

UPDATE

Sports Field

Managers Association of New Jersey



Vol. 10, No. 2

P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070 • www.sfmanj.org • e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

SFMANJ SUMMER FIELD DAY 2010

Lacey Township, NJ

By Matt Olivi

The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Activities and Education Committee has finalized the details for this year's Summer Field Day to be held Lacey Township, NJ. This full day program of events will be held on June 22, 2010 at two of Lacey Township's premier parks. Attendees will begin their day at Hebrew Park – the

At the conclusion of morning presentations and demonstrations, attendees will be provided a complimentary lunch to enjoy during the one hour trade show portion of the program. After a hearty lunch with colleagues and an additional networking opportunity, the afternoon educational program will begin. The program starts off with a backpack sprayer calibration seminar presented by Dr.



2009 SFMANJ Field of the Year. After registration and morning refreshments, Director of Public Works J. Casey Parker, CPWM will present the award winning field and give attendees an overview of its construction and maintenance program. At the end of the presentation, attendees will move just down the road to Gille Park for the remainder of the Field Day activities and events.

Shortly after arrival at Gille Park, attendees will be greeted by industry leading professional vendors of turf and sports field maintenance products. Plenty of time has been allocated so that attendees can network and talk some shop with all of these professionals. After vendor introductions, there will be several turf and sports field maintenance equipment and product demonstrations throughout the park. This will be a great opportunity for sports field managers and decision makers to see some of the newest and most innovative tools of the trade in action.

John Grande of the Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm. At the conclusion of Dr. Grande's seminar, attendees will be able to ensure the proper application of liquid pesticides. As pesticide applications in New Jersey and other states are being regulated more and more heavily, this will be a great opportunity to learn from the best in the business and stay within compliance of pesticide laws. As more and more emphasis is being placed on proper cultural practices, the second part of the educational program will be presented by Craig Tolley, Professor of Horticulture, County College of Morris. Professor Tolley will cover a broad range of topics for the best ways to manage municipal and school grounds. After Craig Tolley's seminar, the educational program will be concluded by Brad Park, Rutgers University. The

focus of this seminar will be turfgrass species identification. This will be a hands-on exercise that is an important component of good integrated pest management practices. Pesticide credits will be available at the conclusion of the educational program for those attendees who need to keep their pesticide applicator licenses up-to-date.

Continued on page 7

**"SFMANJ-sponsored Trade Show
and Equipment Demonstrations at
Rutgers Adelfia Field Day:
July 28, 2010**

See Details on Page 7"

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Welcome!

New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 214 new & renewed members. In December 2009, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2010 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 856-514-3179 or download the membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

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Sam Pepe	Central Regional School District
Matthew Pinkerton	County College of Morris

continued on page 8

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

Contact us at:

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Email: mail@sfmanj.org

Phone/Fax: 856-514-3179

National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association

www.stma.org

Email: stmainfo@stma.org

Phone: 800-323-3875

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Summer Field Day, Lacey Township	Cover
Welcome New & Renewed Members	3
2010 Board of Directors	3
Message from the President	5
Rutgers Lawn, Landscape & Sports Turf Field Day 2010	7
Top 5 Red Flages to Budget Approval	8
2010 Proud Sponsor Directory	9
Rutgers Turf Club Tours FirstEnergy Park	10
Image Alignment	12
Calendar of Events	14
Question & Answer with Rutgers University	16

This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:

*SFMANJ at (856) 514-3179 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.



Dr. Henry W. Indyk Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Science

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

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

For information on other ways to support this fellowship, please contact

Dr. Bruce B. Clarke, Director – Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science
(732) 932-9400, ext. 331; or clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu or

John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling
(732) 932-7899 or email: pearson@winants.rutgers.edu



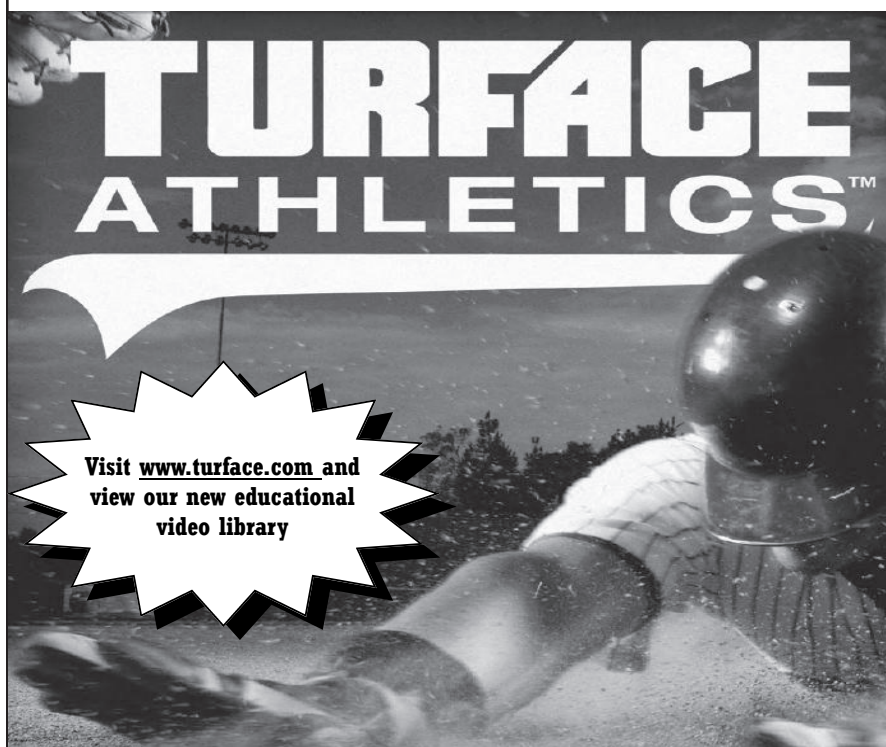
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Why I Love My Job in the Spring!

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

As a Sports Field Manager, I love my job in the spring! It begins with the February anticipation; I want to go outside and accomplish something. There are new things I'd like to try out on the fields. Will the weather cooperate today so that I can complete some task? Will I meet my deadlines so the teams can hold practice?

Next, the season begins, people are having fun. There's good weather, followed by bad weather, followed by decent weather and the challenges that come with rescheduling games and adjusting mowing schedules. Finally it all comes together; the smell of fresh cut grass, warm sunshine, short sleeves, suntan lotion, and doubleheaders.

Did someone ask about a Field Day? We got 'em! See inside this newsletter for details on our upcoming events; first, our Summer Field Day on June 22, 2010 at our 2009 Field of the Year in Lacey Township New Jersey. Following that next will be the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day 2, Lawn, Landscape and Sports Fields to be held July 28, 2010 at the Adelphia Turf Research Farm. Good stuff, always news you can use!

Interested in enhancing your career? Becoming active in the SFMANJ has been one of the best things I have done for my career. Here is why:

1. It has introduced me to people in our industry I would not have met. I have developed a valuable network. I know who to call when I need help and people call me when they need help too.
2. I have access to the latest industry trends and developments. This helps me manage my sports fields effectively and smarter.
3. It has given me an opportunity to give something back to the industry by serving on a committee, writing an article, or helping out at an event.

4. I have had an opportunity to work with people outside of my place of employment. It has exposed me to new ideas, different outlooks and a chance to perform at a higher level.
5. I have a better understanding of how the State and local government operates and what the challenges and issues are and the effect it has on my job.
6. My sports fields are better.
7. Because of whom I know and what I know, I have developed more credibility at work.
8. I have input when it comes to the what, when, and where of event planning.
9. I enjoy the camaraderie with my fellow board members.
10. I have grown personally and professionally.

**Care to join us sometime?
SFMANJ Board meetings are open
to all members.**

Come and see what we do. Our SFMANJ Board of Directors usually meets the first Wednesday of the month. Usually we meet at the Rutgers Geiger Center at Turf Farm II. All are welcome, please call ahead: (856) 514-3179; or email: mail@sfmanj.org and let us know that you are coming so we can have a seat for you.

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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SUMMER FIELD DAY 2010

Lacy Township, NJ

Continued from page 1

At the end of the Lacy Township field day activities, there will be a meeting for all SFMANJ members. Members will be given updates on upcoming chapter events and informed of any pertinent business issues within the organization. This will be an open forum where association members can chat with the board of directors and provide feedback and insight.

Registration forms outlining a schedule of events, directions and other information for the summer field day can be downloaded from the association website at **www.sfmanj.org**. Pre-registration is highly recommended by mailing in a registration form as soon as possible or by contacting SFMANJ headquarters at (856)514-3179.

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

Rutgers

LAWN, LANDSCAPE & SPORTS TURF

FIELD DAY 2010

By Brad Park

SFMANJ to again sponsor a Trade Show and Equipment Demonstrations at Rutgers' Adelphia Research Farm

SAVE THE DATE – July 28, 2010

In what has become a highly successful integration of turfgrass education and vendor participation, 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 Turf Field Day at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm in Adelphia, NJ. The Field Day will be held on July 28, 2010.

A trade show, sponsored by SFMANJ, will begin at 7:30 am in conjunction with morning registration. Coffee and bagels will be served. Education and equipment demonstrations will begin at 9:00 am. This will be the third year where equipment demonstrations will be integrated into morning tour stop rotations. Expect to see the latest in lawn, landscape, and sports turf equipment each hour of the morning in addition to practical turfgrass information including the newest cool season turfgrass cultivars and pest management strategies.

As always, this is a great opportunity for SFMANJ members and other Green Industry professionals to network with peers and industry representatives as well as examine the latest product offerings from trade show and demonstration vendors. Pesticide credits will be available to those certified applicators in attendance.

Schedule for August 1 is as follows:

- 7:30 am Registration & Trade Show Opening
- 9:00 am Research Tours & Equipment Demonstrations
- 1:00 pm Lunch and trade show
- 2:00 pm Conclusion & Pesticide credits

Look for registration materials to arrive in the mail. Online registration will be available at 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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TOP 5

Red Flags to Budget Approval

By Raghavan Rajaji (Courtesy of Sports Turf Managers Association)

As a sports turf manager, a portion of your time is spent on budgets --- whether you are managing your monthly numbers on expenditures, forecasting for the future or going through the annual preparation process. With so much time and energy focused on your budget, make certain that when it is time to present your budget for approval you have a defensible plan.

Following are five areas that can send up red flags if they are overlooked.

1. Half the story. There are few things more distressing to your employer than being told up front about only part of the costs involved in a proposed project. The surprise ending comes later, when more money is suddenly needed to keep things going. You lose credibility, and set yourself up for more scrutiny in the future.

2. Far from average. Asking for a budget increase by some percentage that is dramatically different from the rate at which the overall business/revenue is growing. For example, if the organization is growing at roughly 10 percent a year and you request a 200 percent budget increase, it sends up a 'red flag.' And it works the other way, too. A request for just an inflation adjustment when the rest of the organization is growing rapidly also causes questions. Not that these necessarily mean that there is a problem, but they will cause a closer review of your

proposed budget and may lead your employer to believe you are unaware of the current environment.

3. Out of alignment. With all the emphasis on business alignment these days, you'd think there would be nary an unaligned project proposed, but it still happens. Be cautious about proposing a project that focuses on a low-priority issue. The fact that you are not aware that it is a low priority for the institution suggests that you are out of touch.

4. Not all there. In addition to providing incomplete information about costs, budgets may fail to specify in enough detail considerations such as, which organizational goals the proposed project will support and how, exactly, it will support them.

5. Vague plans. Watch the use of obscure statistics as a rationale for a budget increase. For example, you may have read somewhere that sports turf managers are increasing their operational budgets by 10 percent in the next year, so you request that same increase without knowing what you'll spend it on. Again, this can cause your employer to question your business judgment.

Other articles authored by Raghavan Rajaji can be found at www.cio.com; Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS

NEW & RENEWED SFMANJ MEMBERS

Continued from page 3

Frank Ravaschiere	City of Long Branch
Steven Segui	Turf Trade
Daniel Shemesh	New York Red Bulls
Kevin Shipman	Kingsway Regional School
Karl A. "Chuckie" Singer	City of Bayonne
Brent Sliker	Twp of Mansfield
Adolf Steyh	Byram Twp.
Steven Ternosky	Morris Hills Regional
Fred Testa	Brick Board of Education
Andrew Tobias	South River Board of Education
David Ward	Roxbury Twp.
George Warden	Middlesex Co. Dept. of Parks
Tony Wilcenski	Monroe Twp.
Scott Wylie	Brick Board of Education

The Directory will be published soon

Please make any
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Rutgers Turf Club Tours *FirstEnergy Park*

By Brad Park

The Rutgers Turfgrass Club got a first-hand look at FirstEnergy Park, Lakewood, NJ, home of the Lakewood BlueClaws, on Friday, April 23, 2010. Following the tour, the Club attended the Single-A contest between the visiting Hagerstown Suns and hometown BlueClaws. The Lakewood BlueClaws are a Minor League affiliate of the reigning National League Champion Philadelphia Phillies.

The FirstEnergy Park field tour was hosted by Ryan Radcliffe, Head Groundskeeper and SFMANJ Member; and Mike Morvay, Rutgers Turfgrass Student, BlueClaws Sports Turf Manager, and SFMANJ Student Member. The tour began with an overview of the ballpark's shop, storage facilities, and equipment. The tour progressed to the outfield followed by a mound repair demonstration directed by Mike Morvay in the right field bullpen. The tour concluded at home plate.

Steve Farago, Director of Special Events for the BlueClaws, took the tour upstairs and provided the students with a behind-the-scenes look at the Press Box and luxury seating. Photos of BlueClaws-turned-Philadelphia Phillies filled the hallway walls. The tour concluded with an exit through the BlueClaws' locker room.



Mike Morvay, Rutgers Turfgrass Student, Lakewood BlueClaws Sports Turf Manager, and SFMANJ Student Member, describes techniques employed by the BlueClaws staff to manage the playing surface at FirstEnergy Park.



FirstEnergy Park, home of the Lakewood BlueClaws welcomed the Rutgers Turf Club for a tour of the ballpark on April 23, 2010.

Thanks again to Ryan, Mike, and Steve with the Lakewood BlueClaws for arranging this tour!



Ryan Radcliffe (right, no hat), Head Groundskeeper, Lakewood BlueClaws and SFMANJ Member, oversees Mike Morvay's repair of the right field bullpen mound during the Rutgers Turfgrass Club tour.



The Rutgers Turfgrass Club observes batting practice prior to the game between the hometown Lakewood BlueClaws and the visiting Hagerstown Suns.



Will Reardon, Rutgers Turfgrass Student, and SFMANJ Member and Student Scholarship recipient, attended the tour of First Energy Park, Lakewood, NJ.



Hagerstown Suns' player and future Major Leaguer (far left) stands with the Rutgers Turf Club on-the-field prior to the game.

Brad Park is Sport Turf Res. & Ed. Coord., Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.

Image Alignment

Dr. John C. Maxwell (Courtesy Sports Turf Managers Association)



Looking back, it's easy to see how my self-image—how I viewed myself—had a direct bearing upon my effectiveness—or lack thereof—that day. After that experience, I began to understand that leaders must believe in themselves before they can ever hope to believe in their people. I also realized that, as a leader, if I've not bought in to myself, no one else is going to buy in to me either.

Each one of us has an internal mirror that reflects how we see ourselves. And what we see in this mirror determines how we act as leaders. In other words, our self-image determines our behavior. That's why it's impossible for a person with a poor self image to produce consistently on a high level. It simply can't happen, because we cannot conduct our daily affairs in a way that contradicts how we see ourselves. On the other hand, when a leader believes he can do a good job and views himself as successful, his actions will show it.

Sadly, many leaders don't have an accurate picture of themselves because their internal mirrors are distorted. Because they're unable to see themselves as they really are, they're forever trying to find the right image to present to others. Some project an image that is bigger than they really are; others project an image that is smaller than they really are. Either way, the result is internal confusion.

A key to effectiveness—in life and as a leader—is to project a true image of who you are. The only problem is that we all carry with us four images of ourselves that can cause us to act differently with different people. These four images are:

1. The image that others have of us. This is how the people around us—the ones who observe us at our best and our worst—see us.

continued on page 15

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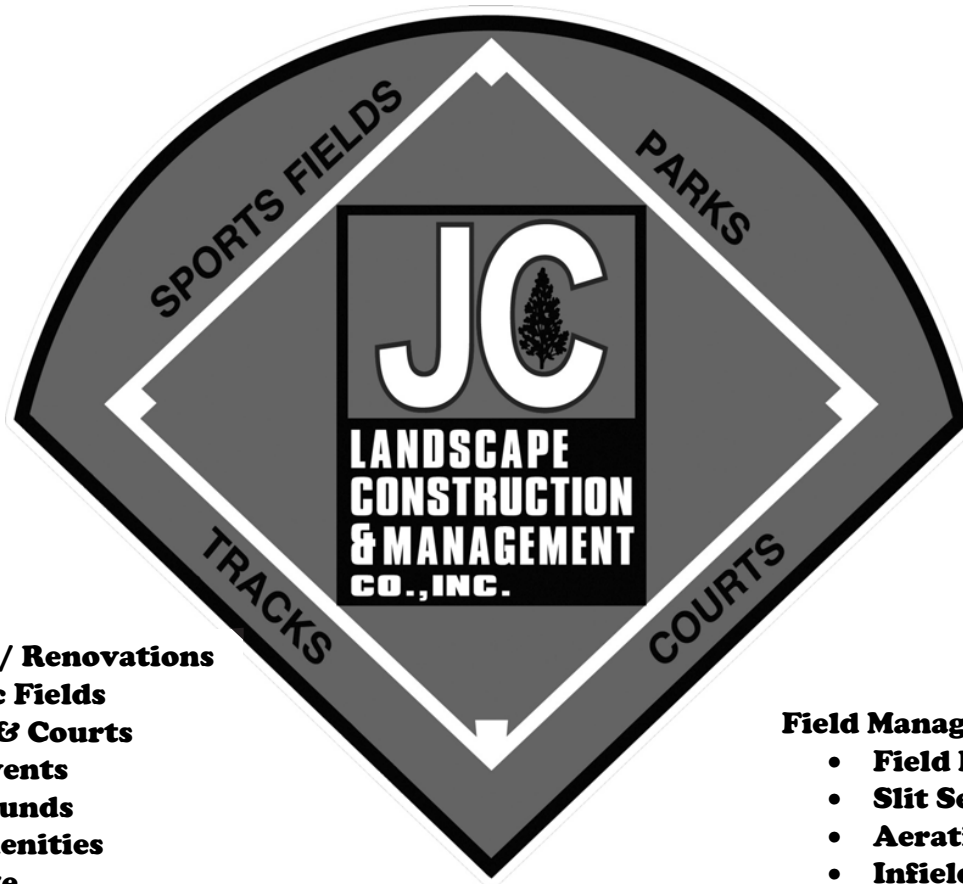
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References Available Upon Request

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SFMANJ Summer Field Day

Tuesday, June 22, 2010
Sports Field Mgrs. Assoc. of NJ
Lacey Township, NJ
856.514.3179
www.sfmanj.org

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days Golf & Fine Turf

July 27, 2010
Rutgers Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ
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Equipment Demos sponsored by SFMANJ

July 28, 2010
Rutgers Adelphia Farm, Adelphia, NJ
www.njturfgrass.org
www.sfmanj.org
www.turf.rutgers.edu



NJ State League of Municipalities Conference

November 16-19, 2010
Atlantic City Convention Center
609.695.3481
www.njslom.org

New Jersey Green Expo

December 7-9, 2010
NJ Turfgrass Assoc.
Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ
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STMA Annual Conference

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www.stma.org



SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2010

Lacey Township Soccer Field - SFMANJ's Field of the Year 2009

ELIGIBILITY:

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

AWARD WILL BE BASED ON:

- Playability and appearance of the playing surfaces
- Description of your maintenance program and what you did to improve your field
- Description of your yearly budget for this field
- (Sports groups may be used in your photos)



Lacey Township Soccer Field - SFMANJ's Field of the Year 2009

AWARDS:

The winner will be honored with a plaque at the New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December, 2010 and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ's "Update" newsletter.

The winner will also receive a stay at the Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City and free registration to education courses and trade show at Expo 2010.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:

- All entries are to be submitted by mail or e-mail and must be received by September 30, 2010.
- 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 Entries to:

SFMANJ 2010 F.O.Y. Contest
P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070

OR E-mail to:
mail@sfmanj.org

Call for more info:
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Image Alignment

Continued from page 12

2. The image that we project to others. This is how we want others to view us.

3. The image we have of ourselves. This is how we actually view ourselves. Many times, this image does not match what we project to others.

4. Our true self. This includes our character and gifts; it represents who we were created to be.

When these four images don't match, we know it. This awareness might be subconscious, but it's there nonetheless. And it weighs us down. The solution lies in making sure that these four images are as closely aligned as possible. You see, we can be emotionally healthy only when the image that other people have of us, the image that we project to others, the image that we have of ourselves and our true selves all match. The more distortion there is—among any or all of these images—the less healthy our self-image is, and the less effective our leadership will be. Marcus Aurelius said, "I often marvel how it is that, though each man loves himself beyond all else, he should yet value his own opinion of himself less than that of others."

As I learned so many years ago, when it comes to leadership, the first person you must believe in is yourself. The mirror reminds me that I must read myself well before I can ever attempt to read others.

Dr. John Maxwell is an author for Leadership Wired and his blog can be found at: www.JohnMaxwellOnLeadership.com; Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence KS



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Question & Answer

with Rutgers University

Q: I run a sports facility for a school in North Jersey. I was referred to you by a consultant with the hope that you could steer me in the direction of a variety of bluegrass that is leaf spot resistant. I have had leaf spot for most of the spring and would like to overseed with a bluegrass blend that might better serve to protect against the disease in the future. Please respond with any information that might help.

A: There are many newer varieties of Kentucky bluegrass that have good leaf spot resistance. Below is a link to the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) website showing leaf spot results for Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. Any entry ranked above 6.0 (I suggest using the mean for all three sites) should suffice. http://www.ntep.org/data/kb05/kb05_09-10/kb0509t26.txt

Keep in mind that overseeding Kentucky bluegrass into existing turfgrass stands is not typically effective. The practice is even less effective in spring. Perennial ryegrass is a much more likely to establish when overseeded. The following link will allow you to download the Rutgers Fact Sheet titled, **Integrated Control of Gray Leaf Spot on Perennial Ryegrass** that lists gray leaf spot resistant perennial ryegrass varieties: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS1048>. Gray leaf spot is a devastating disease that affects perennial ryegrass and the use of resistant varieties is an important consideration. - bsp

Q: I have a question I hope you can help with. We have a school district administrator who is unhappy with the bumpiness in the fields. He would like us to remedy this problem; however, total reconstruction is out of the picture. We generally do not roll our lawns, because of compaction issues. Although, in this case, I think it may be the only way to fix the problem, because I do not think topdressing alone will fix the problem.

So, do you recommend rolling in this situation? If so, how much weight can be applied? Would you recommend rolling in 2 directions? Would you recommend aerating after/ before? Any information you can give would be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

A: Attempting to solve bumpiness/surface inconsistencies in lieu of field reconstruction will be largely dependent upon the size and nature of the high and low spots. High and low spots resulting from poor grading at the time of construction are difficult to fix by way of rolling, core cultivation, topdressing, etc.

Smaller surface inconsistencies resulting from unfilled divots, penalty kick areas, etc. may be manageable with 'surface

treatments' such as cultivation and topdressing or rolling. I think a reasonable goal is to attempt to **smooth** the surface - as opposed to address large 'bird baths' that will hinder surface drainage.

Annually, Monmouth Park Racetrack performs core cultivation (using deep tines that extract soil), core reincorporation via dragging, and sand topdressing at the end of the season after their turf track has been heavily divoted by horses. While they do replace/fill divots during the racing season, I am amazed how 'smooth' the course becomes after this process. The process of core cultivation and reincorporation by dragging does a very good job eliminating surface irregularities and subsequently smoothing the surface. This may be a good end-of-sports-season operation for your situation

In terms of rolling, I would be hesitant to put a roller on the field if you are working with a fine textured soil (i.e. susceptible to compaction), there is a lot of bare soil present, and conditions are wet. The more turf cover present (particularly Kentucky bluegrass), the more likely rolling will help to smooth the surface as opposed to over-compact the soil. Based on my experience with our research trials (we are working with a loam soil), I would suggest using no more than a 1.0-ton roller. Do not engage the vibratory function. Soil conditions should be relatively dry. I probably would start by rolling in only one direction. Again, if done properly, this will have the effect of smoothing the surface - not correcting poor surface grading issues. So, identifying the severity and nature of the problem and your objectives up-front are very important. - bsp

Q: Are you aware of any Kentucky bluegrass varieties that germinate in 7-10 days. Is this true or just a rumor? If it is true, how do these look and perform?

A: I often present a case study involving the renovation of Tiger Field at East Brunswick Vo-Tech, East Brunswick, NJ. The field was fumigated with Basamid in August 2005. A 5-variety blend of Kentucky bluegrass (Midnight, Jefferson, Limousine, Serene, and Goldrush) was seeded on September 1. Germination was observed approximately September 9. These were ideal conditions for rapid germination: Optimal soil temperatures, optimal time of year, automatic irrigation, native sandy loam soil. Likely, what we saw was one or two varieties exhibiting rapid germination - several probably took a little longer to germinate. The germination and establishment rate we saw in August 2005 would not occur in late September and beyond - particularly for Kentucky bluegrass; soil temperatures would be too cool at that point.

If you're interested in rapid germinating Kentucky bluegrasses, you may want to check out the NTEP website and look at the turfgrass establishment data taken for the 2005 NTEP Kentucky bluegrass test (Fall 2005 - maybe lumped into the 2006 data). There are some interesting differences. The NTEP trials, regardless of location, are almost always seeded in late summer/early fall. - bsp

Q: The facts behind our situation are as follows: 1) Our high school behind the street we reside on is attempting to raise funds to install an artificial turf athletic field, replacing the existing natural grass field; 2) Since they would never pay for this with taxpayer dollars, there is a fundraising effort to purchase this field; 3) The people on our street are opposed to this because of the significant noise and traffic it might cause. We raised **environmental concerns** such as compounds in the crumb rubber cushioning - but not sure if these would be taken seriously; and 4) It seems the one issue might be **"maintenance costs"**.

Would you have an opinion on whether costs to maintain an artificial turf athletic field are significantly less than a natural turf field? Any information or articles related to the above concerns would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.

A: You are not alone. I have received this type of inquiry numerous times. As for maintenance costs, these infill

synthetic fields can be maintained with minimal inputs; HOWEVER, under that approach the conditions on the field will deteriorate much faster and become increasingly compacted (hard), debris will eventually clutter the field, and unrepaired seam failures would become a safety hazard. So in reality, there are significant synthetic field maintenance costs.

Manufacturer's maintenance manuals for synthetic fields call for brushing and grooming to loosen compacted infill; cleaning equipment (needs to be purchased) and/or crews are needed to pick up debris; and staff/contractors are needed to repair worn out areas, failed seams, etc. Some municipalities and schools are concerned with bacterial infections and will pay to have the field periodically sanitized to limit their liability to potential serious infections (although some people believe this is unnecessary). These costs will certainly be in the thousands of dollars per year and can total into the tens of thousands per year when the fields are intensively used and managed, especially if this work is done via service contractors.

Ultimately, the most important "maintenance" cost for a community is the tear out and replacement costs for synthetic fields - these fields do not last forever. Albeit unusual, I know of a field that was replaced 6 years after the initial installation. Most companies will not stand behind a synthetic field (guarantee it) for more than 8 years.

continued on page 18

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Question & Answer

Continued from page 17

Each situation will be somewhat different but based on actual replacement cases (in 2008 dollars), the costs for tear out and disposal of the old carpet and replacement **has ranged from \$400,000 to \$450,000**. Obviously, this value will change over time with inflation but simple math suggests a community will need to average raising many tens of thousand of dollars per year (in addition to the "normal" maintenance cost of grooming, brushing, cleaning, repair, etc.) to be capable of replacing a worn-out field.

If the idea of "recycling" a synthetic field is thrown out to make people "feel good" about the project, you need to ask two things: How much does it cost to recycle a synthetic? ... and ... Where is there a LOCAL recycling facility that will recycle the synthetic field product? I expect that you will not get a specific answer to either of these questions.

Below are some URLs to resources that more thoroughly discuss these ideas on synthetic sports fields. I hope you find this useful. **A Guide to Synthetic and Natural Turfgrass for Sports Fields** (STMA document) http://www.stma.org/_files/_items/stma-mr-tab1-2172/docs/2nd%20edition.pdf

Replacing a Synthetic Turf Field - One Manager's Experience (SportsTurf Magazine article: January 2010) <http://digitalmagazinetechology.com/a/?KEY=sportsturf-10-01january#page=11>

Two Manufacturers' Opinions on Maintaining Synthetic Turf (SportsTurf Magazine article: February 2010) <http://digitalmagazinetechology.com/a/?KEY=sportsturf-10-02february#page=37&zoom=0-jam>

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