

UPDATE

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Summer 2013

Vol. 13, No. 2

P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070 • 856-514-3179 • www.sfmanj.org • e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

RUTGERS

LAWN, LANDSCAPE AND SPORTS TURF FIELD DAY

Including SFMANJ-Sponsored Table Top Trade Show

SAVE THE DATE!
Wednesday,
July 31, 2013

NOTE NEW LOCATION FOR 2013: Rutgers Hort Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ

By Brad Park, Rutgers University

In what has become an annual tradition, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA), Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), and Rutgers University will once again collaborate to hold the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day. Due to facility renovation and upgrades at the Adelphia Research Farm, this year's event will be held at Rutgers Hort Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ on **Wednesday, July 31, 2013**.

A table top trade show will be sponsored and administered by SFMANJ and is open to all vendors who sell products and services to the Green Industry. Coffee, bagels, Danish pastries, etc. will be served during the trade show. The trade show provides a great opportunity for attendees to network with other Green Industry professionals and examine the latest product offerings from Industry-supporting vendors. **NOTE: There will be no equipment demonstrations as part of the Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Field Day at Hort. Farm II in 2013.**

After opening remarks from Rutgers University representatives, the education portion of the program will begin at 9:00 am. Groups will rotate between three 17-minute tour stops per hour. Each stop will consist of turfgrass education. There will be four 3-stop rotations between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

Rutgers Horticultural (Hort.) Research Farm II is home of golf and sports turf focused research conducted by the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear Rutgers Turf Center faculty and staff describe turfgrass field trials examining turfgrass variety performance under traffic stresses, minimum inputs, and new varieties and experimental selections of the major cool-season turfgrass species.

Turfgrass fungicide and herbicide trials are annually conducted by Rutgers Faculty at Hort Farm II and will be included as educational tour stops. Stark contrasts between effective and ineffective treatments are often visually apparent in these trials providing attendees with useful information on product selection, application timings, and application rates.

Following the turfgrass education, a fine lunch will be served to all of those in attendance. The trade show will also be open during this time. Following lunch, New Jersey DEP pesticide recertification credits, and credits from neighboring states per approval, will be available to attendees.

After lunch attendees will have the option to attend training for Fertilizer Applicator Certification. Attendees may then take a paper-based version of the Certification exam for \$75.00.

Continued on page 4



Practical sports field education was a part of the SFMANJ Spring Field Day at Northern Burlington Regional High School on April 2, 2013.

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Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 203 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2013 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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Continued on page 4



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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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National Organization

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

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



A Message from The President

by Matt Olivi

The recent Sports Field Managers Association of NJ (SFMANJ) Spring Field Day held at the Northern Burlington County Regional School Facility in Columbus, NJ turned out to be another great event. Despite blustery conditions, we had a great turn-out of both attendees and vendors. Special thanks go to our commercial members Northern Nurseries and Green Pro Materials who donated materials for demonstrations and seminars. Our thanks go to Turf Trade for sponsoring early morning refreshments. Also, sincere thanks go to all of the vendors who took part in this years' Spring Trade Show. As always, your support of SFMANJ events is greatly appreciated.

The next event we are looking forward to is the annual Rutgers Research Field Day which will be held July 31, 2013. There will be a change of venue for this year's Research Day. The usual Rutgers Adelphia farm will not be able to host the event this year as an infrastructure upgrade project will be taking place over the summer. The alternative site for this year's program will be Rutgers' Hort Farm II Research Facility located in North Brunswick, NJ. This temporary change in venue will require SFMANJ to scale back the trade show to a tabletop only event. Although we're breaking the tradition of incorporating turf equipment demonstrations into the educational program, SFMANJ wanted to continue to give its commercial members an opportunity to have face time with attendees and continue to support Rutgers Turf Research. Keep an eye out for registration information through mailings and website updates.

SFMANJ is currently working on revamping its Field of the Year Program. The FOY program is a great tool for recognizing our members' efforts in maintaining the playability and safety of their fields. Maintenance efforts often go unnoticed by the majority of people that use the fields and/or those who finance maintenance resources. This recognition program can be a great tool for bridging the common gap between organization leaders and field managers. Over the summer months, a committee will be analyzing the current criteria and guidelines for the Field of the Year program and how to best implement a new system of localized district representation to help with the application and selection processes. Contact the SFMANJ office if you would like to serve on the field of the year committee. It's one of the many ways to get more involved in SFMANJ business and provide directors with valuable feedback. We hope to hear from you soon and look forward to seeing you in July.

Matt Olivi is Sports Turf Manager, Piscataway Board of Education, Piscataway, NJ; and SFMANJ President

Continued from page 1

Rutgers Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Field Day:

SCHEDULE:

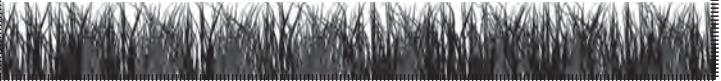
6:30 AM	Vendors may arrive & set-up
7:30 AM	Attendee Registration & Trade Show Opening
9:00 AM	Education Tours Begin
1:00-2:00 PM	Lunch / Open Trade Show
2:00-3:00 PM Training	Basic Training for the Professional Fertilizer Applicator (OPTIONAL)
3:00-4:00 PM Exam	Fertilizer Certification Exam (OPTIONAL; \$75.00 exam fee)

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Attendees may register online by visiting the NJTA (website) www.njturfgrass.org; (o) 973.812.6467; (email) execdirector@njturfgrass.org

Those vendors interested in reserving a table top for the trade show are encouraged to contact SFMANJ for more information and appropriate paperwork (website) www.sfmanj.org; (o) 856.514.3179; (email) mail@sfmanj.org

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors since 2003.



Welcome!
New and Renewed
SFMANJ Members
Continued from page 3

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Frank Ravaschiere | City of Longbranch |
| Charles Rogers | Plainsboro Township |
| Heather Rohde | Profile Products/Turface |
| Edmund Rohland | Millville Babe Ruth Sports Complex |
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Keeping Your Edge

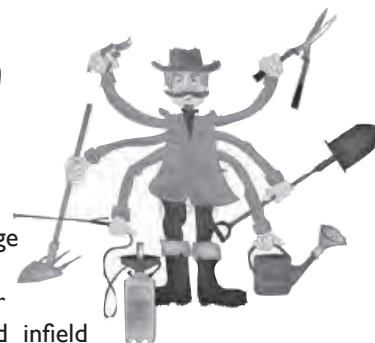
By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

It's hard work staying sharp on the job! Finding time and funding for job related training can be challenging. Sometimes, when the traditional forms of sports field education, (i.e. seminars, field days and clinics) seem to cover the same old topics consider trying something different. Something like going to another facility and helping out for a day as a guest member of the crew. I did that recently!

It all started when Rich Watson, Sports Turf Manager for the Pine Hill Board of Education invited me to help out during a Saturday baseball tournament. Nothing was scheduled at my facility that day, so I was free to go. The weather was not looking promising, though. Thunderstorms overnight and threatening skies in the morning made me wonder if Rich Watson's crew could make things happen and get the games in. After breakfast I called Rich and he said, "Come on up!"

When I arrived at the Overbrook High School baseball field, teams and fans were patiently waiting (despite a 1 hour delay) while the Overbrook grounds crew was hard at work putting the finishing touches on the playing surface. It would have been understandable to have called off the games because of the wet conditions, and for many sports field managers it would have been a no brainer. Rich Watson and the Overbrook grounds crew (Bill Loftus and Carmelo

Anguila) are not your average K-12 groundskeepers. They were on the job 5 hours earlier raking in drying materials and infield conditioners to their expertly maintained infield skin. I helped set a couple of bases and the game was ready to begin.



The "40th Annual Joe Hartman Diamond Classic" is a premier baseball tournament in South Jersey. The top 16 teams play a Round Robin single elimination tournament. The Overbrook field is a sought after venue for this matchup.

I like visiting another facility because I can see all the things that they do right. I get to tour their shop and see the tools and materials that they use. From the way bulk dry mound clay is reconstituted to the right consistency with a scant amount of water to repair a mound or a batter's box to the way they have configured a small trailer to convey all of the tools and supplies necessary for infield maintenance. I have long admired an infield drag they use to groom their infield (I hope I can get a copy of the plans so I can build one). Between their homemade and their store-bought equipment, I get some inspiration for tools that I would like to have. I even share with the Overbrook crew tales of some of the tools that I use such as the big rubber mallet and the small squirt bottle of water used

Continued on page 18

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FOOTBALL FIELD MAINTENANCE FOR NATURAL TURF FIELDS ABOVE THE TRANSITION ZONE: PART 1

By Rich Watson

As I am writing this article, winter is starting to wind down and attention to spring sports is about to begin. Baseball, softball, track and field, tennis and lacrosse will be in full swing shortly just as the weather becomes bearable for outdoor sports. As conference season comes to a close, I can recall many great talks about baseball field maintenance for all different levels of competition. There are many sources of information about the craft of maintaining baseball fields. However, when it comes to the sport of football, I don't recall any talks or articles about maintaining a high school field or any other type of football field.

I recently spent some time talking with Tony Leonard of the Philadelphia Eagles on our way back from the STMA conference in Daytona. Even at the highest level of completion, Tony is often asked "why can't you grow grass on that field"? During our discussion, I found out that there are many reasons why it is difficult. Sharing the stadium with Temple University, dealing with shade issues, hosting many non-football related events and a very narrow set of hash marks are just a few of the hurdles that Tony and his crew face. In addition, the Pro game is played by the largest athletes in all of sport. The fact that they play the bulk of the game in a very small area of the field causes a variety of maintenance problems.

Tony has adjusted by changing his field over to bermudagrass. This allows him to get through most of the season on a very durable surface. As the weather cools the bermudagrass is removed to the depth of 1.5 inches and thick cut Kentucky bluegrass sod is installed to finish out the late season schedule with good turf cover. This process has been very successful for Tony and the Eagles.

While this may be a good answer on the professional level, what about those of us on the high school or park and recreation level. Are there answers to the problems we deal with on our football fields or are we facing a future with plastic football fields as the solution? I don't claim to have all of the answers, but we have had a lot of success with the maintenance of our football fields at Overbrook High School. Our maintenance program doesn't begin and end with the football season but rather focusses on a yearlong approach. The new season begins as the old one ends.

Enjoy an Early Spring

Spring is a very important time for football fields. The fall season really wears out most fields and springtime is usually the time that significant recovery can take place. This process can be slowed by lacrosse but recovery must be taken into consideration regardless. March 1 in NJ is the first day you can apply fertilizer legally and we do. At least 0.5 lbs of nitrogen (N) per 1000 square feet are applied as ammonium sulfate. This provides food for the new turf planted at the end of last season and promotes growth of established turf also. In addition to an early application of N, there must be a concentrated effort made to begin mowing to remove dormant turf and promote new growth. It is tempting to allow football fields to lie dormant in early spring. There are a lot of other things going on and football is not one of them. Don't fall in to this trap. The quicker your turf is actively growing, the quicker it has the ability to establish and endure the stress of drought and pest pressures that are coming later in the spring and summer. Fertilizer is provided on an as-needed basis during the spring with the intention of not applying more than 0.5 lbs N per 1000 square feet per month.

Aeration

Aeration is something that is very important but commonly overlooked. In our case, we have a core-aerator but have no good way to clean up the messy cores. In addition to the mess, coring during the football season may not always provide the results you are looking for. Problems occur during the season if you open up a worn field by coring. Sometimes because of a busy schedule there is not enough time for the field to heal before the next game is played. This can cause a poorly rooted field to suffer damage even though that was not the intention. At Overbrook we have found a nice window of opportunity right after Memorial Day. Early June is after our spring season and usually before the weather gets too hot. The fields seem to really respond well

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at this time of year. The turf is actively growing and our activities are limited. We try to make up for the few coring opportunities that are available by using our slicing aerator when we are seeing signs of compaction. This aerator provides us the ability to open things up without disturbing the playing surface. It is a very valuable tool that also aides us in our fall over seeding program by providing a nice seedbed. Another added benefit of slice aerating is the ability to find grub damage quickly during August and early September. It is much better for us to find grub damage and treat it, rather than an injury occurring due to field conditions. Ultimately, it is up to the turf manager to find the right time and aerator for your site.

Summer Stress

Summertime is a time of rest for our football turf. We are lucky that there is very little activity during the summer months until football camp opens around August 15th. Our cutting height is raised to 3.0 inches and mowing frequency is set at 3 to 4 times per week. The thinking is that I don't want to put any extra stress on the turf than is necessary. Last year we went away from applying N during July with some success in suppressing dollar spot. Replacing it with an application of 0-0-62 worked well as we had very little dollar spot last summer as compared to past years. This year we may make an additional application in August to see if it reduces our susceptibility to brown patch. Fungicides are not part of our maintenance program so we are constantly making adjustments to see if we can suppress disease without their use. With that in mind, our irrigation routine is based on need not schedule. This sounds

like common sense but it gets complicated with tricky summer weather. The fields are checked daily for soil moisture and then irrigated or not based on this information. I have found that it is ok to get a little dry over the summer. Proper water management is crucial for surviving summer heat and humidity. Please don't set your timer box and forget it.

Part 2: Preparing for the Season, Game Prep and Repair, Putting the Field to Bed - In our next issue.

Rich Watson is Sports Field Manager, Pine Hill Public Schools, Pine Hill, NJ; and member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors



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July 30, 2013

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Perspective from a Field of the Year Participant

By Bernard Luongo

My name is Bernard Luongo and I am employed at Northern Burlington Regional School District in Columbus, NJ as a lead groundskeeper. I would like to take a moment to let membership know how entering the Sports Field Managers Association of NJ (SFMANJ) Field of the Year contest and winning runner-up for two years in a row has meant to me, our grounds staff and the administration. First, it gives the staff involved with maintaining the grounds recognition. In an educational institution where recognition is hard to come by it means a lot. Most of all it gives you credibility. Now when you are in a meeting and start talking to administrators about field maintenance, conditions, playability, safety, and wear, they pay attention and take you seriously. They now take a sense of pride as to how the facilities look and notice that you care and take your job seriously. Now that the Board of Education sees this they want to participate in your success also. They accomplish this by investing in your program. They purchase the equipment that you recommend – seed, fertilizer, etc. Everything that you need to keep producing a better product. As long as you keep producing results they will continue to keep investing in your program and your crew. Obviously this doesn't happen overnight. It takes several years a plan and goals to incrementally increase the quality of your fields. SFMANJ will help you develop a plan. Don't just be a member. Be an active member. Get to know your Board and Officers. You will be surprised that we all share the same highs and lows of our profession and the elements that sometimes work against us. So stay active ask a lot of questions and be humble. This is what SFMANJ and being in the Field of the Year contest means to me. Keep on turfing.

Bernard Luongo is Lead Groundskeeper, Northern Burlington County Regional School District, Columbus, NJ; and SFMANJ member.

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THE BASICS OF MAINTAINING SYNTHETIC TURF

By Jim Cornelius, CSFM

Editor's Note:

This article first appeared in the Summer 2012 issue of *Between the Lines*, the official publication of Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization

Let's begin by acknowledging that synthetic infill fields are NOT maintenance free. No matter what anyone says, these fields require routine maintenance. Secondly, what comes out of these fields must be replaced, meaning that the infill material disappears from the field as it is carried off by players, wind, rain, snow, snow removal, routine maintenance, etc.; being that the infill material is the supporting substance of these fields, it will need to be replaced.

When we service a field we typically find that most fields are lacking infill material whether it's all crumb rubber or rubber/sand mix; we also find the turf fibers are laid over with minimal support causing them to prematurely break-off. The worst enemy of the fibers on a synthetic turf field is the sun's ultra violet rays that the field must endure day after day. By maintaining a proper amount of crumb rubber and allowing only approximately a 1/2 to 3/4-inch of fiber exposed you are preventing the fibers from folding over and lessening the amount of material breakdown due to ultra violet rays.

On average an athlete or end user will carry off 3 to 4 pounds of infill material during a playing season. This needs to be replaced annually to support the fibers and provide longevity for the playing

surface. To calculate your needs, you need to measure the amount of crumb rubber in a variety locations within the synthetic field boundaries (we measure 10 locations using the ASTM 1936-10 guidelines for Gmax testing as our test points) to determine what you have. If your turf is 2 1/4 inches tall and you have less than 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches of infill, you need to add more. Most crumb rubber infill calculates to 0.55 pounds per square foot for a 1/4-inch lift. Most rubber/sand infill systems will not need additional sand as it tends to stay stable within the turf. There are rare occasions when the sand is removed due to operations (snow plowing) or torrential down pours that cause flooding; if this happens, sand will need to be added to the mix.

Grooming the field is an essential maintenance task that needs to be understood. It is highly recommended to use a good groomer designed for synthetic turf. When using any groomer, the best results will be achieved by adjusting it so that it lightly touches the fibers. Do not lower the entire weight of the groomer onto the turf unless you are trying to level out the crumb rubber or fill an area such as a lacrosse goal crease. When tickling the fibers with the groomer's brushes, the intent is to stand the fibers up to minimize lay over from resulting from field use.

Continued on page 12

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Photo Recap: SFMANJ Spring Field Day

By Debbie Savard and Brad Park



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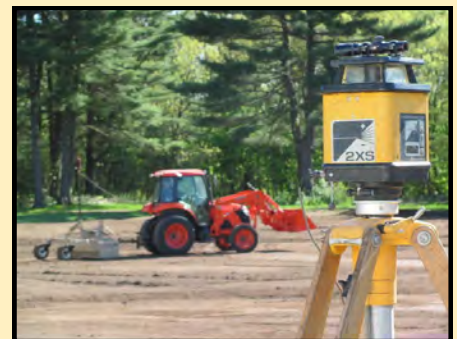
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Often I am asked how much or how often should I groom a field. There is no true, exact answer, but from my experience I recommend that the field be groomed every 300 to 350 hours of use. There are articles on the web that will say 400 to 500 or more hours and much depends on the manpower available. At minimum it should be groomed several times during the highest use periods and less during the down times (if there is such a thing).

Trash and debris removal is another constant nuisance and needs to be done whenever it exists. Timely removal is important to keep the trash and debris from becoming ground into the infill material, which causes problems later on. Sunflower seeds, chewing gum, candy wrappers, cigarette butts, wire ties from nets, and broken sand bags or stone bags used for weighting down goals are some of the typical items we see when deep-cleaning a field. Water, Gatorade, juice, and soda bottles are unsightly and need to be removed when present.

Removal of chewing gum is largely overlooked and needs to be addressed as soon as possible; most chewing gums today never harden and with the intense heat in the field it becomes goeey and eventually spreads across the turf surface. To remove use either ice cubes or a freezing spray agent to harden the gum, chip it off and remove it.

Weeds can exist and thrive in synthetic turf. Be prepared if your synthetic fields is surrounded by bermudagrass or any other creeping stolon-producing grass! These grasses tend to seek their way into and under the synthetic turf and since temperatures on these fields reach optimal growing peaks before the surrounding turf, once they start spreading beneath they will find the drainage holes and send their shoots upwards for the sun light. These plants become very hard to remove due to their sewing machine effect and in many cases will need to be treated chemically (as approved by the turf manufacturer) to control. It is best to prevent these grasses from growing under from the beginning. Look for it and act quickly when discovered.

Pay attention to heavy wear areas. These fields wear just like natural turf with the exception that you can't grow it back in once it is gone; so, don't let it wear out. Common sports specific high wear areas include Football: center of the field between the hash marks; Soccer: penalty kick area, corner kick, goal crease; Field Hockey: goal crease, penalty arc; Lacrosse: goal crease areas, center of the field where face offs take place. Men's or Women's Lacrosse has the ability to destroy a goal crease in as little as one year if not maintained. The infill material gets kicked or shuffled out. The fibers take a beating and break-off quickly without the support of the infill material.



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Before you know it you have a big black area that is the backing of the turf and now it's time to patch it or replace the area with either the pieces you saved from installation or maybe cut it out from outside the playing area so that it matches in color and type. Even after one year it won't be a perfect match (even if left on a roof top to sun burn like the turf on the field) because the surrounding fibers in the field will have seen use and started to mat out or break down and if you are patching it must have worn out. Contact the manufacturer or a reputable service company to save you the pains of having to deal with the patch. There are special materials that you will need and the local or big box hardware store does not carry them. Do not use a Gorilla glue-type product, liquid nails, styrene bonding agents, and/or drywall screws or framing nails for repairs. These are not designed for synthetic turf and may become a liability nightmare later down the road.

Painting may or may not have to be performed on these fields depending on whether or not everything was inlaid during installation. If you have to paint use only paint that is approved for synthetic turf field. It seems that every year some company announces that they have synthetic turf paint. Do your homework and look at a company history and get recommendations. If you need to remove the paint ask the supplier if it can be performed, and if so, how it is done and what will it cost and how long will it take. Will you need special equipment and chemicals? Have their products been endorsed by any manufacturers and is your turf manufacturer one of them? If you have to paint try to do it at times other than the heat of the day. If you are removing lines it works much better to do this at night or early in the morning when the turf is the coolest. Chemicals used during the heat of the day will evaporate long before they start to work and this will only cost you more time and materials.

Dust, dirt, pollen, body skin cells, screws, nails, track spikes, bobby pins and human hair, just to name a few, do not break down in these fields. They remain for much of the life of the field and it is truly amazing how much exists. Special equipment with hepa-filter

vacuums will be able to clear this out and remove it from within the turf. Rain, snow sleet and hosing do not help.

Static is common and can increase with humidity and sometimes age. If you need to combat static, you can use several household products. Liquid Tide washing machine soap and/or the use of a softener (Snuggles) both work well when sprayed on the turf.

Eventually someone will ask if these fields need to be disinfected. My suggestion is to review Dr. Andrew McNitt's research pages to obtain the best answer (<http://cropsoil.psu.edu/ssrc/sportsturf-scoop>). Information can also be found by visiting the website of the Synthetic Turf Council (<http://syntheticturfcouncil.org/>)

Lastly, unlike natural turf, we can't see what is going on with these fields beneath their surface. ASTM has recommended that these fields be tested annually to determine their hardness (G_{max}). There are those who do not believe this is necessary; but I can tell you that it is an important tool, much like soil testing. If you do not perform testing for one, two, four or six years then you have no history data to determine what has been happening to surface hardness. I have tested two-year fields and eleven-year-old fields with less than 3/4-inch of fibers remaining and almost no infill and yet the newer one tests harder than the older. Does this mean we are no longer testing the turf and we are now testing the stone base beneath? Good question. Since we do not have eleven years of historic G_{max} testing, we can only imagine we are now testing the G_{max} of the stone base.

Hopefully I haven't scared you and you haven't run away from your synthetic field. These fields are a great tool and if properly maintained will provide years of play for all users. What you have just read is only the tip of the iceberg and there is much to learn about these fields. Don't be afraid to ask your peers or contactor if you don't know; it may prevent you from making a huge mistake.

Jim Cornelius is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); and Services Manager, Pro. Services Division, Fisher & Son Co., Inc.

Did you know . . .

How to Find the Equipment Cost per Hour

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Example: Compact Tractor

Purchase Price \$35,000 + Interest \$ 3,000 – Salvage Value \$5,000 = \$6.66
 Life Expectancy 5,000 hours (500 hrs per year for 10 years)

Lifetime Maintenance Cost: \$20,000.00 = \$4.00
 Life Expectancy 5,000 hours

Fuel Price \$4.00 per gallon = \$2.66
 Fuel Used per hour : 1.5 gallons

Equipment Cost per Hour = \$13.32

What the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is All About

By Debbie Savard

Founded in 2000, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) is the New Jersey Chapter of the national organization Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). Over the years SFMANJ has grown its membership, not only from New Jersey, but also from Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York and Ontario, Canada.

SFMANJ was formally recognized at the STMA National Conference and Exhibition in Daytona Beach, Florida in January 2013 for the work that we perform for sports field managers in New Jersey and recent additions to our educational outreach efforts. Our Mission Statement reads "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." This is exactly our endeavor. We are also well connected with many of the leading universities and professionals involved with turfgrass and sports field research including Rutgers University. Answers to questions regarding sports field management can be handled readily.

Topics addressed by SFMANJ include: Turfgrass species selection, plant/soil fertility, pesticide use and diagnostics, root zone

amendments, baseball infield amendments, pitcher's mound and batter's box repair, turfgrass mowing, drainage, irrigation, turfgrass cultivation, topdressing, equipment demonstration, sports field construction, field layout, management, budgets, school IPM, legislative affairs and various other management techniques which improve the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields.

Each year we hold at least two field days, in the spring and fall, offering education through lectures as well as visual demonstrations. Pesticide credits are awarded to those who attend. The field days also include a trade show, a free continental breakfast and a hot lunch. Most are free to those who wish to attend and some offer free membership.

Our Association also promotes a trade show in co-operation with New Jersey Turfgrass Association and Rutgers University at the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Field Day each summer. Hope to see you at this year's event on Wednesday, July 31, 2013 at Rutgers Hort Farm 2, North Brunswick, NJ.

SFMANJ also handles a portion of the educational sessions at the New Jersey Green Expo Turf and Landscape Conference held in

Continued on page 17



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
(848) 932-6295, ext. 331; or clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu or*

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Business is



Picking-Up . . .

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the November/December 2005 issue of SFMANJ Update

For years I had been providing trashcans around my sports fields with the expectation that the players and spectators would use them. I would end up with full or half empty trashcans that needed to be emptied. There was always litter and trash in the vicinity of the cans and elsewhere that needed to be picked up. We put out more trashcans and even signs politely asking people to use the cans. Still more trash and litter.

Across the road from our School there is a State Park. I rarely notice a trash problem there. It is a "Carry in-Carry out" park, which means they do not provide trashcans. They have signs to the effect and even provide bags if you need them. And the program seems to be effective. Hmm, I thought.

This past spring, I tried an "experiment". I didn't put out trashcans. I said nothing to the coaches. Baseball and Lacrosse teams played games and practiced daily. No trash problem, very little litter. Summer camps used the field's last summer, same results no trash, almost no litter. I told the Athletic Director. He seemed skeptical. This fall - football and soccer. Big programs, many kids. Lots of paper cups. We provided the Athletic Trainers with plastic bags to accompany the big orange water containers. We convinced the teams that it was their responsibility to pick-up and haul away the trash bags when they return the orange jugs to the equipment room after practice. While the football teams throw the cups at the bag trying to toss them in and the soccer players still throw the

cups on the ground during practice, they do pick up their litter before they leave and do a pretty good job most of the time. The Athletic Director was impressed.

We still find some litter in the spectator areas after events. Nothing is perfect I guess! But our campus is staying cleaner, and we spend fewer man-hours picking litter, hauling trash and washing trashcans. Best of all, nobody has said anything about our "experiment".

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.



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Rutgers Turf Club Tour of Citi Field

Hosted by Bill Deacon,
Head Groundskeeper, NY Mets
April 19, 2013

by Brad Park



What the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Is All About

Continued from page 14

Atlantic City, NJ in December each year. Speakers from around the country deliver education to our sports field professionals with the latest information and technology. Pesticide credits, including Category 13 School IPM, are awarded for completion of the sessions.

In addition to our regular field days, SFMANJ holds other events throughout the year such as clinics for local little leagues and district meetings. Anyone interested in hosting such an event can call the office at 856-514-3179.

Our newsletter, Update, is published quarterly and is full of timely and informative articles and advertising. Each issue is mailed out but can also be viewed on our website (www.sfmanj.org) or accessed through Michigan State University Libraries (<http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/updat>). Here you can also find all past issues dating back to July 2001. Anyone interested in advertising in Update should call the office at 856-514-3179 or download a form from our web site.

Our website also contains links to many documents that may be of help with your fields, photos from recent events as well as a calendar of upcoming events that may be of interest to you. There is also a vendor directory with active links for your convenience. Membership registration forms are available for download if you are interested in joining our organization.

Recently, SFMANJ has embraced social media by creating a facebook page. Activity there is starting to pick-up. Also, we have initiated putting a QR code on mailers, newsletters, etc., so get your code reader ready.

With an SFMANJ membership, not only does one receive our quarterly newsletter, but also Sportsturf, the monthly publication of STMA. Each issue contains articles written for and by sports field professionals. You will also receive the annual SFMANJ Membership Resource Directory to help you contact other sports field managers or commercial members to discuss any issues you may have with your fields. Another benefit to membership is a 10% tuition discount on all Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Athletic Field courses.

Any individual, organization, institution, or vendor/supplier who has interest in athletic field safety and playability would benefit by becoming a member of SFMANJ. We represent high school, college, and professional facilities, parks and recreation departments, educators, youth leagues, contractors, and commercial vendors.

SFMANJ members are always welcome to attend our board meetings, which are generally held on the first Wednesday of each month at Hort Farm 2, North Brunswick, NJ. We appreciate member input and thrive on new, fresh ideas from all areas of the sports field industry. We are here for our members and want to bring to them the things that interest and help them the most. Anyone interested in attending, should call us at 856-514-3179 to confirm time and location.

If you would like more information on SFMANJ, please call 856-514-3179 or visit our web site and see what we're all about.

More from the 2013 Spring Field Day



Continued from page 5

Keeping Your Edge

to pack clay on the mound (actually an idea shared by Larry Divito of the Minnesota Twins). I learn some new techniques I would like to try when I get back to campus.

I like talking shop with other sports field managers. Nobody else really understands what we do, or what we have to deal with. We can cover many topics ranging from agronomics to equipment to which source of materials we like the best. Who better than another experienced sports field manager can give you insight about the soft skills of human relations with all of the people we serve. In conversation with other sports field managers I usually discover that (a) somebody else has already experienced what I am experiencing; (b) my situation is not as bad as I think it is; (c) I feel validated for the things that I am doing right.

I really enjoyed my visit with Rich, Bill and Carmelo. It was great working with an experienced crew. I recommend to anyone wanting to improve their skills, to spend a day with another sports field manager as a guest crew member. It is an amazing experience.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.



Visit our web site:
www.sfmanj.org

HAVE YOU CHECKED-OUT OUR WEB SITE LATELY?

- ✓ Check our Events page for upcoming events and pictures of past SFMANJ functions.
- ✓ Check our Resources page for past issues of our Newsletter Update, Minutes from past Board Meetings, links to useful information and job postings.
- ✓ Check our Contact Us page for direct links to all of the Board of Directors. Call us with any questions or comments.
- ✓ Check our Vendor page for interactive links to our advertising vendors' web sites and a complete list of all our vendors. Call them first! They are happy to answer any questions.

Visit our website for information on the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Field Day
www.sfmanj.org - References Tab



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