

NOFA OLC Advanced Workshop – Organic Turf and Athletic Fields for Professionals - September 22, 2016 8:30am - 4:00pm

Location -Harmon Leonard Jr. Youth Center, 559 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410

CT DEEP credits 6.5 3A/3B – 4 AOLCP CEUs

AGENDA

Program begins in the Youth Center

8:30am-9:15 – *Chuck Sherwood* will discuss the turf program at Cheshire Parks and Recreation Department. What have been their challenges and successes?

9:15-9:45 – *Chip Osborne* will give his analysis of the current field conditions in Cheshire based upon a chemical soil test and a **SoilFoodWeb NY** test.

9:45-10:45 – *Chip Osborne* will describe his criteria and process for managing athletic fields and parks, based upon his 15+ years of work managing grounds for the town of Marblehead, Massachusetts. He will describe the evolution of his management strategies over time. He will suggest best practices for creating and implementing individualized plans, as well.

10:45-11:00am - break

11:00-12:00–*Frank Crandall* of Frank Crandall Horticultural Solutions will offer spreadsheets and examples to create estimates and budgets for the plans which Chip has identified; such as forecasting costs of compost topdressing, aeration (rental or own), over-seeding, cost of seed and similar examples.

12:00-12:45 – Lunch and networking

Group Walks to the field across the street

12:45-1:45 -Updates on Cultural and Fertility Practices

Demonstration of aerators - Tom Corradino – **Schmidt's and Serafine's** in Waterbury

Demonstration of Sprayers – **Compostwerks** for compost tea sprayers

Back to the youth center or in the field TBD

1:45-3:00 - Updates on Organic Fertility

Fred Newcombe from **PJC Organics** describes their products

Joe Magazzi from **Green Earth Ag and Turf** describes their products

Paul Bednarczyk from **Hart's Seed Company** describes their varieties and mixes of grass seed

Peter Schmidt from **Compostwerks** discusses how compost and compost tea stimulate organic fertility

3:00-3:15 break

From the youth center

3:15-3:45 – Chip Osborne – Final wrap-up, with recommendations for best practices after all the presentations of the day

3:45-4:00 – Frank Crandall – Final wrap-up, best practices for affordable organic management of turf and landscapes with sound financial planning

Learning Objectives:

- Learn how to use soil tests to make management decisions for your grass and athletic turf
- Learn how to create budgets and estimate costs for organic lawn and turf management
- Learn the newest advances in organic lawn fertility and the differences between many products on the market
- Learn about aeration equipment and soil drenching equipment
- Meet other people who are doing organic lawn care successfully