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UPDATE

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Winter 2013
Vol. 13, No. 4

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GREEN EXPO 2013: Reflections

By Bernard Luongo

While driving home from Atlantic City on Thursday, December 12, I reflected on the past three days I spent at Expo 2013. It is the first time since I have been going to the Expo that I was able to attend all three days. I would like to thank my Facilities Director, Business Administrator and Board of Education for allowing me to go and, more so, for the insight that they have to recognize the value of the education that is offered at this event. It will only help us in the future to continue to deliver a quality product.

I remember the first time I went to the Green Expo five years ago. Back then I was only allowed to go for one day. When I walked into the registration area I was a bit nervous. Not knowing what to do and not knowing anyone. I was feeling quite lost actually. What a difference five years makes. I walked into the registration area this year and immediately saw three people from our association. All smiles on their faces and a smile on mine. Everything here feels like a sense of belonging. Sitting in Tiara B was another friendly face that I met three months ago at a field day. Everyone in this room was happy. Maybe it is because they are away from their employment. I think maybe it is because they feel a sense of belonging also. What a great place. This is what we do down here. It is bonding, making friends, and building lasting business relationships that will help you get through some rough spots in your career.

OH! Did I forget to mention the education? Three solid days of quality education from educators that are on top of their games in their fields. This place is like a supermarket of education all under one roof. All the pesticide credits you can imagine and, also, those pesky, hard to get fertilizer credits. Everything you need to succeed is here. What a show.

When you are down here, make it a point to see the Rich Buckley and Sabrina Tirpak show. What a team these two make. They make Fairy Rings and Boring Beetles (no pun intended) interesting and hilarious. They should probably have their own HBO special.

I cannot continue to write without mentioning the trade show. If you are there early enough on day one, you can peek inside the Ballroom doors of A through D to see the many vendors setting up their wares. More familiar faces. For any of our members, if this was your first show, keep going, even if it is just for one day. It is important for your careers. It is important to see the vendors displaying their products and putting a face to the company.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our organization, the SFMANJ and the Board of Directors for recognizing and honoring NBC's grounds crew with Runner-up Field of the Year for our Varsity Boy's and Girl's soccer field. It is quite an honor and I cannot begin to tell you how much this means to the crew and myself. I thank SFMANJ for having such a program in place and the credibility that comes with the recognition of such an award. Membership, if you are not taking advantage of this program/contest, you are cheating yourself out of an opportunity to be recognized. Enter your field. Call, e-mail, write a letter if you need help entering. Everyone here is ready to help. We are all in the same business. This program/contest pays dividends for you, your crew and the organization where you work. Keep moving your program forward. That is a goal everyone should have. Until next time. ***Keep on turfing!***

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

Welcome! *New and Renewed SFMANJ Members*

Currently we have 335 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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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
Sports Turf Managers Association
www.stma.org
Email: stmainfo@stma.org • Phone: 800-323-3875

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

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A Message from The President . . .

We've wrapped up another great year in the field . . .

by Matt Olivi

Once the snow starts falling it's time to move indoors, reflect upon what we've accomplished and attempt to identify the challenges we'll be facing in the new year ahead. Winter's a great time to head back to the classroom to acquire new technical knowledge and gain new perspectives on field maintenance. We ended 2013 with two great educational programs.

In November, SFMANJ held its annual fall field day at East Brunswick Vocational and Technical High School. Despite bad weather, we had a great turn-out and an overall great event. Sincere thanks go to all of the professional baseball field managers and the organizations that they are affiliated with. Field Managers from the New York Mets, Lakewood BlueClaws, Somerset Patriots, Staten Island Yankees and the Newark Bears helped facilitate the program and shared perspectives with the membership. We also had tremendous support from our commercial members. Thanks to all of you who took part in the trade show and especially those of you who were kind enough to sponsor the event. Your support was vital to the success of the Field Day.

About a month later, we gathered again in Atlantic City for Expo 2013. This years' two day sports field education program was well attended. The Tuesday December 10 seminars focused on strategies that New Jersey Sports Field Managers can use to enhance their integrated pest management (IPM) programs. Those who were able to stay for Day Two were updated on the latest turfgrass research from Rutgers University, the latest synthetic turf maintenance research from Penn State University and gained the perspective of a Major League Baseball Head Groundskeeper. Nicole MacFayden of the Baltimore Orioles shared field management strategies and unique challenges that she and her staff face throughout the season. Again, our sincere thanks go to all of our guest speakers. All of the presentations were very well received by attendees.

If you're still craving more education before the turf begins to green-up in the spring, this years' STMA Conference will be held in late January in San Antonio, Texas. Conference information is available at www.stma.org. Several members of the SFMANJ Board

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Go to www.sfmanj.org to download SFMANJ registration information

RUTGERS CORNER - Soil pH and Use of Lime

By Brad Park

Unfortunately, lime is often applied annually to sports fields for no other reason than, "We've always done it that way." Conversely, some sports field managers are reluctant to apply lime or skeptical of the benefits of applying lime because turfgrass will not show an immediate response to a lime application, in contrast to the rapid growth associated with the application of a soluble nitrogen fertilizer. This article will discuss the concept of soil pH and describe how to utilize liming materials to correct low pH soils.

The basics of soil pH

All soils can be classified as acidic, neutral, or alkaline. Acidity and alkalinity are defined in terms of the hydrogen ion (H+) concentration found in pure water. If the soil solution contains more hydrogen ions than are found in pure water, the soil is considered acidic. In contrast, if the soil solution contains fewer hydrogen ions than are in pure water, the soil is considered alkaline. The degree of acidity or alkalinity can be described by a pH range from 0 to 14. Any value below 7.0 is considered acidic; a value of 7.0 is neutral; a value above 7.0 is considered alkaline.

In humid, high-rainfall regions such as New Jersey, soils become acidic through natural processes and human activities. Rainfall will leach elements from the soil such as calcium and magnesium deep into the soil profile and replace them with hydrogen ions from the water. Additionally, use of ammonium-based fertilizers and acid rain contribute to the creation of acidic soils.

Soil pH affects turfgrass health by influencing the availability of plant nutrients as well as elements that can be detrimental to turfgrass vigor. Soil pH can also affect the susceptibility of turfgrasses to certain diseases. Strongly acidic soils (pH < 5.5) may lead to deficiencies in calcium, magnesium, or phosphorous and increase the availability of elements such as aluminum to levels that are toxic to turfgrasses.

In strongly alkaline soils (pH > 8.5), phosphorous can be unavailable to the plant. Interestingly, research has shown that soil pH values above 6.5 appear to enhance summer patch disease development. Kentucky bluegrass is a widely used cool season turfgrass for sports fields in New Jersey and many varieties are susceptible to summer patch. Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*), while generally considered a weed, is often a species found on sports fields and is also susceptible to summer patch. Repeated annual liming can potentially predispose Kentucky bluegrass (and annual bluegrass) sports fields to summer patch, which can devastate a turfgrass playing surface.

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Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

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Colin Wood	Temple University

RUTGERS CORNER -

Seed and fertilizer: How much was applied?

By Brad Park

Sports field and grounds managers may be either unaware of how much seed/fertilizer they are applying on a 1000 sq ft basis or believe they are applying a particular amount but in actuality are only applying a fraction.

The responsibility of fertilizer and seed applications are often left to a contractor. When asked how much seed/fertilizer was actually applied to a sports field, managers are often unaware of the amount. He or she may present a fertilization plan developed by an application contractor with no certainty as to what rates were actually made.

One way of sifting though all of this confusion is to simply know how much area requires treatment and the number of bags of specific material required to treat that area. Using seed as an example, a typical overseeding recommendation for perennial ryegrass is 6.0 lbs seed per 1000 sq ft. To seed the area between the hash marks on a high school football field (approximately 16200 sq ft) at this rate, approximately 97 lbs of seed are required ([6.0 lbs x 16200 sq ft] / 1000 sq ft = 97.2 lbs). Seed is typically sod in 50.0-lb bags; therefore two (2) 50.0-lb bags of seed are required for order to complete this overseeding operation.

Applied fertilizer amounts can be calculated in a similar manner. Assume 0.75 lbs nitrogen (N) per 1000 sq ft specified to be applied to an entire football field and the material to be used has an analysis of 35-0-0. This fertilizer contains 35% N; 0% phosphate (P_2O_5); and 0% potash (K_2O). A football field (including endzones) is 57600 sq ft. To apply 0.75 lb N per 1000 sq ft using a material that contains 35% N, 2.1 lbs of this fertilizer must be applied per 1000 sq ft (0.75 lbs N / 0.35 lbs N per 1.0 lb fertilizer = 2.1 lbs fertilizer). To treat the football field at the desired rate, 121 lbs of the 35-0-0 fertilizer must be applied to the field ([2.1 lbs x 57600 sq ft]/1000 sq ft = 123 lbs). Fertilizer is typically sold in 50.0-lb bags; hence, 3 (three) 50.0-lb bags will be required for order and approximately two-and-one-half (2.5) bags will be required to treat the field at the 0.75 lbs N per 1000 sq ft rate.

One way of exercising oversight on contracted work is to request to see the number of fertilizer and/or seed bags used to treat a sports field. Knowing the specified application rate, the area to receive the application, and, in the case of fertilizer, either the specified analysis or the analysis utilized by the contractor, one can calculate the amount of material required.

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STMA Conference & Exhibition
January 21-24, 2014
San Antonio, TX
800.323.3875
www.stma.org

2014 Rutgers NJAES OCPE Courses
Organic Turfgrass Management
January 28, 2014
Two-Day Athletic Field Maintenance
February 12-13, 2014
Reducing Pesticide Inputs & Exploring Organic Options for Sports Turf
February 18, 2014
Baseball & Softball Skin Surface Selection & Management
February 25, 2014
Rutgers Cook Campus
New Brunswick, NJ
732.932.9271
www.cpe.rutgers.edu732.932.9271
www.cpe.rutgers.edu

NJ Park & Recreation Association Conference
March 2-5, 2014
Trump Taj Mahal
Atlantic City, NJ
732.568.1270
www.njrpa.org

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And please update your information on the form

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RUTGERS CORNER - Soil pH and Use of Lime

To lime or not to lime ...

To determine whether or not to apply lime to a sports field a soil test must be performed. Soil testing kits may be purchased from a Rutgers Cooperative Extension county office. Each kit includes an information sheet, a questionnaire, and a mailing bag or envelope. The information sheet provided with the soil testing kit describes proper sampling procedures.

In a standard soil test, the plant nutrients boron, calcium, copper, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium, and zinc are quantified to determine their availability to a crop, in this case turfgrass. Fertilizer and lime requirements recommended by the Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory are based on soil nutrient levels, pH, and in some cases, crop management and site conditions.

Conducting a soil test to determine soil pH and a lime requirement (if any) is essential in order to decide whether a lime application is needed.

Optimally, lime should be applied as part of the turfgrass establishment process, prior to finish grading and turfgrass seeding. Lime should be tilled to a 6-inch depth based on soil test recommendations. In the case of established turfgrass, lime should not be applied in excess of 100 pounds per 1000 square feet.

Very simply, if the results of soil testing determine that a lime application is needed - apply a liming material. If no lime is required – don't apply lime.

Choosing a liming material

When a lime material is applied to soil, it has the effect of neutralizing soil acidity. Calcitic limestone is often referred to as "regular" limestone and is nearly pure calcite or calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$). Dolomitic limestone is a mixture of calcium carbonate and magnesium carbonate and can be used when pH is determined to be low and deficient levels of magnesium exist.

Ground agricultural limestone can be used to correct soil pH in turfgrass areas. Depending on the fineness of the material, it may be difficult to spread ground agricultural limestone using a drop spreader because finely ground particles may bridge over the application holes in the spreader. Spinner-type spreaders can be used to apply ground agricultural limestone, however bridging problems

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Board Member, Scott Bills with the 2013 Field of the Year Runners-Up: Adam Simmons of Glassboro Parks and Recreation, Dave Kuczynski of Somerset County Park Commission and Bernard Luongo of Northern Burlington Regional High School. Not pictured: G. Michael Collins of Cumberland County College.

Scott Bills presenting the Field of the Year Award to Larry Mayerowitz of Middlesex County Parks. Congratulations Larry!

Rich Buckley: Cultural Strategies to Reduce Tufrgrass Diseases on School Sports Fields & Grounds

Bill Foelsch: Implementing Sound Cultural Practices That Reduce Turfgrass Pest Pressure in Morris Township

David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP: Vision for STMA From the President -Elect

SFMANJ Board Member and Newsletter Editor Brad Park is presented with a Special Recognition Award by SFMANJ President, Matt Olivi

Tom Serensits: Update on Synthetic Turf Research

Early Bird Sports Field Managers

GREEN EXPO

Trump Taj Mahal

Atlantic City, NJ

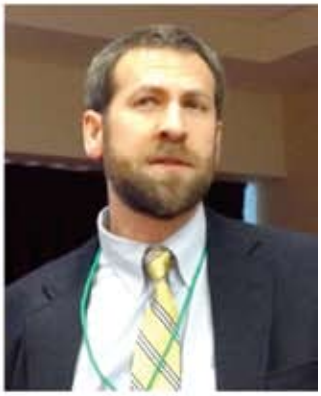
Dec. 10-12, 2013

See You Next Year!

Nicole McFadyen: Managment of Turfgrass and Skin Surfaces at Camden Yards

Fred Kendall: Sports Field Management at the Salem BOE

Dan Shemesh: Sports Field Management at the NY Red Bulls Stadium



Dr. Ben McGraw: IPM Methods to Control White Grubs and Other Insect Pests on School Sports Fields & Grounds

Photo Recap:

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Fall Field Day

By Debbie Savard and Brad Park

East Brunswick Vo-Tech High School, East Brunswick, NJ

November 7, 2013

2013 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Hope you had thoe opportunity to join us at some of these events!

SPRING FIELD DAY
No. Burlington County
Regional High School
Columbus, NJ
April 2, 2013

STMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Daytona Beach, Florida
January 2013

RUTGERS LAWN, LANDSCAPE AND SPORTS TURF FIELD DAY - SFMANJ TRADE SHOW
Rutgers Hort Farm 2, North Brunswick, NJ
July 31, 2013

FALL FIELD DAY
East Brunswick Vo-Tech HS
East Brunswick, NJ
November 7, 2013

NEW JERSEY GREEN EXPO
Trump Taj Mahal
Atlantic City, NJ
December 10-12, 2013

The Sports Turf Manager as a CRISIS COMMUNICATOR

Sports Turf Managers Association Editorial Staff

Perhaps you will never be faced with responding to a crisis. But, if you ever have an athlete get injured during play, an employee who gets hurt on the job, a disgruntled employee, a weather related disaster, or an environmental incident, you just might find yourself in the spotlight and under scrutiny.

As a manager of people, you may have to deal with an employee's death or illness, a sudden change in top management, or employee issues of sexual harassment. Each one of these can constitute a crisis. You must be prepared for that decisive moment when your response can lead the crisis to better or to worse. An initial negative perception is nearly impossible to reverse.

Crisis Communication Response Tips

- Respond within 24 hours.
- Don't point fingers.
- Always be available to the media.
- Be visible and on-site.
- Tell the absolute truth.
- Never say "no comment."

You are judged within the first 30 seconds of speaking if you and the information you are providing is trusted. Appearing empathetic and caring are the most importance characteristics you can exhibit to show "trustworthiness". Your audience will also assess your competence, your honesty and your commitment. Your goal as a communicator is to demonstrate these attributes.

It is important to recognize that the media is usually more interested in covering opposing viewpoints and that bad news and conflict are more newsworthy. Most reporters are working under a tight deadline, have limited scientific and technical knowledge and can be a bit cynical. When preparing to talk with the media, address the principal underlying concern of the audience/questioner/listener keeping your responses short and concise.

In many crisis situations it is important to bring in a third party and to tell the media who you have contacted.

Crisis Communication Interviews

- Take control early by educating the reporter and correcting misunderstandings.
- Clarify the questions.
- Prepare two to three main messages.
- Give facts: who, what, when, where, but don't give how and why.
- Express your concern. Safety is always the top priority.
- Avoid jargon and do not use humor.
- Frame your answers in the positive.
- Tell how fast you responded, how much has been done and what you will do about it in the future.
- Thank or give appreciation to any assistance.
- Avoid words with negative connotations such as lethal, risky, deaths, maimed, toxic.
- Do not repeat the "charges" or any negatives words, such as no, not, never.
- Be conscious of your body language. Do not place your hands in a "fig leaf" in front or in back of you, but keep your hands/palms open and above the waist. Avoid touching your face, clasping or clenching your hands and pointing your fingers.

Remember these phrases.

You want to give a sense of more to come, which will help to establish your trustworthiness.

"What I can tell you is …"
"So far, what we know is …"
"So far, what we have done is …
"What we are planning to do next is …"
"We will be able to tell you more when …"
"I'll be glad to talk with you again after we conduct …"
Source: Susan Santos, Ph.D., FOCUS GROUP, Medford, MA

Crisis Example and Response

Situation: You have a major event that is being hosted in your stadium the next day. As a set of temporary bleachers is being installed, they collapse and your assistant has been critically injured. A reporter is at the stadium asking what happened and why, and if the event is taking place.

Your first response must show concern for the worker and his family. "Our first concern is for Joe Smith and his family. Joe's safety and the safety of all of our workers is always our top priority. What we do know is that a temporary set of bleachers being installed here at King Stadium collapsed about an hour ago. Joe has been taken to Mercy Hospital."

So far, we have cordoned off the area to protect the public. A team of OSHA inspectors are on their way. We'll cooperate in any way to find out what happened. We have also called in a safety engineer to help. We will be able to tell you more about the accident after OSHA and our safety engineer has evaluated the situation.

Your response to whether or not the event will be held the next day depends upon your management teams' decision. If you are going ahead with it, you need to respond with how you are insuring fan safety: "We are going ahead with the concert tomorrow; however to insure the safety of our rock fans, we will be limiting the seating to the built-in seats in the stadium grandstands and offering on-the-floor seating in the end zone." Ifyou are not going ahead, "We will not be holding the concert tomorrow. Fan safety is paramount and until we know why the bleachers collapsed, we will not be holding any events."

We appreciate the help of the city's emergency response team. I'll be glad to talk with you again when we know more.

Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Lawrence, KS

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RUTGERS CORNER - Soil pH and Use of Lime

may also occur if the hopper is not properly agitated. Because of application problems, pelletized limestone is often applied to turfgrass. Pellitized lime is calcitic or dolomitic ground agricultural limestone that has been aggregated into larger particles to allow for easier spreading through conventional drop and spinner-type spreaders.

Note that the particle size of a liming material will strongly influence the rate in which the material neutralizes soil acidity. While all liming materials are relatively insoluble, materials with finer particle sizes (greater surface area) have an increased dissolution rate in soils, and therefore will have the effect of neutralizing acidity more quickly than a coarser grade lime source.

Burned lime and hydrated lime are other liming sources. These materials are not generally recommended for use in turf because of their caustic properties for applicators and their potential to cause burn on turfgrasses.

Calcium carbonate equivalent (CCE)

The lime requirement given in the soil test results by the Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory and other labs is based on the use of pure calcium carbonate, which is assigned a relative neutralizing value of 100%. Therefore, a liming material that has the same neutralizing potential as pure calcium carbonate is said to have a calcium carbonate equivalent (CCE) of 100%. If, however, the CCE of the liming material chosen does not have a CCE of 100%, the amount of material to be applied must be adjusted to raise the soil pH to the desired level.

For turfgrass sites, lime requirements made by the Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory are based on pounds of limestone (CCE=100%) required on a 1000 square foot basis necessary to raise soil pH to 6.3.

Based on the CCE of the material being used to lime a turfgrass area, the amount of material needed can be calculated in the following manner: Liming material needed = (Soil test recommendation/CCE of liming material) X 100

Tying it all together

An example of a soil test recommendation for the establishment of a sports field based on a determined soil pH of 5.35 is as follows:

The soil test indicates a strongly acidic soil, of which the pH is below the best range for the growth of most turfgrass. This soil should be treated with 95 pounds per 1000 square feet of limestone. Spread uniformly on the surface, then mix thoroughly to a 6 inch depth by shoveling or tilling.

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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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It can run next to your company's ad or be in a seperate area of the newsletter.

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Athletic Field GRADING

By Sean Connell

As an athletic field contractor, I constantly read bid documents for athletic fields. To be an athletic field contractor, this action is both unavoidable and mandatory. In a year, I may bid over 100 athletic construction projects. Many times I submit many more bids than what I could actually perform. Of course, competition, the reduced economy and weather are some varying factors of why or why I do not get every job I bid. I do get my fair share and I am happy and thankful for my success.

The interesting part of these bids involves the different methods that are specified regarding athletic field construction. Several components merge to make an athletic field: what grasses you use - cool season or warm season, soil amendments, topsoil depths, and fertilizers. The questions and options are endless. An owner, engineer or a sports field manager has to quantify exactly what he or she wants. The interruptions start from there. It seems that after all parties inject their opinion the result is a watered-down project because one person's options have been sacrificed for another. For example, a specific product may not have been used because an alternate was approved or maybe a different piece of equipment was accepted. Whatever the reason, the original idea has been altered.

It is perceived that athletic fields should be uniform and safe. Reasonable expectations of fields include 100% turf coverage, smooth grading contours (i.e. no 'pot holes') and, of course, good drainage. These conditions are very standard and obtainable. Of course how this is accomplished can vary as much as anything.

Currently, there are several standards in-place to construct athletic fields to achieve better playing conditions. Field construction starts with grading plans. For example, new fields specifically designed for football should have the high point running down the middle of the field (north and south) with slopes draining to both sidelines at 1.0 to 1.5 % (i.e. 1.0% of fall is equal to 1.0-ft of fall per 100 linear feet). This high point can be extended to the 20 yard line on both ends. A new slope (1.0%) begins at each 20 yard line and falls to the back of each end zone creating a triangle so both end zones have a consistent surface that drains in a sheet off the playing surface.

On baseball fields there are three standards for grading plans. 1) The whole field is sloped from home plate through center field on a 1.0 to 1.5% slope. 2) Incorporate the first method and add slopes to both foul lines of 0.75%. This will add additional sheet

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NORTHERN PERSPECTIVES

By Bernard Luongo

Whenever things get a little rough around the edges I always take a few steps back to reflect about the property that I work on. It is a vast entity of almost 200 hundred acres with the wildest critters you ever did see. Now we can talk about some of the wildlife that inhabits our property. On any given day our collection of feral cats are sitting motionless at woods edge, hunting up breakfast. It does not take long to see them prancing across the field with a mouse or a mole. They are very good at what they do. I guess they would have to be. Every spring one of them will have a litter in the open section of our pole barn. The noise mixes in well with the nesting birds that take up residence in the rafters. Future breakfast, I'm sure.

We have a large herd of deer and one very large, lucky buck that roam across Field #26 early in the morning. On several occasions a doe will run in front of our utility cart and startle us a bit. It is quite a site being that close to such a beautiful animal. Along the same path rabbits and squirrels are everywhere. In our retaining basins are ducks and geese (though, not so many of them anymore since we got a service in here. It really works). Snapping turtles and regular ones along with what seams at times to be a thousand frogs. But a trophy frog pond is the basin that drains our irrigated football field. Those frogs are as large as a fist. We have to keep our right of ways mowed next to our farmer neighbor's property and this is where our red fox family lives. When we cross paths we are both shocked. Thankfully they take off quickly.

I can easily say I have seen the largest groundhogs on this property than any that I have seen in my life. Occasionally they take up residence by the school and we have to call a service in to trap them. We also have a family of skunks that live under the goat's house by our Ag. Dept. They roam around this time of the year when we arrive and it is still dark. I'm glad we don't see them in the daylight, that's another problem all in itself. We have not seen any possums or raccoons, but I'm sure they are here.

A bear was sighted across the street in mid-September but he has not make it on to our property yet. Some type of falcon/hawks are always diving at small birds and knocking them out of the sky. That happens a lot in our back fields. Watching the large buzzards dry their wings in the morning sun is always an eerie site. I think our sunrises and sunsets rival those at the shore at times. One of my favorite sites is when the fog drifts across the fields in the morning. There is a clear layer just above the field, a layer of fog, then clear above. You almost expect a pirate ship to float across through the fog. Our cross country track runs through the woods and around a 3 acre pond that is home to small bass and catfish. A few years back we had a couple of beavers. They disappeared but left their handy work. There are also plenty of snakes back there.

There is so much more to all our properties then just athletic fields with all of the mowing, seeding, fertilizing, setting up goals and lining. Take the time out to see the other side of your property. It is alive and beautiful and you all make it that way. It takes the edge sometimes off a stressful day and it is always there just waiting to be noticed.

On a lighter note, in a previous article about running the lines, I extended a perimeter line about 50 feet beyond the playing surface. They did not run off the grid. They stayed true to form and ran the perimeter lines. Experiment failed. Maybe I should of used a circle. Until next time. Keep on turfing.

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

REGISTRATIONS FORMS ARE COMING!

Be sure to send yours back ASAP to continue to receive your membership benefits.

And be sure to make any Corrections and/or Additions to the information that will appear in the 2014 Membership Resource Directory.

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RUTGERS CORNER - Soil pH and Use of Lime

In the case of this example, if the liming material available for use has a CCE of 85%, then the actual amount of material needed to be applied per 1000 square feet based on the lime recommendation is: (95/85)X100 = 112 lbs liming material per 1000 square feet.

In the case of established sports fields and other turfgrass sites, lime requirements are often specified such that the amount of lime required is applied over multiple applications.

This article was adapted from the following publications and provide additional reading on the subject of soil pH and liming:

Carrow, R.N., D.V. Waddington, and P.E. Rieke. 2001. Turfgrass soil fertility and chemical problems. Sleeping Bear Press, Chelsea, MI.

Landschoot, P. 1994. Liming turfgrass areas. Penn State Col. Of Ag. Sci., Ag. Res. and Coop. Ext. Extension Circular 415.

Murphy, J. and J. Heckman. Managing soil pH for turfgrasses. Rutgers Coop. Ext. FS 635.

Plaster, E.J. 1992. Soil science and management. Delmar Publishers, Inc., Albany, NY.

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

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Athletic Field Grading

flow drainage in 2 directions (toward the foul lines) compared to sheet flowing the entire length of the field. 3) Using a cone shape. This is where you start from the pitchers mound and radiate from there sloping away from the mound with as much 2.0% slope. All bases are the same elevation in the infield and the slope continues through the outfield which is consistent with infield. This creates a cone shape and is becoming a more popular design. These methods are acceptable for all new fields.

Grading plans for existing fields and sites often specify slopes in a certain direction because of permanent objects such as buildings, parking lots or fences. Applications like this require balancing the soil in place. By shooting the grades on the field you can approximate the slope and grade of the field to maximize drainage and safety. Budgeting money for a field that has already been constructed but is not performing adequately is always an issue. Native soil fields are typically either worn-out from overuse or suffer from poor drainage, heavy textured soils, etc. Starting a field project with a solid plan and agronomic knowledge of local conditions is the start of a successful project. You have to marry the concept that all components going to into a project will complement each other. Strong technical specifications about procedures, products, materials and machine control laser grading will make your next project successful.

Sean Connell is Owner and Primary Project Manager, Georgia Golf Construction, Woodbine, NJ; and SFMANJ Treasurer

Special Recognition Award

presented to

SFMANJ Board Member and Newsletter Editor

BRAD PARK

by Debra Savard

This year, the Board of Directors honored one of their own at the 2013 Green Expo at the Trump Taj Mahalin in Atlantic City, NJ. The award was presented to Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Board of Directors Member and Newsletter Editor, Brad Park for his ten years of dedicated service to the SFMANJ and to all of its members.

Brad is also the Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University, He also has been our go-to guy for any sort of a question, whether it be "when did this happened?" or "how did we do this?" or "where was that?" … Brad always has the answers. He can sit, listen to a rowdy debate on a certain topic and then calmly say "well, this is what I think we should do". And we usually do. We appreciate his dry wit!

Brad is our Rutgers connection, full of wonderful advice, as many of you know who have called and had him come out to inspect your field. He even provides a location, the Rutgers Geiger Center, for the Board meetings on the first Wednesday of each month.

It would be hard to imagine the Board of Directors without him. He has been a source of inspiration and knowledge for all of us. Here's to 10 more! ***Thank you Brad!***

Debra Savard is the SFMANJ Executive Secretary

UPDATE

Update is published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. The Newsletter is edited by Brad Park., Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, at Rutgers University and SFMANJ Board Member. The design, layout, distribution, and advertising sales are currently managed by Debra Savard, SFMANJ executive secretary.

Past issues of Update, dating back as far as 2001 to the present can be accessed through the Michigan State University Libraries.

To access this archive, visit: http://archive.lib.msu. edu/tic/updat

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A Message from The President . . .

of Directors will be traveling to the Lone Star State to represent New Jersey at the annual Chapter Officers Training Session(COTS). The COTS meeting provides our chapter officers an opportunity to exchange ideas with chapter leaders of other Sports Field Managers Associations from around the country.

Sharing ideas on the local level is vital to the continued development of our New Jersey Chapter of Sports Field Managers. Be sure to keep the feedback flowing to your Board of Directors. We always attempt to tailor educational programs and utilize chapter resources in the most efficient means possible. Our goal is always to support you as a Field Manager in New Jersey and provide you with whatever educational assistance and resources you might need. We'll be looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you at upcoming events.

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

Remember, to access the "Members Only" area on our web site, enter your name as it appears in the directory, all lower case with no spaces and no prefixes, suffixes or middle initials.

The password is "sfmanj".

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.
- ✓ Check our New MEMBERS ONLY Section on the Home Page for Membership Directory and Minutes

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey
P.O. Box 205
Pennsville, NJ 08070

Watch the mail for your 2014 registration form

Or Current Occupant

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