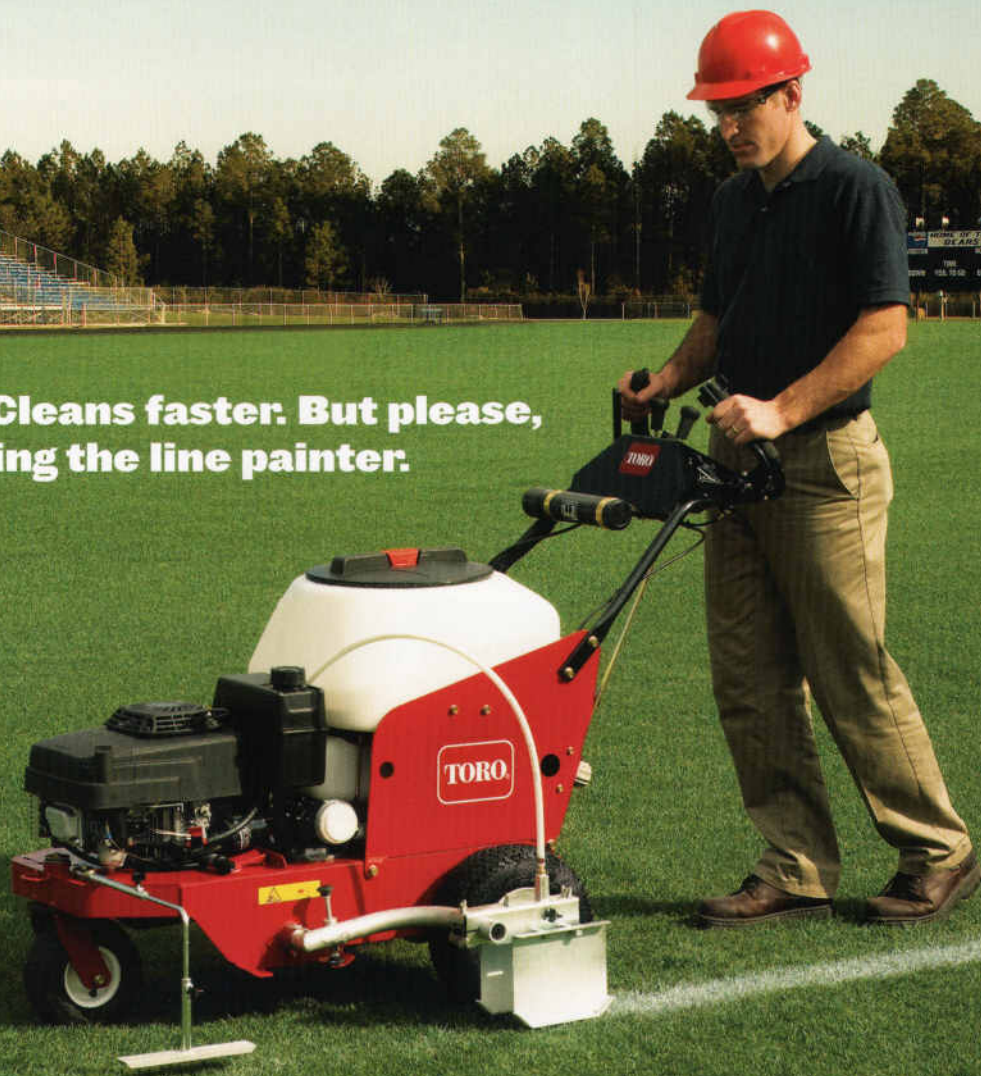


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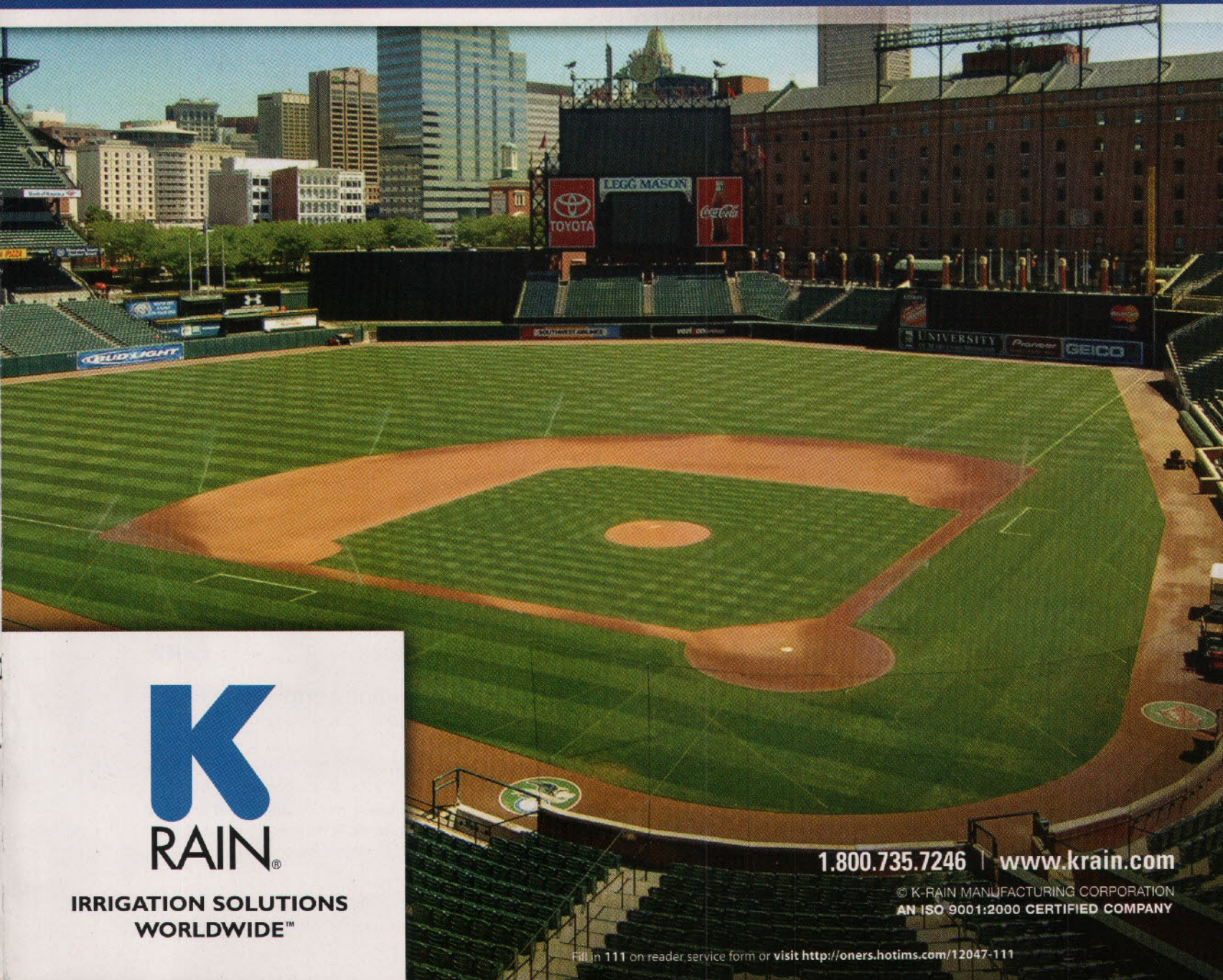
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On the cover: Mike Andresen, CSFM, athletic turf manager for the Iowa State Cyclones, is the new president of the Sports Turf Managers Association.



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## Fouty appointed to STMA Board



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**L**ate last year, in one of his last official duties as President of the STMA, Mike Trigg, CSFM appointed Amy Fouty, CSFM, athletic turf manager for Spartan Stadium at Michigan State University, to the STMA Board of Directors. Fouty replaced Jay Warnick, CSFM as the Colleges and Universities representative. Warnick now works for Tra Dubois at World Class Athletic Surfaces directing distribution in the west. Fouty will complete his term that ends next January.

Fouty is responsible for the Spartan Stadium field, the football practice complex, and new athletic field construction at Michigan State. She previously was a groundskeeper for rival University of Michigan for 5 years managing the daily field operations for football and soccer. Fouty holds a 2-year degree in turfgrass management from MSU and is in the process of completing her BA in psychology there. She recently served as president of the Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association, is on the education and grants committee for the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, and is active on three national STMA committees. She was awarded the prestigious STMA Field of the Year for College Football Fields in 2006. Fouty also has presented at more than 10 conferences and educational events.

Ohio State will replace the new turf at Ohio Stadium with an artificial surface, part of athletic director Gene Smith's broad plan to increase use of department facilities. The football team will be able to use the stadium more frequently for practices and camps, which Coach Jim Tressel sees as a huge advantage, according to OSU's Pamela Sherratt in her "SportsNotes" e-letter.

Brian Gimbel, sportsturf manager for OSU, told Pam, "We've been struggling with a deteriorating drainage system all year, so we are going to have to do some major work to the field anyway. With plans for the number of events on the field to increase substantially, an artificial surface seems like the best choice.

"We've had a couple of rubber-infill practice fields for several years now and the team knows what they can expect out of them. We plan to repair the drainage and resurface the field after the spring football game in April."

We're watching you dept.: The Tennessee Titans upset the Colts last December 3 at home when they kicked a record 60-year field goal with a few seconds left. Color analyst Dan Dierdorf commented on the turf conditions before the kick, saying it was "soft" and that it was December so the grass roots were shorter than normal. Tuning in, I waited for a disparaging comment about field conditions but Dierdorf said nothing else. A moment later, with his footing perfect, the Titans PK banged it through, assisted by a strong wind at his back. Good job, Dierdorf.

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**MIKE ANDRESEN**

CSFM

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“**T**here are people who take the heart out of you, and there are people who put it back.”

This quote by Elizabeth David captures the feelings I have coming off the just completed national conference in San Antonio. The STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition is absolutely the highlight of my year, and this conference was no different. Even with the challenges of the worst ice storm in San Antonio history, I definitely came away with my heart repaired after a tough year in the trenches.

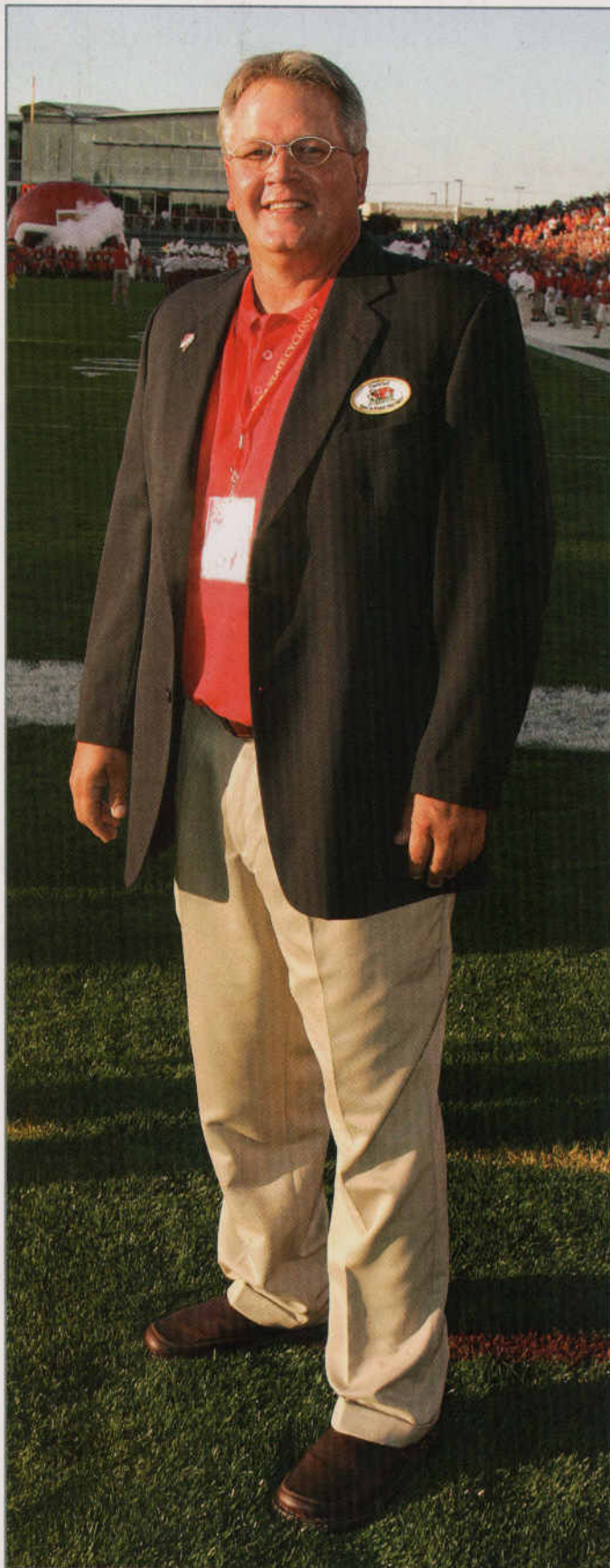
It's very humbling to know so many individuals donate time and talents to ensure this event is first class in every way! Thanks start with our CEO, Kim Heck, our terrific team at headquarters, and our conference partners, M&E, led by David Rosenberg and his team in Newport, RI. Together, their work is vital to ensuring the conference is successful to our level of satisfaction and in helping create the remarkable weeklong energy! Their unselfishness and calmness allows us to enjoy the short time we have together, to enrich our professional growth, and to get excited for another year of the sports turf management grind.

The member volunteers that played a role in developing the conference, its content and energy, hit a home run this year. A sincere thank you goes to our commercial members. I truly feel, and have been told so many times, our trade show is “different” in that we truly value our vendor partners and stand arm-in-arm with them in the mission of producing safer athletic fields. Their role is very important to each of us personally and also to the health of our association. The trade show is part of our education; our education sessions are part of their enrichment. Please always remember that some of our best friends work inside trade show booths during that one week in January.

Most of all, thanks go to you, the attendee, who goes to great effort to ensure we have a show worth being passionate about. We filled hotels, restaurants, pubs, and meeting rooms. Our show is growing! Networking with new friends, old friends, and colleagues are at an all-time high and it's exciting! We oftentimes complain that co-workers don't understand the world in which we live. This week is our time to realize we work in a profession with people in the same business because of a “calling.” We are in sports turf management because we know the important impact we have on youth and adult athletes.

If you attended the conference please let HQ know what you think and what we might do to make your experience even better. If you weren't able to attend this year, please posture yourself to make next year's show in Phoenix available to you. Some of the very best people in this world are in our profession. Some will teach you things; some will show you things. All will listen, and all will help to heal your soul. Thanks to everyone for making our show that special!

*Mike Andresen*



## Man on a mission:

# Mike Andresen, CSFM

By Eric Schroder

**H**ere's the first thing you need to know about Mike Andresen: He never even looked at the photos that were taken for this issue's cover. His ego is in check, which means he devotes his time to more important matters.

Like his day job, for example. Andresen, a certified sports field manager (CSFM), tends to the athletic turf for the Iowa State University program in Ames. Or his spare time passions, fishing and hunting. And, oh yeah, he recently was elected President of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA).

Andresen has always taken great pride in his work and he wants to help educate his peers so they can produce fields to be proud of, and be recognized for doing so.

"We need to get to the bottom of the wear tolerance and traffic issues. It's my number one priority," he says. "We are responsible for educating our members on how to get a field in condition to handle 'X' amount of games. We need to be able to provide our members with the tools for them to answer the question, 'At a certain level of maintenance, what is the wear and traffic tolerance for this field?'"

"I want all our committees to address this issue in some fashion. We need to figure out what research is out there and perhaps use some SAFE Foundation money to conduct research at some point, to answer this question. And we need to ask members what documents they need to answer this question," Andresen says. "If we can provide our members with such info, they become that much more valuable to their respective operations. This is basic info we need now. We need to do this and we can do it."

"As we further develop relationships with other organizations like the NRPA and NIAAA, we want them to look to us as the resource for this information," he says. "In doing so we can enhance our members' value to their employers, as well as enhance the association's value to potential members."

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# HEY, KRIS HARRIS HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR TIFSPORT?

Georgia Tech Sport Turf Manager Kris Harris isn't bothered too much about what other people think. "All I care about is managing my TifSport fields for those three or four months when it really counts." Kris likes his TifSport short. "For football I go as low as I can go. We start out in May at 1/2"-7/16" and I go down from there. I keep my baseball field a little higher. We mow that at 3/4" most of the year and take it on down to 1/2" after the season." A TifSport pioneer, Kris installed his first field in 2000, shortly after the grass was released. "I went out on a limb when I first decided to

take my football field so low. But I found out that the lower it gets the tighter it gets. And the more it grows laterally the faster my divots fill in. I'm going to try to keep it at 3/8 or even lower this year." With six years of experience with TifSport, Kris doesn't seem to have any serious problems. "I don't have any disease pressures. My water is good. Maybe I'm in the perfect spot for this grass." Don't you deserve the "Home Field Advantage"? Insist on TifSport Certified Bermudagrass for all your athletic fields. For more information call 706 542-5640, or visit us on the web at [www.tifsport.com](http://www.tifsport.com).

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