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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 com-

munity 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 graduate 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.



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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. GREGSON/RHETT M. CLARK INC.

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Diseases and Pests of Ornamental Plants by Pascal P. Pirone. Discusses the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and organisms afflicting nearly 500 genera of ornamental plants grown outdoors, under glass, or in the home. For each plant, Pirone describes the symptoms of disease or infestation, and explains how and when to use the most effective fungicides, insecticides, and other control materials and practices. 4003 Price: \$74.95

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TREES

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## **HAPPENINGS**

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.

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This year's judges were (AL-CENTRAL) Trevor Vance, Kansas City Royals; (AL-WEST) Clay Wood, Oakland A's; (NL-CENTRAL) Gary Wahoff, Cincinnati Reds; (NL-WEST) Mark Razum, Colorado Rockies.

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