

760 Market Street, Suite 432  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone 415-839-5060  
Fax 415-398-3511  
www.greenmediaonline.com

## Reality TV gets it right



**ERIC SCHRODER**  
Editor

eschroder@  
m2media360.com  
717-805-4197  
P.O. Box 280,  
Dauphin, PA 17018

**A** Florida Little League field that undergoes a professional “makeover” following hurricane damage may not always be news but it is when ABC’s “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” airs an episode featuring just such a renovation (the show aired March 23).

The show typically renovates homes, but producers decided to devote the post-hurricane segments to community projects after receiving numerous requests for help. Among them was a plea from parents and players from the Boynton Beach, FL Little League.

Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, who works for Toro, saw a newspaper article on how the program was thinking of helping out Boynton Beach. “The next week I contacted Hector Turf, our distributor in Florida. Chris Fordney, Hector’s sports field & grounds rep, directed me to Duane Cyr,” says Montgomery. “Duane, another salesman, lives in the community and has had three generations of his family play on the field. We talked and decided to contact the show.”

Montgomery also reached out to Charlie Vestel from Profile Products, and his distributor asked a local sports field construction company, Sports Turf One and president Dell Haverland, to be general contractor.

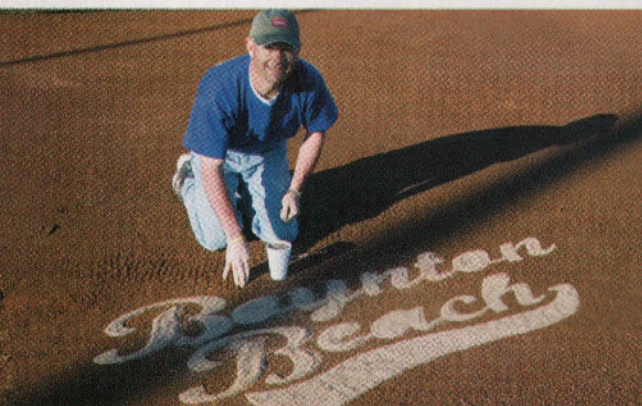
“Joe Limburg from Hector Turf asked us if we would be interested in

helping. Of course we jumped at the opportunity,” says Bill Gillan, senior project manager for Sports Turf One and lead on the project. “At that point we were contacted by the show and the ball really got rolling.

“We started procuring materials and contractors about five weeks prior to start up. We had used our yard and shop as a staging area for all needed equipment and materials. Companies and vendors from all over the country were sending tools and materials for the whole project which we stored and inventoried,” Gillan says.

“We supplied 28 of our own crew and the equipment to completely re-do the East Boynton Little League game field, and we also renovated two smaller fields, just because,” says Gillan. “We scheduled all trades (down to the 1/2 hour) and made sure all materials were available when needed. This was no small task as the project included all new fencing, irrigation, batting tunnels, bleachers, dugouts, landscaping, new concession building, etc.”

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### STMA Office

805 New Hampshire Suite E  
Lawrence, Ks 66044  
Phone 800-323-3875 Fax 800-366-0391  
Email [stmainfo@sportsturfmanager.com](mailto:stmainfo@sportsturfmanager.com)  
www.sportsturfmanager.org

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## From the Sidelines

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Gillan continues, "We did roughly 5 weeks work in 4 days. These were long, hard days. The first day of the build we had terrible storms and started the project about 6

hours late. Not fun. We actually finished about 4 1/2 hours early. This being said, there was not one guy in the 150+ on site that ever complained or said a foul word. These guys were awesome."

The Toro Company donated and installed a new irrigation system and provided equipment along with Hector Turf to support the renovation. Toro also donated an Infield Pro to the facility.

"We probably have the most outstanding Little League field in the country," says Boynton Beach Mayor Jerry Taylor. "The equipment Toro donated makes it so much easier for us to maintain the field."

Montgomery, who is Sports Field & Grounds district sales manager, along with Vestel, and Marshall Jennings, facility operations manager at Roger Dean Stadium in Florida, did all the work with constructing the infield clay, mound, logo painting, and home plate area.

"It was great to be involved with this project and to see the smiles and excitement on the faces of the kids and community leaders when the field was presented to them," says Montgomery.

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