

# UPDATE

January/February, 2007 • Vol. 7, No. 1  
e-mail: [hq@sfmanj.org](mailto:hq@sfmanj.org) • [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)



## Edward A. Grekoski Park, South River, NJ ~SFMANJ's 2006 Field of the Year~

*Brad Park\**

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) received five entries for its annual Field of the Year contest in 2006. The baseball field in Edward A. Grekoski Park, South River, NJ was selected as the SFMANJ Field of the Year for 2006.

Maintained for the previous 1.5-years under the direction of Robert Walker, Supervisor of Parks and Recreation and SFMANJ member, the excellent playing conditions of the baseball diamond at Edward A. Grekoski Park have been acknowledged by various members of the South River community. The Head Baseball Coach at South River High School noted, "The field was in tremendous shape for every game we played on it. The one night game that we did play drew praise from not only our community, but the opposing team as well."

The President of the South River Baseball Club was equally impressed with the quality of Robert's work. He noted, "We would also like to thank Bob Walker, the head groundskeeper, for all his hard work in keeping this facility in immaculate playing condition ..." His letter continued, "It was so nice to hear all of the compliments that every coach in both divisions had to say regarding the condition of the field, and there is not another field here in Middlesex County that compares to what we have here in South River."

For Robert's Field of the Year winning efforts, he received a complimentary 3-day registration at Expo 2006 entitling him to attend all educational sessions and the trade show, two nights stay at the Trump Taj Mahal during Expo 2006, and was presented a plaque during SFMANJ's annual business meeting during Expo.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey would like to acknowledge the following boards of education and municipal governments for submitting Field of the Year entries: East Brunswick Vocational and Technical High School, Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation, Pine Hill Public Schools, and Township of Hillsborough.

All SFMANJ members responsible for the management of natural turfgrass fields at schools or parks and recreation facilities are eligible to submit an entry for Field of the Year 2007. Look for upcoming notices in future editions of SFMANJ Update for more details.

\* Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coord., Rutgers University;  
SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update



The baseball field at Edward A. Grekoski Park, South River, NJ was selected as the SFMANJ 2006 Field of the Year.



"We would like to thank Robert Walker (Supervisor of Parks and Recreation, Borough of South River, NJ) for all his hard work in keeping this facility (Edward A. Grekoski Park baseball field) in immaculate playing condition. . ."

President, South River Baseball Club

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Currently we have 161 new & renewed members. In November 2006, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2007 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 908-730-7770 or download the 2007 membership form available at [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org). Remember to mail your renewal/payment direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801.

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Ballow, Mike  
Barone, Anthony  
Benenati, Vincent  
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(continued on page 7)

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#### 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.

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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](mailto:park@aesop.rutgers.edu)

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# ~A Look Back at Expo 2006~

*Brad Park\**

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual New Jersey Turf and Landscape Conference and Expo was held December 5-7, 2006 at the Trump Taj Mahal. Presented by New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) and New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association (NJLCA), cooperating organizations include Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey (GCSANJ), Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), and Rutgers University.

Expo 2006 featured talks on synthetic infill fields delivered by Dr. A.J. Powell, University of Kentucky, and Joel Taylor, Haddon Township Board of Education. Dr. Powell discussed his investigation into the cost comparisons between natural and synthetic fields. Joel Taylor followed by describing his positive and negative experiences managing a synthetic infill system one year after installation.

School IPM was the focus of Tuesday afternoon, December 5. The concepts of turfgrass IPM and indoor IPM procedures were described by Rutgers University representatives Brad Park and Dr. George Hamilton, respectively. Mr. Bruce Reimbold, NJ DEP, followed by discussing the intricacies of the School IPM law as well as fielded questions from the audience. To conclude the session, Rich Watson, Pine Hill Schools, and George Van Haasteren, Dwight-Englewood School participated on a panel and shared their experiences in implementing the School IPM law at their locations.

For the second year in a row, Expo featured an Early Bird Sports Field Managers Networking Roundtable on Wednesday morning, December 6. This year's roundtable was again a success as attendees shared their thoughts on potential programming for Expo 2007.

Ken Mathis, SFMANJ Past-President, presided over the Association's annual business meeting on Wednesday afternoon, December 6 and randomly selected the "Sponsor in the Spotlight" from the list of Proud Sponsors published in every issue of *Update*. The Sponsor the Spotlight is awarded a one-half back-page ad in this issue of *Update*. The Sponsor in the Spotlight featured in this issue is Ben Shaffer & Associates, Inc.

Recognition of participation and achievement was the theme of the annual business meeting. Those boards of education and municipal agencies that submitted Field of the Year entries were acknowledged with certificates by Karl "Chuckie" Singer, SFMANJ Board Member. Bob Walker, Borough of South River Department of Public Works was presented with a plaque recognizing his hard work in making the Edward Grekowski Park baseball field in South River the 2006 SFMANJ Field of the Year Winner. Ryan Radcliffe, SFMANJ Board Member, presented Jon Bokmeyer, a Rutgers PhD candidate conducting research on wear tolerance in tall fescue, with a SFMANJ student member scholarship.

The Expo 2006 trade show proved to be an excellent location to investigate the latest product offering from green industry vendors, network with other industry professionals, and take advantage of the complimentary food and drink. This year's trade show was unique in that the NJTA-NJLCA partnership brought new vendors to the trade show floor and subsequently introduced attendees to new products and services.

As this January/February issue of *Update* is being assembled, printed, and mailed, Expo 2007 is already in the early stages on planning. SFMANJ and other organizations involved with Expo hope to see everyone in Atlantic City in December 2007 for 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Jersey Turf and Landscape Conference and Expo.

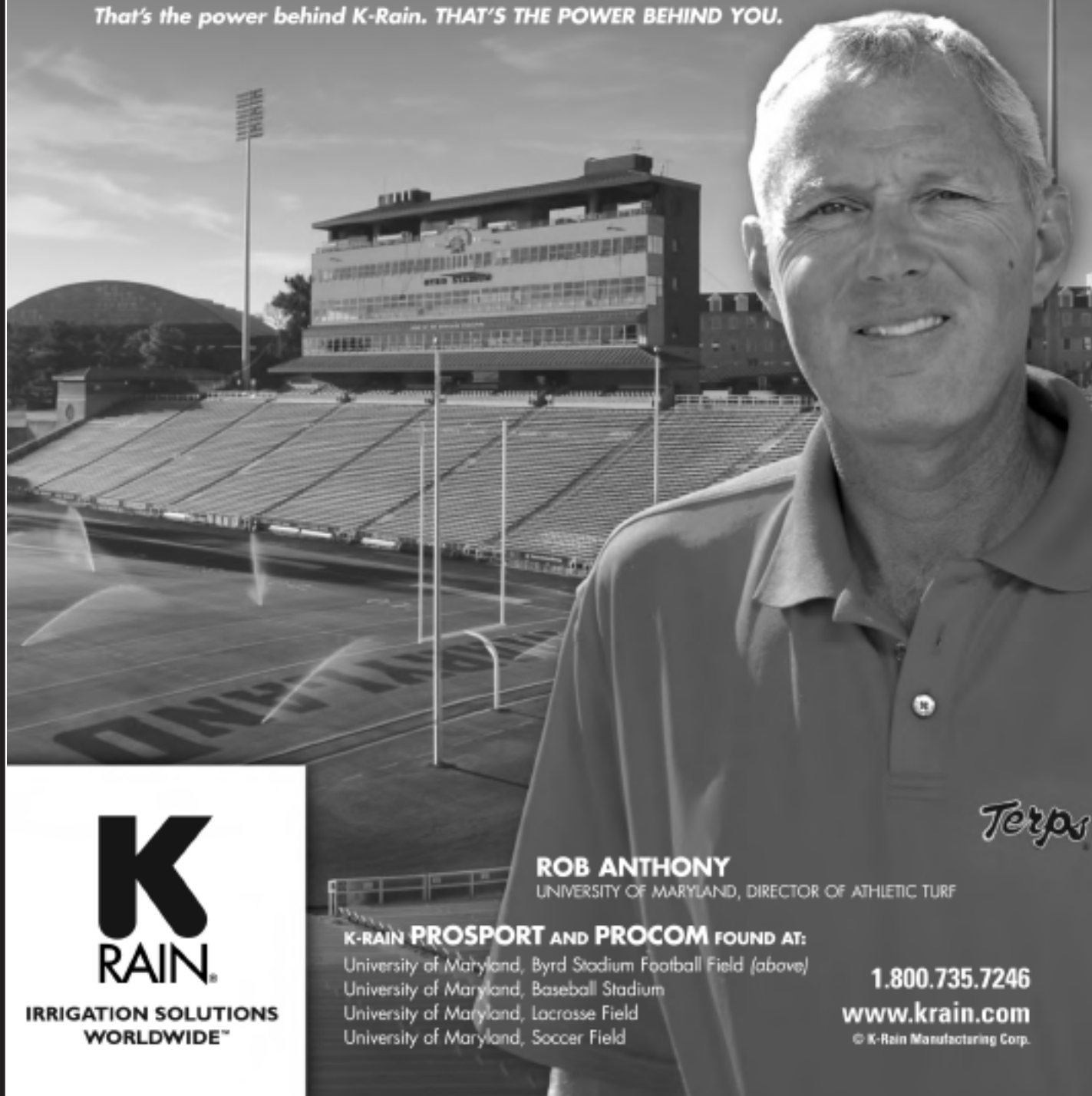
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*Terps*





## Dr. Henry W. Indyk Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Science

As many of you know, the turfgrass industry lost a dear friend and colleague in September 2005. We will all miss Henry very much and would like to insure that his legacy lives on. The Indyk family would like to establish a memorial fellowship to support graduate students interested in applied turfgrass science. This fellowship is being created to help assure that tomorrow's graduate students have the financial resources to get an advanced degree in turfgrass science at Rutgers University. To fund a full graduate assistantship each year in Henry's name, we will need to raise a total of \$400,000. Your generous support at this time will bring us closer to reaching this goal.

To make a tax-deductible contribution today, please send a check payable to the Rutgers University Foundation, 7 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Be sure to indicate "Indyk Fellowship, Turfgrass" in the memo portion of your check. If you desire, you may provide a donation in the form of a pledge payable over several years.

For information on other ways to support this fellowship, please contact Dr. Bruce B. Clarke, Director - Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science (732-932-9400, ext. 331; or [clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu)) or John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling (732) 932-7899 or email: [pearson@winants.rutgers.edu](mailto:pearson@winants.rutgers.edu)



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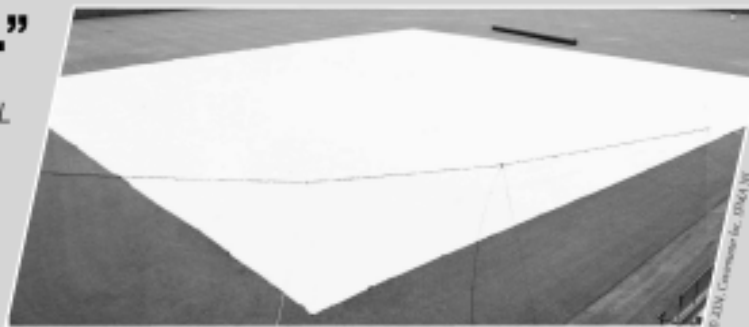
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(continued from page 3)

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Caruso, Pete  
Castenschild, Fred  
Chimento, James  
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Morris, Mike  
Murphy, Dr. James

Murray, Joe  
Myers, Dennis  
Neff, Art  
Newbery, Thomas  
O'Connor, Michael  
Oleykowski, Mike  
Park, Bradley

Passomato, Rocco  
Paul, Albert  
Pena, Tanael  
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Phillips, Paul  
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Tolley, Craig  
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Van Demark, Scot  
Van Drumpt, Peter  
Vansant, Barry  
Viersma, Michael  
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Warner, Bill  
Wendel, CGCS, Jeff  
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# WINTER SPORTS FIELD TIPS

James A. Murphy, Ph.D.\*

**Clean-up.** Leaves, sticks, and other debris that accumulate on the grass over the winter should be raked up when weather permits. Debris lying on the turf too long can smother the grass and create bare spots. Bare spots will probably transform into weeds later in the season.

**Mowing.** Winter is a good time to clean, lubricate and repair your mowing equipment. You do not want to find out that your mowers do not work properly at first use in the spring. Because of the chance for wet weather and rapid shoot growth any delay in mowing at the start of the season (spring) can turn into a "behind the eight-ball" scenario very quickly.

**Fertilization.** Plan for your fertilization needs by testing your soil to determine whether liming is necessary to adjust soil pH (6.0 to 6.7 recommended) as well which nutrients are needed and how much. If you applied a thorough late season (autumn) fertilization, your turf probably will not need as much fertilization in early spring (March - April). Without a fall fertilization program, the turf may require some rather aggressive fertilization to encourage recovery from play or winter damage or to enhance spring green-up. An application of 2/3 to 1½ pound of actual N per 1000 sq. ft. is a good starting fertilization rate in early spring. Fertilization with phosphates or potash should be based on soil test results.

**Winter Seeding.** Winter seeding is a risky practice; the probability of the seed washing away and being eaten by birds is very high. Work the seed into the soil if you choose to seed during winter and realize that is likely to you will need to re-seed when warmer weather returns. Seeding when air temperature consistently exceeds 50 degrees Fahrenheit provides a better chance for success.

**Drainage Assessment.** Winter is good time to assess your fields for areas of poor drainage. Identifying and mapping out these areas now will give you a record of where you need to treat with your aerifier this spring. If aeration is not enough, maps of the poorly drained areas will provide documentation that you can use to show facility administrators where improvements such as slit drainage are needed.

**Cover Skinned Infield Areas.** Wet winter weather can lead to considerable erosion of skinned areas on baseball/softball infields. Consider covering these areas during the winter to eliminate much of the skin restoration headaches this spring. Type "baseball field covers" in any of the popular internet search engines to see examples of numerous companies that can supply covers in various sizes and shapes.

*\*James A. Murphy, PhD. is Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University; and SFMANJ Advisor*



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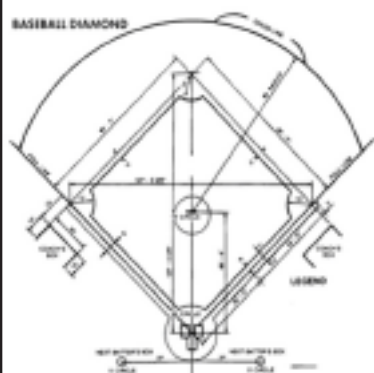


SFMANJ awarded a Rutgers student a scholarship at the 2006 Rutgers Awards Banquet on November 4, 2006 on Cook Campus. Dan Purner (r), Rutgers Student and SFMANJ member, was presented a scholarship by Brad Park (l), Rutgers University and Editor, SFMANJ Update at the banquet.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Of the total acreage consisting of turfgrass in New Jersey in 2001, 76% was associated with households, 18% was categorized as "other sectors" (including parks, schools, houses of worship, airports, highways, and businesses), and 3% was golf courses.

*-NJ Turfgrass Industry  
Economic Survey*



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# EXPO 2006 PHOTO RECAP

Jon Bokmeyer, PhD candidate in Plant Science, Rutgers University, received a SFMANJ scholarship at Expo 2006 in Atlantic City. A component of Jon's research involves wear tolerance of tall fescue cultivars. Pictured (l-r): Ryan Radcliffe, Lakewood Blueclaws and SFMANJ Board Member; Jon Bokmeyer, SFMANJ Scholarship recipient and SFMANJ member; and Karl "Chuckie" Singer, City of Bayonne, and SFMANJ Board Member.



With the Rutgers vs. Kansas State Texas Bowl emblem as a backdrop, Ken Mathis, Past-President, SFMANJ, conducted the Association's annual business meeting at Expo 2006.



Fred Castenschiold (l), Storr Tractor Co. and SFMANJ Board Member presents a plaque to Steve Fischer (r), Turf Course Superintendent, Monmouth Park Racetrack in recognition of Monmouth Park's hosting of the 2006 SFMANJ Spring Field Day held on April 13, 2006.



Robert Walker (center) is presented with a plaque during SFMANJ's annual business meeting at Expo 2006 recognizing his hard work in making the Edward A Grekoski Park baseball field, South River, NJ the Field of the Year in 2006.

# EXPO 2006 PHOTO RECAP



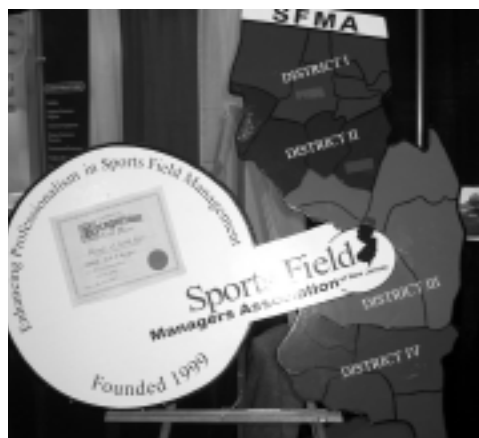
*Dr. A.J. Powell, University of Kentucky, spoke at Expo 2006 as part of the Sports Field Managers Program. His talks focused on cost comparisons between natural and synthetic turf fields and managing sports fields on native soils.*



*Identification and control of turfgrass diseases that affect sports fields was the topic of Rich Buckley's presentation at Expo 2006. One of the most popular speakers at green industry conferences in New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic, Rich is the Coordinator of the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory.*



*A panel was developed as part of the Expo 2006 Sports Field Managers program to explore the NJ School IPM law. Rich Watson (l), Pine Hill Schools and George Van Haasteren (r), Dwight-Englewood School participated in the panel and provided insight on how they implement the School IPM law at their facilities.*



*The Garden State never looked better – A display depicting the State of New Jersey was donated to SFMANJ by Dr. Henry Indyk and has been used by the Association at various trade shows and events.*



# How to *Write* Like a Pro

**Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Editorial Staff\***

O.K., so you don't like to write and you didn't go to turf school to focus on writing. However, good written communication skills are critical to your job success. Being able to communicate well in writing can help you in a myriad of ways. A well-written memo can persuade your employer to authorize budget dollars for products, equipment, personnel and training. Or, an e-mail that confirms your understanding of a discussion with a coach or athletic director can make the difference between success and failure.

Effective written communication in the workplace will position you as a professional to your peers, your employer and your staff. To extend that recognition to a broader audience, consider writing articles for your chapter newsletter, regional turf publication or the STMA SPORTSTURF Magazine. You have excellent experiences to share about your work and help others learn. Use these five easy tips to help you put together the right message for strong writing.

## 5 TIPS TO WRITE IT RIGHT

- 1) Use the three "S" structure. Keep your sentences Simple, Short and Succinct. Shorter sentences are easier to read and understand.
- 2) Use "Active" voice rather than passive. **Better** - Ex: Our field management program uses IPM to provide healthy turf and safe playing conditions. **Not as good** : Ex: IPM was used as a management program to provide healthy turf and safe playing conditions.

3) When possible, use "Action" verbs, which communicate authority, a solution orientation, and allow you to highlight accomplishments. **40 verbs for stronger writing include** : Accomplish, Achieve, Advise, Analyze, Complete, Control, Create, Conduct, Design, Develop, Direct, Evaluate, Execute, Facilitate, Generate, Identify, Implement, Improve, Increase, Innovate, Introduce, Launch, Manage, Monitor, Negotiate, Organized, Overhaul, Plan, Prepare, Prioritize, Recommend, Research, Resolve, Restructure, Specify, Streamline, Strengthen, Supervise, Train, Upgrade.

4) Write down the three specific messages you want to communicate through your writing at the top of your document. Three is a magic number. People can remember and comprehend messages and ideas in groups of three. Make certain that each sentence you write supports one of the messages, and that you are not including miscellaneous, non essential information. Be sure to delete your outline before you send your document.

5) Set your memo, article or other written communication aside for at least an hour — a day if possible. Go back and reread it to catch errors in spelling and grammar and rework weak sentences.

\* Sports Turf Managers Association, Lawrence, KS



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## DID YOU KNOW?

Turfgrass is a major land cover in New Jersey, accounting for 880,542 acres and making-up 18% of the State's total land area.

*-NJ Turfgrass Industry  
Economic Survey*



The entrance to Edward A. Grekoski Park, South River, NJ, site of the SFMANJ 2006 Field of the Year, was well manicured.

# Calendar of Events 2007

### **Three-Day Athletic Field Construction and Maintenance**

February 27 - March 1, 2007  
Rutgers University -  
Office of Continuing Professional Education  
Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ  
**732-932-9271**  
**[www.cookce.rutgers.edu](http://www.cookce.rutgers.edu)**

### **Understanding Synthetic Fields**

March 7, 2007  
Rutgers University -  
Office of Continuing Professional Education  
Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ  
**732-932-9271**  
**[www.cookce.rutgers.edu](http://www.cookce.rutgers.edu)**

### **Baseball/Solftball Infield Skin Construction and Management**

March 14, 2007  
Rutgers University -  
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Rutgers Snyder Research &  
Extension Farm, Pittstown, NJ  
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**[www.cookce.rutgers.edu](http://www.cookce.rutgers.edu)**

### **SFMANJ Annual Spring Field Days**

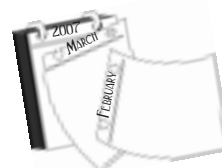
April 12, 2007  
South River, NJ - Rutgers Hort. Farm II  
**908-730-7770**  
**[www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)**

### **Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day SFMANJ Equipment Demos back for 2007**

August 1, 2007  
NJ Turfgrass Assoc., SFMANJ,  
Rutgers University  
**908-730-7770**

### **NJ Turf & Landscape Conference and Expo 2007**

December 4-6, 2007  
Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort  
Atlantic City, NJ  
**[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)**



# An Overview of the CSFM Program

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM\*

The Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) Program is a credentialing program developed and sponsored by Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). The purpose of the program is to recognize the professionalism, knowledge and experience of the sports field managers who have qualified and met the rigorous standards. The process begins by contacting the STMA Headquarters and requesting a CSFM Packet. The packet contains all of the information about the program as well as an application. Candidates qualify for the program by first quantifying their education and their experience. The view of STMA is that a combination of education and experience are necessary to be the best possible athletic field manager. It recognizes that the sports turf industry is very diverse and that experience as a sports field manager must play a major role. It is possible to become certified with only a high school education if you have enough experience in sports field management. You cannot become a CSFM by education alone.

Once it has been determined that you are qualified, you then prepare for the written examination. The exam consists of 300 multiple choice questions in a multiple choice format, and covers four major areas of sports field management:

1. Agronomics - both cool and warm season turfgrasses
2. Pest Management – IPM, cultural and pesticides

3. Administration - budgets, people skills, first aid
4. Sports Specific Field Management –maintenance, playability and aesthetics (but NO field dimensions!)

I really must warn you; this test is not for amateurs! The CSFM packet contains a 20 page booklet describing all of the knowledge and competencies needed to pass the exam. The packet also suggests a reading list of books and articles that will be helpful in preparing for the test.

My impression of the test was that it was very fair. The questions were about real life problems and situations. By passing this test, it means that you have a broad working knowledge of sports field management that could get you in the door, anywhere in the country.

There is something special about becoming a CSFM. It demonstrates a commitment to excellence, acknowledged accountability, and increased professionalism. Certified Sports Field Managers are committed to field safety and dedicated to cost effective facility management. It is a valuable learning experience, and can open doors for future opportunities and earnings potential.

(continued on page 16)



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## DID YOU KNOW?

Institutional (athletic fields, golf courses, school, etc.) purchases accounted for 18% of sod sales by New Jersey sod growers in 2001; whereas 51% of sod sales were to landscape contractors.

*-NJ Turfgrass Industry  
Economic Survey*



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# An Overview of the CSFM Program

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM\*

(continued from page 14)

Presently, there are 70 people who wear the designation of Certified Sports Field Manager. We invite you to take up the challenge. Do it for yourself. Join our ranks, and help us take our profession to greater heights.

## CSFM Requirements

A total of 40 combined education and experience points are required to take the certification examination.

| Program                        | Points |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Turf Related Associates Degree | 8      |
| Non-Turf Associates Degree     | 2      |
| Turf Related Bachelors Degree  | 16     |
| Non-Turf Bachelors Degree      | 8      |
| Turf Related Advanced          | 24     |

**NOTE:** Education points are not cumulative. Experience points are per year for each activity you have served. No more than 50% of total experience points can be earned on a golf course.

| Activity                             | Points |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Sports Turf Crew                     | 1.0    |
| Sports Turf Supervisor               | 3.0    |
| Sports Turf Manager                  | 6.0    |
| Golf Course Assistant Superintendent | 1.5    |
| Golf Course Superintendent           | 3.0    |

*\*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*

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*-NJ Turfgrass Industry Economic Survey*



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*-NJ Turfgrass Industry  
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