

UPDATE

May/June, 2008

Vol. 8, No. 3

e-mail: hq@sfmanj.org

www.sfmanj.org

Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey



SPRING FIELD DAY AT SHORE REGIONAL/ MONMOUTH PARK: SFMANJ at its *Best*

by Matt Olivi

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) held its annual Spring Field Day on May 7, 2008. Using a multi-venue program seemed to be an effective way to cater to the many educational interests and turf management concerns of the New Jersey membership. In the morning, attendees had the opportunity to view the many turf fields that make-up the sports complex facilities at Shore Regional High School in West Long Branch, NJ. The afternoon portion of the field day was hosted at the Monmouth Park Race Track facilities nearby.

After some early morning refreshments sponsored by the Viersma Companies, field day attendees made their way outside to the turfgrass facilities at Shore Regional High. Facilities Manager Marco Oliveira presented turfgrass management techniques and summarized field hockey maintenance operations at the school. Once attendees had been familiarized with the facilities, they were able to view several educational demonstrations that were presented by turf management experts from all over the state. Dr. James Murphy, Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University, explained how New Jersey turf managers could use soil testing to optimize the cost effectiveness of fertilization programs. In combination with irrigation auditing techniques that were presented by CSFM Don Savard of the Salesianum School in Delaware, members were provided with invaluable educational tools for maintaining their natural turf.

Educational techniques pertaining to infield skin surfaces were also covered in presentations by Scott Bills, Northern Nurseries and Sean Connell, Georgia Golf Construction, Inc. Attendees were able to view a laser demonstration that

instructed them how to use such equipment to grade their infields properly in order to effectively manage surface drainage and maintain a necessary constant slope across the entire infield. The demonstrators promoted laser equipment as a relatively inexpensive tool for drastic maintenance improvements to infields with common drainage problems.

The morning portion of the program was concluded with several equipment and product demonstrations by reputable New Jersey vendors. Demonstrations were presented by leading turfgrass equipment dealers such as The Viersma Companies, Storr Tractor Co., and Wilfred McDonald Inc. Attendees were able to view some of the newest mowing, aeration, topdressing and infield maintenance equipment as well as

infield amendments and conditioning products that are available to them to better manage their turf fields. All of the vendors in attendance helped to demonstrate the innovation of the newest technology in sports field maintenance equipment.

(continued on page 4)

SFMANJ Equipment Demonstrations at Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day at Adelphia Research Farm

SAVE THE DATE — Wednesday, July 30, 2008

By Brad Park

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) will once again collaborate with the 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. Both the morning trade show and equipment demonstrations will be sponsored by SFMANJ.

As a new programming format for 2008, vendor-sponsored equipment demonstrations will be incorporated into the educational tours. Additionally, the conclusion of the Field Day will coincide with lunch at 1:00 pm.

(continued on page 12)



Marco Oliveira, Facility Manager, ARAMARK-Shore Regional High School describes the management strategies he employs to maintain his field hockey field as part of the SFMANJ Spring Field Day 2008.



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Currently we have 265 new & renewed members. In December 2007, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2008 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 908-730-7770 or download the membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801.

Bonczak, John	Manville Borough DPW
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DeFino, Thomas	Fisher and Son Company
Ernst, Lance	Turf Equipment & Supply Co., Inc.
Fischer, Stephen	Monmouth Park Racetrack
Gates, James	Jim Gates & Co., Inc.
Goble, Fred	Washington Township Parks & Recreation
Gullia, Joe	Manville Borough DPW
Hoban, Kevin	Storr Tractor Co.
Holenstein, Christopher	Summit DPW
Lawson, TJ	Rutgers University, Dept. of Plant Bio/Pathology
LoMedico, Vincent	Manville Borough DPW
Mac Donnell, Colin	Ramapo College of NJ
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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.

SPRING FIELD DAY AT SHORE REGIONAL/MONMOUTH PARK: SFMANJ at its *Best*

(continued from page 1)

The field day then changed venues to Monmouth Park Race-track where attendees were treated to lunch as they overlooked the racing surfaces and infield from high above in the grandstand's Turf Club room. The lunch was sponsored by Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc. After a good meal with good company, attendees were introduced to Steve Fischer who is the Turf Track Superintendent at Monmouth Park. Mr. Fischer, who has a lifetime of experience maintaining the facility, graciously narrated a tour of the turf track that has recently hosted events such as the 2007 Breeders' Cup. As the group toured the facility, they were given an overview of how complex turf management for horse racing can be and the many unique challenges that track turf managers face. During the tour, members were afforded the opportunity to view and ask questions about irrigation equipment and techniques, aeration techniques, pest control issues and even general information about horse racing. A large topic of discussion during the tour was the recent turf renovation project at the track that was the result of a collaborative effort between the track management and Rutgers University. Fortunately, members attending

the tour were able to have their questions answered first-hand by individuals who worked directly on the renovation. Dr. James Murphy and Brad Park from Rutgers assisted Steve Fischer in providing valuable insight as to the scope and duration of the renovation project.

Overall, the SFMANJ Spring Field Day was a great success. Many members of the organization participated in the discussions and showed great enthusiasm about learning new techniques to experiment with on their own turf facilities. All members of the organization can exchange a great deal of insight and knowledge between their peers in the turfgrass industry at events like this. The Spring Field Day was proof that all SFMANJ members and anyone interested in sports field management should try to take advantage of these valuable networking opportunities whenever possible.

*Matt Olivi is Sports Turf Manager,
Piscataway Board of Education, Piscataway, NJ;
and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors*

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wrote **Chip Baker**, Asst. Baseball Coach,
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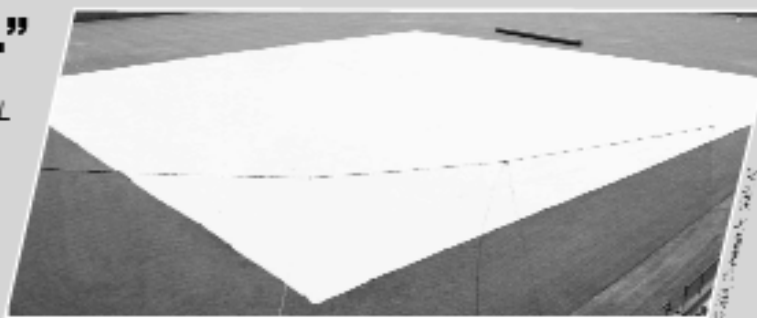
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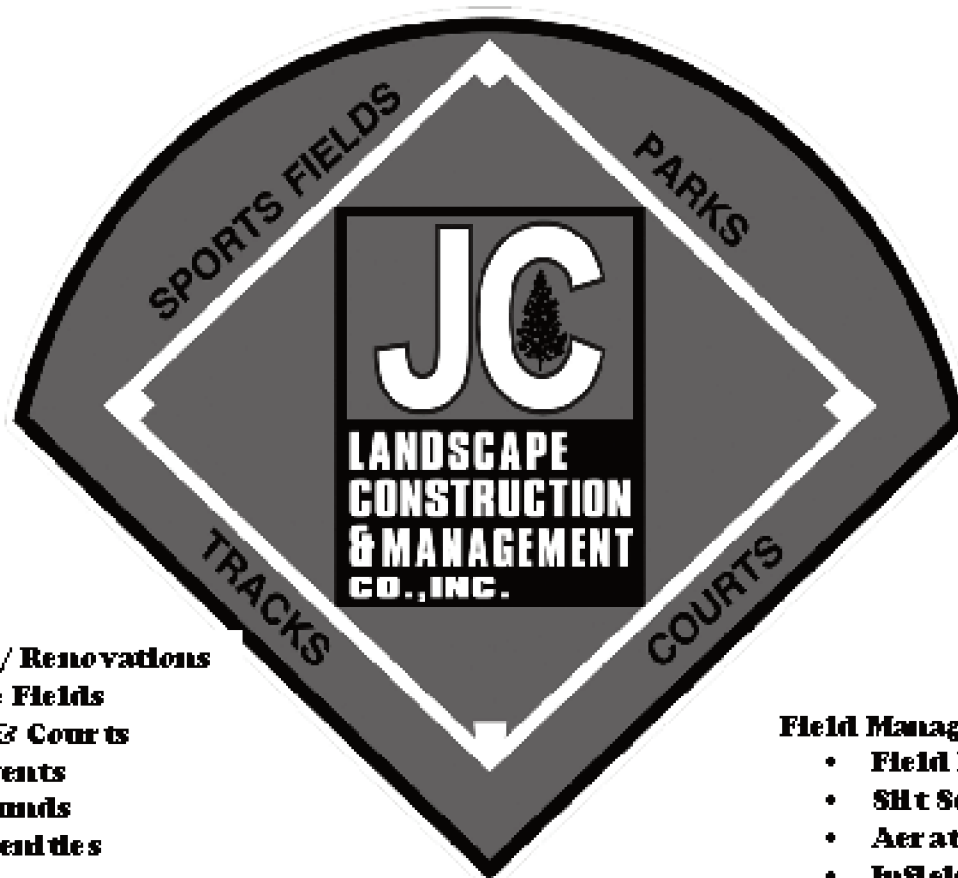
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STMA ANNOUNCES REGIONAL STMA CONFERENCE IN PHILADELPHIA

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) is planning a 1-day Regional Conference to be held at the Philadelphia Eagles' Lincoln Financial Field and the Phillies' Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia, PA on Friday, June 27, 2008. This event is open to all sports turf managers and crew members as well as others involved with athletic field management.

The program will feature stadium tours, presentations of both warm and cool season turfgrass management, an interactive "chapter challenge" contest and demonstrations.

Join your peers for a full day of education, professional development, and networking. Take back to your facility the newest practices for managing turfgrass in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.

This program is supported by the following STMA-affiliated Chapters:

1. Chesapeake Chapter of STMA
2. Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization
3. Sports Field Managers of New Jersey

4. Sports Turf Managers of New York
5. Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association

Stay tuned for more information about this event at www.sfmanj.org and by mail.

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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The term soil formation refers to the development of a soil from an unconsolidated mass of material called parent material.



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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) 932-7899 or email: pearson@winants.rutgers.edu

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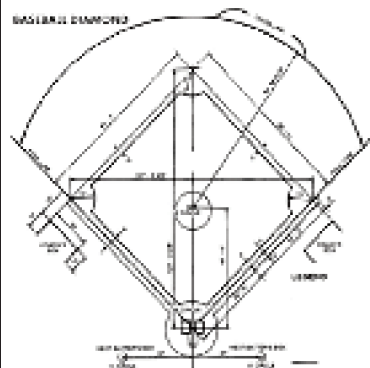
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ATTENTION ALL SFMANJ MEMBERS: We are searching for back issues of SFMANJ

By Brad Park

SFMANJ *Update* has accumulated a significant body of information relevant to sports field management since the newsletter's inception in 2001. Among numerous topics, the newsletter has addressed turfgrass selection and management, baseball/softball skin surface issues, sports field construction, and personnel management.

SFMANJ *Update* authors have included: George Van Haasteren, CGM, recently awarded grounds management's highest honor, the E. Earl Wilson Award by the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS); Don Sarvard, CGM, CSFM, winner of the Green Star Honor Award by PGMS for his management of the sports fields and grounds at the Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE; and Nicole Sherry, former Head Groundskeeper for the Trenton Thunder, now Head Groundskeeper at Camden Yards, home of the MLB Baltimore Orioles.

The newsletter has served as a historical document. Detailed accounts of Field Days, the SFMANJ-generated sports field program at the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo and other green industry events have been reported in *Update*. Additionally, each issue lists the members of the SFMANJ Board of Directors as well as new and renewed members.

As Editor of *Update*, I would like to see the contributions of our authors and accounts of past SFMANJ events available to not only our membership but also an international audience. The Turfgrass Information File, a cooperative project sponsored by Michigan State University (MSU) and the United States Golf Association (USGA), offers a platform to allow the content of SFMANJ *Update* to be accessible worldwide via the internet.

According to its website, The Turfgrass Information Center (TIC), a specialized unit at the MSU Libraries, contains the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world. TIC has over 125,000 records in its primary database, the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), with over 30% linked to the full-text of the item.

Materials indexed by the TGIF are quickly accessible and include articles from peer reviewed publications, technical reports and conference proceedings, trade and professional publications, local professional newsletters, and popular magazines as well as monographs, theses and dissertations, fact sheets and

brochures, software, and web documents. TGIF indexes materials from government, college/university, professional organization, and private publishers.

Members of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) can access TGIF by logging-in to the Members Only section of the STMA website.

The information published in *Update* over the years is a great fit for indexing in TGIF. Unfortunately, however, we are in-need back issues of the newsletter. We are looking for donations of the newsletter to be permanently sent to MSU. Michigan State will retain a hard copy of each newsletter and digitize it for electronic availability on the TGIF website.

Any help in this effort is greatly appreciated. We will acknowledge contributors in upcoming newsletters. Newsletters listed can be sent to the following address:

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Thanks again for your assistance!

We are looking for the following back issues of SFMANJ *Update*:

All issues in 2001

All issues in 2002

All issues in 2003

All issues in 2004

January/February 2005

July/August 2005

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

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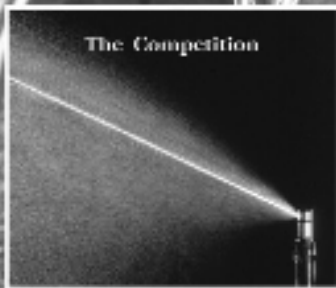
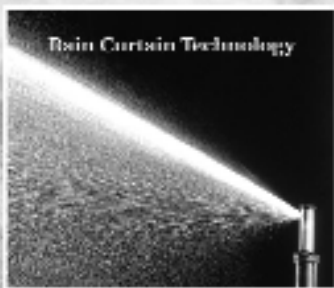
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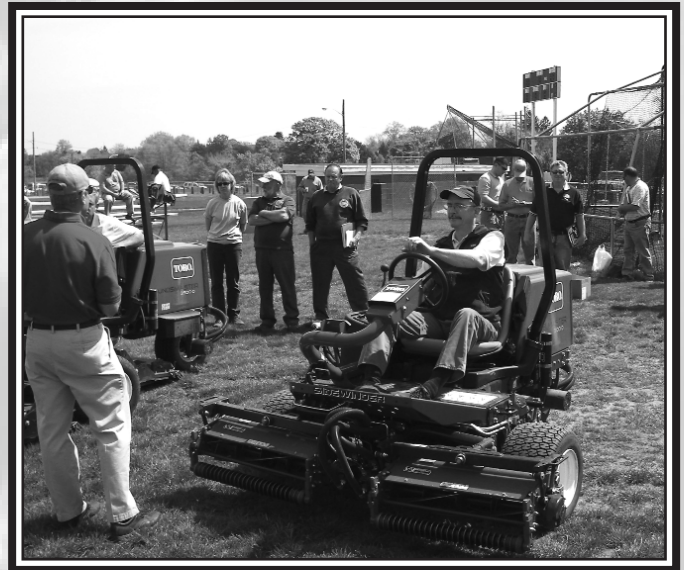
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2008 SFMANJ Spring Vendor Demonstration

Photos By: Brad Park, Rutgers University



**Steve Fischer,
Turf Track Superintendent,
Monmouth Park Racetrack,
describes the effort required to
manage the many components of
the turf track's movable rail.**



**Toro Reelmaster 3100-D;
Storr Tractor Co.**



**Toro Groundsmaster 3500-D;
Storr Tractor Co.**



Toro Procore 864; Storr Tractor Co.

Field Day Wrap-up & Demonstration Showcase

University and Editor, SFMANJ Update



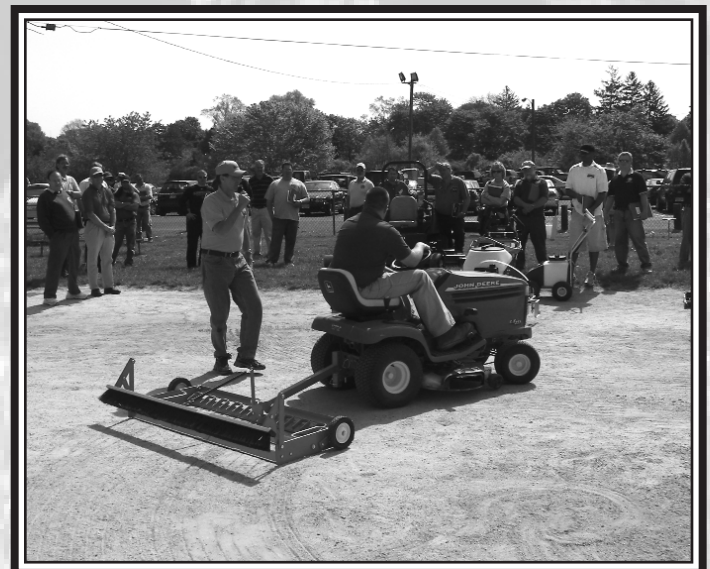
The complexities of irrigating Monmouth Park's oval-shaped thoroughbred turf track and a fixed inside rail necessitate the use of an innovative towline irrigation system.



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SFMANJ Equipment Demonstrations at Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day at Adelphia Research Farm

(continued from page 1)

This is a great opportunity for SFMANJ members and other Green Industry professionals to network with peers and industry representatives, examine the latest product offerings at the trade show, and observe the most recent sports field and landscape equipment in action during demonstration tour stops. Education highlights include seeing major advances in turfgrass breeding, new herbicides for landscape turf, identification and control of major insect pests, and the latest strategies for disease control in lawns and sports fields. Pesticide credits will be available to those certified applicators in attendance.

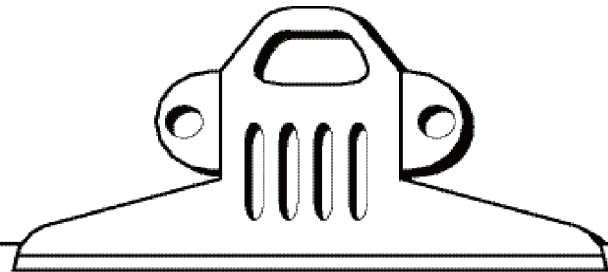
The schedule for July 30 is as follows:

Adelphia Research Farm, Adelphia, NJ

7:30 am	Registration and Trade Show Opening
9:00 am	Tours and Demos Begin
1:00 pm	Tours and Demos End
1:00 pm	Lunch

Look for registration materials in the mail. Online registration is currently available on the NJTA website: www.njturfgrass.org

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



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www.stma.org

2008 RUTGERS GOLF AND FINE TURF RESEARCH FIELD DAY

July 29, 2008

New Jersey Turfgrass Association and Rutgers University
Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ

(973) 812-6467

www.njturfgrass.org

2008 RUTGERS LAWN, LANDSCAPE, AND SPORTS TURF RESEARCH FIELD DAY

SFMANJ-sponsored trade show and equipment demos included

July 30, 2008

New Jersey Turfgrass Association and Rutgers University
Adelphia Research Farm, Adelphia, NJ

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December 9-11, 2008

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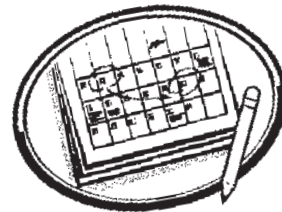
STMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009

January 13-17, 2009

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SOMETHING I TRIED THAT DIDN'T WORK. . .AND WHY!!!

By: Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Several years ago I had a number of puddles or "birdbaths" on a sports field. Every time it rained, water would collect in these low areas and would remain for up to 5 days. In order to make the field playable, I would pump the water out the puddle with a hand powered "puddle pump." Then I would run a leaf blower over the wet spot to dry it. Sometimes I would add calcined clay on top to help absorb the moisture. The problem was not getting better and I really needed a better solution.

One summer day, I had a dump truck load of screened topsoil delivered to my school. With a borrowed tractor, I set out to fix these puddles once and for all. Using the front end loader, I shuttled bucket load after bucket load of topsoil to the biggest and deepest puddle spots on my field. I dumped the topsoil right on the surface and worked the topsoil in, leveling and compacting the soil with the bucket and tractor wheels. I hand raked and smoothed each area. The next day I installed sod over each spot and began irrigating. We were careful not to traffic the sod with mowers or feet when it was wet.

As the summer progressed, the sod became established. The field was looking pretty good. About a week before the football pre-season was to begin, we had several heavy thunder showers. I was trying to mark and paint the field. As I was traversing the field with tape measure and string lines, I kept noticing that the new sod areas were really soft and mushy. A couple of days later, these

areas were still wet but the surrounding areas were firm. After subsequent rainstorms, these problem areas became worse. Football practice turned these areas into quagmire. After all that work and money spent, the repair was a failure.

HERE IS WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY:

1. The sports field had been poorly graded and some settling had occurred following reconstruction 2 years previously.
2. The existing sports field soil texture was a silt loam. The screened topsoil that we brought in was a sandy loam soil.
3. [The screened topsoil was not blended with the existing soil, rather piled on top.
4. Light frequent irrigation was applied only on the new sod for establishment.
5. Soil saturation was not observed until the period of heavy thunder showers.

Here is what was happening. I had created something similar to a bowl of wet oatmeal but with grass growing on top! This "bowl" retained water longer than the surrounding soil. And because this "bowl" had sides, it could not drain laterally. I had placed a layer of sandy loam was on top of a layer of silt loam. Unfortunately, the silt loam underneath would absorb the water at a much slower rate.

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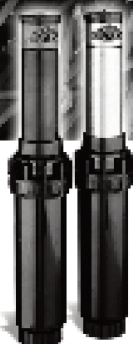
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The problem was solved when we renovated the field. First we stripped the sod off the field. Next we loosened the rootzone depth with a box scraper equipped with ripper teeth. We purchased a silt loam soil that was specially blended to match our soil and spread it on our field. Next, we laser graded the field at a 1 to 1.5% slope for positive surface drainage and to eliminate the "birdbaths." Finally we installed sod that was grown in silt loam. We grew it in and managed the traffic on it. The result was the elimination of virtually all of the birdbaths. Because the soil is relatively homogeneous, it drains at a consistent and acceptable rate.

The lesson learned was that layers of dissimilar textured soils do not drain consistently. In some case they do not drain at all. Now when I purchase soil, I make sure that I obtain a physical soil test so that what I buy will be similar to what I have.

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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BUILDING CODE CHANGES REDUCE CHOICE IN COMPLIANT BLEACHER PURCHASES

By George Herberger

Recently the State adopted a new building code that requires all new bleachers in the State to be equipped with an aisle with handrails, guardrails and an ADA cutout incorporated into the structure. This is a major change to the Code. This change requires an explanation and I will try to communicate the recent events leading to this change.

Since May 5, 2003, the State's building code document was the International Building Code 2000 (IBC2000). Section 1008.7 dealt with aisle requirements. This section gave eight conditions which if met, would exclude the need for an aisle. The popular 3 and 4 row "Low-Rise" bleachers were designed to conform to these conditions.

When the IBC was revised in 2003, they decided to also publish the International Code Council 300 (ICC300) to deal specifically with bleachers, grandstands and telescoping/folding bleachers. The aisle details, including the eight exceptions, were moved to ICC300 Section 405.1. Section 1024.1.1 of the IBC2003 referred to ICC300 requirements. New Jersey did not adopt the 2003 revisions, remaining instead with the IBC2000 until March of 2008.

The NJ Registry dated 3/3/08 reports the State adopted the revised IBC2006. According to a representative from DCA Code Assistance Unit, Chapter 10, Sections 1025.6.2, 1025.6.3, all of 1025.9, 1025.10, 1025.11, 1025.12, 1025.13, 1025.14 and 1025.15 all pertain to bleachers, along with ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003 for Accessibility. They can be viewed at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/codes/>

IBC2006 Section 1025.1.1 Bleachers is where the ICC300 referral is now located. The State of New Jersey has deleted this section claiming "the IBC2006 contains sufficient requirements for bleachers and the reference to ICC300 standard was not necessary". Since this section was deleted and the eight exceptions for not having an aisle are not included elsewhere in the IBC2006 Code, all new bleachers in the State of New Jersey must have a vertical aisle to meet code. Vertical aisles are usually only installed on bleachers 5 row or higher which then kicks in the guardrail requirement.

The ADA cutout requirement is noted in the ICC American National Standard Institute A117.1 Standard Chapter 8, 802.6, Integration of Wheelchair Space Location, where a wheelchair space shall be an integral part of any seating area.

In plain English, Low-rise bleachers, bleachers without an aisle, without guardrails or without an ADA seating cutout will not meet the current Uniform Building Code of the State of New Jersey. This will translate into higher procurement costs to municipalities trying to improve their facilities. On the bright side, these requirements do provide bleachers that are more comfortable for adults and have better site lines than low-rise bleachers.

George J. Herberger, Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) is Vice-President of Sales, Ben Schaffer & Associates

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