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# clippings

Winter 2009 | VOL 74



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# President's Message

by Keith Kubik, NJTA President

If you are reading this message, you are either my mom (Hi Mom!), or you are a turf professional who is interested in the work of the NJTA. Assuming you are the latter, I encourage you to take out your NJTA Membership Directory and flip through the pages. I promise that you have friends in the turfgrass industry who are not members. As a member, you are aware of how hard the NJTA works for this industry.

As a member, you know all about the **Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic**. This event (run by the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation) has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years in an effort to support the research provided by the Rutgers University's Center for Turfgrass Science. You have seen the outpouring of support by the international turfgrass industry in the form of attendance and sponsorships.

As a member, you know all about the **Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days**. These two days allow access to unparalleled research at the country's premier turf research facility. You have seen how hands-on the NJTA is in helping to run the event.

As a member, you know all about the **New Jersey Green Expo**. You have been a part of the most comprehensive turfgrass conference in the area. The NJTA has worked hard to meet the educational needs of all of its members. Whether your connection to the industry is as a golf course superintendent, a lawn care professional, a sports field manager or any one of the other many important turf fields, Expo has a session for you. The education combined with the many social (Mix & Mingles) and networking (Trade Show) opportunities make this event a must attend!

As a member, you obviously know all about *Clippings*. I thank you for taking the time to read it. Within these pages are science-based articles, recaps of past events, info on upcoming events, legislative news and much more. I have binders full of past *Clippings* dating back to 1998 which serve as a historical record of the industry that means so much to me.

I would like to invite you to become an unofficial member of the NJTA's Membership Committee. Please pick up the phone and call your friends. Let them know how hard the NJTA is working for them and that we want them to be a part of the team. If you would like to become an official member of the Membership Committee, give Shaun Barry a call. I am sure he would love to have you!

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## Green World

Assessing Cool-Season Turfgrasses for Performance under Traffic Stress

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# President's Message

..continued

I am honored to serve as the new President of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association. I would like to thank Dr. Karen Plumley for her hard work as our President for the past two years. I have quickly gained a new appreciation for how much she did in this role. I also want to thank Chris Carson for inviting me onto the Board of Directors in 2005. I am lucky to have two Past Presidents on the Board to consult with moving forward.

All the Best --



## The Tipping Point


by Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP,  
NJTA Executive Director



You may have read the 2000 book, *The Tipping Point, How Little Things Make a Difference*, written by Malcolm Gladwell. It essentially talks about how trends are sparked and take hold. He identifies three key factors that play a role on whether a particular trend will 'tip' into wide-scale popularity. He discusses the concepts of the Law of the Few, the Stickiness Factor, and the Power of Context.

The Law of the Few contends that before widespread popularity can be attained, a few key types of people must champion an idea, concept, or product before it can reach the 'tipping point'. If individuals representing these types of people endorse and advocate a new idea and trend, it is much more likely that it will 'tip' into exponential success.

As a member of NJTA, you are the Law of the Few -- you champion the New Jersey Turfgrass Association and its mission of being dedicated to the advancement of the turfgrass industry in the State of New Jersey and throughout the World. 2010 is our 40th Anniversary and we have every reason to celebrate.

Let's work together and create the 40th Anniversary 'tipping point' for NJTA - for bringing in new members, for breaking all attendance records at our Field Days and Green Expo, and for helping Rutgers University break sponsorship records at the Golf Classic. You can do this. We can do this. Let's prove the Law of the Few really works. 

## We Thank Our 2009


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

*Bruce B. Clarke, Director, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science*

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

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

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

However, the NJTA’s assistance to the Rutgers Turf Program has always gone far beyond financial support.

The Association has provided countless hours of volunteer support at field days, educational conferences such as EXPO, workshops, seminars and short courses. Its members have served on advisory boards, search committees at the College and task forces providing guidance and advice on issues of importance to the Green Industry and the University. The NJTA was closely involved in the development of the first Turfgrass Strategic/Master Plan at the College in 1985, which set the stage for the tremendous growth of the Rutgers Turf Program in the 1990s. This resulted in the hiring of Drs. Jim Murphy, Jim White, Bill Meyer, Steve Hart, Albrecht Koppenhöfer, Bingru Huang, Stacy Bonos and most recently Dr. Ning Zhang. The tremendous growth of the Rutgers Turfgrass Program would not have been possible without the support of the NJTA and its members. As we move forward in this new century, the input and assistance of the Association will help the Turfgrass Center and its faculty expand their efforts to help turf managers throughout the US and abroad.

The Turfgrass Center, the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences truly appreciate the unique partnership that they have with the NJTA and look forward to working with the Association in the future.

Congratulations to the NJTA on its 40th Anniversary and best wishes for continued success and prosperity.

*FB*



**New Jersey  
Turfgrass  
Association**



# Assessing Cool-Season Turfgrasses for Performance under Traffic Stress

Bradley S. Park and James A. Murphy

Applied Turfgrass Research from Rutgers, the State University, and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association

Intense foot traffic from sporting activity can limit the persistence of sports turf. Selection and establishment of varieties that are more tolerant of traffic is one tool available to field managers. Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science cooperates with the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) to evaluate turfgrass species and varieties for performance under simulated traffic. This article summarizes our trials evaluating Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue.

## 2005 National Kentucky Bluegrass Wear Trial

This trial assessed the tolerance of Kentucky bluegrass cultivars and experimental selections to wear applied during the autumn and summer. Entries of the 2005 National Kentucky Bluegrass Trial were seeded during September 2005 in 5- x 9-ft plots at Hort Farm 2. Thirty-six wear passes of the paddling wear simulator were applied to approximately 1/3rd of each plot in the trial during autumn 2008 (November) and summer 2009 (July).

Plots were rated for fullness of the turfgrass canopy (0-100%) before wear (CBW) and after 36 passes of the wear simulator (CW), which assessed wear tolerance. Canopy retention was calculated as:  $(CW - CBW)$ . Fullness of canopy was rated again 20 days after wear.

## Results

Kentucky bluegrass had greater wear tolerance (canopy retention) to summer wear compared to autumn wear.

Entries with the best wear tolerance were Sombrero, Harmonie, CPP 822, Greenteam, and Emblem. Entries with the poorest wear tolerance were Bd 98-2108, Zinfandel, A97-1560, Bandera, A00-99, MSP 3723,

Arrowhead, A99-2377, 1QG-38, Belissimo, Avid, Bd 99-2103, PSG 366, Mystere, Empire, A00-1400, H98-701, Mermaid, America, Kenblue, A95-410, and DLF 76-9075.

Kentucky bluegrass cultivars and experimental selections with the fullest canopy 20 days after wear included BAR VV 0709, Sombrero, Harmonie, Greenteam, Emblem, CPP 822, Excursion, Bariris, and Rubicon. Entries with the least canopy 20 days after wear included RAD-0AN64, Moonlight SLT, A99-3122, Hampton, Kenblue, Bandera, 1QG-38, DLF 76-9075, Zinfandel, PSG 366, H98-701, Mermaid, A00-1400, America, Empire, A95-410, and Bd 99-2103.

Additional characteristics need to be considered when selecting cultivars for use on sports fields. A number of the better wear tolerant entries of Kentucky bluegrass reported above suffer from summer stress problems. Visit the URL, <http://www.turf.rutgers.edu/research/reports/2008/201.pdf>, for more details on the summer stress problems.

## 2006 National Tall Fescue Traffic Trial

This trial evaluated the tolerance and recovery of tall fescue cultivars and experimental selections to traffic (wear and compaction) applied during spring and autumn. One-hundred-twenty entries, including those of the 2006 NTEP tall fescue trial, were seeded September 2006 in 6- x 5-ft plots at Hort Farm 2, North Brunswick, NJ. Traffic was applied as the combination of wear and compaction across 1/2 of each plot. The wear simulator described above (2005 National Kentucky Bluegrass Traffic Trial) was used to apply wear stress (24 passes) in spring (April) and autumn (November) 2009.

Plots were rated for the fullness of turfgrass canopy (0-100%) before wear (CBW) and after wear simulation (CW). Canopy retention was calculated as:  $(CW - CBW)$ . Additionally, wear tolerance was visually assessed imme-

continued on page 7

# Assessing Cool-Season Turfgrasses for Performance under Traffic Stress...continued

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diately after wear using a 1 to 9 scale where 9=most complete, non-bruised canopy and 1=least canopy.

Compaction of the soil was achieved by applying ten (10) passes of a 2790-lb pavement roller (vibratory function engaged) after CW ratings were taken. Visual ratings of the fullness of turfgrass canopy (0-100%) were taken 9 days after compaction (C9DAC). Traffic tolerance was visually 9 DAC using a 1 to 9 scale where 9=most complete, non-bruised canopy and 1=least canopy.

## Results

Averaged over all entries, tall fescue had a greater fullness of canopy before traffic during autumn 2009 compared to spring 2009. This difference was likely due to the incomplete spring green-up in April. However, canopy loss after wear and traffic (wear plus compaction) was greater during autumn compared to spring. Thus, tall fescue had greater traffic tolerance during spring compared to autumn.

Entries with the best wear tolerance during spring and autumn 2009 included SC-1, Bullseye, Faith, Falcon V, and Shenandoah III. Among these top performing entries, the canopy loss after spring and autumn wear was similar for Bullseye and Shenandoah III; whereas, SC-1, Faith, and Falcon V had greater canopy loss after autumn wear compared to spring.

Aristotle and Kentucky 31 had the least wear tolerance during both spring and autumn 2009. Entries that had a canopy fullness of less than 25% after spring and autumn wear included were Pennington's Best (mixture of Forte [33%], Prospect [33%], and Signia [33%]), ATF 1328, PSG-TTST, AST 7001, Aristotle, and Kentucky 31 (Table 5). Spring and autumn canopy loss after wear was similar for Aristotle and Kentucky 31; whereas, Pennington's Best, ATF 1328, PSG-TTST, and AST 7001 had greater canopy loss after wear in autumn compared to spring.

Entries with the poorest wear tolerance across seasons both seasons in 2009 included Lindbergh, Tahoe II, Pennington's Best, ATF 1328, Water Saver (mixture of Labarinth [34%], Aztec II [24%], Focus [20%], and Rendition [20%]), Silverado, Aristotle, AST 7001, and Kentucky 31.

Tall fescue entries with the best traffic (wear plus compaction) tolerance during spring and autumn 2009 were SC-1, Falcon V, Traverse SPR, Cochise IV, and Bullseye. Entries with the least traffic tolerance during spring and autumn were ATF 1328, Aristotle, AST 7001, and Kentucky 31.

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# Rutgers Professor Receives Early Career Award for Excellence in Plant Breeding

**Stacy Bonos**, assistant professor at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, has been selected by the multi-state Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee (PBCC) to receive its inaugural Early Career Excellence in Plant Breeding Award. The award was announced at the annual scientific meeting of the PBCC on August 4, 2009. As the award recipient, Bonos has been invited to present her research and anchor a round table discussion for graduate students at the 2010 meeting.

The Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee (PBCC) is a broad-based group including plant breeders from land-grant universities in over 38 states, plus plant breeders working in the federal government and private companies. All types of crops are represented, including grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables, ornamentals, turf, and trees. This Early Career award is the first of its kind for plant breeding. The PBCC hopes that the award will help attract young people to consider a career in plant breeding, by demonstrating peer recognition of the accomplishments of outstanding young plant breeders.

“Stacy has developed a 21st century breeding program in which she is doing it all,” said Brad Hillman, Director of Cooperative Research at Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES). “Teaching, gaining substantial extramural funding for an exceptional research program, and releasing a wide range of different plant varieties.”

In her breeding research for turf and biofuels, Bonos uses diverse plant genetic resources to develop new plant types that are more tolerant of pests and poor or dry soils. Her varieties are robust without excessive use of pesticides, and require less fertilizer and water compared to earlier varieties. These are important advantages that give lawns and golf courses smaller environmental “footprints.” They also help make bio-fuel production more sustainable.

“It is very rewarding to know that the new varieties help to improve the quality of our environment,” says Bonos who is a faculty member with the Department

of Plant Biology and Pathology at Rutgers.

“I truly love my job. I am grateful and proud to receive the Early Career Award in Plant

Breeding from the PBCC. It is good to be recognized for my plant breeding efforts and it encourages me to continue my research and inspire students to pursue careers in plant breeding.”



For a young scientist, Bonos has a remarkable record. She has developed 14 new plant varieties, mentored many graduate and undergraduate students, written numerous extension and popular publications about how to use the new varieties, and published 36 scientific articles. Bonos has received several awards, including the 2005 Young Crop Scientist Award from the Crop Science Society of America and the 2001 Musser International Turfgrass Foundation “Award of Excellence.”

“Plant breeding is a key science for agriculture, and early career plant breeders will shape its future,” observes Phil Simon, PBCC’s Chairman and a vegetable crop breeder with USDA’s Agricultural Research Service. “The achievements of Stacy Bonos are an outstanding example. We applaud her success, and congratulate her on being the first recipient of the PBCC Early Career Excellence Award in Plant Breeding.”

✍

## About the Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee

The Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee is a multi-state project, #SCC80. It is national in scope but administered by the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, in cooperation with the National Institute for Food and Agriculture of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The PBCC provides a forum for discussion, organization, and leadership on matters affecting long-term U.S. plant breeding capacities, including research and education, and their relevance to current and future national needs.

## About the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station is the primary unit at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey that is responsible for carrying out the university’s land-grant mission and functions. It is mandated by the state to pursue research and outreach that generate and deliver practical science-based solutions for the viability, health and sustainability of industries and communities related to agriculture, the environment, natural resources, food, and human and community development. NJAES is the home of Rutgers Cooperative Extension.



# Green Expo 2009 Kicks Off

## NJTA's 40th Anniversary *by Chris Carson, Green Expo Chhairman*

This year's Expo focused on the 40 year partnership between the NJ Turfgrass Association and Rutgers University. Begun with discussions in 1969 between Rutgers staff and industry professionals, the NJTA was officially formed on November 18, 1970. Over the next 39+ years, this relationship between turfgrass professionals and university researchers and extension specialists has grown, and has consistently been characterized by Cook College Deans – and by the University President - as a model of how commodity groups can work with the University for the Common Good.

Dr. Henry Indyk was the driving force for the formation of our Association, supported by Dr. Ralph Engel. Both of those gentlemen have been celebrated by NJTA and by Expo in the past, and this year we took great pride in honoring, via the dedication to him of Expo 2009, the great turfgrass breeder Dr. C. Reed Funk. Though Dr. Funk was not able to join us, he did spend several hours in September to thank us for the honor and to participate in a very interesting interview. Presented at our General Session, this film was one of the many highlights of our show. If you missed that presentation, there is a direct link to be had: if you go to NJTA's website at [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org) you will find an easy link available there.

In addition to this celebration of Dr. Funk, almost every speaker in the program was a graduate of, or affiliated with, the turfgrass program at Rutgers. Drs. Joe DiPaola and Darren Lycan from Syngenta; Dr. Michelle DaCosta and Karen Plumley (Dr. Bruce Clarke's first graduate student); Pickseed's own Dr. Jerry Pepin (Dr. Funk's first graduate student)... all of them –and many more- are Rutgers people. It is remarkable how deep the roots of the Rutgers family tree go in our turfgrass world, and how widespread the influence. In many ways the extended Rutgers turf community is a perfect affirmation of the Rutgers slogan: *Jersey Roots, Global Reach.*

[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

Did you receive your NJTA lapel pin and window-decal? How about a copy of the wonderful Anniversary Booklet spearheaded by Ken Kubik and put together by NJTA Member of the Year Doug Vogel? If you missed out, let Executive Director Cece Peabody know... she might be able to get one for you. The 1985 photograph of Bruce Clarke is priceless!

This year's show had many highlights. On the education side, many hundreds of people took advantage of the breadth of knowledge available, and with so many

pesticide applicator points available there were numerous opportunities to fulfill our legal obligations as well. Dr. Clarke's 4 hour Golf Seminar on diseases was standing room only with over 250 people in the room, and new this year were talks on the show floor, which attracted a total of 150 attendees.

On the social side, attendance at the Grass Roots mix-and-mingle was huge, and, thanks to Wayne Dubin and the Bartlett Tree Company, there were over 100 attendees at the new Lawn and Landscape mixer Tuesday night. The Wednesday night hospitality suites were packed as usual (thank you Seeton Turf and Fisher & Son), and the food and beverages on the show floor were popular as well. Wednesday's free lunch supplied by MaryLou DesChamps and Storr Tractor was enjoyed by 350!

Despite all of these scheduled opportunities, we consistently hear from attendees that their favorite parts of Expo are the informal 'hallway' gatherings, chance meetings that help form new friendships and bond old ones... opportunities that provide helpful tips for making your operation stronger or for helping you survive these difficult economic times. It is particularly gratifying to the Expo committee to see these interactions in motion, and to hear the buzz from these groups on the trade show floor and in the hallways. To us, that is the sound of a successful show. *Continued on pg 10*



# NJTA's Annual Awards Presented at Expo

by Keith Kubik, NJTA President

My first official duty as the new President of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association was the most gratifying task of the year. I was privileged to hand out the NJTA's annual awards. When the Board of Director's assembled the list of this year's winners, we realized how special the recipients were. Without design, the group represented the pride that this industry can take for where we have been, and the optimism we can share as we look to the future.

## Recognition Award

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

**Future Farmers of America:** Monmouth County Chapter: The students from the Monmouth County Career Center received the recognition award for their efforts in the "FFA Links" project. This project allowed the students to design, build and maintain a par 3 golf hole.

**Dr. Richard Caton:** Doc, as he is affectionately known, was honored for the years of service he provided to the NJTA. He served as the Executive Director of this association with passion and energy. He always had a joke, a smile and a trumpet and was ready to use them all whenever the time was right.

## Member of the Year Award

*"Presented by the New Jersey Turfgrass Association in recognition of the unsurpassed dedication and commitment to the NJTA."*

**Doug Vogel:** The 40th Anniversary of the NJTA was launched at this year's Expo. The highlight of that launch was the Anniversary Journal which Doug produced. The hours invested by Doug resulted in a piece which we can use for years to come to study our history.

## Environmental Stewardship Award

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

**Dr. Stacy Bonos:** Stacy was an obvious choice for this award because of her research in native grasses as a source of biofuels. Her research put Rutgers in the forefront of the pursuit of sustainability at a global level. Stacy is well known for her work in breeding turfgrass at Rutgers University.

## Hall of Fame Award

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

**Dr. William Meyer:** It is never easy to replace a legend. When Reed Funk retired, he handed the reins of one of the most successful turfgrass breeding programs in the world to Dr. Meyer. The program did not skip a beat. Dr. Meyer has continued an effort by Rutgers University to bring new and improved cultivars to market. He continues to develop innovative ways to identify the strongest possible clones. It is tough to walk on any lawn, sports field or golf course where cool-season grasses are grown without stepping on a little piece of Rutgers. 🍀

## Green Expo Thanks Sponsors

An extra-special thank you to: Aquatrols, Bartlett Tree Experts, BASF Corporation, DuPont Professional Products, George E. Ley Company, Grass Roots, Storr Tractor, Syngenta, and Wilfred McDonald who took the extra step of sponsoring various portions of our show. We deeply appreciate your support.

## Green Expo Kicks Off

### 40th Anniversary.. *continued from pg 9*

Speaking of making operations stronger, the Expo Committee is already hard at work analyzing strengths and weaknesses of our show. We know that the times are changing, and that we must change along with them. To that end, there are a number of significant possibilities being discussed for the future. Our goal is to make Green Expo the best it can be, and to continue to provide our attendees with the education, camaraderie, and networking they desire most.

NJTA thanks all of our attendees for participating, and offers a special thank you to our vendor partners for showing their deep commitment to our industry through their support of our show. Without them, we simply wouldn't be the same.

# Chris Carson wins GCSANJ Distinguished Service Award

by Bill Murray, President, Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

The Distinguished Service Award always goes to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service to our profession and our association, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey. This year **Chris Carson**'s name has been added to that list of "who's who" of distinguished recipients.

There have been few superintendents who have worked for so many years (almost all at the same club - Echo Lake Country Club) while giving back to the industry as Chris has done. Chris has been involved in numerous activities, committees and the day-to-day operations of our association for the past twenty plus years. I believe everyone in our association and the national association knows or has heard of him.

Leadership is an area where Chris has really shown what kind of person he is. During his tenure at Echo Lake he has mentored numerous assistants who have gone on to become superintendents in our state and throughout the country. Some of these superintendents I know personally and they have confided in me what an outstanding motivator and individual he is. Even though Chris is a great mentor I believe his greatest strength has been his ability to lead not one but two different organizations, GCSANJ 1993-1994 and NJTA 2005-2007 (he also was the president of the Tri-State Foundation). This was evident in his drive to hire an executive director who is shared by both associations. His leadership has gone on even after his presidencies being the man who started GCSANJ's club relations committee. This committee, which is now called Membership Services, has had to make many visits to clubs throughout the state helping

superintendents in need and golf clubs looking for advice or a new superintendent. Chris is always the one answering the call to volunteer his services and time to help out his peers anywhere needed. Chris is also the past president of NJTA Foundation and General Chairman of Expo at this present time.

He has done all this while still making the time to be a soccer coach for his children.

These examples of his leadership qualities are not enough because he still finds time to sit down and write articles in our quarterly newsletter, the *Greenside* and the NJTA's *Clippings*. Writing an article and getting it selected for one of the articles in our national publication,

*Golf Course Management*, is an accomplishment in itself but to win the Leo Feser Award for Journalism twice is simply amazing. Besides writing, Chris takes time to teach Turfgrass Management to students in the famed Rutgers University Winter Turfgrass Program. You can also find him speaking on different topics to other golf associations throughout the state or even at the GCSAA annual Conference.

I know our association, GCSANJ, is very proud to honor Chris for his achievements and awards throughout his distinguished career as a golf course superintendent. But most of all he should be commended on being the great person that he is.





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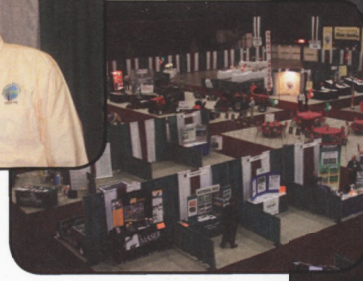
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# NJTA'S HALL OF FAME AWARD

by Keith Kubik

The New Jersey Turfgrass Association's Hall of Fame Award is "presented annually to a person in recognition of a continuing lifetime commitment of dedication, service, and achievements contributing to the advancement of the turfgrass industry of New Jersey." This award was first given in 1974. As the NJTA celebrates our 40th anniversary in 2010, we felt it was appropriate to highlight the past winners of our highest award.

The following is a reprint from the "New Jersey Turfgrass Association 10th Anniversary Commemorative Book (1980).

## **Roy C. Bossolt (1980)**

"Roy C. Bossolt, one of the founding fathers of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association and its 4th President, has served at one time or another as a member of the state and national organizations kindred to the world of "green"; turf, nursery, grass seed, plant food, and pesticide industries. Although the agronomic world appears to have made captive his time, talent, and energies Roy managed to share those same personal ingredients with his family, church, company, and community. This past year, after having been associated with the Terre Company as a partner for 34 years Roy retired from the business community for a more leisurely but active life."



*Roy Bossolt*

# *34th Annual GREEN EXPO*

## **Turf & Landscape Conference 2009**

### **Trump Taj Mahal Atlantic City, NJ**

On Wednesday December 9, 2009 the students in the Horticulture, Landscape and Turf Management Program at the Monmouth County Career Center received the “**Recognition Award**” from the New Jersey Turfgrass Association. This award was presented in recognition of “**FFA Links**”, the project that brought students together with the Turfgrass Industry to provide practical learning experience in the planning, construction and maintenance of fine turf.

Students took advantage of the Educational Programs offered at the New Jersey Green Expo along with the Trade Show, which is one of the largest Green Industry events in the tri-state area.



# The 19th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium

by Keith E. Kubik, President NJTA

The Center for Turfgrass Science held their 19th Annual Symposium on January 11, 2010 at Foran Hall on the George H. Cook Campus. A wide variety of topics were covered in talks and posters. In the Associate Director's Opening Remarks, Dr. Bill Meyer indicated that the "symposium was started...as an annual meeting to update Center for Turfgrass Science members and our stakeholders on current issues in turfgrass science."

Many of the VIP's of Rutgers research gave updates on their current projects. **Dr. Stacy Bonos** described the status of the bentgrass breeding program. This included work on creepers, colonials and velvets. Varieties are being studied for disease resistance (copper spot, anthracnose and brown patch), and wear and salt tolerance. **Dr. Bill Meyer** updated the breeding work on Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue. They have been studying some developing rust issues and an increased look at shade tolerance. **Dr. Don Kobayashi** reviewed his work on *Lysobacter*. This research should help to identify sources of biocontrol and biorational products for the turfgrass industry. **Dr. Jim Murphy** described his work on the nitrogen effects of anthracnose on annual bluegrass. The research will be used to modify the best management practices for putting greens. **Yan Xu** discussed the work being done to develop better heat tolerance in bentgrasses. **Dr. Eric Lam** explained programmed cell death and how it relates to stress tolerance in turfgrass. **Dr. Jim White** reviewed recent developments in his endophyte research. **Dr. Ning Zhang** explained her progress in developing a tool to identify fungal turfgrass pathogens using molecular detection. She encouraged anyone in the area to send her turfgrass disease samples in an effort to advance her research. **Dr. Steve Hart** discussed an exciting new herbicide which is getting close to coming to market. The product may revolutionize how crabgrass and goosegrass are treated in cool-season lawns. **Lemma Ebssa** reviewed his work on the biocontrol of black cutworms using entopathogenic nematodes.

In addition to Rutgers faculty, the Center for Turfgrass Science invited some guests to describe their research. **Yaling Qian** from Colorado State University explained her current projects. Her work will shed a lot of light on the carbon sequestration ability of a turfgrass ecosystem. **Dr. John Stier** from the University of Wisconsin-Madison provided the keynote. He explained some of the myths and facts about rain gardens discovered through his research.

Always the gracious host, **Dr. Bruce Clarke** made a point to thank all who attended. I had the pleasure of sitting with **Shaun Barry** (NJTA & GCSANJ Board Member) and **Bill Murray** (President of the GCSANJ). NJTA Board Members **Pedro Perdomo** and **Brian Feldman** were also in attendance. It was a fantastic opportunity to see some of the research that is not covered at the Rutgers Field Days. Should "Programmed Cell Death" ever be a category on Jeopardy, I'll be ready thanks to the 19th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium!



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# The NJTA's 40th Anniversary Journal

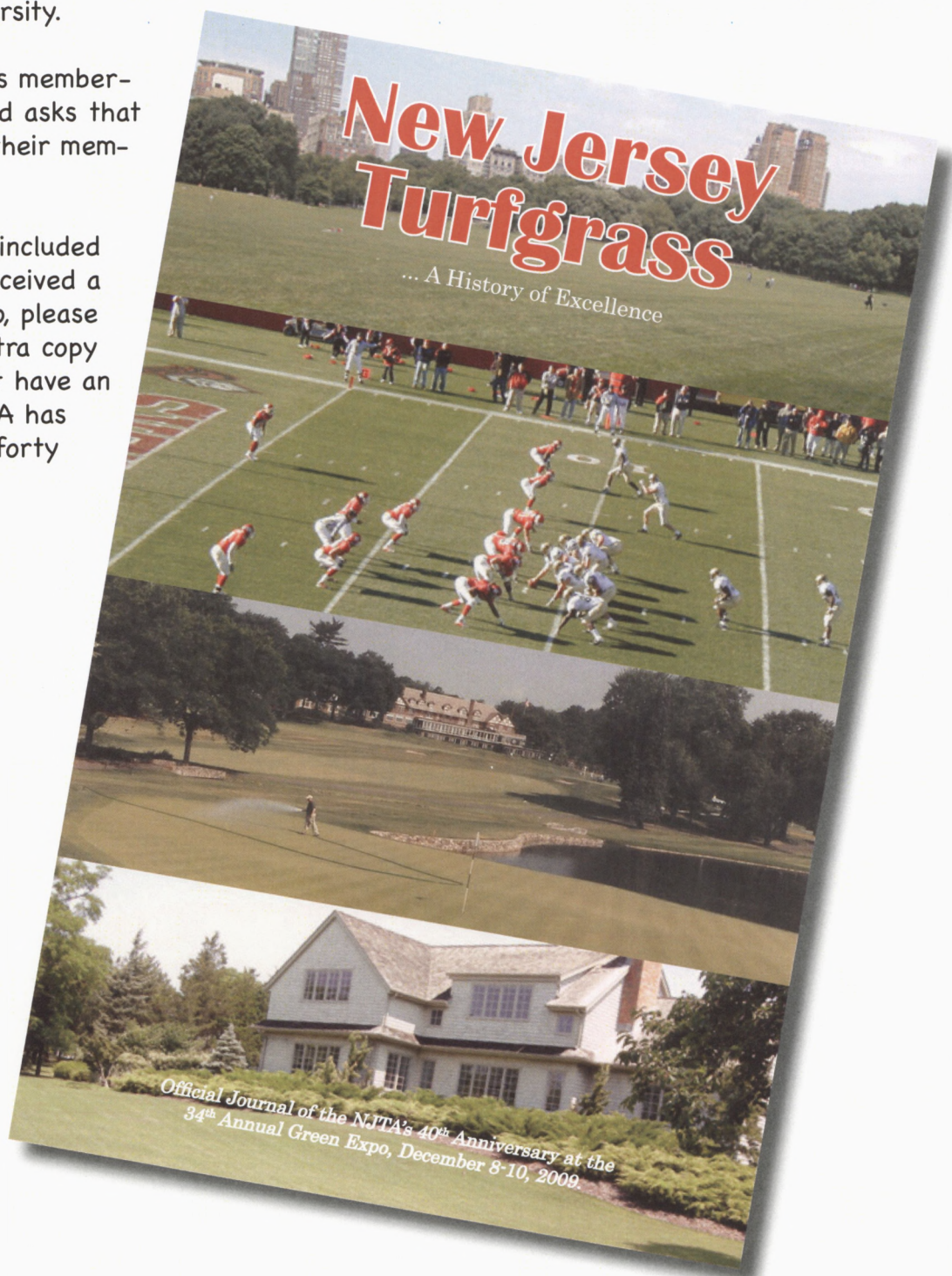
The journal was produced to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association. The Association is proud of its partnership with the Rutgers University Center for Turfgrass Science, the finest turfgrass program in the world.

The journal expresses the passion that the NJTA membership has had for its mission to promote the Turfgrass Industry. The editor, Doug Vogel, and I hope that the journal can be utilized to recruit new members to the Association and attract students to the benefits of studying Turfgrass Science at Rutgers University.

The association thanks its membership for their support and asks that they continue renewing their memberships in the future.

A copy of the journal is included with *Clippings*. If you received a copy while at Green Expo, please consider passing your extra copy on to someone who might have an interest in what the NJTA has accomplished in the last forty years.

Ken Kubik  
Journal Coordinator





MISSION: To promote the Turfgrass industry and enhance the environment through education, professionalism, leadership, and our partnership with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

# New Jersey Turfgrass Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

It's Time to Renew Your NJTA Membership for 2010...use form below.

## Individual or Business Partner Information (Please Print Clearly)

Primary Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please Select a Membership Level below: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New

I - Business Partner \$ 275.00 (Up to 4 members)  III - Individual Member \$ 80.00 (1 person)

II - Addl Business Partner (5 or more) Each is \$ 60.00  IV - Student Member \$ 20.00 (1 person)

**Benefits of NJTA Membership**

- \* Savings on GREEN EXPO & Field Days Registration Fees
- \* Opportunities to earn Pesticide Applicator License Credits
- \* Clippings Quarterly Newsletter
- \* Outreach & Education impact in Trenton
- \* Access to Education & Research at Rutgers
- \* Membership Directory
- \* Support of Rutgers University's Turf program and facilities
- \* Website: [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)
- \* Marketing Opportunities in NJTA publications
- \* Participate in events that raise scholarships for the NJ Turfgrass Foundation

**Which category best describes your business or profession:**

- Golf Course
- Lawn Care Applicator
- Landscape/Lawn Maintenance
- Cemetery
- Irrigation
- Sod Producer
- Parks & Recreation
- Schools & Athletic Fields
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- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Partner: Additional Member Information**  
 Please complete. If needed, use another sheet for 5 or more members.

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NJTA Annual Dues (January 1 - December 31): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 NJ Turfgrass Foundation Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Outreach & Education Contribution\*: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (\*This portion is non-deductible.)

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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=====

Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP  
 Executive Director  
 Updated 9/2009

# THE RUTGERS TURFGRASS GOLF CLASSIC SUCCEEDS BECAUSE OF YOU...

by Shaun Barry

If you are a superintendent, an assistant, an affiliate or any part of the turfgrass industry, please block off **May 3, 2010** on your calendar. Bring co-workers and friends who love to eat and play golf. Join a group of 300 people who are there to support a good cause. There are many opportunities during each year to support great charities and foundations and thankfully they all seem to do well.



When you review this list, you see many parts of our industry represented including

Rutgers itself. They recognize the importance of this event and what Rutgers means to our industry and to your daily lives. If they could do more I know that they would. Please consider joining them in their support of this event. We also have a **Par** sponsor level along with **Hole** sponsors.

The **Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic** on May 3rd however is the easiest way to actively support our industry. This event is hosted by the NJTA Foundation whose sole goal is to help support research at Rutgers University's Center for Turfgrass Science. Dr Clarke, Dr. Meyer and Dr Murphy are well-known to most of us, but they are part of a staff that is respected worldwide. There is no better team in the industry and their research and results are standards that are used throughout the turfgrass world. We hope to see them continue their efforts but with finances being what they are, they need our help more than ever.

You can come by yourself or a friend and we will match you up with a team. We can always use golfers. Last year we had almost 70 superintendents so you will be among friends. If you can't play, you are very welcome to join us for our tremendous dinner and see what we are all about.

This year's Classic will be the 15th edition. It has raised over \$900,000 and all of these dollars go to Rutgers and to nowhere else. The event started using one golf course and now we require three courses. Fortunately for us Fiddler's Elbow Country Club continues to offer us everything that we need.

If you can make it this year, please make sure your check the registration form carefully because there have been some changes made to the schedule of events. We are starting an hour earlier and hopefully we will end an hour earlier. Drs. Clarke, Meyer and Murphy will be our speakers during our hour of education that will be open to all. Credits will be available from NJ, PA, NY and GCSAA.

**Storr Tractor** and **Syngenta** have been **Premier** sponsors since day one and they continue to lead our list of dedicated sponsors. Joining them in 2009 were **Bayer, John Deere Golf/Finch Services, Maxwell Turf & Supply Co., Pickseed West/Seed Research of Oregon, ProSeeds Marketing/Alliance Seed and The Scotts Co.** These companies alone represented a commitment of \$60,000. Just below them were our **Eagle** sponsors. At that level were **BASF, Grass Roots, Lebanon Seaboard, Mountain View Seeds and Paige Electric.** Our **Birdie** sponsors were **Arysta, DuPont, Grassland Oregon, Pennington Seed, Quali-Pro, Rutgers University Continuous Education & Outreach and Valent.**

Our shotgun starts at 11:00 am and lunch will be on the course, but we have added a hot breakfast to start the day.

The **Silent Auction** continues to be an important part of our day and hopefully you will find something that you need or want. If you have anything that you want to donate, please let us know asap and we will add it to the list. In fact, use the postcard that is inside this issue...just fill it out and mail it back.

We hope to see you on the 3rd as we continue a winning tradition!

# Bridgewater couple's final wish is granted

By Stephen Stirling/For The Star-Ledger

December 22, 2009, 8:01PM

Hazel and **John Morrissey** on their wedding day.



Two years ago, John and Hazel Morrissey had their daughter, **Mary Morrissey-Ross**, take their picture in front of their family burial plot at Holy Cross Cemetery in Basking Ridge. (L is wedding day; R is 2007.)

"Mom said to me, 'we're going to go together.' I said that's crazy, how are you going to do that?" Morrissey-Ross said of her parents wish to die together. "She said 'that's what we asked God for, so you're going to just have to deal with it.'"

Last week, the longtime Martinsville residents got their wish. Hazel Morrissey, 86, died on Dec. 14 with her husband at her side at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. John Morrissey, also 86, followed just five days later on Dec. 19 at his home.

"It wasn't a coincidence at all," said Leo Morrissey, the couple's son. "It was the plan all along."

Dozens of friends and family members paid their final respects to the couple at Higgins Funeral Home in Watchung today, remembering them fondly as a warm couple who were inextricably linked at all times.

The Morrisseys' relationship spanned 70 years, beginning when the couple became high school sweethearts at 16 after their first date at the Candy Kitchen in Bound Brook. They married in 1950 when John returned from service in World War II and went on to spend the rest of their lives in the Martinsville section of Bridgewater.

Kate Neary, the couple's youngest daughter, said her parents playfully bickered about which of them would die first as early as when she was in middle school. "They would have arguments all the time about it. It would make them just dissolve into laughter."

Brian Higgins, former owner of the funeral home where the services were held, said couples dying within days of one another isn't an everyday occurrence, but has been known to happen.

"The one I can remember was about 30 years ago. The wife died and the husband was upset that it wasn't him, he kept asking his family at the wake why it couldn't be him," Higgins said. "In between visiting hours he was at his family's home and he stood up. His family asked where he was going and he said 'I'm going to the funeral home to die with mom.' He took two steps out the door, he collapsed and died."

Over the course of their 59 year marriage, the Morrisseys' became household names in Bridgewater.

John Morrissey was actively involved in politics, served as Bridgewater's mayor from 1979 to 1983 and was a member of the township's Planning Board from 1973 to 1991, helping oversee the planning and construction of Bridgewater Commons. Hazel Morrissey dedicated her life to education. In addition to being the first woman elected to the Bridgewater-Raritan Board of Education in 1964, she taught kindergarten and was a special education teacher in the district over the course of a career that spanned more than three decades.

*continued on page 22*

## Bridgewater Couple.. continued from page 21

"They had this tremendous bond with one another, but they knew somehow that it didn't just need to be between them, that they had to share it with the community," Morrissey-Ross said.

Leo Morrissey said in the waning years of their lives his parents spoke of their death as a race, because neither wanted to see the other die. He said as they lay in hospital beds at Somerset Medical Center just feet from one another, the race came to a close.

"A little while before she went, it was one of those days where he had been sleeping most of the time and she was a little more active," Morrissey said. "She turned to him and said 'I win, John.'"

She died days later, after family members helped John from his bed and allowed him to press his cheek against hers and kiss her one last time.

"Watching my father grieve for her was more painful than watching her die," Morrissey-Ross said.

The family moved John Morrissey home following his wife's death, where he died peacefully five days later.

"They went together," Morrissey said. "That's what they did in life and that's what they did in the end."

## John P. Morrissey was the 2006 NJTA Hall of Fame Winner.



### The Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab

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- Level 2** Problem Solver (soil/plant suitability test)
- Level 3** Topsoil Evaluation

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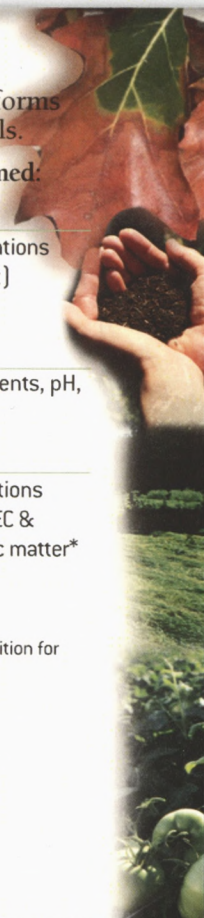
#### Sport Turf

- Level 1** Fertility Test: Nutrients, pH, recommendations
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- Level 3** Sand Root Zone Test

\*Organic matter content would be determined by loss-on-ignition for golf course greens, as described by USGA guidelines.

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# C A L E N D A R

## 2010 NJTA Events

*Monday, May 3, 2010*

15th Annual

**Rutgers Turfgrass Golf Classic**

Fiddlers Elbow Country Club

Far Hills NJ

*Tuesday, July 27, 2010*

**Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days**

**Golf & Fine Turf**

Hort Farm II

New Brunswick NJ

*Wednesday, July 28, 2010*

**Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days**

**Lawn, Landscape  
& Sports Fields**

Adelphia Farm

Freehold NJ

*Tuesday, December 7 -*

*Thursday December 9, 2010*

**35th Annual Green Expo**

Taj Mahal Resort

Atlantic City NJ

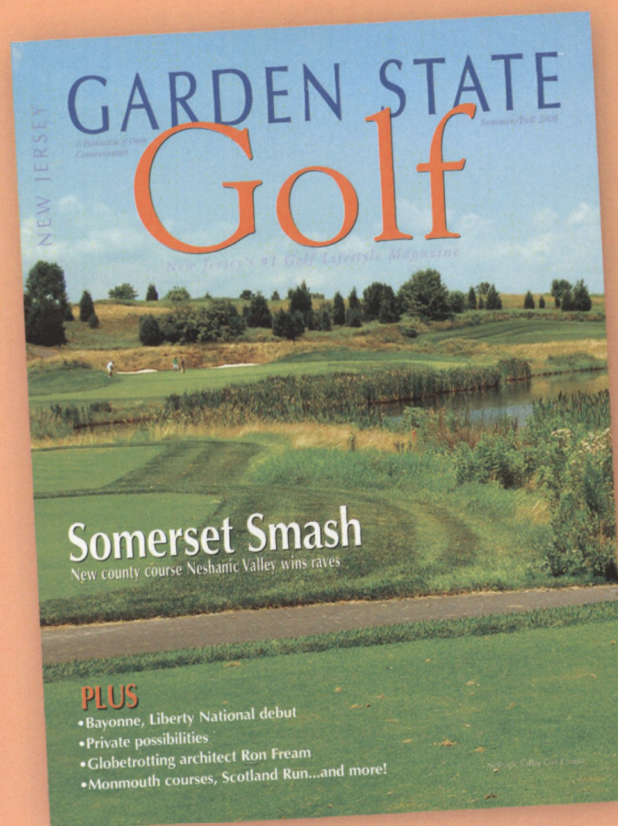
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