

UPDATE

July/August, 2008
Vol. 8, No. 4
e-mail: hq@sfmanj.org
www.sfmanj.org

Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey

SFMANJ Has a Busy Summer in 2008



Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, PA hosted a Summer Regional Conference sponsored by STMA on June 27, 2008.

STMA Regional Educational Event a Success

By: Kim Heck

Sports Turf Managers Association held a regional educational event and field day at Lincoln Financial Field (home of the Philadelphia Eagles) and Citizens Bank Park (home of the Phillies) on June 27, 2008. Six STMA-affiliated chapters supported the program: the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO); Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ); Sports Turf Managers of New York (STMONY); Chesapeake Chapter of STMA; Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association (VSTMA) and New England Sports Turf Managers Association (NESTMA).

Emcee Dan Douglas from the KAFMO chapter, kept the more than 160 attendees moving to the various events throughout the day. Dr. John Sorochan, University of Tennessee, started the program with a presentation about how new bermudagrass can successfully be grown in the transition zone. He also presented cool season turf management later in the day.

Jeff Fowler, Penn State Extension, challenged attendees to make personal changes to help them be better sports turf managers during his '7 Habits of Highly Defective Sports Turf Managers' presentation.

(continued on page 4)

SFMANJ Summer Trade Show and Equipment Demonstrations

By: Brad Park

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) once again collaborated with New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) and Rutgers University to take part in the annual Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day at the Rutgers Adelphia Turfgrass Research Farm in Adelphia, NJ on July 30, 2008.

A morning trade show and equipment demonstrations were sponsored by SFMANJ. The trade show consisted of eleven vendors and saw significant attendee traffic between 7:30 and 9:00 am.

Education was provided by Rutgers faculty, staff, and graduate students and included information on new perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass varieties, updates on pesticide regulations, breeding for brown patch resistance in tall fescue, and broadleaf and grassy weed control.

As a new programming format for 2008, vendor-sponsored equipment demonstrations were incorporated into educational tours. This format proved to be successful as large numbers of attendees were present when the latest turf maintenance equipment was being operated for all to witness.

(continued on page 4)



A trade show sponsored by SFMANJ welcomed attendees to the Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day held at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm on July 30, 2008



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Draycott, Barry	Tech-Terra Organics, LLC
Every, Steve	Rochelle Park Recreation Department
Heiple, Benjamin	ELA Group, Inc.
Rider, Randy	Fisher & Son Co., Inc.
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Uhrin, Robert	Piscataway Little League
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National Organization
 Sports Turf Managers Association

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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

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

STMA Regional Educational Event a Success

(continued from page 1)

Tony Leonard, Director of Grounds for the Philadelphia Eagles, who hosted the event, his assistant Dan Shemesh, and Dr. Sorochan conducted a tour of the field and discussed the equipment used and the overall field management practices.

Mike Boekholder, head groundskeeper for the Philadelphia Phillies, showcased his field,

highlighting specific recovery techniques he has been implementing over the past two weeks since the June 14 Jimmy Buffet concert.

A 'Chapter Challenge' was conducted that tested a team from each chapter on agronomic questions. The winning chapter, VSTMA, won a registration to the STMA Annual Conference, to be held Jan. 13-17, 2009 in San José. Philadelphia Eagles and STMA merchandise also was given away during a raffle.

Kim Heck is Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS

SFMANJ Summer Trade Show and Equipment Demonstrations

(continued from page 1)

Following the educational stops and equipment demos, lunch was served and pesticide credits were awarded. Pesticide recertification credits were available for applicators in New Jersey as well as neighboring states including Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The 2008 Field Day was yet again a great opportunity for SFMANJ members and other Green Industry professionals to network with peers and industry representatives.

See you at Expo 2008 in December!

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

DID YOU KNOW?

The New York Mets play their final regular season game at Shea Stadium on Sunday, September 28, 2008 against the Florida Marlins. The Mets will move into brand new Citi Field beginning in 2009.

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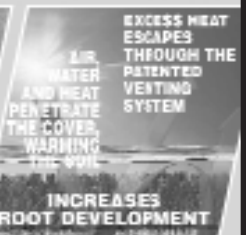
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**Dr. Henry W. Indyk
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in Turfgrass Science**

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) or John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling (732) 932-7996 or email: pearson@winents.rutgers.edu

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STMA REGIONAL FIELD DAY - JUNE 27, 2008

By: Brad Park, Rutgers University



Brad Pastrick, North Brunswick Parks



Pictured (l to r) Dr. Jim Murphy, Rutgers University and SFMANJ Advisor; Mike Boekholder, Head Groundskeeper, Philadelphia Phillies; and Glenn Sweet, Chesapeake STMA Chapter.



Dan "Dirt" Douglas, Head Groundskeeper, Reading Phillies



On-the-field at Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, PA



Pictured (l to r) Jim Gates, Jim Gates & Co. and SFMANJ Board Member; Ken Mathis, Brick Township Parks and SFMANJ Past President; Jack Shannon, West Deptford BOE; and Frank LoSasso, Hammonton BOE.

~TIME FOR CHANGE~

After many years of superior service Kathy Hopfel has decided to move to new challenges. Kathy has served as the executive secretary for our association since 2003. I would like to thank Kathy, on behalf of the association, for her many years of service to the SFMANJ. She has been an instrumental aide to our board over the past five years.

Kathy has been very helpful to the growth of our organization over the years. To date, she is the only one to have ever held the position of executive secretary for SFMANJ. She has helped define her position by willingly accepting additional responsibilities as needed for the growth of our association. She has worked on our website, helped with our field days, newsletter, and always made sure all the fine details were taken care of. Kathy has always been there for us (the board and association) when ever we needed her. Her presence will be missed.

On behalf of the board I would like to congratulate Kathy on her new position and wish her much success on her future endeavors.

Craig A Tolley, President, SFMANJ

DID YOU KNOW?



The last ever regular season game to be played at Yankee Stadium is Sunday, September 21, 2008 when the New York Yankees take-on the Baltimore Orioles.

New Jersey Turfgrass Expo

December 2008

Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort, Atlantic City, NJ

2008 Sports Field Managers Expo Program

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008

- 1:00-1:30 SFMANJ Business Meeting
- 1:30-2:15 Communication and leadership skills for Sports Field Managers
Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, SCPS, The Toro Company
- 2:15-2:45 A director of recreation's perspective on synthetic infill fields
M. Bruce Kaufmann, CPRP, Town of Westfield
- 2:45-3:30 A National look at Sports Field Management
Kim Heck, Sports Turf Managers Association
- 3:30-4:00 Update on synthetic turf human health issues
Jerry Fagliano, NJ Dept. of Health & Senior Services

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008

THURSDAY AM

- 7:00-8:00 Early bird Sports Field Managers
Networking roundtable
- 8:00-9:00 Turfgrass Management for Sports Field 101
Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University
- 9:00-9:30 Recent Turfgrass Traffic Tolerance Research at Rutgers
Brad Park, Rutgers University
- 9:30-10:00 Developing Utility Sports Fields using Farming Principles
Dr. John Grande, Rutgers University

THURSDAY PM

- 12:00-12:30 Renovation of First Energy Stadium, Reading, PA
Dan "Dirt" Douglas, Reading Phillies
- 12:30-1:00 Responsibilities of a New Jersey School IPM Coordinator
Erik Hammerdahl, Morris-Jointure Commission
- 1:00-1:30 Authoring Specifications and Managing Sports Field Construction
Tom Miller, Environmental Resolutions
- 1:30-2:00 Sports Field and Grounds Management at a New Jersey High School
Kevin Shipman, Kingsway High School

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Photos By: Brad Park, Rutgers University



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SFMANJ would like to recognize the following vendors for purchasing booth space and/or demonstrating equipment at the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day held at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm on July 30, 2008

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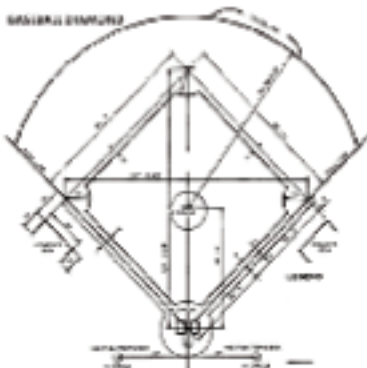
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STMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009

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•TURF RENOVATION•

By: Craig Tolley

Renovation can be defined as turf improvement that involves partial or complete replanting without total tillage of the soil. Complete renovation is when the entire turf stand is killed and reseeded. Partial renovation is called for when only a portion of the total area is to be killed off. Renovation of a turf should be considered when the condition turf stand is: severely damaged by pests, predominately covered by weeds (broadleaf or grassy), of a poor quality turf due to excessive thatch or compaction, or if a combination of these conditions exist.

Prior to taking any direct action the site needs to be evaluated to determine how severe and extensive the damage is and to identify the underlying cause of the damage. The evaluation should include identification of the dominate turf species and current density. All weed species should be identified (the weeds can be strong indicators of underlining problems). Additionally the thatch layer, drainage patterns and soil conditions should be checked. Soil should be tested for pH, nutrient levels and compaction. When the root cause of the decline in turf quality can be identified, a long term plan to alleviate the damage and prevent it from reoccurring should be developed and implemented.

Selecting an appropriate species for the site and use of the turf is the most important step in this process. On most athletic fields in New Jersey, the following species are desirable: Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, and perennial ryegrass. Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue tend to be the more durable species; but when time is limited, perennial ryegrass is the fastest

to germinate. For these species, the end of August into early September is the best time of year for establishment.

The area should be treated for weeds prior to seeding; preferably with an herbicide that will have short residual life such as glyphosate. Depending on the weeds present, more selective herbicides may used or applications limited to spot treatments. In this situation one needs to be very careful in the selection of an herbicide since the desirable seedlings will have an increased sensitivity to the chemicals remaining in the soil.

Soil compaction should be alleviated with aggressive hollow tine aeration - at least two to three passes over the area being treated. If thatch is a problem the field should also be dethatched at this time (the slicer can also help break up the cores from aerating if it is done second). This process will help exposure the soil and allow for good seed to soil contact.

The last cut prior to over-seeding should be at reduced height to lower the canopy and allow more light to reach the soil for the germinating seeds. The seeding is best performed with a disc-type seeder to get the seeds directly in contact with soil and through the canopy as opposed to a broadcast spreader that may leave the seeds exposed on the surface or in the canopy of the existing grass. The seeding rate will need to be higher than as compared to seeding over bare soil (by roughly 20 percent) due to increased competition from the standing turf. A thin layer of topdressing can be applied over the top of the seeds to aide at incorporating them into the soil.

(continued on page 18)

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SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2008

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is announcing its annual Field of the Year (FOY) contest.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be a current member of SFMANJ
- Only school and parks/recreation fields are eligible
- Must be a natural grass field/fields

CRITERIA:

Award will be presented based:

- Playability and appearance of the playing surfaces
- Five 5x7 photos & one before photo if possible
- Describe your maintenance program and what you did to improve your field
- Describe yearly budget used for this field
- Feel free to have sports groups in your photo



SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:

Entries are to be submitted by mail and must be received by September 30, 2008. Entries are limited to 10 color photos. Please include the name, location and owner of the facility, along with your name, position, and contact number.

Mail to:
SFMANJ 2007 FOY Contest
PO Box 370
Annandale, NJ 06801

AWARDS:

Winner will be honored with a plaque at New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December 2008 and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ Update newsletter. The winner will also receive a two-night stay at the Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City and three days of education and trade show admission at Expo 2008.

NOTE:

Photos will not be returned and may be used on SFMANJ website and promotional settings.



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•TURF RENOVATION•

(continued from page 15)

The new seeds will need to be irrigated with frequent light applications until they have started to become established. Any fertilizer applications should be based on need as determined from the soil test.

When time is extremely limited one can either prime or pre-germinate the seed for a quicker establishment. Priming the seed is pre-imbibing it with water so when the seed comes in contact with the soil, it is ready to germinate. To do this, place the seed in a burlap bag than soak in a large container of lukewarm water (aerating with a fish tank bubbler helps but is not completely necessary) for about 24 hours than drain and air dry so it can be spread. Pre-germinating is taking this idea a step

farther; the seed can be placed on damp paper in a warm location (70-75° F) until roots can be seen emerging from the seed. With the pre-germinated seed the plants are already growing when they first contact the soil. The drawback to either of these 'tricks' is that the seed will be more susceptible to mechanical damage or fungi as you prepare it, so it is best to sow the seed/seedlings by hand (making this not practical for large areas) to minimize the physical damage.

*Craig Tolley is Professor,
County College of Morris;
and President, SFMANJ*

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