

UPDATE



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CONVINCING YOUR EMPLOYER TO SEND YOU TO EXPO 2007

Brad Park

(Editor's Note: This article was adapted from materials provided by Sports Turf Managers Association)

It's time to begin planning your trip to Expo 2007. The New Jersey Turf & Landscape Conference and Expo 2007 will be held at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ on December 4-6, 2007. How can you convince your employer to send you?

Continuing education and industry connections are crucial to your success and the success of your sports fields. Here are some suggestions to help your employer understand how your attendance at Expo 2007 can add value to the overall operation of your facility.

EDUCATE YOURSELF ON THE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

- Provide an overview of the size and scope of Expo 2007. It may be helpful to give your employer a copy of the brochure. This edition of *SFMANJ Update* provides the Sports Field Managers Program for Expo 2007.
- Pinpoint specific sessions you plan to attend, and tie their relevance to your sports facility. As part of the Sports Field Managers Program, presentations on management of high traffic fields and synthetic in-fill system selection and management are part of the 2007 program.
- Highlight the trade show and cite suppliers and equipment manufacturers you plan to meet.
- Discuss the networking opportunities you will have with peers who share challenges similar to the ones you have.
- Note that NJ DEP pesticide recertification credits will be available.
- Explain how innovations in products, new research, and cutting edge management techniques continually change, and why it is important to stay abreast of those changes.
- Reinforce how the success of your sports fields ultimately depends upon the continued professional development of you and your staff.

KNOW THE COST

- Make a case for efficient and effective use of your facility's training dollars. By attending Expo 2007, you will be exposed to the most relevant education and technology in one place, making it the most effective use of training dollars.
- Research travel times and hotel costs. While Atlantic City is feasible day trip from almost anywhere in New Jersey, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association does its part to negotiate reasonable room rates at the Trump Taj Mahal to make staying a night reasonable. Expo 2007 will feature online registration at www.njturfgrass.org

HAVE AN ACTION PLAN

- Develop a plan for how operations will continue in your absence. Make sure you are accessible by phone or by page to address any concerns that might arise in your absence.
- Consider preparing and presenting a report on the information you learned and how you plan to put it into practice at your facility.
- Demonstrate how you will share the technical information learned with your staff for their continuing educational development.

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



Turfgrasses in the Mist. In the early morning hours of August 1, 2007, the Rutgers Adelpia Research Farm awaits equipment, vendors, and attendees to arrive for the 2007 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day.

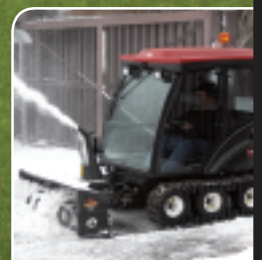


Scott Bills, Northern Nurseries, describes his products during the trade show at the Field Day held at Adelpia in 2007.

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Inside This Issue

| | |
|---|----|
| Welcome New & Renewed Members | 3 |
| Membership Form | 3 |
| SFMANJ Board of Directors | 3 |
| New Jersey Turf & Landscape Conference and Expo 2007: | |
| Sports Field Managers Program | 4 |
| What Manual? | 6 |
| Sports Field Irrigation Audits - Part II | 8 |
| Calendar of Events | 14 |
| Use the Easiest Non-Verbal Communication | |
| Strategy to Enhance Your Professionalism | 15 |
| 2007 Proud Sponsors Directory | 17 |

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

New Jersey Turf & Landscape Conference and Expo 2007: Sports Field Managers Program

December 4-6, 2007

Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort, Atlantic City, NJ

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007
THURSDAY AM

THURSDAY PM

1:00-1:30 SFMANJ Business Meeting
1:30-2:15 Management strategies for high traffic fields
Dr. Dr. Mike Goatley, Virginia Tech
2:15-2:45 A cost-based approach to asses task management
Don Savard, CSFM, CGM, Salesianum School
2:45-3:30 Environmental turfcraft for Sports Fields
Kevin Trotta, North Rockland School District

7:00-8:00 Early bird Sports Field Managers
Networking roundtable
8:00-8:30 Elements of Sports Field Construction
Dr. Mike Goatley, Virginia Tech
8:30-9:00 Renovation of a little league infield
Jim Hermann, CSFM, Total Control, Inc.
9:00-9:30 Grant writing: What you need to know
Beth Richmond, Bedford Recreation
9:30-10:00 Low-impact pesticides for turf
Brad Park, Rutgers University


12:00-12:30 Bermudagrass use for Sports Fields in the Mid-Atlantic
Mike Kelley, Poly Tech High School, Delaware
12:30-1:00 Selecting a synthetic infill system
Ken Mathis, Brick Township Parks
1:00-1:30 IPM at a NJ high school: Myth vs. reality
Rich Watson, Pine Hill School District
1:30-2:00 Management of synthetic infill systems
Kevin Malone, CSFM, Columbia University



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What Manual?

By Fred Castenschiold

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

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

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

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

wish to consider oil and air filter changes more often.

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

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

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

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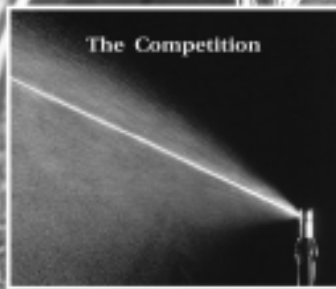


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SPORTS FIELD IRRIGATION AUDITS - PART II

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Editor's Note:

This article is a continuation of an article Sports Field Irrigation Audits – Part 1, which can be found on Page 6 of the July/August 2007 edition of *SFMANJ Update*

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

At this time it is necessary to gather information from outside sources. I used information gathered from the internet that was published by the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service and from the book "Sports Fields-A Manual for Design, Construction and Maintenance" by Puhalla, J; Krans, J; Goatly, M; John Wiley & Sons Inc.

Next I had to determine the **average water holding capacity of my soil**. Different soil textures have different water holding capacities depending on soil pore space. Sandy soils have large pore spaces between the soil particles, silt loams and clays have minute pore spaces. While sandy soils with their large pore spaces can absorb volumes of water quickly, the water also drains quickly. The soils such as silt loam and clays hold their water much longer. My soil type was silt loam which has an average water holding capacity of 0.17 to 0.23 inches of water stored per inch of soil; multiply by 12 to get inches of water per foot of soil (Delaware Cooperative Extension).

Following that, the next step was to find out how much water the turf needed and was using and figure out the irrigation volume and frequency. A turfgrass plant is more than 90% water and requires a different amount of water than a shade tree. Evapotranspiration, the process where available water in the soil evaporates into the atmosphere and transpiration the process where a plant gives off water vapor and oxygen as a byproduct of photosynthesis, is higher during the warmer parts of the year than other times. So, transpiration rates vary every month.

Monthly Potential Evapotranspiration (PET) values can vary slightly from year to year and PET values vary

by month. The PET value for Delaware in May is 3.72 inches; for daily PET values divide the monthly PET value by 30 (Delaware Cooperative Extension). If you can measure the ET at your site, you can become very precise.

The water requirement Crop Coefficient (K_c) is a scale used as a multiplier in irrigation audit equations. The water requirement crop coefficient for cool season turfgrass is 0.6 to 0.8; the water requirement crop coefficient for warm season turfgrass is 0.5 to 0.70 (Puhalla et al., 2001).

Using the information found from my data collection as well as the information in the preceding tables, I was able to find the **irrigation frequency** using the following formula:

$$\text{Irrigation frequency} = \frac{\text{average water holding capacity} \times \text{root depth} \times \text{management allowable depletion}}{\text{potential evapotranspiration} \times \text{crop coefficient}}$$

I found the **run time frequency** using the following formula:

$$\text{Run Time} = \frac{60 \times \text{irrigation frequency} \times \text{potential evapotranspiration} \times \text{crop coefficient}}{\text{net precipitation rate} \times \text{irrigation application efficiency}}$$

So what did I find out after all that work? Irrigation frequency is all about evapotranspiration which varies each month. Assuming average temperatures and humidity and no rain, I would only need to irrigate once every 7 days in May. Because there is less evapotranspiration in April, I would need to irrigate once in 14 days. In July there is more evapotranspiration so I would need to irrigate every 4 days.

I found that the run times would vary from about 108 minutes in April, to 113 minutes in July to 117 minutes in May. For convenience, I rounded up to 120 minutes for the audit in May. My Kifco water reels were calibrated to travel 60 feet per minute, applied ½ inch of water during the first run time. So, by pulling back out a second time immediately following the first run, I could supply the field with a full inch of water.

(continued on page 12)



**Dr. Henry W. Indyk
Graduate Fellowship in
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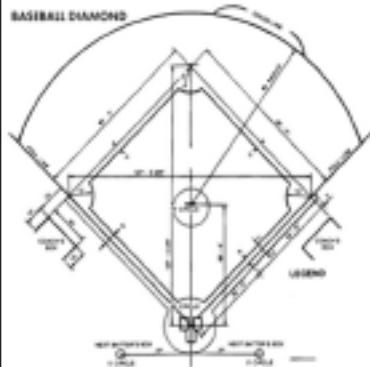
As many of you know, the turfgrass industry lost a dear friend and colleague in September 2005. We will all miss Henry very much and would like to insure that his legacy lives on. The Indyk family would like to establish a memorial fellowship to support graduate students interested in applied turfgrass 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) or John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling (732) 932-7899 or email: pearson@winants.rutgers.edu

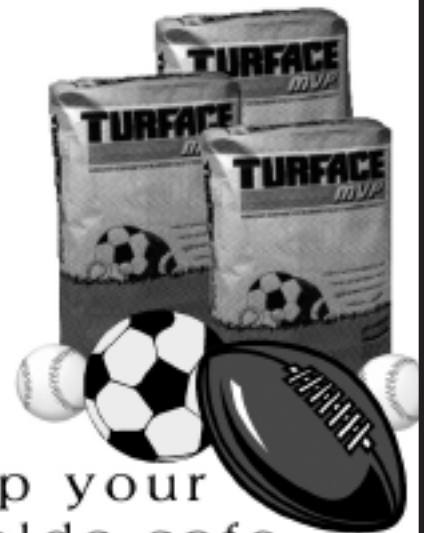


George Bannerman, Bannerman Ltd., talks to attendees on August 1 at Adelpphia.



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SPORTS FIELD IRRIGATION AUDITS - PART II

(continued from page 8)

As a result of conducting an irrigation audit on my site, I was able to save over \$2,000.00 dollars in my irrigation budget and over 150 hours of my personal time.

Remember that the idea is to irrigate the soil, not the turf. Consider the concept of the soil as an H₂O bank account for your turf. Just like your personal checking account, try to maintain a prudent balance of moisture in the root zone so as not to become overdrawn and stress the turf.

References

Delaware Cooperative Extension

Puhalla, J., J. Krans, and M. Goatley. 1999.

Sports fields: A Manual for design, construction, and maintenance. Ann Arbor Press, Chelsea, MI.

*Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM);
Certified Grounds Manager (CGM);
Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School;
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www.sfmanj.org

New Jersey State League of Municipalities

92nd Annual Conference

November 13-16, 2007
 Atlantic City Convention Center
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NJ Turf & Landscape Conference and Expo 2007

December 4-6, 2007
 Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort
 Atlantic City, NJ
www.njturfgrass.org

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December 12, 2007
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Use the Easiest Non-Verbal Communication Strategy to Enhance Your Professionalism

Sports Turf Managers Association Editorial Staff

Good communication is the cornerstone of great professional relationships. One communication strategy that is often overlooked is dress. How you dress is another way you communicate to your peers, your staff, your employer and the end users of your sports fields.

Dressing in a professional manner suggests that you are well organized and portrays self

confidence. The impression is of one who is knowledgeable and in control. (Wow, all of that from a pair of Dockers and a golf shirt!). Obviously, we aren't talking coat and tie — unless the occasion calls for it. When you are physically working beside your staff on the field, of course you will be wearing work clothing, but think about keeping a change of clothing at your office for meetings or when you will be spending several hours in the office more visible to your employer.

Consider providing collared staff shirts to bring a more unified appearance to your crew, but wear a different color shirt so that you are distinguishable as the manager in charge. Be conscious of what your clothing says about you — faded tee shirts promoting old rock groups may bring a bit of nostalgia to your day, but they do not do much to position you as a professional sports turf manager.

Impressions do count. According to Ollie Stevenson, author of *101 Great Answers to the Tough-*

est Job Search Problems, found that in an interview situation, interviewers make an immediate overall judgment about you in the first five seconds. That applies to all first impressions. Five seconds isn't long so you are being judged on what you wear and how you react. Make the first five seconds count. Be dressed appropriately and remember, professionals do shake hands. Be sure your grip is firm and sincere and you make direct eye contact when you greet someone.

How do you dress for your chapter meetings? What type of role model are you for those who are just entering the profession and what type of message are you sending to them?

The job of a sports turf manager requires a strong knowledge of agronomy, pest management, environmental issues, sports strategies, and intimate knowledge of rules and regulations so that you can manage safe playing surfaces for your athletes. Be recognized for the knowledge, skills and abilities you bring to the game and garner the respect you deserve. Don't let a sloppy appearance downplay your importance when it is so easy to dress more professionally.

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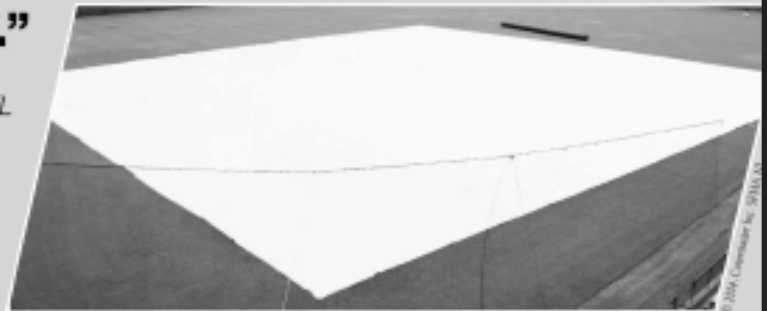
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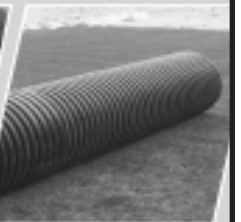
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