

clippings

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MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023 - RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH GOLF CLASSIC



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Ph: (410) 800-8762 • David.Schell@basf.com

COLUMBIA RIVER SEED [Page 13]

Paul Hedgpeth, Columbia River Seed

Ryan Jeffries, Columbia River Seed

PO Box 66, Plymouth, WA 99346

Ph: (509) 783-4052

paul@columbiariverseed.com

ryan@columbiariverseed.com

COOMBS SOD FARMS [Page 31]

Kevin Coombs

84 Route 77, Elmer, NJ 08318

Ph: (856) 358-4763 • Fax: (856) 358-3612

kevin@coombsfarms.com

DLF USA [Page 15]

Sean Chaney

175 West H Street, Halsey, OR 97348

Ph: (541) 369-2251 • dlfinfo@dlfna.com

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Steve Bradley

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Ph: (908) 722-9830 • sbradley@storrtractor.com

SYNGENTA [Page 19]

Chris Marra

8 Highview Avenue, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927

Cell: (862) 505-4319

Christopher.Marra@syngenta.com

President's Message : Matt Lindner

Matt Lindner
NJTA President



I write this at the end of 2022 and hope everyone had a healthy and safe holiday season with family and friends. Families and friends are so important to our well being. Both can bring joy, challenges, and frustrations; but most of all the ability to share our thoughts and ideas to help everyone grow.

The NJTA is a family that supports the entire turfgrass industry and its affiliates in NJ and other states. As with family members, we often don't say thank you enough. I want to thank all of you who are members of the NJTA family and let you know as a board; we are here to support you!

The NJTA Board of Directors is a totally volunteer organization. I want to thank the NJTA Board, for without these volunteers who meet at least monthly and to those various committee members who assist when called on, none of our events -- Golf Classic, Field Days, and Green Expo -- would have happened without their devoted loyalty and hard work.

I want to also thank all the NJTA Sponsors -- many of whom are advertising in this *Clippings* newsletter! With their continued support, the board has grown and prospered far beyond what anyone ever dreamed possible. Please support our sponsors!

On the Monday prior to EXPO, the NJTA board meets for our December board meeting and annual strategic planning meeting, combined. This is generally a 5 – 6-hour meeting during which each committee presents plans for the next 3 – 5 years. This December's meeting was a great success!

There are eleven (11) standing committees with the NJTA Board. Three (3) pertaining to communications: *Clippings*, Social Media, and Virtual Education. The goals of each of these committees for 2023 and beyond, are to better inform you, our members. *Clippings* is currently both emailed with hard copies sent. Social Media is exploring ways to update and redesign the NJTA website; introduce more blogs and recordings and preserve various educational classes that you can review at your leisure. Virtual Learning is committed to offering free on-line educational programs both in English and Spanish for the green industry. Online education started in 2020 with several classes available and continued into 2021. 2022 on-line classes were being planned but not released. 2023 promises to reinstate these educational classes.

The Allied Association Committee works with the allied associations: GCSANJ, NJNLA, NJLCA, SFMANJ, IANJ and NJGIC. Articles from one or more of these associations will be featured in upcoming *Clippings*. These associations all influence turf and landscapes in NJ. Once again, the 'family and friends' of NJTA.

At the December 2021 meeting, when I was elected President, I stated three (3) goals. A review and status of these goals are:

A. **Grow the membership of NJTA.** NJTA grew from 647 members in 2021 to 846 in 2022. The board's goal has been 1,000 members. Let's make 2023 the year we reach that number! Without members, NJTA cannot survive.

B. **Get more members involved with board activities by becoming committee members,** or being a helping hand at Field Days, the Golf Classic and even EXPO. Without exception, each committee shared at least 3 members they have added to their respective committee. FANTASTIC! It is my hope that over time, these new committee members will step-up as board members as the board member terms end.

C. **Continuing to step up when asked by Rutgers for guidance and financial assistance.** Rutgers has initiated an evaluation of all its facilities and programs to develop a Master Plan for updating these facilities. Both turf farms have needs and once plans are finalized, the NJTA is prepared to support where we can. It was also announced at EXPO, that the NJTA Board and NJTA Turfgrass Foundation will donate up to \$150,000 for a permanent structure dedicated to honor Dr. Bill Meyer. This structure is yet to be determined due to the Master Plan process.

Continued on the next page...



MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PERKS

Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP
Executive Director

Being a member of any group, club, or association has valuable perks. The New Jersey Turfgrass Association offers many benefits for members....

Did you know you that as an NJTA member you:

1. Get discounted Green Expo & Field Days reg fees?
2. Can earn pesticide applicator license credits?
3. Can earn ProFACT fertilizer applicator credits?
4. Receive the printed and digital *Clippings* magazine?
5. Receive the printed and digital Members Directory?
6. Have an outreach and education impact in Trenton?
7. Support Rutgers Turf Research and Turf programs?
8. Have marketing opportunities in NJTA publications?
9. Can participate in events that raise scholarships, research projects and more for the NJ Turfgrass Foundation?
10. Have access to the Members Only area on the NJTA website: www.njturfgrass.org?
11. Have the opportunity to meet and speak with Rutgers professionals?
12. Have the chance to network and learn from other NJTA members?

We sincerely appreciate your membership and love to your thoughts and ideas about enhancing membership. Thank you for supporting NJTA.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...*Continued from previous page*

At the annual NJTA meeting, the following people were reelected as officers to the NJTA board for a 1-year term:

Matt Lindner – President
Jason Osterhoudt – Vice-President
Mike Reed – Secretary
Matt Sweatlock – Treasurer

The following people were reelected as NJTA Board members to serve a three (3) year term:

Tracy Wadhams
Craig Tolley
Chris Carson

On behalf of the NJTA Board, I want to give a special thanks to Dr. Bill Meyer for his dedication, passion, vision, and success he has given to make the Turfgrass Program and the Turfgrass Breeding Program at Rutgers University, a world class, known research and education entity. We can't thank Dr. Meyer enough!

In closing, please spread the word about the NJTA. If you are already a member, once again thank you. If you are not a member, join NOW. Talk to a board member about becoming a committee member; ask how you can support both the NJTA and Rutgers Turf Programs. We need your support! Let's continue to grow and prosper in 2023!

Superior Performance from **Field to Field to Field**

"I'm proud and grateful to win FOTY again in 2022. My crew here deserves all the credit. Their professionalism, hard work, and attention to detail are what make our field second to none. We also couldn't do it without our amazing vendors. HD Sports 2.0 is the best grass I have ever worked with and I'm excited to keep working with it for years to come."

Dan Farnes, Director of Fields and Grounds
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GREEN EXPO 2022 A BIG SUCCESS

I made it a point to ask as many people as possible “what does Expo mean to you?” at this year’s conference December 6-8 at the Borgata Hotel in Atlantic City. Though we are primarily an education focused show, I was surprised - and delighted - to hear so many diverse opinions on attendees’ experiences.

Some of the more exciting comments were from the group that enjoyed the **Grass Roots Mix ‘n Mingle** on Wednesday night, followed by the GCSANJ Social... and then a wide variety of activities that were described to me with smiles on faces. Short road trips to favorite hangouts were described, group outings to Hard Rock and Ocean casinos were popular, and just hanging out at Borgata with friends and colleagues to discuss the business we all share were all a part of the collective group experience. And, to the hearty group that watched the sun rise near the Irish Pub, I congratulate you on your staying power!

Social experiences are a big part of Expo, and the planning committee is always pleased to hear that our attendees make full use of the many opportunities available to them. We love to see so many people at our Trade Show... not just at the grand opening (sponsored once again by our **Syngenta** friends) but throughout the evening until closing time. Free beverages were sponsored by **Labar Golf Renovations** during both sessions of the trade show, and dinner and lunch were provided with the help of **BASF** as well as **SavATree/Tree Tech**.

Tuesday lunch was supported by long-time sponsors **Storr Tractor and Turf Equipment and Supply**, and other companies providing important sponsorship including **Envu** and **Aquatrols**. NJTA thanks our many friends who help make our show so much fun - without them we would not be able to provide the show highlights outlined in this report!



Chris Carson, Expo Chairman

But Expo is much more than a chance to unwind after a difficult season of turf management. It’s about providing cutting edge science and information while also offering the credits needed to maintain our professional licenses. Expo 2022 delivered these in spades: many of the best turfgrass professors in the country presented at our show, complementing our world-class Rutgers faculty to make our education offerings the very best they can be. I was pleased to hear from so many of you that the information obtained during these three days of the conference would be immediately used in your businesses to the benefit of your customers and golfers.

Behind the scenes, important meetings take place at Expo. NJTA and the Sports Field Managers Association of NJ each held strategic planning sessions, GCSANJ held its annual Board meeting/introduction session to new board members, and the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers had its annual breakfast where allied associations provided information and input on their turf and landscape disciplines and the Rutgers Dean, USGA Green Section Director and others updated the state of funding and research in our fields. Interviews were filmed for posterity, to be added soon to the Rutgers and NJTA websites, representatives of Allied Associations gathered at lunch to discuss areas of mutual concern, and a successful Women in Turf luncheon was held as well, led by Nicole Sherry of the Baltimore Orioles and sponsored by Harrell’s and Pure Seed.

Expo delivered an important milestone this year, with a joint session that detailed the excellence of the Rutgers turfgrass breeding program and that honored and celebrated the career of Dr. Bill Meyer. Bill’s breeding work has been instrumental in contributing to the astonishing growth of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, and it was great to be able to acknowledge that in front of a packed auditorium that included his extended family, flown in from around the country. Bill very much appreciated the lively and prolonged standing ovation that was offered at the end of his poignant talk. His tears were real; his heart was full.

Continued on next page...



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GREEN EXPO. *Continued from previous page*

Expo 2022 delivered in many ways to many people... and that's not even counting the many "hallway conversations" and interactions on the Trade Show floor with our loyal business partners who support our show. It was a great show, filled with education, fun and the exchange of practical ideas that helped attendees put a cap on a tough year and prepare for the next.

Your Expo Committee is already at work planning for next year's show, and we will be incorporating the many comments, ideas and suggestions that you were kind enough to offer to me and to other NJTA Board members. Thanks for attending!



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GOLF CLASSIC WRAP UP

As we start planning our schedules for 2023, our normal course of action is to identify those “can’t miss” events. Are there weddings, reunions, vacations and other family events upcoming that everyone wants to attend? This is where most people start when they populate their calendars and that makes the most sense.

If you have any connection with the turfgrass industry, I would recommend adding the **Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic** to that list each year. This event is organized by the NJ Turfgrass Foundation and is celebrating its 27th anniversary. The Classic is absolutely the largest and most successful fundraiser for turfgrass research in the world.

There are many reasons for this success. It started with Dr. Bruce Clarke’s involvement. When Dr. Bill Meyer joined the staff at Rutgers he enthusiastically got involved with the Golf Classic. Bruce and Bill’s fundraising efforts inspired all of the scientists at the Center for Turfgrass Science to add their support. Dr. Jim Murphy, Dr. Stacy Bonos, and Dr. Matt Elmore have embraced the opportunity to continue the efforts of Bill and Bruce since their retirement. Both Bill and Bruce will continue to support the Golf Classic in anyway needed.

If you are not familiar with the Golf Classic, you might ask why Rutgers would extend such support for a NJT Foundation event. The answer is quite simple. The funds raised go into the Foundation’s corpus and every dollar in that corpus will go to support the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science (CTS). Everyone on the Golf Classic committee is donating their time and expertise. Not even a single dollar goes anywhere but to the Foundation which will then go to Rutgers in support of its industry leading research facilities.



Shaun Barry
Chairman, Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

May 1 is the date on your calendar that I hope you mark it off for the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic. It is held at Fiddler’s Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, NJ. They have 3 golf courses and all three courses are used because this event usually draws between 360 and over 400 golfers every year. Players come from as far away as California, Oregon, and Canada. Every part of the turfgrass industry is represented and you will meet old friends or easily make new friends.

If you are interested in attending and supporting this event, please reach out to Cece Peabody at the NJTA, and she will answer any of your questions and help with registration. Her e-mail address is execdirector@njturfgrass.org, and she can be reached at (973) 812-6467.

PS. The Golf Classic Brochure is also inside this issue so you can download, complete, and send or you can also register online to golf and/or to sponsor at: www.njturfgrass.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Many Thanks to the
2022 Premier sponsors!*



The Birth of a CLASSIC

Editor's Note: As we look forward to the 2023 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic, we have to reach back into the Clippings Vault to return to Shaun's great article about the genesis of the Golf Classic.

In 1996 several members of the NJTA decided they needed to find a way to raise money to support the needs and goals of the Rutgers Turfgrass Program. The NJTA had been started in 1970 with the sole purpose of supporting the program. Whatever funds were raised were to be held until money was needed within the program. That Mission Statement has not changed since the day it was created.

In that 1996 meeting, several proposals were put forth. Even though there were people on this committee from many segments of the industry, the conversations eventually led to doing something with golf. One proposal was to run a raffle with the winner receiving tickets to a PGA Tour Golf Tournament. This would raise some money, but the committee had an eventual goal of \$10,000. It was decided that the raffle would never get them to their goal. They decided it had to be a golf tournament. Something like this would attract sponsors and would be viable for at least 10 years.

Having chosen the vehicle for their fundraising they now had to settle on the details. Most of the non-golf members were concerned about charging too much while the golf members were concerned about charging too little. They knew that starting at a low cost would set the floor low and that would make it hard to move up. They wanted a premium location that would attract golfers. They chose Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, NJ, because it was private and most

Shaun Barry

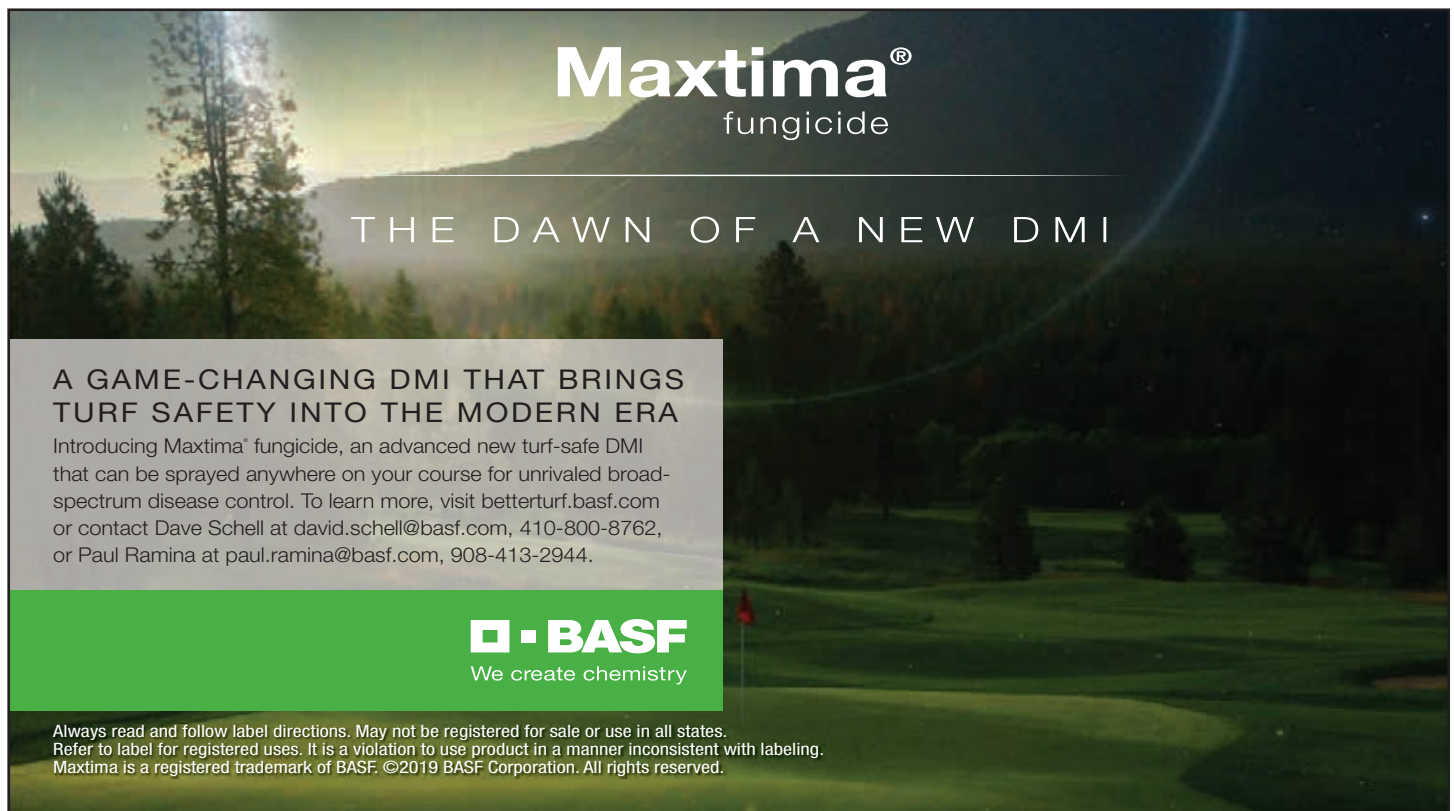
Chairman, Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

people had never played there. Fiddler's would offer a first class experience and it would be expected that they would charge more for this experience. It may have been done with trepidation but eventually everyone agreed.

Fast forward to May 4, 2020, and the visionaries who started this event would never have believed what has grown from the seeds they planted. The Rutgers Turfgrass Research Classic is in a class of its own. No other Turfgrass Fundraiser has enjoyed the support from all facets of the industry that this event has received. Even during some tough economic years the industry support did not wane.

I believe that there are several reasons for this success. It starts with the scientists at Rutgers. Through their research and hard work they have become known as the best in the world. Everyone knows Drs. Bruce Clarke, Bill Meyer, Stacy Bonos, Jim Murphy, Bingru Huang, Matt Elmore, Albrecht Koppenhofer and also Rich Buckley and they are supported by many of the industry's future leaders. All of these scientists volunteer and are fully committed to doing whatever they need to do to support the Classic because they know the dollars raised will only ever be used by Rutgers. I have enjoyed being the Chair of this event for many years and thank my Co-Chair Dr. Karen Plumley for her commitment to make this a successful event.

One of the other main reasons for the success is the strong relationship between these scientists and the industry. Rutgers's scientists are always ready to take your phone call to help you with a problem. The best way that you can return their help is to support the Classic.



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Bid Early, Bid Often - The NJTF Silent Auction

*Josh Kopera – Chair,
Donovan Maguigan – Co-Chair*

Introduction to Silent Auction

The rally cry of the silent auction for the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation is “Bid Early, Bid Often!” as members of NJTA Silent Auction committee drive auction bidders to buy items, raising dollars to support turfgrass research and the work of The Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science. As an integral part of the Rutgers Turfgrass Classic and a partner event at the Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days, the Silent Auction provides attendees a chance for attendees to purchase from a plethora of options of donated products with the goal to raise funding to help support turfgrass research in New Jersey. Whether it is a golf round, a piece of signed sports memorabilia, discounted chemical products, or even a stack of lottery scratch-offs, those dollars help fund research, an economic survey, scholarships, and grants. Through the last two years, the silent auction at both events has raised over \$44,500 for the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Research.

The Role Donations Play in the Silent Auction Planning

The planning for the silent auction starts months before the Rutgers Turfgrass Classic in the Spring and the Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days in the Summer.



Members of the committee reach out to vendor representatives, NJTA Members, and merchandise sales companies to solicit donations for items to be auctioned off. The target for auction items is to be of a variety that every person who visits can find something that they would be likely to purchase. As items are donated, information about the items is

collected, recommended starting prices are established, and a fair price for the item to be bought is established. This process takes several months including collecting and storing the donated products. Over the last several years, the committee has sought to provide exciting items to bid for as well as circulating unique items with each event.

The Day of the Auction

The behind-the-scenes preparation before each auction is critical to collecting bids and getting products to the winners. The items are organized by type, bid sheets are drafted, bidders are registered and assigned numbers, and lastly, the bidding begins! Throughout the events, visitors will stop by review the item and bid in hopes of winning. After the auction closes, winners can take their items home or setup delivery if necessary.



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Bid Early, Bid Often - The NJTF Silent Auction

Silent Auction Provides Support for More Than Rutgers

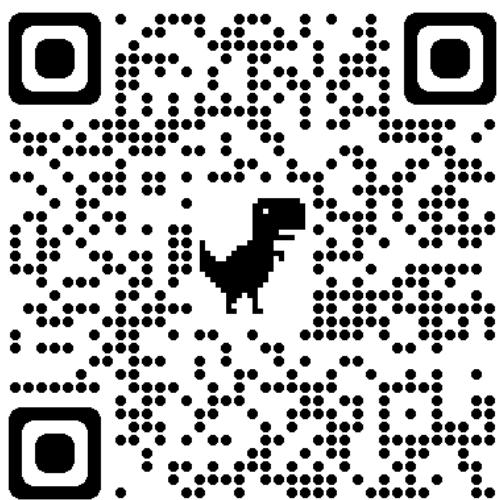
On the surface, the silent auction is an event designed to purchase items in support of the foundation, but the silent auction also provides a service to NJTA members and attendees to the events. Looking for an opportunity to play an exclusive private golf club with your friends? Bid on a foursome. If you are in the market to buy a fungicide product at a discounted price, the silent auction will note on the invoice the savings that you made with your silent auction purchase. Time for a vacation? Bid on one of the several trips that are up for auction including wineries, golf, and beach trips.

The Future of the Silent Auction

Bidding on items at the on-site auction will always be an integral part of those events and the Silent Auction Committee is working on ways to increase the reach of the silent auction and provide attendees with additional great items as well as helping get those items to the auction.

New for 2023, the Silent Auction is utilizing an Amazon Gift Registry for items that the NJTA is seeking to auction off. Through this wish list, items can be purchased directly that will then be auctioned off at the Silent Auction.

Scan the QR code below, search “2023 NJTA Silent Auction” under “Registry & Gifting” or go directly to: <https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/4WR37Z0QANR1/guest-view>.



Additionally, if you are unable to make it to the silent auction, you can always help assist the NJTA and the Foundation by purchasing items through Amazon Smiles. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and select “New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation” as your selected charity. When purchasing from Amazon, be sure to shop at smile.amazon.com website or setup your mobile app, and a portion of your order will be donated to the NJTA Foundation automatically.

If you are interested in donating items for the Silent Auction at the Rutgers Turfgrass Golf Classic or the Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days or helping out with the Silent Auction, please reach out to Josh Kopera at jkopera@harrells.com or contact the Executive Director for more details.



A Recap of the Rutgers Turfgrass Breeding Program Session at the NJ Green Expo

*Donovan Maguigan, Springdale Golf Club
Editor, Clippings*

In 2022, after almost three decades working with the Turfgrass Breeding Program at the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, Dr. William Meyer announced his retirement, leaving a long legacy of impactful research in development, ushering in a new era for the program. As Dr. Jim Murphy stated in his presentation, “Dr. Meyer’s impact on the program is nothing short of phenomenal.” The New Jersey Turfgrass Association Expo Committee planned an afternoon general session full of turfgrass breeding education interwoven with well wishes and memories celebrating the legacy of Dr. Meyer. The slate of speakers for the session were all members of the turfgrass breeding industry who have worked with Meyer through his twenty-six years at Rutgers, many of which cited him as a more than colleague, but as a mentor and a friend.

Growing the First Generation in Holland – Pieter den Haan, Den Haan Zaden

Leading off the session was the turfgrass breeding scientist, Pieter den Haan of Den Haan Zaden, a seed collector in Holland who worked closely with Dr. Meyer collecting samples in Europe. As his talk was titled, Pieter den Haan is the first step in the development process of breeding new turfgrasses, starting with collecting seed samples from around the world and identifying ecotypes. Through this collecting, the turfgrass breeding program can utilize new genetic material for new turfgrass varieties.

Careful selection of plants while traveling around Europe, Den Haan has meticulously curated and collected ecotypes with the hopes that those samples will develop candidates for turfgrass breeding. When collecting samples in the field, he dries the samples, collects notes and weighs them for specifics. Over the last seventy-five years, he has collected over 75,000 samples which are carefully stored in a climate-controlled archive with samples collected in the Mid-90’s still producing viable material. During those years, Dr. Meyer visited almost every year to review and collaborate with the sample collection to bring back new genetic material to Rutgers.

In conclusion for his talk, Pieter wrapped up his talk by speaking directly to Dr. Meyer, “We started our collaboration 25 years ago and throughout this time we have had a very good working relationship together, but our relationship quickly developed beyond working together. The friendship between you Bill and our family has become very close.” As he spoke, a slide showcasing an early photo with Pieter’s family and another showing the group years later. “You saw our children growing up and they still have very good

contact with you. They love listening to your stories because you have a lot of stories,” he shared as well as remarks about two-way learning where his children learned of turfgrass, and Dr. Meyer learned Dutch from them. He closed his talk with, “Today, I told you something about grass seeds, however, the special seeds that we planted in our friendship were the best!”

Selecting, Improving, and Deciding – Reducing Weeds and Disease via Breeding Low-input Turfgrasses for Cold Climates – Dr. Eric Watkins, Univ. of Minnesota

With a focal point of his research being the importance of turfgrass selection, turfgrass professor at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Eric Watkins spoke on his research targeting that selection. He stressed the importance of selection as it helps reduce inputs and weed pressure, an aspect of turfgrass management that is often underutilized. His presentation focused on his work in two areas; cold tolerance and providing easy access information to turfgrass quality data to make better informed selections.

As a researcher in Minnesota, turfgrass selection focuses in part on cold tolerance due to the hard frigid winters, as Dr. Watkins said, “You need the grass to survive the winter.” A hurdle in turfgrass selection for cold tolerance is that little is known about winter stress mechanisms due to the multitude of factors including differences in microenvironments, collecting data, controlled environment setup, and costs with research. To overcome that hurdle, Dr. Watkins has been working with superintendents and engineers outside of turf to improve data collection, providing real-time cloud-based information to support cold tolerance research. Working with the golf course superintendent, the university provides specific instructions for setup of a data node, to which they have access to through the study. These nodes act as remote sensors for monitoring data on a constant basis including alerts for conditions that may be detrimental to the turfgrass. Starting with three greens in 2019 and expanding to over seventy greens in 2022, providing 20 million data packets stored in the cloud.

Shifting from the golf course side of the turfgrass to homeowners, Dr. Watkins has also been working on ways to get better turfgrass selection data to customers who are buying seed off the shelf. NTEP results provides the best data for making those selections, but it can be overwhelming for homeowners to search for information on those results. Working with data specialists and surveys, a web applicant system with three tiers for accessing the data was developed for customers, professionals, and advanced research. This setup is currently limited to fine fescue with plans to expand.

A Recap of the Rutgers Turfgrass Breeding Program Session at the NJ Green Expo

*Donovan Maguigan, Springdale Golf Club
Editor, Clippings*

Keeping with the theme of recognizing Dr. Meyer, Dr. Watkins thanked him for his mentorship and help through his career. As a past PhD student in Plant Biology at Rutgers, Dr. Eric Watkins studied and worked under Dr. Meyer and he cited two major things that he took away from his time at Rutgers: the importance of new cultivars and the “the value of collaboration” working together with others at the Center for Turfgrass Science. Dr. Watkins shared that he is still close with Dr. Meyer, including inviting him to his wedding in Wisconsin. He concluded with “Thank you for your many years of service to Rutgers and thank you for all that you have done.”

Supply Chain Dynamics: From Rutgers to the Farm to your Business – KJ Griepentrog, Jersey Seed

Now that the varieties have been developed and perfected, how does the seed from Rutgers end up on golf courses, home lawns, and sports fields? KJ Griepentrog of Jersey Seed provided insight into the production process. The seed house will contact Rutgers for a particular variety, such as GLR resistant tall fescue, as an example. After determining a specific variety, the seed company will purchase 5-8 pounds of seed, which will then be utilized to create thousands of pounds of seed for production. The process for developing an amount of seed that large can take anywhere from 5-8 years before being available for public to purchase.

Aside from the lengthy time to produce the seed, KJ Griepentrog stated that advancements in seed development might potentially be outdated by the time the seed is released. As new varieties are developed with improved resistance or if a new disease may have emerged in turfgrass or tastes in color and texture may evolve, the marketable life span for that seed is hard to determine, sometimes as short as five years or possibly beyond fifteen years.

KJ Griepentrog wrapped up his presentation by sharing his experiences working with Dr. Meyer. Jersey Seed has been a long partner with Rutgers University. In addition to KJ Griepentrog himself working with the program, he cited that his father worked with Dr. Meyer for over thirty years.

The Importance of the Rutgers Turfgrass Breeding Program to the Center for Turfgrass Science – Dr. Jim Murphy, CTS Director, Rutgers University

For the latter half of the session, the presentations from members of the Rutgers University Center for Turfgrass Science took the stage, led by the new director, Dr. Jim Murphy. In outlining the history and mission of the center, Dr. Murphy stressed “the vast importance of turfgrass breeding” of the program and connectively, the work of Dr. Meyer.



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A Recap of the Rutgers Turfgrass Breeding Program Session at the NJ Green Expo



In closing, Dr. Murphy continued to stress the long-term impact on the work that Dr. Meyer had on the Center for Turfgrass Science. In rapidly increasing the resources provided by the licensing fees, he helped place Rutgers at the forefront of turfgrass research. Stat-

ing that his legacy will be impactful for decades and beyond at Rutgers. The program now stands as the largest turfgrass research program at a university level in the world.

The Future of Turfgrass Breeding – Dr. Stacy Bonos, Rutgers University

With Dr. Murphy looking back at the history of the program, Dr. Stacy Bonos shared with attendees the future of turfgrass breeding at Rutgers. Sharing one of the goals in 1961, Dr. Bonos quoted, “Develop improved pest and stress tolerant grasses with improved seed yield throughout the world,” which she said helped drive the success of the program through challenges faced in pest and environmental stresses on turfgrass. Successfully facing challenges such as gray leaf spot in ryegrass or summer in the past, the breeding program looks forward to the future seeking to address those challenges.

Citing the increase in weather extremes with temperatures and rainfall including warmer summers, Dr. Bonos shared that future breeding is looking towards facing those weather challenges, specifically heat tolerance and drought tolerance in turfgrass. A new key to developing more resilient turfgrasses is rooted in using machine learning and digital data collection that are reshaping turfgrass development. In the past, the computer power necessary to process the genomes for the turf crashed computers due to the sheer amount of data to be tabulated. With advances in machine learning, computer models are better suited to handle the genetic data while also combining with data from remote sensing and genotype technology that utilizes quantitative genetics tied together with statistical analysis. The turfgrass breeding program is also focusing on micro-biomes and studying how the synergistic effect between fungal and bacterial impact on germination rates.

After working with Dr. Meyer for over twenty-five years, Dr. Bonos thanked Dr. Meyer for his mentorship, sharing “I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for him.”

My Career in Turfgrass Development – Dr. Bill Meyer, Rutgers University

As Pieter den Haan shared at the end of his remarks with, “Bill, this is your day,” Dr. Bill Meyer took the podium to share his career and experiences both before and during his tenure at Rutgers. Through a collection of photo slides and turfgrass data, Dr. Meyer walked the group through his career in turfgrass breeding, citing that it was a “a really fun career,” and a “broad experience.”

The son of a golf course superintendent and a graduate of the University of Illinois, Dr. Meyer’s career began not in turf fields in the United States, but with soybeans in India. Dodging water buffalos on his motorcycle, he spends a year working on a concrete floor, windows that allowed the birds in, and rats on the ceiling while developing two research papers. Despite the obstacles, Dr. Meyer considers it the highlight of his academic career.

Dr. Meyer’s entry to Rutgers took a few years as Dr. Funk repeatedly tried to recruit him to come work in New Jersey. In one instance of Dr. Funk’s persistence, he joined Dr. Meyer for a round of golf while both snuck away from a turfgrass conference. Despite not playing golf or having clubs, Dr. Reed accompanied Dr. Meyer through his round, offering to rake bunkers for him, and as Dr. Meyer recalled, “There were a lot!”

While at Rutgers, Dr. Meyer recounted that lightning strikes, both literally in one instance, then figuratively, struck the turfgrass research field. The actual lightning strike occurred one afternoon on the fields, leaving a noticeable mark on the turf, while the figurative lightning strike was the discovery of gray leaf spot resistant ryegrass. In a humorous anecdote on the beauty in the eye of the beholder, Dr. Meyer vividly recalled Dr. Bruce Clarke’s fascination at a beautiful turfgrass disease attacking a plot of turfgrass, much to Dr. Meyer’s displeasure of losing turfgrass.

Dr. Meyer closed his remarks with thanks to those who had worked with him through the industry, recounting trips looking for plants in Europe, his research students, as well as sharing photos of his large growing family. He shared that he has been able to see seed propagating through the turfgrass industry over a long career, but also the growth of his family, children, and grandchildren.

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Rutgers Research Golf Classic Event Monday, May 1, 2023

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Proceeds from the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic have been used to provide support for New Faculty, Research Grants, Scholarships, Equipment, and Funds for Special Projects (e.g., Steve Hart Pavilion, Turfgrass Economic Survey) as well as new research greens & upgraded irrigation and drainage at Hort Farm 2.

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Breakfast for All & Driving Range Open
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Silent Auction Hours
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Golf Shotgun - Scramble format (Be on Carts by 10:45 AM)
Lunch at stations on the Course
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Grand Reception on Patio
4:30 p.m. Silent Auction Closes
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Golf Awards & Announcements



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Equipment Hibernation: Winterizing Your SprayE quipment

*Justin Shield, Down to Earth Landscaping
Director, Social Media*

As the temperatures drop and winter approaches, it's time to winterize your spray equipment. Taking the steps now to ensure that your spray equipment is ready for winter will help you avoid costly repairs and downtime when you're ready to get back in the field. Whether you are an LC owner, technician or service manager, here are some helpful tips on how to winterize your spray equipment.

Clean & Dry All Parts

The most important step in preparing your spray equipment for the cold months is cleaning and drying all parts thoroughly to remove any debris or dirt that has collected on the hoses, nozzles, tanks, and other components of your system. This includes pressure washing all parts of the system with water along with using a degreasing cleaner if needed. Once you have completed this step, make sure that all parts are dried completely before moving on to storage. If you plan to store the equipment inside a building or shed for the winter season, you will also want to inspect for any signs of rust or corrosion which should be addressed before storing away.

Flush Your System

After cleaning the outside of your spray equipment away, the next step is to flush out the system. This helps remove any residue or build-up left inside of your system, so that it doesn't cause damage over time. Additionally, you can add a fuel stabilizer to keep gas or diesel from breaking down while in storage over the winter months.

Add Antifreeze

After your equipment is cleaned and flushed, it is important to add antifreeze and run it through the entire system to keep it from freezing. RV antifreeze is recommended since it can be sprayed on the ground when flushing out the

sprayer. Start by adding the RV antifreeze into the product tank and turn on the pump. Allow the antifreeze to circulate through out the entire spray

system, including the booms, turning on one section at a time until the antifreeze flows out of the nozzle openings.



You will want to add enough antifreeze to push the water out of the entire system.

Lubricate Moving Parts

The next step is lubricating any moving parts such as pumps and valves that may have come in contact with water during operation or cleaning. Use a quality lubricant specifically designed for use in pumps and valves that can withstand freezing temperatures; this will ensure that these components remain operating correctly once spring arrives. Make sure that all components are properly lubricated before putting them away for storage; this will help prevent damage due to corrosion while they are in storage and allow them to perform optimally come springtime.

Check Hose Connections

Checking hose connections is also important when prepping your spray equipment for winter storage. Check each connection point on hoses throughout the entire system – from tank connections to nozzle connections – looking closely at threads and seals to make sure they are not cracked or broken. Any signs of wear should be addressed immediately by replacing hoses as necessary; otherwise, you could risk serious damage due to freezing temperatures during storage which could lead to costly repairs down the road.

Storage

Keep equipment in a place where it will be protected from the elements. A dry space such as a storage building or shed is ideal, but if it must be stored outside, be sure to keep it tightly covered with a tarp. It is best to store removable parts like spray guns, nozzles, and strainers indoors or in a warm area.

Winterizing your spray equipment is essential for ensuring its continued performance once spring arrives again! It's worth it and you'll thank yourself later!





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A Non-Profit that Helps the Turfgrass Industry: I Want to Mow Your Lawn

Brian Schwartz, Founder

Thank you to Cece Peabody, Executive Director of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association, for the opportunity to exhibit **I Want To Mow Your Lawn Inc. (IWTMYL)** at the Green Expo in Atlantic City. It was a great opportunity to network and learn about other businesses in the industry

I first met Cece and NJTA President Matt Lindner while exhibiting at the NJLCA conference in Lambertville in the fall, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share the story of IWTMYL with a wider audience. As a 501c3 non-profit organization, our mission is to help the elderly, veterans, and disabled with basic lawn maintenance.

I founded IWTMYL in the summer of 2020, after I was laid off from my job in advertising during the height of the pandemic. Mowing my lawn was a therapeutic activity for me, and I wanted to do something good in the world while I figured out my next steps. So, I decided to offer my services to help the elderly with their yard work at no cost, as they are the most vulnerable to the virus.

The timing couldn't have been more perfect, as millions of people were losing their jobs due to the pandemic. Our story was picked up by local and national news, and we had clients reaching out from all over the United States. I even had people wanting to volunteer, so I started distributing client leads based on availability and equipment.

As we interacted with our clients, we learned that many of them were veterans or disabled. This inspired us to incorporate this into our mission, and we have been able to help those in need with basic lawn maintenance. The feedback we received from those we were able to help was truly appreciative, and we even heard from people who were not using our services but found our story uplifting at a time when they needed it.

Fast forward 2.5 years later, we have coverage across 40+ states and over 330 landscaping volunteers enlisted. Even though the pandemic has come to an end, there is still a massive need for our services. We continue to receive requests for help through voicemail, our website, social media, and email.



Volunteers can register on our website and create a profile listing their equipment and availability. There are no commitments, and even one visit per year can make a difference. We are always in need of more help on the landscaping frontlines, particularly from landscaping companies who have the equipment and are already on routes with their for-profit businesses. The leads we provide are generally for those who cannot afford landscaping contracts or are unable to do the work themselves due to old age or other life circumstances.

In addition to volunteering, there are other ways to contribute to IWTMYL and give back to the local community. Equipment donations, particularly battery-powered equipment, are appreciated as we strive to be environmentally friendly. We have received direct donations from Milwaukee Tool, Ryobi, and Stihl, among others. Financial contributions are also helpful in improving our technology and building awareness and are tax deductible. We also welcome help with other areas of the business, such as strategy and operations.

Thank you again to Cece and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association for the opportunity to share our story and mission. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those in need and create a more compassionate and caring world.



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Annual Rutgers Scholarship Awards: December 2021

It is always a pleasure attending the Rutgers Scholarship Event each year and awarding students scholarships. Congratulations to each of them!

Thanks to the NJAES and CTS and OCPE for hosting this event.

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SEE PHOTOS OF THE WINNERS and EVENT ON PAGE 26



*Pictures courtesy of
Shaun Barry and Matt Sweatlock
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clippings

THREE ISSUES PUBLISHED ANNUALLY to FEATURE OUR EVENTS:

Content changes may be made due to actual event dates.

Issue # 1 [Post Green Expo & Pre Golf Classic] Deadline for Ads & Articles: **February 1**

Issue # 2 [Post Golf Classic & Pre Field Days] Deadline for Ads & Articles: **June 15**

Issue # 3 [Post Field Days & Pre Green Expo] Deadline for Ads & Articles: **October 15**

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- *Clippings* Magazine • Members Directory + Addendum
- Outreach & Education impact in Trenton
- Support of Rutgers University's Turf Research and turf programs
- Marketing opportunities in NJTA publications
- Participation in events that raise scholarships for the NJ Turfgrass Foundation
- Website: www.njturfgrass.org

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE *CLIPPINGS* MAGAZINE BY: PRINT _____ EMAIL _____ BOTH _____

Membership Category Types (Annual Dues based on calendar year: January 1 – December 31)

All members receive separate mailings of NJTA publications and meeting notices.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS PARTNER (Manufacturer/Supplier or Sod Producer) | \$ | 425.00 |
| <i>Includes ONE TO FOUR individuals from same company.</i> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADDITIONAL BUSINESS PARTNER (5 or more) | \$ | 125.00 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS PARTNER (Golf Course, Lawn Care, Landscaper) | \$ | 300.00 |
| <i>Includes ONE TO THREE individuals from same company.</i> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADDITIONAL TURFGRASS PARTNER (4 or more) | \$ | 125.00 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL MEMBER (Either ONE Business or ONE Turfgrass Partner) | \$ | 125.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT MEMBER (Those enrolled in turf-related educational programs.) | \$ | 25.00 |

Member Information

Name # 1 _____ Title _____
Company or Individual _____
Address _____
Is this Address? _____ Your Business _____ Your Home _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
Email _____ Cell _____
If Applicable: NJ Pesticide License # _____ Date of Birth (DOB) _____

Name # 2 _____ Title _____
Company or Individual _____
Address _____
Is this Address? _____ Your Business _____ Your Home _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
Email _____ Cell _____
If Applicable: NJ Pesticide License # _____ Date of Birth (DOB) _____



25 US Highway 46 West • Wayne NJ 07470
Phone: 973.812.6467 • Fax: 973.812.6529

New Jersey Turfgrass Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership shall be open to all interested in the development and maintenance of turf.
It shall represent all facets of the turf industry, including persons or organizations
that grow or manage turf, or supply materials and services to the Green Industry.

JOIN ONLINE: www.njturfgrass.org - Click "Become a Member"

Name # 3 _____ Title _____

Company or Individual _____

Address _____

Is this Address? _____ Your Business _____ Your Home _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Cell _____

If Applicable: NJ Pesticide License # _____ Date of Birth (DOB) _____

Name # 4 _____ Title _____

Company or Individual _____

Address _____

Is this Address? _____ Your Business _____ Your Home _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Cell _____

If Applicable: NJ Pesticide License # _____ Date of Birth (DOB) _____

Select PARTNER Category that Best Describes Your Business or Profession

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS: Manufacturer/Supplier | <input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Cemetery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS: Sod Producer | <input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Parks and Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Golf Course | <input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Lawn Care Applicator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Landscape/Lawn Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Architect |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Irrigation Installation | <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT: Enrolled in Turf Related Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Schools & Athletic Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> HONORARY: Rutgers Professionals, Award Wnr |

Payment Information (Required) •

MAIL OR FAX TO NJTA Office

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Type of Credit Card: | SIGNATURE: |
| Card Number: | Name on Card: |
| Expiration Date: (MM/YY) | Street Address: |
| 3 Digit Security Code: | City/State/Zip: |
| Check By Mail: (Payable to NJTA) | PURCHASE ORDER #: |
| TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AMOUNT: | \$ |
| NJ TURFGRASS FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTION (Optional): This portion is tax-deductible. Supports Turfgrass Research & Scholarships | \$ 25.00 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: | \$ |

*Since 1970, New Jersey Turfgrass Association's (NJTA) Mission is to promote the Turfgrass Industry
and enhance the environment through education, professionalism, leadership,
and our partnership with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.*

Meet the

A Board of Directors



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SavATree (Retired)



John Osterhoudt
Vice President
Metuchen Golf &
Country Club



Michael Reed
Secretary
SynaTek Solutions



Matt Sweatlock
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Ryan Petitti
Director
Green Lawn
Fertilizing

Serving the
Board of Directors of the
New Jersey
Turfgrass Association
is rewarding

We welcome you
to become more
involved by
joining a committee
for one of our events -
Golf Classic, Field Day,
or Green Expo.

If you have interest
or questions, please reach
out to any
of our board members
or our Executive Director.
execdirector@njturfgrass.org

Thanks!



Tracy Wadhams
Field Days Chair
Traywood LLC



Justin Shield
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Down to Earth
Landscaping



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County College of
Morris



Chris Carson
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Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP
Executive Director
NJTA / NJTF



Dr. James Murphy
Advisor
Rutgers University



BENTGRASS SOD

Kevin Coombs
Cell (856) 542-4178
kevin@coombsfarms.com

84 Route 77, Elmer, NJ 08318
Office (856) 358-4763
www.coombsfarms.com

2023 EVENTS

Monday, May 1

Rutgers Turfgrass Research GOLF CLASSIC

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
Bedminster, NJ

Tuesday & Wednesday

July 2 & 3

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days

Tues: Hort Farm II, N. Brunswick, NJ

Weds: Adelphia Farm, Freehold, NJ

Tuesday - Thursday

December 5 - 7

Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference

Borgata Hotel & Casino, Atlantic City, NJ

Rutgers Extension Offices & Numbers

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| RCE of Atlantic County | (609) 625-0056 |
| RCE of Bergen County | (201) 336-6780 |
| RCE of Burlington County | (609) 265-5050 |
| RCE of Camden County | (856) 216-7130 |
| RCE of Cape May County | (609) 465-5115 |
| RCE of Cumberland County | (856) 451-2800 |
| RCE of Essex County | (973) 228-2210 |
| RCE of Gloucester County | (856) 307-6450 |
| RCE of Hudson County | (201) 915-1399 |
| RCE of Hunterdon County | (908) 788-1339 |
| RCE of Mercer County | (609) 989-6830 |
| RCE of Middlesex County | (732) 398-5260 |
| RCE of Monmouth County | (732) 431-7260 |
| RCE of Morris County | (973) 285-8300 |
| RCE of Ocean County | (732) 349-1246 |
| RCE of Passaic County | (973) 305-5740 |
| RCE of Salem County | (856) 769-0090 |
| RCE of Somerset County | (908) 526-6293 |
| RCE of Sussex County | (973) 948-3040 |
| RCE of Union County | (908) 654-9854 |
| RCE of Warren County | (908) 475-6505 |

*Please notify the NJTA office if any of the
above numbers have changed. Thank you.
973-812-6467 • execdirector@njturfgrass.org*



clippings

N T A Board of Directors

- Matt Lindner, President
- Jason Osterhoudt, Vice President
- Michael Reed, Secretary
- Matt Sweatlock, Treasurer
- Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP, Executive Director
- Shaun Barry, Golf Classic Chairman
- Chris Carson, Green Expo Chairman
- Josh Kopera, Director
- Aaron Kurdyla, Director
- Donovan Maguigan, Director
- Ryan Petitti, Director
- Justin Shield, Director
- Marney Stauffer, Director
- Craig Tolley, Director
- Tracy Wadhams, Director
- Dr. Jim Murphy, Rutgers Advisor

New Jersey Turfgrass Association

25 US Highway 46 W • Wayne, NJ 07470-6801

Phone (973) 812-6467 • Fax (973) 812-6529

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Plant Diagnostic Laboratory

And Nematode Detection Service

provides accurate and timely plant diagnoses:

- ◆ Disease and Insect Pests
- ◆ Plant and Weed Identification
- ◆ Insect Identification
- ◆ Fungus and Mold Identification
- ◆ Nematode Assay
- ◆ Virus Testing
- ◆ Fungal Endophyte Screening
- ◆ Pesticide Resistance Screening
- ◆ Other Services Available by Contract

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/plantdiagnosticlab/> or call
732-932-9140 or email clinic@njaes.rutgers.edu

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 550, Milltown, NJ 08850-0550

Physical location:

Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center
20 Indyk-Engel Way, North Brunswick 08902

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Soil Testing Laboratory

performs chemical and mechanical analyses:

- ◆ Landscape - fertility, suitability, topsoil evaluation
- ◆ Farm - fertility, pre-sidedress nitrate, full farm
- ◆ Organic Media - greenhouse media, compost
- ◆ Sports Turf - fertility, sand-based root zone
- ◆ Technical - permeability and ecological
- ◆ Individual / Specialized Tests
- ◆ Irrigation Water - pH, salts, nitrate-nitrogen, phosphorus, iron

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab/> or call
848-932-9295 or email soiltest@njaes.rutgers.edu
57 Rt. 1, New Brunswick, 7:30 am to 5 pm weekdays.