

UPDATE

Sports Field

Managers Association of New Jersey



Vol. 10, No. 4

P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070 • 302-514-3179 • www.sfmanj.org • e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

SFMANJ BUS stops at COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY & Red Bull Arena



By Brad Park

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) sponsored a unique tour of the sports fields at Baker Athletics Complex, Columbia University, New York, NY and Red Bulls Arena, home of the Major League Soccer (MLS) New York Red Bulls, in Harrison, NJ on Wednesday, November 10, 2010. A chartered bus was arranged and departed Rutgers Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ in the morning and arrived back at the Central Jersey turf research facility that afternoon after touring the two locations in New York City and Northern New Jersey.

Baker Athletics Complex at Columbia University, overseen by Kevin Malone, CSFM and member, SFMANJ, is very unique in that all sports field surfaces at this complex consist of synthetic turf. There are numerous synthetic turf surfaces present. Field hockey is played on surface called Astroturf 12 - a short pile carpet reminiscent to the surfaces present at facilities such as Giants Stadium, Veterans Stadium, and Three Rivers Stadium in the 1980's.



Robert K. Kraft Field at Baker Athletic Complex, Columbia University, New York, NY

Soccer is played on FieldTurf Duo - a sand and crumb rubber infilled monofilament synthetic surface. The fibers on this surface have a horizontal orientation to limit the kick-up of sand and rubber during play.

Attendees toured a newly-installed softball field. The outfield (FieldTurf Duraspine) consisted of

a sand and rubber infilled monofilament with a more rigid, upright orientation compared to the soccer field. The infield and warning track were constructed with soil and crushed rock materials that are conventionally installed at softball facilities.

The baseball field at Baker Athletics Complex is predominantly a sand and rubber infilled synthetic turf system (FieldTurf Duo). The home plate area is also synthetic turf. The only non-synthetic turf locations on the field are the pitcher's mound (dirt) and the outfield warning track and outfield foul territory warning track (crushed rock-type material). The foul territory warning track behind the home plate area and outside the 1st and 3rd baselines is synthetic turf.

Robert K. Kraft Field, home of the football and lacrosse teams consists of a fibrillating slit-film fiber infilled with crumb rubber and sand (FieldTurf) installed in 2005. The field is in good condition and is the oldest synthetic field at Baker Athletics Complex.

Continued on page 7

The tools for all your grounds maintenance needs.



Reelmaster® 5010 Series



Groundsmaster® 5900



Sand Pro® 5040



Workman® HD Series



*Groundsmaster® 7210
with Polar Trac™*



Pro Force™

Providing quality turf equipment since 1914.

Toro is committed to creating the most durable and reliable equipment to help turf professionals work more efficiently. With a wide range of innovative, high-quality products to choose from, Toro has the right turf equipment and irrigation solution for your job. **The right choice.**

STC
Storr Tractor Company

Storr Tractor Company, Branchburg, NJ
908-722-9830 www.storrtractor.com
Steve Bradley Fred Castenschild Kevin Hoban

TORO.

Count on it.

Welcome!

New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 238 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.

Wayne J. Barrett
Chris Hustus
Timothy Kerwin
Albert W. Paul, Jr.
Gerard Redmond
Kevin Rundstrom
Daryl Sculthorpe

West Milford BOE
Lenape Board of Education
Reed and Perrine Sales, Inc.
GCA Services Group
Metuchen School District
Student, Rutgers University
Reed and Perrine Sales, Inc.



New Jersey
The Garden State

Plan to send in your entry for

SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2011

Among other things, the winner will also receive a stay at the Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City and free registration to the education courses and trade show at Expo 2011.

See page 14 for details

2011 SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President..... Don Savard, CSFM, CGM, Salesianum School
Vice President..... Fred Castenschiold, Storr Tractor Co.
Secretary..... Scott Bills, CSFM, Northern Nurseries
Treasurer..... Mike Viersma, The Viersma Companies

DIRECTORS

Sean Connell Georgia Golf Construction
Ray Cipperly Somerset Patriots Baseball Club
Matt Olivi Piscataway Board of Education
Brad Park Rutgers University
Craig Tolley County College of Morris
Kevin Shipman..... Kingsway Regional High School
Advisor Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University
Executive Secretary Debbie Savard

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:

PO Box 205 • Pennsville, NJ 08070

Web site: www.sfmanj.org

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

SFMANJ Bus Stops at Columbia University and Red Bulls Stadium. .Cover	
Welcome New & Renewed Members	3
2011 Board of Directors	3
Pesticide Applicator Licensing: A Ticket to Professionalism.	4
Message from the President.	5
Tap into TGIF	5
Leadership in the knowledge economy	6
2010 Proud Sponsor Directory	8
From the Editor's Desk: News and Notes from 2010.	9
Photo Recap /SFMANJ Seminar on Wheels.	10
Judgment day for a synthetic turf field?	16
Calendar of Events	18
Wright Brothers Field.	19

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
Layout and Design: Debra Savard, Email: mail@sfmanj.org

Pesticide Applicator Licensing:

A Ticket to Professionalism



By Matt Olivi

As sports field managers and groundskeepers we all share a common goal of improving our technical skills by continuing our education. This endeavor makes us better at what we do on a daily basis and increases our value to our employers, customers and peers. As I've always been a great proponent of professional development opportunities, a friend of mine who works in the educational community encouraged me to acquire a New Jersey pesticide applicators license. He explained to me how a licensed applicator is required to maintain a certain number of recertification credits over a five year period. By doing so, the applicator would maintain a working knowledge of current trade techniques and any corresponding laws and regulations. As a groundkeeper and sports field manager with only a few years of experience under my belt, I saw a great opportunity to expand my knowledge in the area of turfgrass maintenance practices. Also, in my particular case as a public school employee, I recognized that any knowledge I could obtain relating to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) would be beneficial to my employer. Therefore, I took the necessary steps to acquire my New Jersey pesticide applicators license and quickly began to put my credentials and knowledge to use.

Depending on the needs of particular employers and/or customers, the steps required to become appropriately licensed will vary significantly. In New Jersey, a licensed applicator is required to be certified in at least two categories and demonstrate proficiency in basic pesticide safety practices and regulations.

In addition, the applicator must be proficient in specific areas of expertise. For example, in my case as a sports field manager for a public school district, I am required to be certified in the categories of basic pesticide safety (Core), turfgrass (Category 3B) and School IPM (Category 13). All potential applicators are required to attend a state-approved Basic Pesticide Safety class and pass a written test corresponding to core materials and regulations. For any additional categories, the licensing procedural requirements may afford the applicator the choice of documenting on-the-job training experience or the completion of state-approved classroom instruction. Once the applicator has met these requirements, the state will schedule and administer a test date(s) to determine proficiency.

Although the process of fulfilling all of the licensing requirements can take several months due to course scheduling and testing, I strongly feel that the benefits of becoming a certified applicator are well worth the time and effort. It became clear to me almost immediately that the state-required courses I took to be licensed for turf applications were just the beginning of a never-ending education in turfgrass management. Once I became certified in Category 13, this became more apparent. Generally stated, the goal of school IPM is not to simply find the most effective product to solve a particular pest problem. It sometimes seems just the opposite. With all of the effective products on the market today, a well-educated applicator can usually control most pest problems efficiently. However, when considering IPM, the applicator and/

or IPM coordinator has a responsibility to use methods and products (i.e. low-impact pesticides) perceived to have less environmental impact than traditional synthetic pesticides. This brings a whole new element to the game. Now the applicator/IPM coordinator needs to understand the nature of the identified pest and the science behind it. For example, an applicator is able to identify a particular broadleaf weed such as a dandelion or plantain species populating a highly prioritized (indexed) playing surface such as a varsity football field. Traditionally, an applicator could apply a chemical pesticide containing the primary active ingredient 2,4-D to control these weeds on a selective, postemergence basis. While 2,4-D is a highly effective non-low-impact pesticide, a thorough IPM approach suggests that the application of this herbicide should not be the first step in a school environment. As a primary goal of School IPM is to limit exposure of children to pesticides not characterized as low-impact, traditional control methods would not be the best initial course of action. The certified School IPM applicator is required to explore other ways of controlling pests. By understanding the life cycle of the pest, the applicator and/or IPM coordinator can develop methods of disrupting the pest (i.e. broadleaf weeds) without inhibiting the growth and development of desirable species (i.e. cool-season turfgrass).

Alternative methods of control will greatly depend on pest thresholds set by the school district. If we use the example of the highly indexed, highly visible varsity

Continued on page 12

A Message from The President



By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Fall sports are finished, and I have begun to transition into spring. We just finished rebuilding 8 bullpen mounds and 2 game mounds, made some repairs and renovated an entire baseball field. Our sports preseason begins March 1, and I like to have most things finished and ready to go before the Holidays. For me, the winter months are my break. It is when recharge my batteries. I still have routine chores typical of a grounds manager at a K-12 school, but I get some time to plan, and prepare for the next season. It is also the time when I attend short courses and build up pesticide and other credits that I need.

We hope that you were able to join us December 6-8 in Atlantic City for EXPO for our sports field manager sessions. We had the best attendance in recent years for our Sports Turf Managers sessions. There were many good sessions and plenty of opportunities for credits.

Speaking of educational opportunities, January 11-15, 2011, the Sports Turf Managers Association 22 annual Conference and Exhibition celebrating STMA's 30th Anniversary will be held in Austin Texas. Visit their website at www.stma.org for more information. Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education has a number of short course offerings in February and March (visit their website <http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/programs/landscape.html>). Stay tuned to SFMANJ's website for information about upcoming field days and other educational events at www.sfmanj.org.

Volunteers are always welcome for SFMANJ service. Give something back to the industry by serving on a committee, helping out during an event, or writing an article for this newsletter. Besides doing good works, you will have an opportunity to work with and network with some of the finest people in the industry. Remember *it is what you know and who you know!* Start by attending an SFMANJ Board of Directors Meeting. Our next meeting will be held Wednesday January 5, 2011 5:30 PM at the Rutgers Geiger Center. Call (856) 514-3179 for more information and directions. I hope that you will join us.





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



Tap into TGIF:

Research & Resources at Your Fingertips

(Courtesy of Sports Turf Managers Association)

More than 100,000 significant agronomic published and electronic resources are available to STMA professional and student members -- at no additional charge. Since 2004, STMA members have been accessing Michigan State's Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) as a benefit of membership. Purchased separately, an individual subscription to TGIF would cost \$100 per year.

This great monetary value is further complemented by the service -- the wealth of information available and how easy it is to retrieve it. In seconds, STMA members can find relevant information to help solve problems by simply clicking on the TGIF link from the member log-in page.

Materials indexed by the Turfgrass Information File include articles from peer reviewed publications, technical reports, research, 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 organizations, and private publishers and adds approximately 6,000 new materials each year.

Access to TGIF is available through a cooperative endowment agreement between STMA and the Turfgrass Information Center at Michigan State, which manages TGIF.

For more information on how you can take advantage of this benefit of membership, contact STMA headquarters (ph) 800.323.3875.

Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS

Welcome to the

Turfgrass Information File

A Unique Resource for Turfgrass Researchers, Practitioners, and Students

LEADERSHIP IN THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY



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

Manufacturers are closing their doors. Assembly lines are disassembling. Dilapidated farmhouses sit in empty fields. Mills and mines dot the countryside as historical relics. Why? Technology, technology, technology.

Human minds continue to replace human hands as more sophisticated machinery, equipment, hardware, and software are applied to the workplace. In 1949, about 40% of workers in the USA were employed in the service sector of the economy. By 1967, that percentage had grown to 55%. In 1986, 66% worked in the service industry, and presently, 75% of the nation's employees are in services.

With the share of manufacturing jobs steadily shrinking, and the knowledge economy in full bloom, the landscape of leadership has changed shape. What implications does this shift have on today's leaders?

Spinning Plates

Remember typewriters? It's hard to believe they dominated office documentation for most of the 1900s and were standard into the 1980s. As we reach the 21st century, a regional office in Beijing can have a videoconference with associates in New York. Via the internet, schoolchildren in Houston can see and speak with "pen pals" in Amsterdam free of charge. Information that sailed across seas in bulky packages less than 100 years ago can be digitally transferred in nanoseconds today. Decisions traditionally made in consideration of customers in a local county now affect clientele on several continents.

What do these changes mean for leaders? Not only must they juggle more plates, but the plates are spinning faster than ever. Today's leader is surrounded by incessantly buzzing or beeping devices relaying mass quantities of data. With the influx of information and more rapid pace of change, leaders are successful when they keep the mission clear. A leader focused on purpose and values acts as a compass in the maze of complexity.

The leader who spins the plates successfully:

- Sees with Clarity
- Repositions at Light Speed
- Navigates a Flexible, But Focused Path

What Happens in Vegas...

What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas... unless someone recorded it on their camera phone... and uploaded it to their computer... and posted it on a blog for the world to see.

The proliferation of information in the knowledge economy has made leaders more visible than ever before. Leaders should not be surprised when a speech given in a closed door meeting filters through the grapevine of the company's interoffice email system.

Nor should they expect to dam up the flow of information internally or externally. In today's world, news travels at light speed and will find its way around artificial impediments. The downfall of companies that cooked the books (i.e. Arthur Andersen) generated a movement toward greater corporate transparency and accountability. When communicating to media, shareholders, and boards of directors, leaders are demanded to be accessible and open. In an era in which leaders are held accountable for their promises, every executive misstep will be dissected and scrutinized.

Successful leaders in the knowledge economy:

- Keep No Skeletons in the Closet
- Communicate Forthrightly
- Underpromise and Overdeliver

Collaborator-in-Chief

In the words of Marshall Goldsmith, "The role of leadership has changed from the top-down – 'I'm going to tell you what to do approach' – to a more asking, listening, and participating [approach]." The antiquated model of a supervisor commanding underlings has been supplanted by a relational model in which managers collaborate with teammates.

In the knowledge economy, organizational charts have flattened. Today's employees have a knee-jerk distaste for hierarchy. They won't respond to authority leveraged solely by position, but they will respect a leader who cares about them, is honest, and expresses gratitude for their contributions.

Leaders excel as participatory managers when they:

- Listen
- Show Appreciation
- Match Words with Actions

Other articles by Dr. John C. Maxwell's can be access at his free monthly e-newsletter 'Leadership Wired' available at www.maximumimpact.com; Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS

SFMANJ stops at Columbia University and Red Bull Arena

Continued from page 1

Lunch was held in the press box above Robert K. Kraft Field and provided great views of the surrounding hillsides, Harlem River, and Hudson River.



A warm greeting provided by Dan Shemesh and the New York Red Bulls, Harrison, NJ

The bus trip left Northern Manhattan, crossed the George Washington Bridge back to New Jersey for a tour of Red Bulls Arena. The sports field is managed by SFMANJ member Dan Shemesh, Director of Grounds for the New York Red Bulls.

Attendees got a behind-the-scenes look at the turf equipment used to maintain the soccer surface and a SubAir system that can manipulate air flow through the rootzone. A major challenge faced by Shemesh

and his crew is the absence of direct sunlight on the Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass overseeded playing surface. Stadium design and roof materials appear limit the quantity of sunlight hours received by the New Jersey-grown sod. Artificial lighting is being explored.

Thanks go out to Kevin Malone, CSFM and Dan Shemesh for their hospitality and willingness to host SFMANJ on a tour of their great facilities!

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and

TUCKERTON TURF FARMS INC.



Life's Short
Sod It

- Labor Saving Big Rolls
- Athletic Field Renovations
- Kentucky Bluegrass
- Tall Fescue
- Turf Installation

Toll Free:

866-698-0615

Website www.tuckertonturf.com

NATIONAL SEED PROFESSIONAL TURF PRODUCTS

Specializing in Quality
Grass Seed to Meet All Your
Turf Performance Standards

Call For a Catalog

800-828-5856

Carry a full line of quality mixtures especially formulated for:
SPORTS & ATHLETIC FIELDS

LOW MAINTENANCE AREAS
GENERAL GROUNDS
GOLF, LAWN & RECLAMATION

Technical Agronomic Support and
Custom Blending Available



Visit our web site:

sfmanj.org

Dual Slope Laser Grading



- Automated dual slope
- Accurate to .125" (1/8")
- 1 day service available
- Complete athletic field construction
- Bonded and insured
- Local references

Georgia Golf Construction, Inc.
1441 Route 50
Woodbine, NJ 08270
Tel (609)-628-2597 or (404)216-4445
Fax (609)-628-3087

www.georgiagolfconstruction.com

Increase your field's drainage and playability.

2010 Proud Sponsor Directory

STORR TRACTOR COMPANY

Turf, Irrigation and Ballfield Equipment
Sales - Fred Castenschiold,
Kevin Hoban, Steve Bradley
3191 Highway 22 Somerville, NJ 08876
908-722-9830 Fax: 908-722-9847

HY-TECH MUSHROOM COMPOST, INC.

Pasteurized Mushroom Compost Is The Ideal Amendment
To Add Organic Matter To Soils, Build Up The Soil Flora, Reduce Traffic
Stress, Compaction Problems And The Need For Fertilizer
Lisa Van Houten • 610-331-1849
Request-A-Quote at www.Hy-TechMushroomCompost.com

WILFRED MAC DONALD, INC.

Turf Equipment/Rentals
Sales-Bernie White, Mike Clifford, Steve Kopacn
19 Central Blvd., S. Hackensack, NJ 07606
888-831-0891 ex 114 Fax: 201-931-1730
sales@wilfredmacdonald.com

BEN SHAFFER & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Quality and Value Since 1921
Sport Goals, Netting, Bleachers
Fence Topping and Much More
www.benshaffer.com
1-800-953-2021

PUT YOUR AD HERE:

To become a Proud Sponsor Call: 856-514-3179
\$150 for one year

Beam Clay®

Baseball Diamond Mix
Pitcher's Mound Mix
Home Plate Mix
Infield Conditioner
Mound Bricks
Mound Top-Dressings
Permanent Pitcher's Mound
& Batter's Box Pads
Warning Track

Pro's Choice®

Diamond Pro®

Stabilizer®

Hilltopper®

Diamond Dry®

Nail Drags & Scarifiers

Drag Mats & Cocoa Mats

Infield Grooming Equip.

Mound Bricks

Mound Building Tools

Batter's Box Templates

Cleat Cleaners

Batting Practice Screens

Batting Practice Mats

Backstops

Batting Cages

Batting Tunnels

Rain Covers

YOUR "ONE-STOP SOURCE" FOR AMERICA'S BASEBALL & SPORTS TURF SURFACES & SUPPLIES!



WE'VE SUPPLIED PRODUCTS TO EVERY MLB TEAM,
OVER 150 MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS,
OVER 700 COLLEGES AND THOUSANDS OF
TOWNS & SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE!

(800) 247-BEAM • (908) 637-4191

www.BEAMCLAY.com

4 INFIELD MIXES FOR NJ:

ORIGINAL PREMIUM, PRO PREMIUM, MEDIUM & LITE

PARTAC PEAT CORPORATION • KELSEY PARK, GREAT MEADOWS, NJ 07838

"The best infield mix I've ever used!"
— GEORGE TOMA

FenceGuards™

DuraPad™
On-Deck Circles

Hollywood® & Schutt® Bases

Rogers® Break-Away Bases

Soft-Touch™ Bases

Mautz® Athletic Field Paints

Athletic Field Stencils

Field Marking
Equipment & Material

Permanent Foul Lines

Rakes & Squeegees

Safety Fencing

Windscreen

Wall Padding

Ball & Barrier Netting

Benches / Bleachers

Watering Equipment

Water Removal Equipment

Geotextile Fabrics

Turf Top-Dressings

Running Track Surfaces

Tennis Court Surfaces

Bocce Court Surfaces

Playground Surfaces

From the Editor's Desk:

News and Notes from 2010

Brad Park



We've reached several milestones in the production of SFMANJ Update.

The year 2010 marked the 10th, yes the TENTH, year of continuous publication of our newsletter. I truly believe we have one of the finest Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) chapter newsletters in the country. Our Executive Secretary, Debra Savard performs layout, design, and mailing as well as advertising sales and organization. The in-house production of the newsletter allows us to efficiently deliver the newsletter to our membership. I, as well as the entire SFMANJ Board of Directors, thank Debbie for her fine work and contribution.

We have obtained an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) for *Update*. You may have notice the addition of the number on the front cover of this edition. I believe the ISSN will increase the exposure of our newsletters. The ISSN website notes several advantages of obtaining this number including the accurate citing of serials by scholars, researchers, abstracters, and librarians; simplification of interlibrary loan systems and union catalog reporting and listing; and all ISSN registrations are

maintained in an international data base and are made available in the ISSN Register online. This issue, as well as all future issues of *SFMANJ Update*, will be received by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The long journey towards digitization and delivery of an electronic copy of each issue of *SFMANJ Update* (2001-current) to the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at Michigan State University was completed in 2010. One-hundred sixty-seven (167) articles appearing in *Update* that report on turfgrass research, personnel management, observations and tips from sports field managers, and other turfgrass and skin surface related information are now cataloged on TGIF (as of publication of this issue of *Update*). Some articles can be digitally accessed directly; others will be available through the Interlibrary Loan Program. I strongly encourage you to access TGIF through the members only section of STMA's website at www.stma.org to search and view this significant contribution to the turfgrass literature.

Continued on page 15

Did you know . . .

Thatch is a layer of undecomposed or partially decomposed organic residues situated above the soil surface and constituting the upper stratum of the medium that supports turfgrass growth.



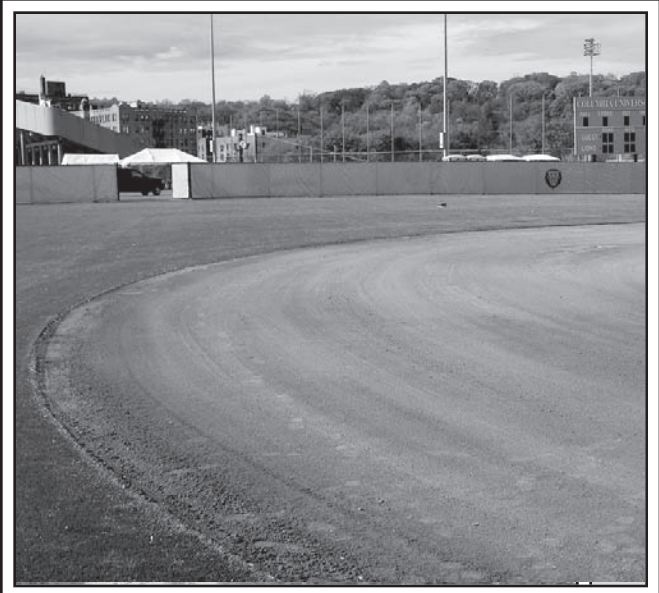
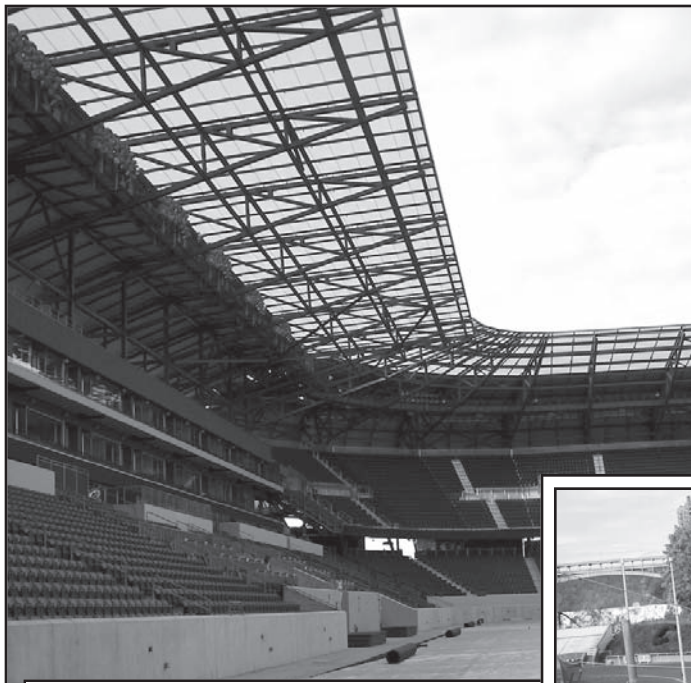
**AERIFICATION
FERTILIZATION
SPRAYING
TOPDRESSING
SEEDING**

**INFIELD WORK
LASER GRADING
DRAINAGE
ROOT PRUNING
CONSULTING**

NJ PESTICIDE LICENSE W/ CATEGORY 13 IPM

**CLARK WELD
PHONE: 609-839-6129 FAX: 856-273-0998
EMAIL: CLARK@CLARKTON.NET**

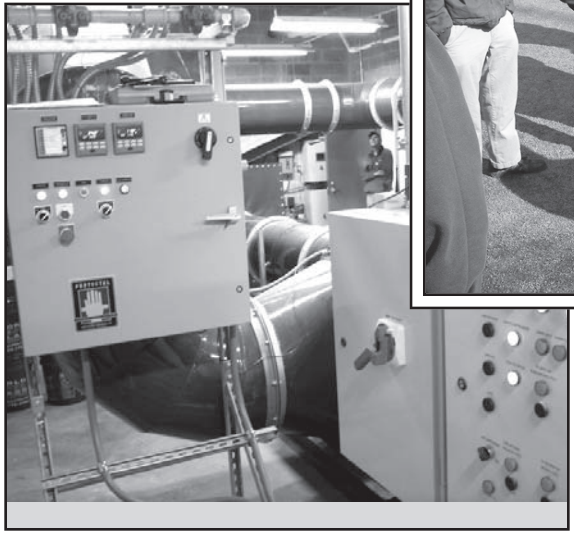
PHOTO RECAP....



OF THE 2010 SFMANJ Seminar on Wheels

Wednesday, November 10, 2010. Stops included Baker Athletic Field Complex, Columbia University, New York, NY and Red Bull Arena, Harrison, NJ.

by Brad Park, Rutgers University





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



**Fertilizers/Seed
Plant-Protectants
Soils/Sands**
We Represent



The Turf Trade
517 Franklinville Road
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
856-478-6704

Alan Phillips 609-226-9303
Kevin Grundlock 856-472-0097
www.theturftrade.com

Pesticide Applicator Licensing: *A Ticket to Professionalism*

By Matt Olivi

Continued from page 4

football field in a stadium complex, our thresholds will likely reflect a very low tolerance for pests such as broadleaf weeds. Routine assessments of broadleaf weed cover (perhaps a percentage or index rating) may clearly identify a pest problem that can not be resolved through proper cultural practices alone. In this case, the applicator would have to document turfgrass maintenance practices and make a case for using a non-low impact pesticide (i.e. 2,4-D) as a last resort. As mentioned before, this process leading up to an application can be lengthy and is more tedious than traditional methods. Despite this lengthy assessment and record keeping process, there are benefits to its complexity. As a licensed Category 13 applicator, I am forced to expand my knowledge of proper cultural practices. A better

understanding of these practices makes record keeping even easier. Such methods, now documented, become justification for occasional use of non-low-impact pesticides.

Expanding knowledge of proper pesticide use and techniques for alternative pest control methods can be achieved through recertification courses held throughout the State. Applicators, as well as potential applicators, have the options of attending courses at Universities, privately operated state-approved pesticide training centers or state-approved trade association seminars. I've found that a combination of the three options will provide an applicator with the means to maintain the necessary amount of credit hours for each category over the five year recertification period. By utilizing all

three of these resources, applicators will find a great deal of flexibility in finding course and seminar topics that will best meet the needs of their individual pesticide programs.

Possibly, the most important resources a pesticide applicator has available are his and her peers. Sometimes a conversation with a fellow applicator over dinner or in line at a trade show registration table can be more valuable than a predetermined course topic. It's been my experience that as an applicator's knowledge grows and his or her experience level increases, so will their level of professionalism and credibility in the industry.

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

BEN SHAFFER & ASSOCIATES Inc.

Many items on
State Contract



1-800-953-2021

sales@benshaffer.com

www.benshaffer.com

PARK, PLAYGROUND & STREETScape SOLUTIONS

Basketball Equipment



Soccer Goals



Benches



N.J. Compliant Bleachers



Safety Surfacing



Tennis Nets and Posts



Bike Racks



Water Fountains



Waste Containers



Stern-Williams



Experience the Ben Shaffer Difference
Serving NJ since 1921

TIME TO RE-REGISTER FOR 2011

Invoices will be sent soon.

Be sure to include an

email address

so we can let you know about SFMANJ special activities between newsletters.



CoverSports FieldSaver® Winter Turf Blankets/Growth Covers!



Turf Blankets for soccer and other fields

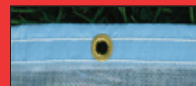
Protect turf from Winter conditions! Promote faster Spring growth and green-up!

"The results were incredible!..."

Paul Heron, Grounds Supervisor
Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, PA

FieldSaver® is a longer lasting blanket - 8 Year Limited Warranty

- Heavy 100% woven polypro fabric
- Reinforced hems and grommets all edges



Grommets at 5' intervals



New yellow safety stakes available



Football Field

Special offers ONLY at
www.CoverSports.com/SFMANJ

For price quotes, sizes and fabric specs,
visit www.CoverSports.com/SFMANJ



We make covers for all athletic surfaces: Rain Covers, Sideline Tarps, Track Protectors

SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2011

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)



Sommerset County Parks Commission, Torpey Field
SFMANJ's Field of the Year 2010

AWARDS:

The winner will be honored with a plaque at the New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December 2011 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 2011.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:

- All entries are to be submitted by mail or e-mail and must be received by September 30, 2011.
- 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 2011 F.O.Y. Contest
P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070

OR E-mail to:
mail@sfmanj.org

Call for more info:
856-514-3179

website: sfmanj.org / e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

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

News and Notes from 2010

Continued from page 9



Articles. Interested in contributing to *Update*? Do you have a turfgrass or skin surface tip that you would like to share with *Update* readers? Have you observed something unique going on at your facility in which you care to report? Can you share information on working with coaches, parents, and others who have a stake in the sports fields you manage? How are you dealing with reduced budgets? All sports field topics are fair game and we would like to expand our list of regular contributors. Articles can be sent to: park@aesop.rutgers.edu

Good luck in 2011!

Brad

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update.

Be sure we have an e-mail address for you so we can let you know about everything we have in store for our members in 2011!

PLANT FOOD COMPANY, INC.

The Liquid Fertilizer Experts

We specialize in liquid fertilizers and sell many other types of fertilizers, biostimulants, lime and protection products. Everything in the green industry, including trees and shrubs, turf and flowers, grow stronger and more beautiful with our products. Contact us to learn more and request your free catalog.

800.562.1291
609.443.8038 (fax)
pfc@plantfoodco.com
www.plantfoodco.com

Grow with us as part of our expanding family of customers.

Judgment Day

for a synthetic turf field?



Brad Park

What does a municipality or board of education do with a synthetic infill field when it's time to replace the surface? Does the public body have a **plan** and/or the **resources** to tear-out, dispose-of, and replace the carpet and infill? How many officials will simply kick the 'can' down the road and arrive at the decision to "get another year out of it" when faced at the costs of replacement? Will they kick it again going into 2012? How about 2013?

While visiting family over Thanksgiving, I read an article in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* published on November 25, 2010 regarding a suburban Pittsburgh school district contemplating the replacement of their 8-yr-old all-rubber infill synthetic field. The article titled, *Study to find whether new turf needed* was authored by Heidi Dezayas and can be digitally acquired at www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_710871.html

The article serves as an example of what I have observed to be a common oversight related to synthetic turf fields. That is: Many governing bodies don't have a clue how they're going to come-up with the funds to replace their synthetic turf fields, particularly in these times of fiscal belt tightening.

According to article, Gateway School District's Athletic Director indicated that the turf is falling apart in some places

and maintenance crews are involved in gluing numbers and lines back into the carpet. The Athletic Director was reported to have received a letter from East Suburban Sports Medicine saying that this year was the first year where athletes received a lot of skin burns. He attributed it to the synthetic field behaving like "a carpet in your house; it wears and starts to flatter ... as it flattens, it becomes more of a safety hazard".

The article stated that the projected replacement costs range from \$300,000 to \$350,000.

The response from the school board? The article quoted on member as saying, "Besides the warranty being over ... is there anything saying it's not safe? ... Gluing and re-gluing is normal".

A second Gateway school board member provided his own insight as to the source of the field's gluing and re-gluing problems. He surmised that, "... the problem could be that the field is used for too many things."

Lastly, Gateway board member Scott Williams chimed-in on the funding issues for replacing the synthetic turf field and reminded all that when the existing field was installed 8 years ago there were discussions to allow advertising on the scoreboard to help offset the future costs of field replacement.

The advertising never happened.

The article reported that the school board agreed to tour the field and an independent contractor was being sought after to test the field and determine if it is safe. While the article did not specify the nature of testing, the questions arising at this school district underscore the argument in support of independent field



SFMANJ Update Editor Brad Park holds a permanently inlaid line that came unglued on a poorly managed synthetic field (Photo by Matt Olivi)

testing to assess field performance – particularly surface hardness.

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has developed the Standard Specification for Shock-Absorbing Properties of North American Football Field Playing Systems as Measured in the Field (ASTM F 1936-98) and describes methodology and field locations to be tested with equipment conforming to Test Method F 355, Procedure A.

Regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with the nature of surface hardness testing, or the stringent nature of the performance requirement "... the average G_{max} of one or more of the tested points is in excess of 200 average G_{max} , the surface system should be replaced in full or in part", the reality of surface hardness testing is that it amounts to a **quantification** of field characteristics and can be incorporated into the field replacement decision making process.



A lack of attention to synthetic fields may result in severe seam damage as in the case of this all-rubber infill synthetic field (Photo by Matt Olivi).

Finally, the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* article reported that Gateway athletic director made the judgment that the turf could hold-up for another year, but officials should begin to consider how to pay to replace it. He was quoted as saying, "We have to have a plan ..."

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update.

You're Always Ahead of the Game with a COVERMASTER® Raincover...

"Great Service..., The Best..."

wrote **Chip Baker**, Asst. Baseball Coach,
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Chip's comments confirm what we hear from the many groundskeepers who use a COVERMASTER® raincover to keep their fields dry and ready for play.

Call us and we'll gladly tell you more.

The COVERMASTER® Advantage...

- Superior in strength and UV resistance
- Outstanding heat reflective properties
- Light weight - easy to handle
- Widest materials for least number of seams
- Largest choice of weights and colors
- Backed by truly dependable warranties

TARP MACHINE VIDEO!

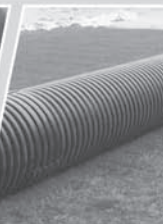
Call, fax or e-mail for a free video, material samples and a brochure.



Covers for football and soccer fields are also readily available.



TARP MACHINE™ lets you roll the cover on and off in minutes.



TARPMATE™ roller comes lengths with safety end ca

COVERMASTER™
COVERMASTER
COVERMASTER

CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-387-5808

covermaster.com
E-MAIL: info@covermaster.com

MEMBER

SportsTurf
MANAGER ASSOCIATION



2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Organic Turfgrass Management
January 31, 2011

Three-Day Athletic Field
Construction & Maintenance
February 15-17, 2011

Understanding Synthetic Fields with
SFMANJ-sponsored Synthetic Turf
Trade Show

(Direct trade show inquiries to
SFMANJ at 856.514.3179)
February 22, 2011

Options for Organic Turf Management
& Reduced Pesticide Inputs
on Sports Fields
February 24, 2011

Baseball/Softball Infield Skin
Construction & Management
March 3, 2011

Rutgers University-Office of
Continuing Professional Education
New Brunswick, NJ
732.932.9271
www.cpe.rutgers.edu

NJLCA Annual Trade Show
& Conference
March 2, 2011
Meadowlands Exposition Center
Secaucus, NJ
201.703.3600
www.njlca.org

NJRPA Annual Conference
NJ Rec. & Park Assoc.
March 6-11, 2011
Atlantic City, NJ
732.568.1270
www.njrpa.org

Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey




Service ♦ Technical Support ♦ Quality Products

Lawn & Sports Turf:

973-252-5455

Fax:

973-252-2881

See our full product
catalog @

www.GrassRootsTurfOnline.com

For ALL your turf and field care needs



Did you know . . .

Mat is a tightly intermingled layer, composed to living and partially decomposed stem and root material and soil from topdressing or other sources, that develops between the zone of green vegetation and the soil surface.

High Quality Bluegrass & Tall Fescue

*Sand Sod grown on Hammonton sandy, loam-type soil
designed for today's specialized modern athletic fields*

Visit Us at Our Updated Web Site:

www.ttfarms.com

*Our Completely Irrigated 700-acre farm allows
production and deliveries to parts of Pennsylvania,
Delaware, New York and all of New Jersey.*

*Labor Saving Big Rolls, please call for
custom installation prices.*

800-222-0591



609-561-7184
609-561-0296 Fax
401 Myrtle Ave. • P.O. Box 148
Hammonton, NJ 08037

WRIGHT BROTHERS FIELD



BOROUGH OF MOONACHIE, NJ

PHOTO BY TIM MAGEE,
WELLS APPEL

Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey



ORDER NOW. SAVE BIG.

Condition your bottom line.

Stretch your budget by taking advantage of the best prices of the year! Turface® Early Order Discounts are in full swing. Now is the time to get a jump on 2011. Take advantage of the best prices of the year.



See your Turface distributor for details.

THE #1 CONDITIONER ON AMERICA'S
MOST PLAYABLE FIELDS

TURFACE ATHLETICS™

KEEPS AMERICA PLAYING

www.turface.com

Standard Mail
 U. S. Postage
 PAID
 Pennsville, NJ 08070
 Permit No. 3

P.O. Box 205
 Pennsville, NJ 08070

Or Current Occupant

SportsTurf
 MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

Moving Ahead To Serve You Better

TORO.
 A Toro Partner

YOUR FRIENDS AT...

**TURF
 EQUIPMENT**
 AND SUPPLY COMPANY

888-384-8676 • www.turf-equipment.com