3,000 people to turn out for an adult soccer game. To serve this group, soccer facilities must be in top shape. To be fair to the entire community, all areas must be safe and pleasing.

When Petry first joined the district, some parks were deteriorating. Petry's immediate challenge was to unite the community with a sense of pride for "their" parks.

Petry says, "Al Grosche Field is one of the best park-and-recreational baseball complexes in the nation. The people of Waukegan have always supported athletics, especially baseball programs. Recognizing the success of baseball at Grosche Field, the city renovated it in 1980." It was a major capital project that included the renovation of turf; the construction of dugouts, two bull pens, a practice batting cage and a concession/pressbox with restrooms; and the installation of perimeter fencing, spectators' bleachers and an irrigation system.

The community united behind this project and their commitment didn't stop with the renovation. Petry says, "The success of baseball programs prompted park district decision makers to make a commitment to athletic field maintenance."

In 1988, Petry and Mike Trigg, who moved up from parks supervisor to Petry's former position as superintendent of parks, submitted Al Grosche Field for the Beam Clay/STMA Baseball Diamond of the Year Award.

"Earning the Field of the Year Award led to my active involvement with STMA," says Petry. "Mike Schiller, a fellow 'parks guy' and a great friend, had been devoting lots of effort to STMA and urging me to do so. I found out first hand what Schiller had been so excited about. I met these great, friendly people who were super sources of information. And they were all committed to raising the level of professionalism and promoting better and safer sports turf areas."

Petry tackled the challenge of "active involvement" in typical fashion. He jumped in to help. He and Dr. Gil Landry devoted countless hours to the organization, especially over the last four years.

Petry gives accolades to Landry, the board members, committee members, volunteers and the staff of Smith, Bucklin & Associates for their efforts on behalf of STMA. Petry says, "We've come through some critical times over the last few years, but these people were there to help when the chips were down. I'm proud of the progress we've made, and can't thank these people enough for all they did."

Petry's head-on approach to challenges is a life-long trait. A native New Yorker, born and raised in East Brunswick, he always loved sports. He ran cross country and track throughout junior high and high school, and his first summer job, at age 16, was as a recreation specialist with the parks and recreation department. He earned his BS degree, magna cum laude, at Manhattan College, Bronx, NY, with the intent of becoming a teacher and coach, but changed his mind. "The New York City 'attitude' at the high school level let me know that I didn't want to spend 20 or 30 years in that position," says Petry. "I switched my focus to the area I'd really enjoyed, parks and recreation."

He earned his master of science degree in the Recreation and Park Program at Penn State University, then served a one-year internship as an administrative assistant. "The internship program was designed to provide a variety of experience in the field and to build enthusiasm. It did both. I was exposed to all aspects of the program, having a part in everything from writing grant proposals to developing policies and manuals."

Petry then took a position as an assistant director of a park district in Illinois, where he headed day-to-day operations and assisted the director in formulating policies. Always on an upward path, Petry next accepted a position as coordinator of park services in Park Ridge, IL, where he worked for five years, then applied for and got the position as Waukegan's superintendent of parks in 1987.

Petry is active in other professional associations as well as STMA. He served on the board of regents of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Park Maintenance Management School; has served as director of the Parks and Natural Management section of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA); and is currently serving as president of the Midwest Institute of Park Executives (MIPE). In 1991, he was named MIPE Park Professional of the year.

Petry and his wife, Candia, another east coast native, met in college. It's obvious that thriving on challenge is a family tradition. Candia is a pharmacist, and the couple have twin boys, Stephen and Daniel, who will be five in March. It's a juggling act to satisfy family, job and association commitments, but one that Petry declares is well worthwhile in terms of both personal and professional growth.

He says, "There's so much potential in the sports turf field and there's so much yet to do to realize that potential. I urge everyone connected with this industry to get actively involved, to volunteer your time and talents to help STMA meet its goals. I guarantee that the more you give, the more you'll get back."

Steve and Suz Trusty are partners in Trusty & Associates, a consulting firm located in Council Bluffs, IA. Steve is executive director of Sports Turf Managers Association.
ROOKIES

Field Marker

The Top Liner field marker, designed for lining and marking baseball, softball, football, soccer and track meet fields, is engineered to deliver the tight turning and quick power response that are most desirable in athletic field marking. The low-maintenance hydrostatic drive, coupled with an Eaton transaxle, provides smooth and fast performance for marking jobs with a minimum of work time.

The electric-start nine-hp Kawasaki gasoline engine operates with low sound level and at speeds up to six mph. Tires are wide and low pressure to protect turf.

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Drainage System

TerraFlow 100 has a long history of successful turf drainage applications. When installed in accordance with accepted criteria and manufacturer's recommendations, TerraFlow 100 will perform for years in normal sports turf drainage applications. Successful applications were documented at five campuses of the Sacramento (CA) Los Rios Community College District, three soccer fields and American River College, also in Sacramento.

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Surface Water Removal System

The Water Hog is the world's first surface water removal system with an ability to pump more than 6,000 gallons per hour from turf or hard surfaces. It doesn't just push water from one place to another. It picks it up and gets rid of it by shooting it into a waste area as it goes or holding it in tanks to be hauled away and dumped.

The Water Hog consists of three sponge-covered water take-up drums acting as wheels, a powerful water pump and an 11-HP Honda gasoline engine. Disposable sponge pads roll on and peel off. With ground pressure of less than two pounds per square inch, the Water Hog can be used without leaving tracks on the most saturated turf. It operates at a speed of up to 16 miles per hour and can cover the average-size baseball outfield in less than 20 minutes. The Water Hog also is available in a walk-behind model called the Water Hog Junior.

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Turf Sprayer

The Chem-Pro sprayer line now features a series designed for John Deere, Jacobsen and Cushman vehicles. Specially designed 170-gallon poly tanks or 150-gallon stainless tanks are available. Pumps are driven with hydraulics, electric clutch or PTO. Other features include the patented self-cleaning Whirlfilter™, metered manifolds for even boom distribution, MeterCone™ nozzles and application system fiberglass centrifugal pumps.

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The Eco-500 injection spray system was designed in response to inquiries for on-demand pesticide injection with liquid fertilizer applications.

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The 12-volt pumping unit features a built-in pressure gauge and flow meter to ensure a consistent and accurate flow. The exclusive coaxial design features a super flexible nylon tube inside a 600 psi one-half inch PVC hose. The system is backed by a full one-year warranty.

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Pests of Landscape Trees and Shrubs: An Integrated Pest Management Guide. Published by University of California ANR Publications. Indispensable resource for professional landscape managers and home gardeners alike. Emphasis on environmentally safe, less toxic IPM methods. 300 full color photos, 70 line drawings and tables illustrate important IPM principles and practices. 50 pg of plant host tables list damage symptoms and pests commonly associated with over 200 species of trees and shrubs. 325 pp. 4011 Price: $32.00

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Earthgreen Products Opens Regional Offices

Marketer of environmentally safe humate substances for soil conditioning, Earthgreen Products Inc. announces the opening of its Dallas, TX, headquarters and regional sales offices in Dallas; Charlotte, NC; West Palm Beach, FL; and Los Angeles, CA.

“We are pleased to establish a regional presence throughout the U.S.,” says John Lown, chairman and chief executive officer of the company. “Earthgreen Products is committed to providing the best organic turf, landscape and agricultural products.... Since 1992, we have carefully researched each application to establish our product superiority, increase distribution and potential,” he adds.

PGMS Elects New Officers

In conjunction with its 84th Annual Conference held last November in Ft. Worth, TX, the Professional Grounds Management Society elected officers plus two regional directors for 1996. They are: Teddi Davis, president (Gar-Gro Division/Garick Corp., Cleveland, OH); Steve Wharton, certified grounds manager (CGM), 1st vice president (Minot Park District, Minot, ND); Tom Riccardi, 2nd vice president (Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Akron, OH); Jeffrey Bourne, treasurer (Howard County Rec. & Park, Columbia, MO); Steven W. Chapman, past president (Digital Equip. Corp., Salem, NH); Kevin O'Donnell, Mid-Atlantic regional director (Villanova University, Villanova, PA); and George W. Meeks Jr., CGM, SE regional director (ServiceMaster and Memphis City Schools, Memphis, TN).

Each officer will serve for one year. Additionally, the board named George Gaumer as one of three PGMS representatives to the Green Industry Expo (GIE) board, replacing E. Earl Wilson, whose three-year term was completed.

International Seed Makes 11th Super Bowl Appearance

It was the second time in Super Bowl history that the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Dallas Cowboys battled for the Vince Lombardi trophy. However, Super Bowl XXX marked the 11th time International Seeds Inc. of Halsey, OR, provided seed for field preparation for the annual NFL championship game. The seed selected was Ph.D. perennial ryegrass blend.

“Ph.D. perennial rye blend is selected for several reasons,” says NFL turf consultant George Toma. “It creates a deep green turf and is tough enough to handle the punishment dished out by the players and the superstar entertainers. Most people don’t take into account the number of rehearsals that take place in the few days we have to get the turf established,” he continues. “They move literally tons of equipment back and forth on the field, while hundreds of performers practice their routines.”
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<td>Turfgrass Producers International</td>
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<td>Verti Drain</td>
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<td>West Coast Turf</td>
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<td>World Class Athletic</td>
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<td>Surfscres</td>
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Golf Course Superintendents country-wide have proven that McCords Flotation Tires are essential during the following delicate operations:

- Top Dressing
- Spraying
- Mowing
- Back Filling Traps
- Aerating

The large contact area of the flotation tire effectively distributes load over a broad area. This produces lower unit ground pressure resulting in minimized soil compaction.

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