Synthetic Fields (1/2-day)

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March 7, 2006

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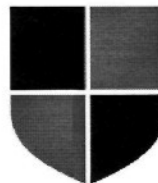
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Did you know?

Past research confirms the highly competitive and opportunistic characteristics of annual bluegrass (*Poa annua* L.). For example, Gaussoin and Branham (1989) reported 420 viable annual bluegrass seeds in one (1) kilogram of soil in research plots where turfgrass clippings were not removed. ♦



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