

## Healthy Ecosystem

continued from page 12

regarding the presence of toxic chemicals in the crumb rubber infill. There appear to be two primary issues; the potential for chemicals to leach out of the field and the exposure of the athletes to potential carcinogenic hydrocarbons. Leachate studies are currently focusing on zinc, sulfur, cadmium and lead being conducted at UConn. Exposure studies with toxic hydrocarbons are more substantiated claims. A 2007 CA study found cancer risks 1.2 in 10 million, well below the 1 in 1 million risk from a single one time ingestion. Another estimate from handwipes indicated that regular playground use and contact with rubber (more

than would be expected on a field) created a slightly higher risk (2.9 cancers in 1 million).

**Summary:** Much more work is needed in these areas to better understand the risks and benefits associated with synthetic turf systems. Clearly many natural turf systems cannot sustain the same high traffic as synthetic turf, however improved natural turf management and regular re-sodding could be viable options for a comparable investment in synthetic turf.

*Andrew McNitt, Penn State University  
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## Sports Turf Manual Now Available

The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) is pleased to announce that a practical guide to sports turf maintenance is now available. "Sports Field Management," written by Joann Gruttadaurio, is a hands-on manual for turf professionals who manage scholas-tic and community high-use sports fields. She received a grant for the project in 2005 from the New York Turfgrass Foundation, an endowment fund established between NYSTA and Cornell University to ensure the future of the turfgrass industry. It provides valuable information on how to maintain safe sports fields to maximize player safety and performance. This educational guidebook is a culmination of Gruttadaurio's 33 plus years experience as a former Senior Extension Associate at Cornell University. It includes information on routine maintenance practices, management programs, turf challenges and decisions, frequently asked questions, and sport turf management resources. In addition, a useful sports field assessment sheet is provided with a rating system to help sports turf professionals decide if they should continue current management practices or reassess their management programs. Illustrations, photos and tables provide clear

and concise information on best management practices for sports field maintenance. "Sports Field Management" can be purchased for \$15 plus shipping and handling: <http://www.nysta.org/sportsmanual/orderinfo.html>. Orders of two or more qualify for the discounted rate of \$10 each. It is also available at no cost for sports turf professionals who are members of the New York State Turfgrass Association. For more information, contact NYSTA at (518) 783-1229.



*NYSTA President, Owen Regan (left) and Sports Field Management author Joann Gruttadaurio*

