

new jersey turfgrass association



clippings &

Green
World



SUMMER 2004 | VOL. 55

9th *Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic*

WOW!
**Nuf
Said!**

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New Jersey Turfgrass Association
PO Box 340
Milltown NJ 08850-0340
Phone: 732-821-7134, 856-853-5973
Fax: 732-821-8157
www.njturfgrass.org

President's Message

By Marie Pompei, NJTA President



Marie Pompei
NJTA President

practices. Look for your invite or visit our website at www.njturfgrass.org for more information.

I want to personally thank all who participated in the Golf Classic held this past May. It was extremely successful due to increased attendance, an outstanding facility and tightly tuned committee chaired by Steve Chirip and Shaun Barry. The east and west courses at Blue Heron Pines were in pristine shape, thanks to golf course superintendent Clark Weld, and the service staff at the club pampered attendees with abundantly great food and drink. **Special thanks go to all of our sponsors who continue to support this event with their generous contributions and to those who participated in our Silent Auction.** All proceeds benefit the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation which in turn directly funds special Rutgers research, scholarship and educational projects. Believe it or not, our 10th anniversary Golf Classic will be held in May 2005.

Dr. Bruce Clarke, Director of the Center for Turfgrass Science recently reported to the NJTA Board of Directors that the **New Jersey Economic Survey is being finalized and details will hopefully be available in time for Turfgrass Expo in December.** Which reminds me to bring you up to date on the plans for an **exciting new format for NJTA's premier conference to be held at Atlantic City's Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort, December 6-9.** Exhibitor registration forms are in the mail and the program brochures are at the printer. The food and fun of Mardi Gras will be the theme of this year's trade show, (beads included!) An outstanding educational program has also been created for the conference. Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!

My second term as your NJTA President is quickly coming to a close and I'd like to remind you that we also **will have four vacancies on the board of directors in December. Please contact our Vice President and Nominating Chair, Chris Carson** if you are interested in being part of a dynamic group of volunteers working together for a better turfgrass industry.

Best wishes for a terrific summer!
Marie Pompei

Rutgers Ecologists To Design Park For Beijing Olympics

By Michele Hujber • Reprinted From Rutgers Focus,
A Publication For University Faculty & Staff,
Department of University Relations, May 10, 2004

A team of ecologists at Rutgers is designing a Beijing, China, park three times the size of Manhattan's Central Park for the 2008 Summer Olympics. The team, in collaboration with botanists from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, won an international competition for its design.

Working with Sasaki Associates, a landscape architecture and planning company in Boston, the group formulated the ecological basis of the 2,200-acre park, including lake, stream, meadow and woodland habitats. The team members from Rutgers and the botanic garden are part of a collaboration known as the Center for Urban Restoration Ecology, or CURE.

"The complex ecological design aims to maximize biodiversity on this site, which is surrounded by the huge city," said Steven Handel, director of CURE and a professor in the department of ecology, evolution and natural resources at Cook College. He said that solving issues of reintroduction of native plants and animals, invasive species control, water management and plant-animal interactions are critical for long-term success.

Handel said that the park will become a central feature of Beijing's natural environment, adding ecological services and biodiversity to the capital of the world's most populous country. "It will be a major tourist attraction, exhibiting the natural history of Beijing, and will complement the many cultural sites of the ancient city," he said.

Steven Clemants of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and co-director of CURE, said, "This is a great opportunity not only to create a park, but also to better understand what the native biodiversity of the region is and to reintroduce that native biodiversity to the citizens of Beijing."

CURE was invited to contribute to the ecological and botanical components of the competition entry by Sasaki Associates, which coordinated the proposal. In addition, the Tsinghua University Urban Planning and Design Institute in Beijing provided design and administrative help.

The ecologists, botanists and landscape designers will work together in groups that address plant, animal and landscape issues. The team draws upon the expertise of faculty from a broad assortment of disciplines at Rutgers, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Michigan State University, Beijing University and Tsinghua University. Rutgers participants include CURE members Handel; Joanna Burger, who holds joint appointments in the departments of cell biology and neuroscience and ecology, evolution and natural resources; and Jean Marie Hartman of the department of landscape architecture.

Additional Rutgers team members include: Joan Ehrenfeld and Jason Grabosky of the department of ecology, evolution and natural resources; Michael Gochfeld of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute; William Meyer and Jim Murphy of the department of plant biology and pathology; Christopher Obropta of the department of environmental sciences; and Mikael Forup, a post-doctoral student at CURE. ■

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We got plenty of water this spring, but another drought may be just “around the corner”!

Proposed New Jersey Legislation Would Make Odd Even Watering Permanent

Reprinted From IANJ Newsletter, June 2004

If legislation in New Jersey is approved, “odd-even” lawn watering could become an annual event for residential and commercial landscapes, golf courses and athletic fields across the state. The same bill was proposed last year, but did not make it past the New Jersey Assembly due to opposition from homeowners under assembly bill 2202. Violators of the odd-even lawn watering would be subject to a penalty of \$500 to \$1000.

The measure includes exemptions for irrigation following a pesticide or fertilizer application, for revegetation, to establish newly laid seed or sod during normal business hours and irrigation testing. The bill would also require a stipulation that an automatic rain sensor would be installed anytime property is sold with an automatic irrigation system installed before September 8, 2000. ■

Congratulations Stacy! One Of Our Own Gets The Job!



Dr. Stacy A. Bonos

Dr. Stacy A. Bonos joined the faculty at Rutgers as tenure-track Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Breeding and Genetics in the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology in 2004. She is focusing her research on the development of improved pest resistant and stress tolerant turfgrasses and native grass species. Her primary emphasis is on classical genetic studies to identify the number of genes and the type of gene action involved in important

agronomic traits and the utilization of molecular marker techniques to identify markers linked to those important traits. Dr. Bonos received the Musser International Award of Excellence in 2001. She has been awarded grant funding from both federal and private agencies including: USDA-NRI New Investigator Award in 2004, United States Golf Association in 2003, and the OJ Noer Foundation in 2003. ■

Green Industry Monitors Water Regulations

Reprinted From New Jersey State Golf, June 2004

At a time when the focus in Trenton appears to be on balancing and pursuing comprehensive ethics reform in government, members of the Green Industry may be lulled into a false sense of security. While current headlines may not be portraying issues of prominent relevance to the industry, the legislative process is always at work developing initiatives that could have a potential impact on the way members of the Green Industry conduct business.

The 2004-2005 Legislative session has already produced several bills that would have an impact on the industry. The Senate Environment Committee recently released a bill which would impose a four-percent tax on every thousand gallons of water consumed. While the bill (S-192; Smith, D-17) provides for exemptions, the concept represents a dangerous precedence for an industry whose water usage remains a vital component of its business practices.

Furthermore, both the Senate Environment Committee and the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee have committed proceedings to discussion on the preservation of the natural resources contained within New Jersey's Highlands Region.

The pending proceedings have already produced concepts dealing with state takeover of lands vital to water resource management through eminent domain (S-196; Smith, D-17) and the re-institution of an environmental prosecutor's office within state government (S-989; Codey, D-27). Again, while these bills may not have a direct impact on the Green Industry, they set the foundation for future action to regulate and control the business practices of companies in the Highlands Region.

However, not all of the recent legislative initiatives of relevance represent a potential threat to the industry. At the request of industry representatives, legislation has been introduced in both houses (S-937; Ciesla, R-10/A-2196; Cryan, D-20) that would expand the membership of the State Water Supply Advisory Council to include representatives from the Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Nursery and Landscape Association and/or the Irrigation Association.

continued on page 6

Through this legislation, key members of the green industry will be assured representation on the state body that advises the administration on water resource management. Additional legislation has been introduced (A-2202; Cryan, D-20) that would seek to implement certain best management practices, such as odd/even watering for residential lawns, to assist in water conservation efforts.

Needless to say, it is vital that members of the Green Industry remain alert to potential legislation that may affect their interests but may not receive high-profile media attention.

A consequence of any legislative initiative is regulatory action. When Governor McGreevey took office in January, 2002, he was faced with one of the worst droughts in decades. As spring rolled around and water use increased, the governor declared a statewide drought emergency in an effort to conserve water when it is used the most, during the spring and summer months.

Looking back today, one can point to the problems encountered during the droughts. Once the government declared the drought emergency, the job of conserving our water supplies rested with Commissioner Brad Campbell and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). No fewer than eleven Administrative Orders were issued during the drought mandating various watering restrictions. Enforcement was weak and no one really knew for sure what they could or could not water; it was a guessing game. Who really knows whether that strategy resulted in real water savings for New Jersey?

One of the lessons learned during that drought was that many of the watering restrictions were based on politics and perception and not reality. When politics drive restrictions, and not effective water supply management strategies, it sets a bad precedent. Eventually the rains returned and the

emergency was lifted. However, the damage was done to our businesses.

So what happens next time? Based on the last two droughts (1999 and 2002), what is clear is that when the rains return, the interest on all fronts wanes and everyone moves on to the next issue. It is precisely during these times of plenty that we should be preparing ourselves for the next drought. It is estimated that New Jersey faces a drought every five years.

In order to prepare ourselves, the Green Industry has been gaining an understanding of how New Jersey tracks its water supply and its use and more importantly how water restrictions are determined. We are now better prepared to argue the merits of effective, meaningful water supply restrictions and management techniques.

Since the drought of 1999, the Alliance for Water Conservation, made up of various Green Industry businesses, has been doing exactly that, getting involved and getting "behind the scenes" of how NJDEP establishes water restrictions. Countless meetings and discussions have been held with NJDEP management and staff on how best to manage our water resources. The AWC has successfully raised an awareness within NJDEP that water restrictions placed on the homeowner are restrictions on our businesses as well. The goal of any regulatory initiative or effort should be simple; maxi-

mize the conservation of our water supplies while minimizing the economic impact to any one group affected by the restrictions.

A key regulatory initiative, which is currently underway and expected to last three more years is the revision to the New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Master Plan.

This plan was last revised in 1996. The purpose of the plan is to serve as guidance and a resource whenever water supply strategies and concerns are discussed. Commissioner Campbell has emphasized the need to include a section in the Plan on drought management techniques and restrictions.

The NJDEP is working with members of Water Supply Advisor Council and the NJ Water Supply Authority in revising the Plan. The AWC has been and will continue to be actively involved in this effort until our concerns are addressed and our voices are heard. It is through this coordinated legislation/regulatory advocacy process that we hope to carve out acceptable, fair drought-management practices which do not burden our industry alone and spread the responsibility of conserving water across all sectors.

For sake of continuity and consistency, any restrictions agreed upon must be made into law or regulation. Drought emergency protocols that are delineated into law or regulation need to have predictable, effective and fair restrictions which address all water use and not just outdoor use.

We should be ever vigilant and aware of any activity which ultimately affects our businesses. It is equally important to participate legislatively, through fundraising events and grassroots efforts and from a regulatory perspective by participating in any stakeholder meetings.

For more information or copies of the referenced pieces of legislation, contact Randy Minniear or Tony Russo of State Street Associates at 609-392-0559. ■

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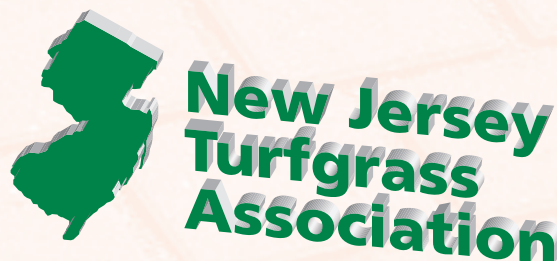
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State Pest Management Group Joins Gov. McGreevey & DEP For Announcement Of Proposed Rules For School Pest Management Law

Reprinted From New Jersey Pest Management Association Pest-O-Gram, Courtesy of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Website, Adopted December 12, 2002

Summary of Key Requirements of The School IPM Act

1. Requires the development of a model School IPM policy by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in cooperation with the New Jersey School Boards Association, the Commissioner of Education, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension.
2. Requires the superintendent of each public school district for each school in the district, the board of trustees of a charter school, and the principal or chief administrator of a private school to adopt and implement a school IPM policy for the school property consistent with a school IPM policy consistent with the model policy.

The adoption and implementation of a model policy by public, charter, and private schools (K through 12) must occur by June 12, 2004.

“Charter school” is a public school operated under a charter granted by the Commissioner of Education, that is independent of the district board of education and that is managed by a board of trustees.”

“Private school” means a school, under college grade, which does not derive its support entirely or in part from public funds.

“Public school” means a school, under college grade, which derives its support entirely or in part from public funds.

3. Requires the appointment of an IPM Coordinator to carry out the model policy adopted by each local school board, charter school, and private school.
4. Requires keeping records of pesticide applications used on school property at each school or for each school in the school district for three years after the application, and for five years after the applications of a pesticide designed to control termites.
5. Requires annual notification of the school’s IPM policy to all staff and parents or guardians of each student enrolled at the school to include:

- the policy,

- a list of any pesticide that is in use or has been used within the last 12 months on school property,
- information on school IPM policy meetings scheduled, and
- contact information for the IPM Coordinator of the school or school district.

See law above for more notification specifics. This information is also to be provided to new school staff members and students.

6. Requires prior notification of all pesticide use (all non-low impact pesticides) (other than low impact pesticides) to all staff and parents or guardians of each student enrolled at the school, at least 72 hours before the use of pesticides on school property. Also requires posting of this information at least 72 hours prior to the application. These requirements apply at any time of the year children may be present.

Content of Notification and Signs:

- common name of pesticide,

continued on page 10



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Have A Little Extra Time This Summer? Visit The NJ Museum Of Agriculture!

The New Jersey Museum of Agriculture offers an informative look at agriculture through the years. The Professional Landscape Alliance, in cooperation with members of the NJLCA is currently sponsoring the exhibit, "Evolution of the Green Industry". The New Jersey Museum of Agriculture is located in the Bristol-Meyers Squibb Exhibit Hall on the Cook College Campus at 103 College Farm Road. For more information on the Museum and directions log on to www.agriculturemuseum.org. ■

Did You Know?

A survey of sod farms yielded the following results for hot topics from those in the field:

- Water Issues
- Labor
- New Seed Varieties
- Prices (Turfgrass Sod)
- Top End Management
- Over Production of Sod
- Pesticides
- New Construction Impact
- Best Ways to Promote the Turfgrass Industry
- Benefits of Turf
- Environmental Impacts
- Economic Benefits of Turf ■

Proposed Rules For School Pest Management Law - continued from page 9

- EPA registration number,
- EPA statement on sensitive persons (see Act above for wording)
- location description, date, and time of application (one date for indoor application; three dates for outdoor applications in case of cancellation),
- potential adverse effects of product,
- reasons for the application,
- contact information for the IPM Coordinator of the school or school district, and
- further label information or precautions for public safety.

Method of Notification:

- written note; students take home
- written note is mailed at least one week prior,
- phone call,
- direct contact, or
- email.

Signs:

- placement prominent in/adjacent and at entrance to treatment area (school building or school grounds entrances, for example),
- time posted: from 72 hours prior to 72 hours after treatment,
- size: at least 8.5" by 11".

6. Emergency application of a non-low impact pesticides may only be made when the health or safety of a student or staff member is threatened.

Requirements:

- Post-application notice (content and method of notification as described above in 5 for non low impact pesticide use) to parent or guardians of students and staff must be made within the earlier of either 24 hours or the next school day. The reason for the emergency and measures on how this will be avoided in the future may be included.
- Posting of signs (as described above for non low impact pesticide use) must be made from the time of application until 72 hours after treatment.

7. Timing of Pesticide Applications:

- Applications of non low impact pesticides shouldn't be made when students are present on school property unless there is a separate ventilation system for the treated and the untreated areas, and smoke or fire doors separating the areas. Further, applications of non low impact pesticides on school property must be made in advance of when students will be present for instruction or extra-curriculars, allowing for any label-prescribed entry restrictions; if there is no re-entry interval listed on the label, a minimum of 7 hours must be allowed prior to student re-entry on school property.
- If there is application of a low impact pesticide on school property, it must be made so that adequate settling or drying occurs in advance of when students will be present for instruction or extra-curricular. ■

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On The Horizon Looking To Get More Involved In NJTA?

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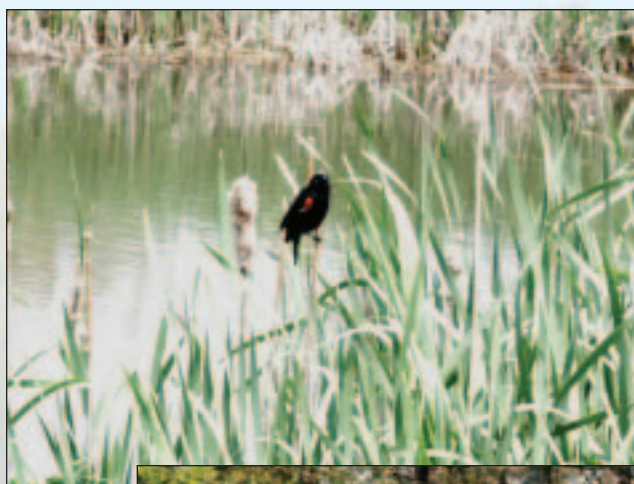
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“Father Turf” – Dr. Indyk – pitching in and helping out. When comes such another? Thanks Henry! • Kevin Driscoll (*third from left*) and his guys enjoying the day • A great day at these truly outstanding facilities • Marge Caton (*left*) and Bea Devine (*right*) ready to roll at the registration area • Hal Bozarth (*left*), Administrator for State Street Associates – The Green Industry’s lobbying voice in Trenton – practices his putting • Look Out! Dr. Clarke, Director of the Center for Turfgrass Science, ready to tee off • The attractive homes by the golf courses do make a great place to live for the avid golfer – out the door and onto the golf course as they say!

Center Photo:

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***We MUST be vigilant! The extremists
are hard at work and we must be
prepared to fight back!***

Petition To Ban Lawn Care Pesticides

By Tom Delaney • Reprinted From ProSource, May-June 2004

Petition To Ban Lawn Care Pesticides In Connecticut

The Ecological Health Organization, Inc. and the Grassroots Coalition, both of Connecticut, have started a petition to ban the use of lawn care pesticides in Connecticut. Over the course of the year, they have a goal to collect 5,000 signatures to present to their legislators. A similar petition in Quebec started a movement that resulted in the first Province-wide legislation to ban lawn pesticides in Canada. Several municipalities in Canada now have bylaws restricting or banning the use of pesticides on public and private properties.

Are you prepared to answer questions about the registration, testing, and regulation that you, your company, and the products you use must meet? We are all familiar with the benefits of turf, but what about the questions of eliminating the use of pesticides on home lawns because of the risks? To address these questions, PLCAA has prepared the following information with the approval of the PLCAA Board.

Principle 15 of the 1992 Rio Declaration States: "In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

Many anti-pesticide groups wish to discontinue the use of pesticides on residential properties. They are using the precautionary principle in an attempt to establish their position that current federal and state laws and regulations are inadequate. They are making the case and have convinced some state legislators and county officials that residential pesticide use takes place only for cosmetic purposes and should, therefore, be banned.

Precaution As Part of Science-Based Approach

The United States has never adopted the so-called "Precautionary Principle" as a formal policy, and has no single agreed-upon formulation or "principle" of precaution to be followed in regulation.

EPA states the foundation of U.S. health and environmental regulations is made up of; 1) the health or environmental

continued on page 15



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standard that Congress mandates, and 2) a process based on sound science that determines the level of protection that meets the standard.

The standard, mandated by the law, is central to our risk management process because regulators must meet it. In the case of pesticide law, for virtually all of the food-use pesticides, the standard is solely health-oriented and based on "reasonable certainty of no harm." Said another way, the EPA standard requires a "reasonable certainty" that pesticide residues in the diet will cause no harm to human health – a standard that reflects a robust approach or precaution. For non-food use pesticides, the goal is the "risk/benefit balancing" standard of "no unreasonable adverse effects."

EPA further states because of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), risk assessments now are able to deal with hazards from pesticides in a much more comprehensive and targeted way, one that protects public health – including sensitive individuals – and that is based on sound science. They have taken a precautionary approach in dealing with pesticide risk. Yet that approach has been taken in the context of an entire process that has set a goal – or standard – based on sound science and framed by safeguards, such as transparency, public participation, and judicial review.

Following is additional information you can use to help educate those who are unaware of our industry.

How Does A Lawn & Landscape Professional Decide When To Apply A Pesticide?

Pest problems on the landscape are often relatively predictable or can be diagnosed as part of an ongoing monitoring program. Once the problem has been identified, the lawn or landscape professional considers the available options. These could include cultural practices (suggesting the customer change irrigation or mowing practices) or the use of biological controls or chemical products. Once the problem is diagnosed and the right treatment has been selected, the lawn or landscape professional can decide the ideal time to treat the problem in the most effective and environmentally sound manner available. It also only makes good sense to limit applications of costly products. This approach is often called "integrated pest management."

What Kinds Of Products Are Used?

Most people are surprised to learn the majority of the pesticide products used by lawn or landscape professionals are identical or closely related to those used by homeowners.

What Training & Education Do Lawn Or Landscape Professional Applicators Have?

The public is often surprised to learn many lawn or landscape professionals have college degrees in agronomy, horticulture or a related field. Because it is important to keep up to date with new information and technologies, the majority of these professionals also attend continuing education programs offered by universities and associations such as PLCAA.

Lawn or landscape professionals are widely considered to be among the best educated and most judicious users of pesticide products. The vast majority of lawn or landscape professionals is using integrated pest management practices to ensure both the turf and the environment stay healthy.

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Applicators are also trained and licensed by their states. This helps insure a high degree of compliance and concern about safe and proper usage of chemical tools.

Remember, you must make sure all of your employees, including office personnel, consistently answer questions properly. Because you are in the business of selling services, all information constitutes advertising. Remember your ethics pledge and the PLCAA advertising guidelines, which can be found in your membership directory. If you would like to have a copy of these guidelines mailed to you, please call (800) 458-3466.

Legislation

States are attempting to reverse the pesticide preemption that already exists in several states. **New York** has had legislation introduced several years in a row attempting to give local governments power to pass local ordinances on pesticides and lawn care. Recently, **Vermont** had a hearing on a similar bill. Fortunately, PLCAA members Dan and Esther Swett testified against the proposed bill. With PLCAA assistance, the Swetts gave reasons why local governments should not be allowed to get involved in pesticide legislation. They were later assured the bill was not going anywhere. In **Connecticut**, PLCAA, along with Dick Tice of the Environmental Industry Council, utilized the PLCAA legislative web site to allow Connecticut applicators to send letters to members of the Environmental Committee requesting a stop to **Senate Bill 220** – an act concerning pesticides at schools and daycare facilities. **SB 220** is aimed at the notion that the “cosmetic” use of lawn care pesticides answers only to the vanity of the property owner where these products are applied and should not be used on public facilities.

Massachusetts health departments are using anti-lawn care literature in mailings to residents. With funds from Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) and PLCAA, the Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals (MALCAP) recently created a benefits postcard to distribute to more than 50,000 residents in “hot” communities in the state. An additional 100,000 postcards will

be printed and handed out to consumers through their MALCAP membership. MALCAP is an allied regional association member of PLCAA.

In **Illinois**, there was a proposal by Governor Blagojevich to transfer the Illinois Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Environmental Programs responsibilities to Illinois EPA. PLCAA, along with the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, sent alerts to members requesting they contact their state legislators to help stop the proposal. Once again, e-mails and the use of the PLCAA Legislative Action center were vital. As of May 1, because of prompt and responsible action by PLCAA members, Illinois residents, and others, the proposal was stopped.

Landscape Companies & Some Lawn Care Companies Devastated

PLCAA and the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) have been working together with our lobbyist in Washington D.C. to help address the devastating move on March 10 by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in stopping the processing of H-2b applications for foreign workers because of fear of exceeding the 66,000 cap under the present law. Go to www.plcaa.org for further information. ■

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➤ ***A Matter of Degree: The Rutgers University Turf Program***

➤ ***Checking The Facts: USGA Green Section Remains Committed To The Best***



**Green
World**

applied turfgrass research, from Rutgers the State University, and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association

This article reminds us what we, the Green Industry and Rutgers, are ALL ABOUT!

A Matter of Degree: The Rutgers University Turf Program

By Jean E. Rightmire, Reprinted From Turf North, March 2004

In our ongoing look at turf management degree programs we stop to look at the program offered through Rutgers University.

According to University information, Rutgers College became the land grant college of New Jersey in 1864, resulting in the establishment of the Rutgers Scientific School. Further expansion in the sciences came with the founding of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in 1880, the College of Engineering (now the School of Engineering) in 1914 and the College of Agriculture (now Cook College) in 1921.

Rutgers has a unique history as a colonial college, a land grant institution and a state university. Chartered in 1766 as Queen's College and the eighth institution of higher learning to be founded in the colonies, the school opened its doors in New Brunswick in 1771. Today, with more than 50,000 students on campuses in Camden, Newark and New Brunswick/Piscataway, Rutgers is one of the nation's major state universities.

Cook College is the land grant college of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. It was created in 1973, and named in honor of George Hammell Cook (1818-1889), a renowned geologist and teacher at what was then called the Rutgers Scientific School. Cook College expanded the focus of its predecessors by including the College of Agriculture and then the College of Agriculture and Environmental Science.

Cook College was designated a professional school by the Board of Governors of Rutgers in 1982 as part of a major

reorganization of the New Brunswick campus. As a professional school, Cook refocused its curricula on the land grant mission of educational scholarship designed to develop knowledge and skills, enabling students and the public to address challenges facing society in the areas of agriculture, food, environment and natural resources.

Today, there are about 3,253 undergraduate students. In addition, 120 faculty members are associated with Rutgers Cooperative Extension and funded through federal, state and county contributions.

A primary function of Cook College is educational: the personal and professional development of its students in a small college campus setting within the larger New Brunswick campus of Rutgers. Instruction also takes place off-campus through the efforts of RCE (Rutgers Cooperative Extension) and the OCPE (Office of Continuing Professional Education).

The plant science program prepares students for careers or further study in areas related to food, fiber, turfgrass, ornamental plant production, pest management, plant breeding, plant pathology and agricultural education. The curriculum offers options focused on industry for students intending to pursue business careers; research for students intending to pursue careers in laboratories or graduate study; professional certification for student intending to pursue careers in education or horticulture therapy; and plant protection.

"Rutgers University/Cook College has had a long history of providing turf management education. The first

continued on page 18

turfgrass evaluation plots were established in 1923. During the 1920's, Dr. Howard Sprague was the first full-time turf faculty member involved in the turf program," states Dr. Richard Hurley, who is responsible for working with turf student recruitment in the turfgrass management program at Rutgers Cook College. A graduate of Rutgers with a Ph.D. in turf breeding, Hurley is also advisor to the student Turf Club and one of the instructors teaching turf-related courses in the program.

According to Hurley, after World War II, Dr. Ralph Engel started as a full-time turf faculty member. The 10-week Winter Turf Course was started at Rutgers in 1946. The five-day Turf Short Course was offered from 1929 until 1957.

Major degree options include: Turf and Horticulture Industry Option, Plant Science Research Option and Plant Protection Certification Option, to name a few. In its Professional Studies division, the college offers a Professional Golf Turf Management Program. Rutgers offers a two-year certificate program in Professional Golf Turf Management through the Office of Continuing Professional Education at Cook College.

The faculty of the department consists of approximately 50 members, with research and teaching emphasis in areas of molecular biology, biotechnology, natural products, plant breeding and genetic improvement, plant diversity, plant management, and plant pathology. They also have a strong extension component that seeks to provide service to and impact plant industries locally and globally.

Over the years, Rutgers has had a long-standing position as one of the leaders in turfgrass research. In 1960, Dr. C. Reed Funk became the first full-time cool-season turfgrass breeder at a University in the United States. Dr. Funk had a productive career that spanned over four decades, and produced hundreds of new turfgrass varieties, revolutionizing the turf seed industry.

Dr. Henry Indyk joined Rutgers in 1960 as Turfgrass Extension Specialist, and was instrumental in advancing the sod industry in New Jersey. Dr. Bruce Clarke, director of Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers/Cook College, was hired in the early 1980s as an Extension plant pathologist working with turf and ornaments. Today, Dr. Clarke is one of the most respected turfgrass pathologists in the world.

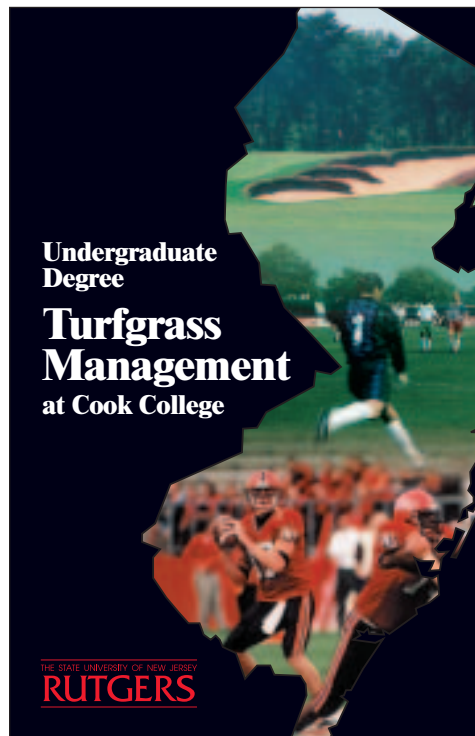
By the mid-1980s, Rutgers was a recognized leader in turf research and extension. "During the next few years, additional new faculty members were added to the Rutgers program, including Dr. James Murphy, turfgrass management specialist in 1991; Dr. James White, endophyte expert, in 1995; Dr. Bill Meyer, turfgrass breeder, in 1996; Dr. Stephen Hart, weed scientist, and Dr. Albrecht Kippenhofer, turfgrass entomologist, in 1999; and Dr. Bingru Huang, turfgrass physiologist, in 2000," states Hurley.

Rutgers/Cook College offers an undergraduate program that leads to a degree in plant science with an option in turfgrass management. Turfgrass management is designed for students who desire a background in applied science and entry into the turfgrass industry upon graduation. The turfgrass program at Cook College/Rutgers has over 25 faculty members working in turf. Students in turfgrass programs receive personalized instruction from world-renowned faculty.

During the past 10 years, the four-year program leading to a Bachelor's degree has had approximately 15 to 20 students, with four or five graduates each year. Over the past three years, Dr. Richard Hurley has been assigned the responsibility of developing recruitment for the turfgrass program. "The goal is to increase enrollment to approximately 40 students attending the program at any one time", states Hurley.

The efforts of Dr. Hurley have been successful to date, recruiting high quality students to enroll in the plant science degree program with a focus on turfgrass studies. "We are well on our way to attracting some of the brightest and highly motivated students interested in turf education", says Dr. Hurley. "At Rutgers we are doing something, to my knowledge, that no other University has done, and that is recruit high school students and offer turf scholarships to students as incoming freshmen. We currently have quite a few student scholarships available to students majoring in turfgrass management. Last year, more than \$60,000 was awarded to over 60 turf students at Rutgers." In addition to the undergraduate program, in the past 30 years, Rutgers has graduated over 50 students with advanced degrees in turfgrass science.

Rutgers also attracts quite a few transfer students who have graduated from two-year programs. Most of those students possess Associate's degrees in horticulture or landscape majors, and are seeking more skills and knowledge. Hurley reports, "Each year we have five or so



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Some Good News!

ARS, Turfgrass Group Signs Research Pact

By Don Comis, Reprinted From Agricultural Research Service, June 3, 2004

The Agricultural Research Service and the National Turfgrass Federation (NTF) signed an agreement to launch a long-term research program aimed at improving the nation's turfgrass. ARS is the chief scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

New research will be done as part of a national turfgrass initiative, a cooperative effort between the turfgrass industry, universities and ARS. "This is the first attempt to provide the type of long-term research that has been key to the success of all other major crops," said ARS Acting Administrator Edward B. Knippling.

The initiative will involve ARS scientists across the nation, according to Knippling. He spoke at a signing ceremony at USDA's South Building.

Turfgrass is a major agricultural crop that covers 50 million acres nationally – almost as many acres as wheat – and supports a \$40 billion-a-year business. In Maryland alone, it is the No. 1 crop, bringing in \$1 billion a year.

Knippling noted that turfgrass is the only crop industry that increases with urban development. "Homeowners' lawns account for about 30 million acres of the crop each year,"

he said. "Turfgrass touches the lives of all Americans, covering additional millions of acres on school grounds, municipal parks and athletic fields."

USDA has had a long association with turfgrass research. The U.S. Golf Association funded work at the USDA research farm when it was on the pre-Pentagon site in Arlington, VA, in 1920. The association continued working with USDA when the research center swapped the current Pentagon site for federal land in Beltsville, MD, in the 1940s. Today, ARS has a national turfgrass program with a dozen ARS locations doing turfgrass research across the country, from Maryland to California.

According to Kevin Morris, with the NTF in Beltsville, the NTF also works with university researchers to evaluate turfgrass in 40 states. The new initiative will support research in six priority areas identified by the industry as their top research needs: improvement of water management, germplasm collection and enhancement, pest management, improving turfgrass' role in the environment, soil enhancement and integrated turf management systems. ■

A Matter of Degree: The Rutgers University Turf Program - continued from page 18

transfer students coming into Rutgers to focus on attaining a four-year degree in turf. As long as the student has a 3.0 GPA from an accredited two-year school, they should have no problem with acceptance by admissions and transfer credits. Additionally, we have offered some students scholarships shortly after the transfer contingent upon a sincere interest in studying turf at Rutgers."

In addition to the scholarships available, Rutgers places students in summer intern positions at top golf courses around the world. As with most other turf programs, it is strongly encouraged that all students work during the summer in a turf-related position. "Last summer, one of our students went to St. Andrews, Scotland, and worked on the Old Course for the summer as a turf intern. We can arrange working summer internships for students either close to home in New Jersey, around the East Coast, such as Pine Valley, or in other parts of the country, depending on the student's interest. We have had students intern at some of the best respected golf courses in the United States," notes Hurley.

Rutgers also offers a certification program for those not pursuing a degree. Subject matter is divided into several courses to accommodate the differing interests of students in Golf Turf and Lawn and Landscape programs. Currently each year the 20-week Turf Management School graduates approximately 90 students in this certificate program. "Offered in two sessions (fall and winter), the students are provided with 10 weeks of education before returning to seasonal employment at a golf course, then return to Rutgers the following year to complete the second 10-week session," explains Hurley.

Hurley adds that the graduates of all programs have entered the industry, whether working for lawn and landscape companies or within the fertilizer and chemical industries. Some graduates go on to become leaders in the fields of sports turf and golf courses, as well as educators at high school and college levels.

With a range of options, in-depth learning opportunities and a scholarship initiative, the Rutgers program is well on its way to meeting and exceeding its goals of educating the best in the business. ■

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For Office Use

Sports Field Managers Association Of New Jersey Plans Summer Field Day Activities

By Eleanora Murfitt-Hermann

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has the right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere." – Teddy Roosevelt



The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey invites the green industry to attend their outdoor fall field day/trade show and equipment demonstration day, Tuesday, August 17 at Plainsboro Township Community Park, Plainsboro, NJ.

As the green industry becomes more specialized and small organizations become established to provide education for their membership, it becomes more and more difficult for supporters of the industry to remain effective. Like pieces of a pie, each organization establishes its part. As the number of organizations grows, the pieces of the pie grow smaller.

It is only through communication and the cooperation of the entire industry that these individual organizations can benefit their membership without being a drain on an industry that otherwise continues to splinter.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey was established four years ago based on the need for specialized education in the athletic field maintenance area of the green industry. SFMANJ continues to foster cooperation and communication with other organizations dedicated to similar missions. They are committed to establishing and maintaining lines of communication with these organizations to maximize the benefits of their specialized knowledge and expertise, while at the same time minimizing unhealthy competition that only serves to dilute the potential synergistic development of the green industry.

In view of this concept SFMANJ has, with the support of NJLCA, NJTA, IANJ and NJRPA decided to expand their annual fall field day to include an outdoor trade show and equipment demonstration day. The day should prove to be the largest of its kind in the state benefitting not only sports field managers but also all those involved in keeping New Jersey green and growing.

By reaching a more diverse audience, commercial equipment and product and service providers will be able to display and demonstrate their wares with more bang for their buck. Spectators will also benefit. The trade show is a tremendous opportunity to visit with a broader based group of suppliers and also have the opportunity to attend educational sessions, which will prove to be universal in benefit.

Safety is the highlight of three of the five educational sessions being offered.

- **"Intermediate Walk Behind and Riding Mower Operation & Safety"** provided in cooperation with NJLCA is a must see directed to all those involved in turf management.
- **"Mid Size Equipment Operation and Safety"** provided in cooperation with NJLCA and their CLT certification program will be directed to tractor and equipment operators.

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- **"Laser Grading: the Technology, the Equipment, the Application"** provided by SFMANJ. Whether you are involved in site development for a new corporate headquarters or grading the skimmed infield area of a baseball field to maintain positive surface drainage, laser-grading technology is being specified and requested more and more.
- **"Irrigation Management"** provided in cooperation with The Irrigation Association of New Jersey will highlight proper system operation.
- **"Playground Safety"** will be provided for parks and recreation personnel.

"Test Your Skill" in the SFMANJ backhoe-operating contest. Who will walk off with the prize money?

Last but not least there will be time allotted for spectators to spend time with the equipment dealers and operate any of the equipment being demonstrated. Come show your support to the industry. Registration information can be downloaded from SFMANJ.org on the web or call 908-730-7770. ■



New Jersey Turfgrass Association

THE 2004 RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH FIELD DAYS *"The Finest Programs In The World"* will be held on the following dates:

Lawn and Landscape Section Wednesday, July 28, 2004

Adelphia Research Farm

Registration: 8:00 a.m.
Coffee Available

Tours Begin: 9:00 a.m.

Lunch: 12:00 noon

Tours End: 3:00 p.m.

Note: The first 50 registrants
receive a free cap

Cost: \$ 35.00 registration
includes lunch

Golf & Fine Turf Research Section Thursday, July 29, 2004

Hort. Farm II - Ryder's Lane North Brunswick, NJ

Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Coffee Available

Tours Begin: 9:30 a.m.

Lunch: 12:30 p.m.

Tours End: 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$ 35.00 registration
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DIRECTIONS TO ADELPHIA: *From the North* – Rt. 18-South to Rt. 537-West. Follow Rt. 537-West for approximately one mile to Kozlowski Road exit (before second traffic light). Take the exit for Kozlowski Road and bear left to go south onto Kozlowski Road. Continue through the third traffic light (Route 33), Kozlowski Road becomes Halls Mill Road, and the Research Center is on the left, approx. 1½ miles past Route 33. *From the South* – NJ Turnpike to Exit 8. Follow Rt. 33-East BYPASS (NOT Business 33) to Halls Mill Road. Take exit for Halls Mill Road/Adelphia (before overpass bridge), continue onto Halls Mill Road. Research Farm is approx. ¼ mile on left.

Directions to Ryder's Lane: Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 9. Take Route 18-North to Route 1-South. Take the second Ryder's Lane exit toward Milltown. Move to your left immediately upon entering onto Ryder's Lane. Turn left at first break in the island and immediately turn right onto Indyk-Engel Way to parking area.

FOR INFORMATION CALL:

**Dick Caton (856) 853-5973 or
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A separate fee will apply for each day, but those who wish to attend both sections may do so.

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July 29 | RUTGERS TURFGRASS
RESEARCH FIELD DAYS
<i>Lawn & Landscape Section – Adelphia
Golf & Fine Turf Research Section –
Ryders Lane</i>
Contact: 856-853-5973 or 732-932-9400 |
| July 27 - 30 | TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER CONVENTION & FIELD DAYS
<i>Harrisburg/Hershey, PA</i>
Contact: 800-405-8873 |
| July 30 -
August 1 | ALCA SALES & MARKETING SYMPOSIUM
<i>Hyatt Regency, Jersey City</i>
Contact: 800-395-2522 |
| August 11 | NJLCA GOLF CLASSIC
<i>Farmstead Country Club, Lafayette, NJ</i>
Contact: 201-703-3600 |
| August 16 | IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF NJ
GOLF OUTING
<i>Royce Brook Golf Club</i>
Contact: 973-379-1100 |
| August 17 | SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS ASSN. FIELD DAY
<i>Plainsboro Township Community Park</i>
Contact: 973-379-1100 |
| August 19 | NJPMA 57TH ANNUAL CLINIC,
TRADE SHOW & CLAMBAKE
<i>Rutgers University, New Brunswick</i>
Contact: 800-524-9942 |
| September 21 | NJPMA 8TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
<i>Cherry Hill, Knob Hill Golf Club
Matawan, NJ</i>
Contact: 800-524-9942 |
| September 22 - 23 | NJPMA CREDENTIALLED
WDI INSPECTOR COURSE
Contact: 800-524-9942 |
| October 4 -
December 10 | RUTGERS PROFESSIONAL GOLF TURF
MANAGEMENT SCHOOL - FALL SESSION
Contact: 732-932-9271 |
| October 29 - 31 | NJ SHADE TREE FOUNDATION
79TH ANNUAL MEETING
<i>Cherry Hill, NJ</i>
Contact: Bill Porter, 732-246-3120 |
| November 3 - 5 | GCSANJ FIRST ANNUAL THREE DAY
SEMINAR & TEAM GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
<i>Crystal Springs Golf Resort
Sussex County; Hamburg, New Jersey</i>
Contact: 1-866-GCSANJ1 |
| November 3 - 6 | GREEN INDUSTRY EXPO 2004
<i>Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC</i>
Contact: 1-888-303-3685, www.gieonline.com |
| December 8 | IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF NJ
ANNUAL MEETING
<i>Taj Mahal Casino Resort
Atlantic City, NJ</i> |
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