

UPDATE

SPRING 2009

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e-mail: hq@sfmanj.org

www.sfmanj.org

Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey



SOUTH JERSEY HOSTS THE 2009 SFMANJ SPRING FIELD DAY

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Mark your calendars for the SFMANJ Spring Field Day on April 9, 2009 at the Kingsway Regional School District in Woolrich Township, New Jersey. Kevin Shipman, Head Groundskeeper at Kingsway gave an interesting presentation at Expo this past December in Atlantic City about how his team turned a worn out athletic area into a showplace with some ingenuity and elbow grease. We will have a chance to see how they do it.

Also featured will be equipment demonstrations, mound and home plate construction and field layout. We will even get a chance to paint lines and logos.

Lunch is sponsored by Coombs Farms, LLC in Elmer, New Jersey, just a short drive from Kingsway Regional. We will have a chance to see a sod growing operation up close, from planning to production to harvest to installation. The day will conclude with a presentation for Pesticide Credits.

SFMANJ Spring Field Day, Thursday, April 9, 2009 Rain or Shine
Kingsway Regional High School, 213 Kings Highway
Woolwich Township, NJ 08085

~AGENDA:~

- 7:30 AM Registration - Coffee/donuts provided by Northern Nurseries
- 8:00 Introductions
Sports Field Tour
Mound Construction
Field Layout
Painting Demonstration
Equipment Demonstration
- 11:30 Adjourn Kingsway. Move to Coombs Farms. Maps and directions will be provided.
- 12:15-1:00 Lunch Lunch Sponsored by Coombs Farms, LLC
- 1:00 Tour of Coombs Sod Farm
- 2:00 IPM / Pest Talk, award credits
- 3:00 Adjourn

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and President, SFMANJ.

Township of Monroe Earns 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year Honors

By Scott Bills

The township of Monroe, Middlesex County, NJ has deep roots, steeped in American history. Monroe was originally settled by James Johnstone of Ochiltree, Scotland in 1685. Known then as East Jersey, Johnstone was offered 50 acres of land for himself and 25 additional acres for each family member.

After sending letters back to Scotland with stories of fertile soil, plenty of food and water, plus good health of immigrants, more Scottish, English and Dutch settlers came to the area.

In 1838, Monroe, named for the fifth President of the United States - James Monroe, incorporated as an independent municipality. Monroe was then part of South Amboy and earlier as part of Piscataway. In 1838, Monroe Township included Spotswood, Helmetta, Jamesburg as well as parts of Cranbury and East Brunswick.

(continued on page 5)



The softball field at Monroe Township, NJ was awarded the 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year.

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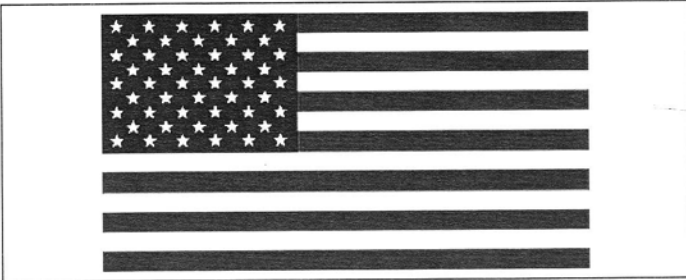
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(continued on page 4)

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Inside This Issue

Welcome New & Renewed Members 3
Membership Form 3
SFMANJ Board of Directors 3
Sports Turf Management During Late Winter and Spring 7
2009 Calendar of Events 9
Rutgers Student Team Competes in 2009 STMA
 Student Challenge10
A Rutgers' Student Recalls his Experience at STMA11
The Politics of Sports Field Management (Part 2)12
2009 Proud Sponsor Directory15
SFMAN Field of the Year Contest 200915
Update: New Jersey Investigation of Artificial Turf and
 Human Health Concerns - August 200816

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

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.

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(Continued from page 3)

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Township of Monroe Earns 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year Honors

(continued from page 1)



The Softball Field at Monroe Township, NJ

Today Monroe Township encompasses 43 square miles. Residents of Monroe Township enjoy the diverse landscape, which includes farmlands, beautiful parks, streams and dense woodlands.

Maintaining the beautiful parks falls under the responsibility of Tom Torpey, three full time employees, and three summer help

employees. Tom has many years experience caring for parks and sports fields. Monroe Township has over 26 acres of sports fields to maintain, plus other landscape and common areas. The athletic fields include a baseball complex, softball complex, football complex and soccer complex. Veterans Park, which includes two tot lots and a spray park, is also maintained by Tom and his crew.

Tom credits parks foreman, Virgil Caputo and his dedicated crew for the success of the sports fields. One field in particular receives many positive comments. The main field at the softball complex is used for many special events and charity games. Tom states, 'players love playing under the lights and the big league feel.'

Tom is particularly proud of Virgil and his continued growth as a professional sports field manager. Virgil started working for Monroe Township at age 13 during the summer months. At that time there were only two ball fields and maintenance was limited to hand raking and an old tractor with a York rake. Today, 16 years later, Virgil has three ball field complexes totaling over 26 acres, plus other parks to maintain.

Tom and Virgil follow a turf management program, plus scheduled maintenance and treatments to maintain the high quality fields.

(continued on page 6)

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wrote **Chip Baker**, Asst. Baseball Coach,
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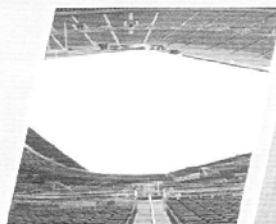
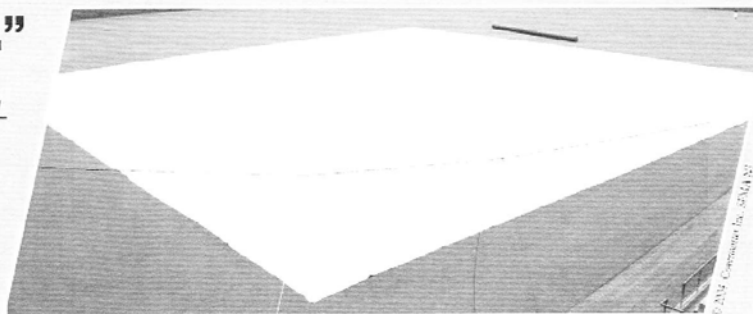
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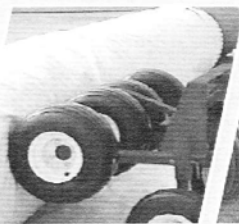
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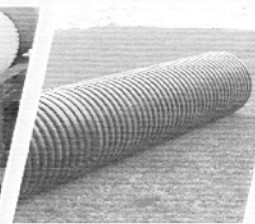
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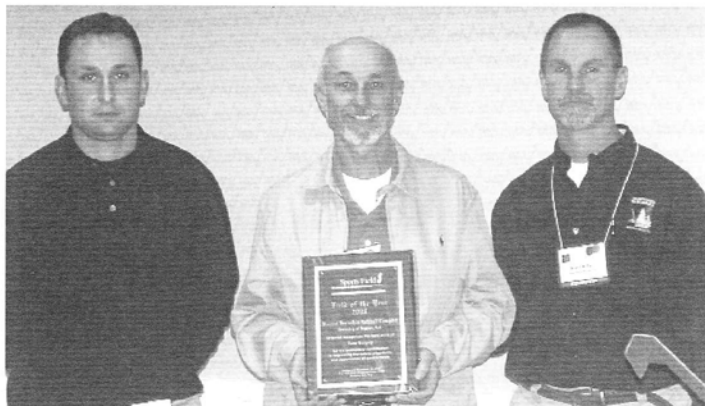
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Township of Monroe Earns 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year Honors

(continued from page 5)



The 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year winner was awarded at Expo 2008 in Atlantic City, NJ. Pictured (l-r) Virgil Caputo, Monroe Township; Tom Torpey, Monroe Township; Scott Bills, Northern Nurseries, and SFMANJ Board of Directors.

In early spring, all fences are inspected and repaired as necessary. The playing surfaces are walked to check for low spots and drainage issues. Where necessary infield lips are removed from the ball fields using a Ryan Jr. sod cutter.

The fertilizer program starts in early April with an application of 19-0-6 w/Dimension to help control crabgrass and other annual weeds. In mid May, an application of 23-3-6 with Trimec is completed to control early broadleaf weeds. Next, a split application of 18-0-8 with Allectus is applied to control above and below ground insects. In August, a lime application is made. Finally, a 20-10-10 fertilizer application is made in October.

Unwanted vegetation is controlled under the fence lines and on skinned surfaces with Roundup. Spot treatments are made on the turf areas with Momentum and Acclaim.

All granular applications are handled by a Lely broadcast spreader, mounted on a 1030 Massey-Ferguson tractor or Permagreen Magnum spreader/sprayer. Spot treatments are handled with a backpack sprayer.

In September, aeration and seeding is completed using a John Deere 300 tractor with a 60-inch AERATOR/seeder. Perennial Ryegrass is used during this treatment.

Mowing practices include two weekly cuts on all of the playing fields and one cut per week on the common areas. A fleet of Toro Groundmaster 345 mowers handles the mowing.

The irrigated fields have Toro systems and are normally set for 20 minutes per station.

Infield preparation is completed daily for spring, summer and fall leagues. During the season there are also two games per night. A Smithco super rake handles the grooming.

The residents of Monroe Township should be

proud to have two dedicated professionals, Tom Torpey and Virgil Caputo, maintaining their sports fields. For their accomplishments, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) is proud to honor Tom and Virgil by selecting the Monroe Township softball complex field as 2008 Field of the Year.'

Tom and his crew would like to thank Mayor Richard Pucci and the Township Council for their support as well as Wayne Hamilton, Business Administrator, Ernie Feist, Director, and Wayne Horbatt, Superintendent.

The 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year runner-up was Singley Park, Hillsborough Township, NJ. John Crossen, Park Supervisor, had created a truly special facility. Singley Park is located in the western section of Hillsborough Township. The park has four softball fields, one full size soccer field and eight small-sided soccer fields.

John states, 'Singley Park gets many, many compliments for being one of the best facilities to play softball.' John strongly feels the compliments he gets from coaches and players, is due to the dedication of his staff.

SFMANJ would like to congratulate John and his staff for their accomplishments as Singley Park.

Scott Bills is Sales Consultant, Northern Nurseries, Inc.; and member of the SFMANJ Board of Director

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SPORTS TURF MANAGEMENT DURING LATE WINTER AND SPRING

By James 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 increase the invasion of weeds later in the season.

Use small equipment with wide, low pressure tires to pick up debris whenever feasible. Be careful not to drive large equipment (pickup trucks, etc.) equipped with narrow high pressure tires on playing surfaces during late winter and spring; stay off to the sides of fields with large equipment. The load and high pressure created by tires on large equipment can deeply rut the playing surface. Thus, creating additional work (repair) and a less safe playing field until the repair is complete.

SPRING MOWING STRATEGIES

As temperature and soil water conditions become more favorable for growth, turf will break dormancy and green-up. Vigorous growth and minimal environmental stresses during spring can lead to a false sense of security. Spring is a critical time to use proper mowing frequency and cutting heights along with appropriate nitrogen fertilization to encourage good root growth.

Peak shoot growth occurs at 60 to 75 °F during the spring. Additionally, roots will be extending deeper into the profile at this time, if properly managed. Mow at the correct height and frequency (remove no more than 1/3rd of the leaf tissue); otherwise excessive defoliation during mowing will deplete the carbohydrate (food) supply of the turf. Excessive defoliation will cause roots to stop growing and possibly dieback under severe mower scalp. Additionally, recovery from scalping will be slower than you might expect due to the low carbohydrate supply described above. Scalped turf will have low vigor and density, which will allow weeds such as crabgrass and goosegrass to invade later in the spring.

Be prepared for wet (rainy) weather that interrupts the mowing schedule in the spring. It can be difficult to mow at the desired frequency when sports fields are wet. Under this scenario, shoot growth can become excessive if fields were not properly mowed and fertilized up to this point in time.

NITROGEN FERTILIZATION

Fertilization with nitrogen is a valuable management tool for sports field as long as it is done correctly. Table 1 summarizes the basic timings and rates of N fertilization recommended for sports field. These recommendations should be used to initiate a fertilization program with the recognition that adjustments will be made as turf performance dictates (see footnotes in Table 1). Sports field receiving limited use in the spring should have N fertilization delayed as late as May to avoid over stimulation of the turf and increasing demand for mowing. Sports field being used in the spring should be fertilized with nitrogen as early as March to encourage the vigorous growth needed to tolerate and recover from intense springtime use. Use soil testing to determine the need, if any, for lime, phosphorus, potassium, etcetera. (Brad, please place an ad for Rutgers Soil Testing near this article, Jim. I will pay for the ad if necessary.)

TABLE 1. Minimum nitrogen fertilizer timings and rates for sports fields based on season of use/play.

Month	Spring Sports	Autumn Sports	Year-round multi-use
Pounds of Nitrogena per 1000 ft ² (acre)			
March	1 (44)	0	1 (44)
May	0	1 (44)	1 (44)
August/September	1 (44)	1 (44)	1 (44)
October	1 (44)	1 (44)	1 (44)

^a Typically, at least 30% of the nitrogen is applied as a slowly available form, also known as water insoluble nitrogen [WIN]. Slowly available forms of nitrogen include natural organics, IBDU, sulfur-polymer coated urea, methylene urea, and others. Nitrogen rate can be adjusted up to 1-1/2 pound if turf conditions at the time of application are poor or down to 1/2 if turf conditions are excellent.

When sports turf becomes overgrown, it is best to return to the desired mowing height over several cuttings rather than one aggressive cutting ("cutting hay"). Raise the cutting height so that you cut about 1/3rd of the total height of the turf and then decrease the cutting height with each successive mowing. For example, if conditions result in a 5 inch turf height and the desired mowing height is 2 inches, the next mowing should be at 3.5 inches followed by a mowing at 2.5 inches and finally mowing at the desired 2 inches. If feasible, it is also helpful to increase the mowing frequency during the time that the turf height is being reduced. For example, mow the field at 3.5 inches two times per week rather once per week, then two times at 2.5 inches, etcetera.

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



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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

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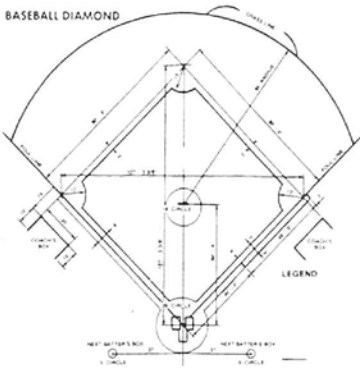
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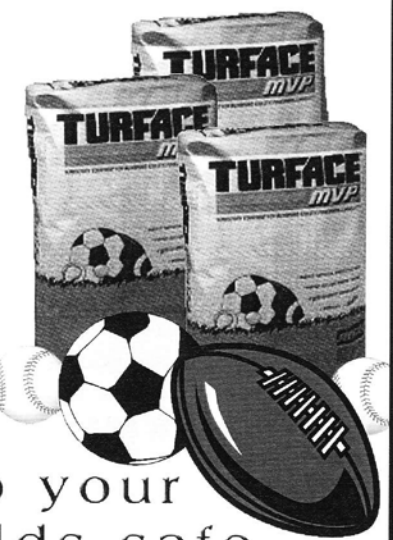
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2009 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

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New Jersey Turfgrass Assoc.
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2009 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Research Field Day SFMANJ-sponsored trade show and equipment demos included

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RUTGERS STUDENT TEAM COMPETES IN 2009 STMA STUDENT CHALLENGE

EDITOR'S NOTE: SFMANJ awarded \$1000 to assist a team of three Rutgers undergraduate students to compete in the 2009 STMA Student Challenge, held at the STMA Annual Conference in San Jose, CA in January 2009.

January 26, 2009

SFMANJ Board of Directors
c/o Mr. Don Savard
PO Box 205
Pennsville, NJ 08070

Dear Mr. Don Savard:

The Rutgers University turf students who competed in the Student Challenge in San Jose this January at the STMA National Conference would like to extend a very large thank you to your association for its sponsorship! Without your generous donation of \$1000 to the Rutgers Turf Club we would have never been able to fund a trip out to California with three undergraduate students. Opportunities like these truly bring our education to a higher level and expand our horizons.

It was great to interact with professionals of the industry from all over the country and hear their lectures, multiple view-points coming from multiple professionals creates a great learning environment. Fortunately we were also able to meet students at other universities and begin friendships that may last throughout our careers. Of course leaving the below freezing temperatures of New Jersey to bask in the 75 and sunny weather was a major plus to the trip as well!

Thank you again for your support, we look forward to interacting with your association this year as newly joined student members. Best of luck to everyone as the spring rapidly approaches, the grass begins to rejuvenate and the athletics resume!

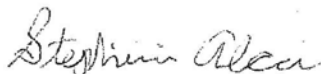
The 2009 Rutgers University STMA Student Challenge Team,



Will Reardon



Eric Koch



Stepahnie Alea

A RUTGERS' STUDENT RECALLS HIS EXPERIENCE AT STMA

By: Eric Koch

As a student at Rutgers University striving towards a degree in the turf industry, it is extremely hard to find time to see the innovation and evolution of the turf industry in the real world. This year's Sports Turf Manager Association 2009 conference was a wonderful thing for me to experience because I was able to see how competitive and innovative the turf industry really is. Along with all of the great new things I saw at the trade show, the people I met at the STMA conference were all knowledgeable and may become a great asset to me in the future as I strive toward my career in the turf industry. Set in beautiful San Jose California, the conference was an experience that I will never forget.

The networking that I was able to do at the STMA conference was priceless. I was able to meet many very well known people in the turf industry and discuss some of what they do to manage and improve their particular sports field. Meeting some of the speakers after their very educational talks also allowed me to gain a deeper insight into what they do as individuals and hold more in depth discussions regarding some materials they discussed. I enjoyed the talks that were given as they were all very informative and extremely interesting to me. When I came back from San Jose, I had a tighter grasp on how the turf industry operates and how each individual helps one another to better the overall playability of all sports fields.

At the trade show, it was incredible to see all of the innovative designs and ideas that companies have created. All of the employees of each company were fascinating people with which to talk and listen. After looking around the entire trade show for a couple of hours, it was amazing to see the different routes sports field managers take and how

they choose specific products to manage their own fields back home. Each exhibit had something new and improved that I had learned about in books, but until the conference, had not seen in person. It was great to get a hands-on look at everything that is new and upcoming in the turf industry.

The student challenge examination was a comprehensive test of everything a sports field manager would need to know within the turf field. This exam consisted of turfgrass identification, disease identification, weed identification, irrigation formulas, physiology, calibration of turf equipment, writing 2 essays, and many other concepts within the turf field. The examination itself took a few hours of hard work and thinking but really showed the vast amount of information that is involved in managing a sports field.

The experience at the San Jose STMA conference was a real treat for me, and I think it is safe to say, for anyone else who was there as well. The food was delicious, the people were interesting and extremely polite, and the atmosphere was perfect. This conference really showed me how people from all over the world can come together to learn and celebrate the turf industry.

Eric Koch is an undergraduate student, Rutgers University, and member of the Rutgers' team that competed in the STMA Student Challenge in San Jose, CA in January 2009



California dreamin' at STMA (l-r) Brad Park, Rutgers University, Editor, SFMANJ Update; Eric Koch, Rutgers University, STMA Student Challenge participant; Stephanie Alea, Rutgers University, STMA Student Challenge participant; Will Reardon, Rutgers University, STMA Student Challenge participant; Don Savard, CSEM, CGM, SFMANJ President.



The 2009 STMA Annual Conference included a tour of the sportsfield facilities at Stanford University, Stanford, CA

THE POLITICS OF SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT

PART 2 OF A SERIES

When discord strikes, both sides own the problem. Let's look at the part we own.

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

When Sports Field Managers and their customers have disagreements resulting in communication breakdown, there are no winners. Let's look further into the dynamics of Human Relations.

Good Human Relations skills begin with Respect. The American psychologist Abraham Maslow described human self esteem needs — the need for respect from others and the need for self-respect. Without the fulfillment of these needs, Maslow suggests, an individual feels discouraged, weak and inferior. Self respect begins with honest self knowledge and self awareness. Respect from others often entails recognition, acceptance, and appreciation. Respect from others must be earned. Self respect, on the other hand, is an inside job.

Self respect begins with self care. Good self care results in good self control. Occasionally, we all find ourselves hungry, angry, lonely or tired. When we feel any of those ways, we are emotionally vulnerable and our self control can be compromised. It is good to take care of ourselves. If our needs are neglected, we are not at our best. And if we are not taking care of our interests, how can we take care of others?

Respect for others is based on self-respect and follows the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." It is the value that makes the world a more decent and civilized place.

But this is where it starts to get sticky. The world is not always a more decent and civilized place. Things happen. People disagree. Conflicts occur.

Have you ever had this happen to you? You are in the middle of preparing your field for an event. A team comes out and starts using your field while you are working on it. You approach the coach and explain what you are doing. In spite of what you say, not only does the team stay, but they damage the field as well.

The natural reaction to this type of conflict is ANGER and the anger could take the form of:

- Retaliation
- Us against them
- Negativity
- Poor Attitude
- Defensiveness
- Distrust
- Passive aggressive behavior
- Despair

These feelings are none other than good old fashioned Self Righteous Anger. If you look at this anger closely you might find that it is driven by good old fashioned self centered fear.

Self centered fears include:

- Being made look foolish or be embarrassed.
- Being made to something that you don't want to do.
- Being afraid that it will cost you something.

(continued on page 14)

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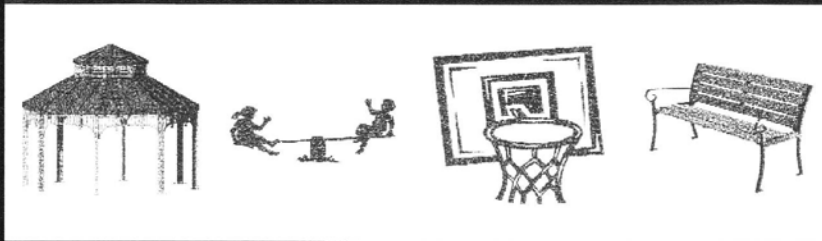
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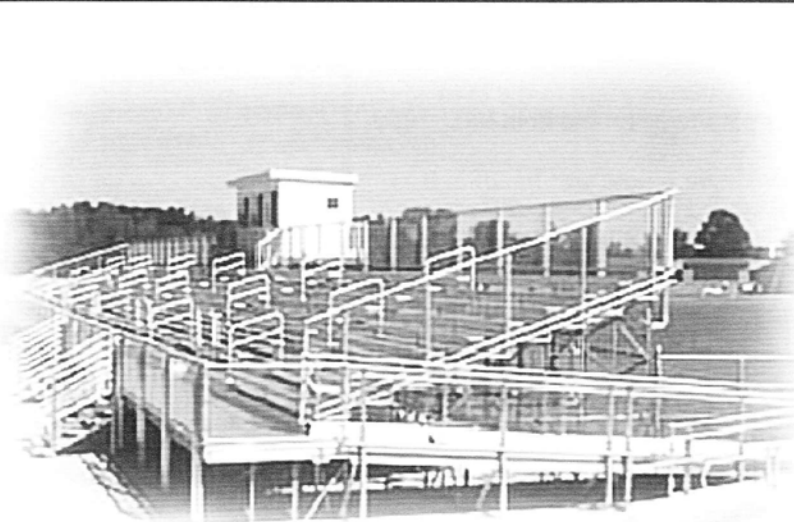
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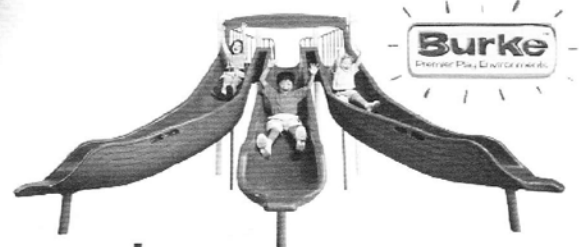
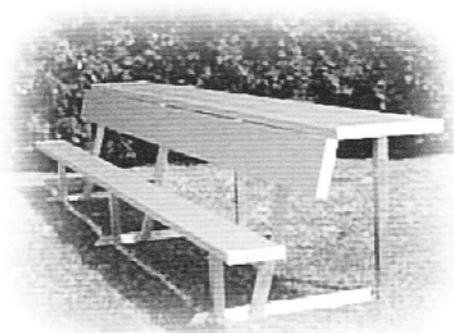


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THE POLITICS OF SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT PART 2 OF A SERIES

(continued from page 12)

- Being afraid that you will lose something.
- Being afraid others will be mad at you.
- Being afraid that you will lose your personal power or control.
- Being afraid that you are not enough.

The more you think about it the angrier you could become. You could take it out on somebody, the coach, or a coworker or family member. Or, you might internalize your feelings only to have them come out another way. Have you ever indulged in a supersized portion of self pity or plotted how to get even? These behaviors waste a great deal of personal time and energy.

Ask yourself what could have done first to have avoided the situation? Did you do your part first by:

- Checking a schedule to see if anybody else had a legitimate right to the field?
- Communicate properly to the stakeholders your plan to be on the field?
- Properly request that they stay off the field?

The issue is not what the coach or the team did; the issue is how you handled it and how you will handle it next time. Remember, being the victim is tiresome.

Next issue: Power and Control –Does anyone really have any?

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and President, SFMANJ.

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SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2009

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is announcing its annual
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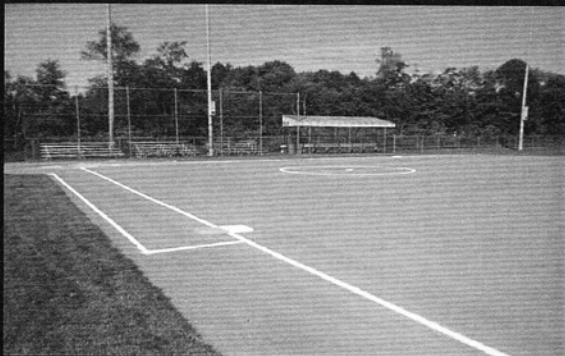
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- Must be a current member of SFMANJ
- Only school and parks/recreation fields are eligible
- Must be a natural grass field/fields

CRITERIA:

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- Playability and appearance of the playing surfaces
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- Describe yearly budget used for this field
- Feel free to have sports groups in your photo



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Entries are to be submitted by mail and must be received by September 30, 2009. 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.

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NOTE:

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

Update: New Jersey Investigation of Artificial Turf and Human Health Concerns- August 2008

Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

Background

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) found lead in the artificial turf fibers and turf fiber dust at a sports field in Newark, NJ, while investigating a nearby metals scrap yard. In order to find out if lead in turf fibers was common or unique to this field, the NJDHSS conducted a limited (12 fields) investigation of other artificial turf fields in the state. Ten of the fields in the follow-up investigation were made of polyethylene and had very low or undetectable levels of lead in the fibers. The other two fields were made of nylon, as did the field in Newark, and had very high levels of lead in the fibers and dust. There is no standard for lead in artificial turf, so the

NJDHSS used the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Residential Direct Contact Soil Cleanup Criteria (RDCSCC) of 400 mg/kg in soil as a basis for determining whether any artificial turf sample had an elevated lead concentration.

No one knew if the lead that was in artificial turf fibers or the dust that forms when those fibers break down from age and weathering could be absorbed by a child or adult who swallows them. In order to find that out, the NJDHSS performed laboratory testing that mimicked the human digestive system. The testing found that lead can leach out of the turf fibers and dust during digestion, and could therefore enter a person's blood.

The NJDHSS also requested that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) consider these findings and conduct a larger study of artificial turf for lead. The CPSC did so, and released their findings on July 31.

What did the CPSC find?

The CPSC findings were similar to the NJDHSS findings. The CPSC found elevated lead levels in some artificial turf fibers. It also found, as did the NJDHSS, that as artificial turf fields age the fibers can break down, forming lead dust that was present on field surfaces.

Are there differences in the two agencies' findings?

The CPSC predicted how much dust a child might swallow, through an assessment that looked at potential exposures to lead dust on artificial turf surfaces. The NJDHSS's laboratory evaluation was done to find out if lead could get out of the fibers and dust, and into the stomach and blood. These findings are more complementary than different.

Has the NJDHSS changed its conclusions about the safety of artificial turf fields that contain lead?

We are pleased that the CPSC has asked the synthetic turf industry to reduce or eliminate nonessential uses of lead in artificial turf products.

NJDHSS believed, and still believes, that lead from the artificial turf fields alone would not result in lead poisoning among children who played on the high lead fields. However, the NJDHSS remains concerned about cumulative lead exposures to children from all lead sources and whether lead from artificial turf, particularly at older, worn fields, adds to those exposures. CPSC's findings confirm that lead from artificial turf can contribute to the overall cumulative lead exposure to children.

Does the NJDHSS have any new recommendations?

No, the NJDHSS continues to recommend that artificial turf field managers and consumers who use residential turf products determine if their product has lead in the fibers. If fields are found to contain lead, the most conservative approach is to limit access to fields that contain lead, especially by children under age 7.

If fields are used, the individuals should perform aggressive hand and body washing after playing on the field, and clothing used on the field should be washed separately. These recommendations are consistent with those of the CPSC.

We are grateful to the CPSC and their involvement in looking at the issue of lead in artificial turf. Presently there are additional studies of artificial turf planned in the future by both state and federal agencies. As only limited information has been available for review, the NJDHSS looks forward to reviewing future reports involving lead in artificial turf before we can make additional informed conclusions and recommendations.

This Fact Sheet was authored by the New Jersey Dept. of Health and Senior Services, Consumer and Environmental Health Services, Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health, PO Box 369, Trenton, NJ 08625-0369

It can be found at:
www.state.nj.us/health/artificialturf/documents/turf_factsheet_update_aug08.pdf

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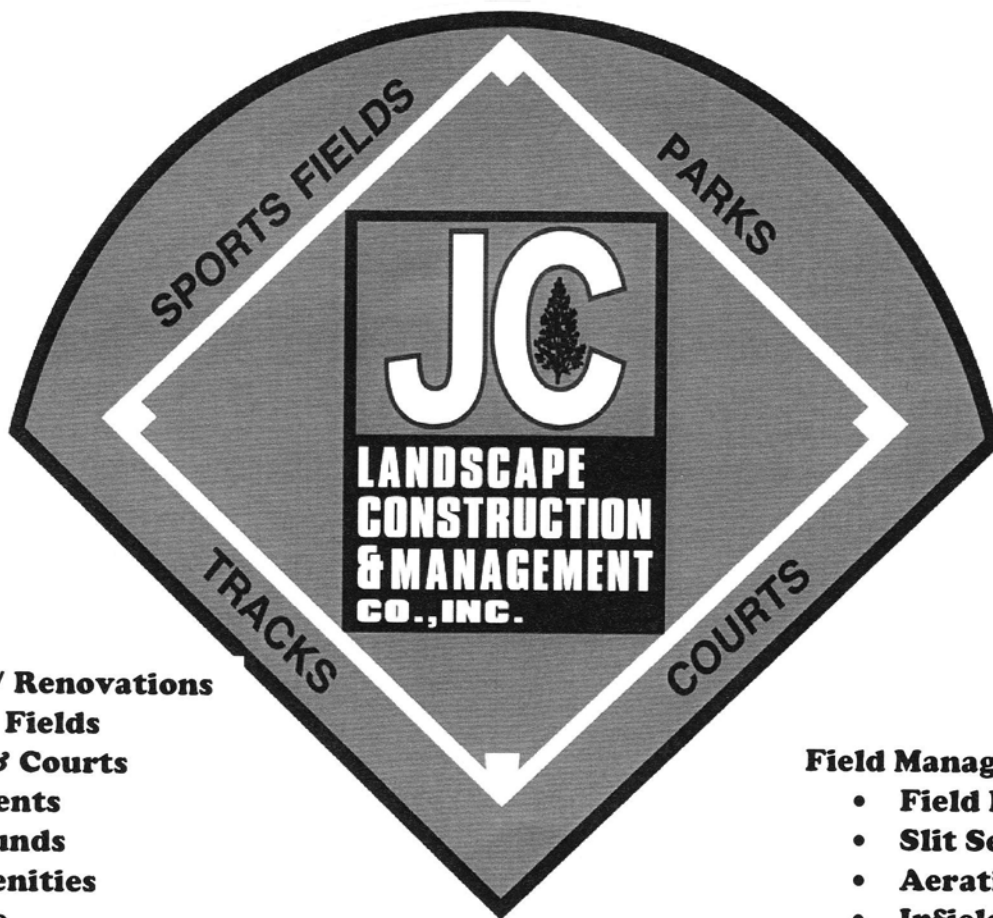
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