

# New Jersey Turfgrass

... A History of Excellence



*Official Journal of the NJTA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the  
34<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Expo, December 8-10, 2009.*

## Dr. C. Reed Funk

Green Expo 2009 has been dedicated to Dr. C. Reed Funk – Professor Emeritus of the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology at Rutgers University.



Funk began his career at Rutgers as an instructor in 1956 before filling the position of turfgrass breeder in 1962. For the next thirty-four years Dr. Funk and his staff transformed Rutgers into one of the most productive turfgrass breeding programs in the world.

In 1976 Dr. Funk was the first recipient of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association's Recognition Award acknowledging his outstanding accomplishments in pursuing better turf. He was elected to the NJTA Hall-of-Fame in 1982 for his lifetime commitment to the turfgrass industry in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Turfgrass Association is proud to have supported Dr. Funk's research throughout our forty year partnership with Rutgers, and we all whole heartily thank him for a job well done!

Congratulations Dr. Funk.

*"The New Jersey Turfgrass Association has been a great help in the continued progress of our turfgrass breeding program."*

Dr. C. Reed Funk



## Welcome to the New Jersey Turfgrass Association's 40th Anniversary.

Our celebration kicks off with the New Jersey Green Expo on December 8-9, 2009 at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, N.J.

Joining us is Rutgers University – the guiding light in the New Jersey turfgrass industry since 1923. Rutgers has been the recipient of over \$3 million of NJTA grants for turfgrass research and together we have become the voice of a \$3.2 billion industry in New Jersey.

We can honor the vision of our founding members with a continuing successful partnership with Rutgers and the enthusiastic participation of our membership. Please join us as we continue this proud tradition.

Keith Kubik  
*President*

Matt Sweatlock  
*Vice President*

Shannon Sked  
*Treasurer*

Rich Krok  
*Secretary*

Dr. Karen Plumley  
*Past President*



## The Early Years

The origins of maintaining turf in New Jersey can be traced all the way back to the Colonial Era. Someone needed to maintain village greens, horse tracks, and church cemeteries and it usually fell into the hands of a local farmer and his livestock. It wasn't perfection but the farmer did the best job he could.

When the 1800's arrived, the games of baseball, football and golf were introduced to a burgeoning sporting society. These playing fields required more intricate turf maintenance, but these too were usually left in the hands of a farmer. By the end

of the century, change would soon appear on the turfgrass horizon.



*Herd of sheep tending to a park circa 1907.*

Turf specialists slowly replaced the farmer. Greenkeepers tended golf links and grounds keepers maintained ball fields and race tracks. These specialists became

dedicated to their new professions but all of their practical knowledge of maintaining turf came from the haphazard means of the trial and error method. A more scientific approach was needed and turf managers soon benefited from a new source of information – the United States Department of Agriculture.



## Government Steps In

In an effort to find answers to catastrophic problems plaguing golf turf, the United States Department of Agriculture established the Arlington Turf Gardens in 1916. Under the direction of Dr's C.V. Piper and R.A. Oakley, scientific methods of turf management were established. New Jersey soon followed in 1923 at the Agricultural Experiment Station and by 1929 the state legislature appropriated funds to establish turf plots at the agricultural experiment station at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. These funds supported turf research and a companion educational program for turf mangers. Unfortunately, the back-to-back events of the Great Depression and World War II severely curtailed the programs. Advancement in turfgrass science moved forward, albeit at a slower pace, and would have to wait until after the war clouds lifted.



*New Jersey turf plot circa 1930.*



## Post World War II

The growth of the suburbs after World War II would have a great effect on the turfgrass industry. Large scale housing developments sprung up across the state and the baby boom soon followed. These events necessitated the construction of parks and ball fields to satisfy the growing population's recreational needs. As home owners became more affluent, lawn management companies were needed to maintain their properties while they went off to play golf and tennis. Highway right-of-ways had to live up to the standards of existing in the "Garden State" while instant gratification fueled the sod and irrigation industries.



*Turf managers attending 10 week short course at Rutgers circa 1946.*



Turf management needed to become more sophisticated to keep up with this rapid growth and managers looked to Rutgers to satisfy their needs.

Rutgers responded by offering a ten week winter short course in 1946. The program's overwhelming success required the establishment of two separate sessions – Golf and Fine Turf and Lawns and Utility Turf. In 1952 the Turfgrass Advisory Committee, consisting of members from a variety of turf disciplines, was formed to advise the Rutgers administration on the turf industry and its growing needs. The committee's impact was immediate as the positions of Turfgrass Extension Specialist and Turfgrass Breeder were established. The business of turf in New Jersey was growing rapidly and in all directions.

## Birth of an Association



### New Jersey Turfgrass Association

The Turfgrass Advisory Committee disbanded in 1965 but its importance wasn't lost on those who directly benefitted from its existence. Discussions in 1969 soon centered on the formation of a new member driven association to serve the turfgrass professional.

A planning session followed by eight organizational meetings between Rutgers staff and turfgrass industry representatives led to the formation of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association. On November 18, 1970 the association held its inaugural meeting at the Forsgate Country Club. The NJTA attracted nearly two hundred charter members in its first year with dues set at \$10.



Forty years later the New Jersey Turfgrass Association exceeds seven hundred members and is nationally acclaimed as one of the premier leaders in the turfgrass industry. The association can look back with pride as it has consistently met the original mission to educate its members and to fund research at Rutgers.



*An informational table top at Field Day circa 1972.*

*"It is important that turf people advertise to the world that they are believers in their chosen field of endeavor, that they care about the world around us, that our environment does not have to be fouled."*

Gene Field  
Essex County Park Commission 1971





## EXPO

The first accomplishment of the NJTA was the formation of the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo. The combination trade show and educational conference premiered at the Cherry Hill Sheraton in 1974. Expo became a great success forcing relocation to the larger venues of Atlantic City – first to Resorts International then to its current home at the Trump Taj Mahal. The success can be attributed to the efforts of past Expo General Chairmen Dr. Henry Indyk and Robert Dickison CGCS and their committees. Now known as the New Jersey Green Expo its mission has evolved to provide a science based conference and trade show.



*Expo Chairman Bob Dickison opens Expo 2008.*



## Survey

The Economic Value of the New Jersey Turfgrass Industry report of 1983 is the single most important achievement of the NJTA. With encouragement from charter member Roy Bossolt, Dennis DeSanctis and his board spearheaded the very difficult project. The report has become a benchmark for the entire turfgrass industry.



*"Those that participate, gain the most."*

Dr. Ralph Engel  
Rutgers University - 1979



## Turfgrass Field Days



*Dr. Henry Indyk lectures at Field Day circa 1981.*

Turfgrass Field Days have been held at the New Jersey Experiment Station at Rutgers since 1928. The NJTA got involved at its inception in 1971. Attendees gather at the living and breathing classrooms of Hort Farm II and Adelpia Farm to observe the latest cultivars of the turf breeding program; view experiments on turf wear, pesticide application and height of cut; and listen to the latest trends in the industry from Rutgers researchers. Specialization in turf management has required the event to offer two separate days for turf managers – “Golf and Fine Turf” and “Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Turf”.



# Green World - Clippings

The original communication vehicle between Rutgers and NJTA members was the technical bulletin Green World. Edited by Gene Field and later Dr. Ralph Engel, Green World published the results of turfgrass research being conducted at Rutgers.

In 1984 Clippings was mailed to members providing a more informational newsletter including a president’s message, calendar of events, and member recognition articles. Today, NJTA members receive the two newsletters in a combined form appropriately titled Clippings & Green World.



1971 - Vol. No. 1



1984 - Vol. No. 1



2008 - Vol. No. 71

*“I enjoy reading the issues of Green World. It has been one of the few publications that offer raw scientific data on research findings to the turfgrass profession.”*

Stephen Cadenelli CGCS



## NJTA Foundation

On September 16, 1991 a meeting was held to organize the New Jersey Turfgrass Association Foundation – the non-profit arm of the NJTA. The Foundation committee included Bob Dickison, Dr. Rich Hurley, Bob Dobson, Joe Dodgson, Joe DeSantis, Dr. Bruce Clarke, Jack Poksay and Dennis DeSanctis. The committee elected officers, set policy guidelines, and arranged funding for the startup of the Foundation.

The Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic was inaugurated in 1996 as the primary fundraiser for the Foundation. The Foundation has provided over \$2 million in scholarships for turf students, grants to turfgrass researchers, and financial support to the research and physical plant of the school of Environmental and Biological Science at Rutgers.



*NJTA Founding President Leo Cleary dedicates the original Ryder Lane research facility.*

*"Turf – The most beautiful and healthiest crop in the state."*

Leo Cleary  
NJTA President 1971

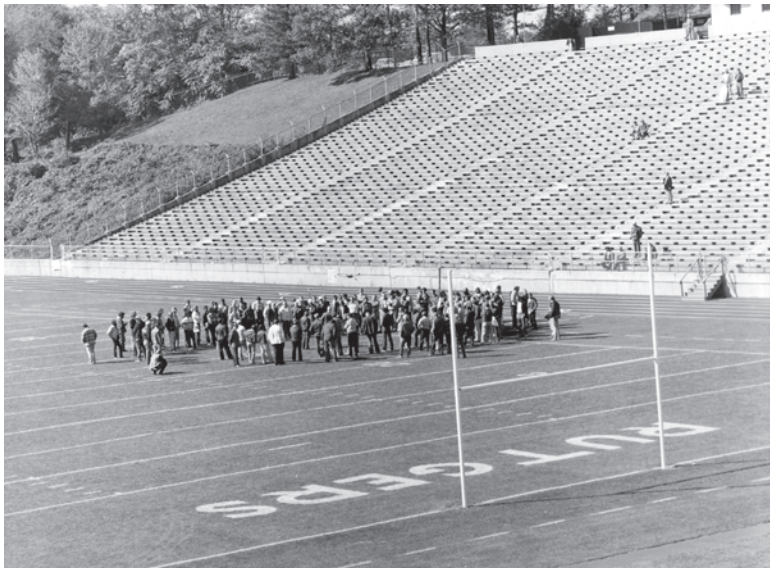


## Education

A hallmark of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association is the education of its members. With Rutgers as our partner, it is the best turfgrass education in the industry.



*Classroom education with Dr. Ralph Engel.*



*Hands-on education at Field Day.*

# NJTA Past Presidents

Leo Cleary	1970-1971	Joseph DeSantis	1985-1986
Don Marshall	1972	Jack Poksay	1987-1988
Gene Field	1973	William Waddington	1989
Roy Bossolt	1974	Robert Dickison	1990
Peter Loft	1975	Dr. Richard Hurley	1991-1992
Bert Jones	1976	Robert Dobson	1993-1994
Paul Boizelle	1977	Louis Makrancy	1995-1996
Chuck Wilson	1978	Samuel Leon	1997
Jack WittPenn	1979	John Buechner	1998-1999
Fred Eden	1980	Steven P. Chirip	2000-2002
Paul DesChamps	1981	Marie Pompei	2003-2004
Edgar Krause	1982	Chris Carson	2005-2007
Dennis DeSanctis	1983	Dr. Karen Plumley	2008-2009
David McGhee	1984		



*2000 NJTA President Steve Chirip ushers in the new millennium.*

# Hall of Fame Award

Presented annually to a person in recognition of a continuing lifetime commitment of dedication, service and achievements contributing to the advancement of the turfgrass industry of New Jersey.



*Dr. Henry Indyk receives the Hall of Fame Award from President Dave McGhee.*

## Past Recipients

James Smith, Sr.	1974	Edmund Milewski	1992
Dr. Howard B. Sprague	1975	Robert Dickison, CGCS	1993
Leo Cleary	1976	Jack Poksay	1994
John Ormond	1977	Dr. Bruce B. Clarke	1995
Wiley Miner	1978	Dennis DeSanctis	1996
Eberhard Steiniger	1979	Joseph DeSantis	1997
Roy Bossolt	1980	Mary Lou DesChamps	1998
Peter Loft	1981	Dr. Richard Hurley	1999
Dr. C. Reed Funk	1982	Edward V. "Ned" Lipman, Jr.	2000
Dr. Ralph E. Engel	1983	Joseph Dodgson	2001
Paul DesChamps	1984	Joseph Bianco	2002
Dr. Henry W. Indyk	1985	Jim Snow	2003
Sherwood Moore	1986	Lou Makrancy	2004
Jack Wittpenn	1987	Ken Kubik	2005
David McGhee	1988	John P. Morrissey	2006
Dr. Louis Vasvary	1989	Marie Pompei	2007
Samuel Leon	1990	Dr. James A. Murphy	2008
Paul Sartoretto	1991	Dr. William Meyer	2009



# Environmental Steward Award

Presented by the New Jersey Turfgrass Association to a person or organization in recognition of a continuing commitment to environmental preservation and conservation.

## Past Recipients

<b>William Hughes</b> <i>United States Congress</i>	1993	Professional Lawn Care Association of America	2001
<b>Robert C. Shinn Jr.</b> <i>Commissioner, N.J.D.E.P.</i>	1994	Mickey Stachowski, Glenn Miller, Pete Haran	2003
<b>John O. Bennett</b> <i>New Jersey State Senate</i>	1995	OceanGro Ocean County Utility Authority	2004
<b>Judy Bell</b> <i>President, United States Golf Assn</i>	1996	Durand Park Freehold Township	2005
<b>John Stossell</b> <i>ABC News</i>	1997	Tri-State Research Foundation	2006
<b>Ron Dodson</b> <i>Audobon International</i>	1998	Hyatt Hills Golf Complex	2007
<b>The Alliance for Environmental Concerns</b>	1999	Dr. Stacy Bonos <i>Rutgers University</i>	2009
<b>Blue Heron Pines Golf Club</b>	2000		

# Member of the Year Award

Presented by the New Jersey Turfgrass Association in recognition of unsurpassed dedication and commitment to NJTA. This award was established in 2005.

## Past Recipients

<b>Steve Chirip</b> <i>Grass Roots, Inc.</i>	2005	<b>Michael Oleykowski</b> <i>Fisher and Son</i>	2008
<b>Barbara Vydro</b> <i>Bloomfield Cemetery</i>	2006	<b>Doug Vogel</b> <i>Packanack Golf Club</i>	2009
<b>Shaun Barry</b> <i>Bayer Environmental Science</i>	2007		

# Recognition Award



Presented by the New Jersey Turfgrass Association in recognition of outstanding effort and accomplishment in pursuit of better turf, thereby contributing to the beautification of facilities, a greener world and a more attractive environment.

*Dr. Bruce Clarke was recognized in 1985 for his outstanding efforts in the turfgrass world.*



*The beautiful McCracken Funeral home 1978 Recognition Award honoree.*

## Past Recipients

<b>Dr. C. Reed Funk</b> <i>Cook College, Rutgers University</i>	1976	<b>Joseph Flaherty, CGCS</b> <i>Baltusrol Golf Club</i>	1993
<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson</b> <i>New Brunswick, NJ</i>	1977	<b>NJSports &amp; Exhibition Authority</b> <i>World Cup of Soccer, Giants Stadium</i>	1994
<b>McCracken Funeral Home</b> <i>Union, NJ</i>	1978	<b>Rutgers Univ. Stadium Project</b> <i>New Brunswick, NJ</i>	1995
<b>Bell Laboratories</b> <i>New Jersey Facilities</i>	1979	<b>Dr. James Murphy</b> <i>Cook College, Rutgers University</i>	1996
<b>Mercer County College</b> <i>Hamilton Township, NJ</i>	1980	<b>Upper Montclair Country Club</b> <i>Clifton, NJ</i>	1997
<b>Prudential Insurance</b> <i>Princeton Forrestal Center</i>	1981	<b>Lofts Seed/ABT</b> <i>Winston-Salem, NC</i>	1998
<b>Hoffman-LaRoche</b> <i>Clifton, NJ</i>	1982	<b>Fiddlers Elbow Country Club</b> <i>Far Hills, NJ</i>	1999
<b>Union Township High School</b> <i>Union Township, NJ</i>	1983	<b>Dr. Bruce Carlton</b> <i>Executive Dean, Cook College</i>	2000
<b>Mountain Ridge Country Club</b> <i>West Caldwell, NJ</i>	1984	<b>Monmouth University</b> <i>West Long Branch, NJ</i>	2001
<b>Dr. Bruce Clarke</b> <i>Cook College, Rutgers University</i>	1985	<b>Eleanora Murfitt Hermann</b> <i>Clinton Township Parks and Rec.</i>	2002
<b>William Dickson</b> <i>Cook College, Rutgers University</i>	1985	<b>Lacey Twp. Dept. of Public Works</b> <i>Lacey Township</i>	2003
<b>Hominy Hill Golf Course</b> <i>Monmouth County Park System</i>	1986	<b>Beatrice Devine</b> <i>New Jersey Turfgrass Association</i>	2004
<b>Morris County Park System</b> <i>Morris County, NJ</i>	1987	<b>Dr. Bill Meyer</b> <i>Cook College, Rutgers University</i>	2005
<b>Stuart L. Reed, Sr.</b> <i>Reed Sod Farms</i>	1988	<b>Somerset Cty Park Commission</b> <i>Somerset, NJ</i>	2006
<b>Carl Bosenberg</b> <i>H. F. Bosenberg &amp; Son</i>	1989	<b>Dr. James Murphy and Monmouth Park Racetrack</b>	2007
<b>Frank J. Geijda</b> <i>Plainfield, NJ, Board of Education</i>	1990	<b>Dr. Bingru Huang</b> <i>Rutgers University</i>	2008
<b>Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS</b> <i>Metedeconk National Golf Club</i>	1991	<b>Future Farmers of America</b> <i>Monmouth County Chapter</i>	2009
<b>Ray Cipperly</b> <i>Middlesex County Vo-Tech H.S.</i>	1992	<b>Dick Caton</b> <i>New Jersey Turfgrass Association</i>	2009



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## 40th Anniversary of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association / Rutgers University Partnership

Bruce B. Clarke, Director  
Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science

Forty years ago the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) was formed with the goal of “promoting the Turfgrass Industry and enhancing the environment through education, professionalism, leadership and partnership with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.” So as you can see, the unique partnership that exists between the NJTA and Rutgers University was forged from the very beginning of the Association. Over the years, this partnership has grown and evolved into what is viewed by many as a model of how Industry and Academia can work together to solve major problems and address important issues affecting turf managers today.

The NJTA has always been a strong supporter of the turf research, teaching and outreach programs at Rutgers University. Since 1969, they have provided over \$3 million to fund turf research, new faculty and staff positions, student scholarships, educational programs, equipment, supplies and buildings at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS; formerly Cook College). In 1984, the Association helped construct a new turfgrass science building at Hort Farm II. This structure contained a wet laboratory, seed room, pesticide storage and a small conference room, and served as a focal point for turf activities and industry meetings in the State. The NJTA was also instrumental in helping to conduct and publish the first Turfgrass Economic Survey in 1985, as well as the most recent Survey in 2001, which documented the tremendous economic importance (\$3.2 Billion/yr) of the turfgrass industry in New Jersey.

When the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science was formed in 1991 and its programs expanded, the NJTA responded with funds to construct the C. Reed Funk Equipment Storage Building and, in the late 1990s, they collaborated with other turf organizations from throughout the tri-state area to build the Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Building – a \$1 Million complex that houses the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory, a classroom, computer lab, kitchen, library and larger conference room used by many turfgrass associations from throughout the State. However, the NJTA’s assistance to the Rutgers Turf Program has always gone far beyond financial support.

The Association has provided countless hours of volunteer support at field days, educational conferences such as EXPO, workshops, seminars and short courses. Its members have served on advisory boards, search committees at the College and task forces providing guidance and advice on issues of importance to the Green Industry and the University. The NJTA was closely involved in the development of the first Turfgrass Strategic/Master Plan at the College in 1985, which set the stage for the tremendous growth of the Rutgers Turf Program in the 1990s. This resulted in the hiring of Drs. Jim Murphy, Jim White, Bill Meyer, Steve Hart, Albrecht Koppenhöfer, Bingru Huang, Stacy Bonos and most recently Dr. Ning Zhang.

The tremendous growth of the Rutgers Turfgrass Program would not have been possible without the support of the NJTA and its members. As we move forward in this new century, the input and assistance of the Association will help the Turfgrass Center and its faculty expand their efforts to help turf managers throughout the US and abroad.

The Turfgrass Center, the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences truly appreciates the unique partnership that it has with the NJTA and looks forward to working with the Association in the future. Congratulations to the NJTA on its 40th Anniversary and best wishes for continued success and prosperity.



# New Jersey Turfgrass Association

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