



really tough to get out and get any maintenance projects done," he says.

McCarty derives his greatest pleasure from "just being outside around sports and the kids. I have been a sports guy all my life and when we crown a tournament champion or a state championship team, the excitement from the athletes and the parents is amazing," he says. "The memories that are made here will be remembered forever and I am just glad to be a part of that. I am always pleased to hear someone say that they can't wait to come back. The preparation that goes into a big game or tournament sometimes seems overwhelming, but when it all comes together and everything looks great before the event, that's a great feeling."

Like all turf managers, McCarty is beholden to Mother Nature. "The biggest headache has to be the same for me as it is for many others – the weather. It plays such a critical role in everything," he says. "The toughest decisions I make are based on weather." ■

John Mascaro's Photo Quiz



Answer: from page 27

The brown parallel lines running across this soccer field appeared in early January 1989 on this high school field in South Florida. When the supervisor for the school board maintenance department first saw the damage, he was puzzled. The brown lines were not only parallel to each other, but also appeared on both sides of the center of the field in uniform distance. There were also numerous other lines that were not brown, going across the field, sideline to sideline. After further investigation, it turned out that the field had been used for the Super Bowl XXIII halftime show practice entitled "Bo Bop Bamboozled," which was also played in South Florida that same January. The halftime show practice was mostly done during Christmas break when the students were off the field and the maintenance department was not informed of the practice until after the event.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to Turf-Tec International, John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Suite # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted become property of SportsTurf Magazine.

Photo submitted by Ed Birch, retired maintenance supervisor for Broward County School Board, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

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In 2006, The Foundation for SAFER Athletic Field Environments (SAFE), STMA's charitable arm, received more than \$66,000 in donations. SAFE provides funding for scholarships, research and education.

Leading the donations was Jacobsen, which generously sponsors the Jacobsen/SAFE golf tournament at the annual conference. Another major contributor is The Toro Giving Program that provides two scholarships in honor of Dr. James Watson, a long-time industry researcher and consultant.

The generous contributions to SAFE allowed The Foundation to award scholarships to 10 two-year, four-year and graduate students this year and fund continuing education to the 2006 STMA annual conference.

Our two-year program has a special scholarship named in honor of Dr. Fred Grau, who was the first turfgrass extension specialist in the U.S. Ed Schmachtenberger, Mt. San Antonio College, is this year's Grau Award recipient. Other two-year winners are Chris Romo, Mt. San Antonio College, and Brian Sayers, Michigan State University.

Four-year Scholarship winners included the Dr. James Watson Scholarship recipient, Will Jellicorse, University of Tennessee; Amy French, Michigan State; Jared Knoodle, Michigan State; Tyler Mittlesteadt, Tennessee; and Anne Beckingham, SUNY-Delhi.

Graduate Scholarship winners included the Watson recipient, Adam Thoms, Tennessee, and Thomas Serensits, The Pennsylvania State University.

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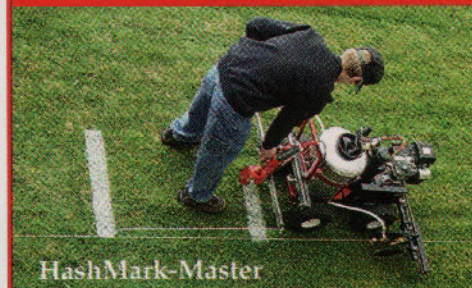


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Chapter President: Mike Tarantino

Dues: Professional \$35; Commercial \$100; Student \$10

Publications: Two quarterly newsletters

SoCal Focuses on Community Service

Have you ever done anything for somebody that made you feel really good? Is your local chapter doing any community service work?

For the past three years the SoCal Chapter has undertaken community service projects. The chapter started out by rebuilding Vista High's varsity baseball field, followed by two local Little League fields. Most recently, the chapter re-built Hoover High's varsity baseball field: aka Ted Williams' Field.

The planning, organizing, soliciting support, and then doing the work are demanding and require the support and commitment of the entire Board and the chapter. Planning begins immediately after

the Annual Meeting in January and continues until the work begins.

It is amazing the amount of support that is out there for these types of projects, from national to local suppliers, Chapter members to non-members, everyone comes committed and ready to work. The days are long and the work is hard, but the rewards are well worth it. Mike Tarantino, president of SoCal, feels that these community service events have been the highlight of the chapter's educational events and are very gratifying for the participants. "I will not forget the feeling I had after completing the Ted William's Field rebuilding. It felt really good," says Tarantino.

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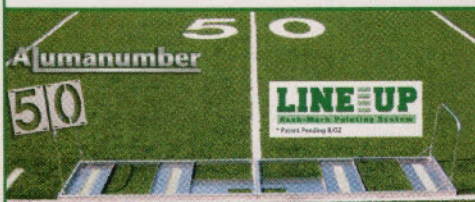
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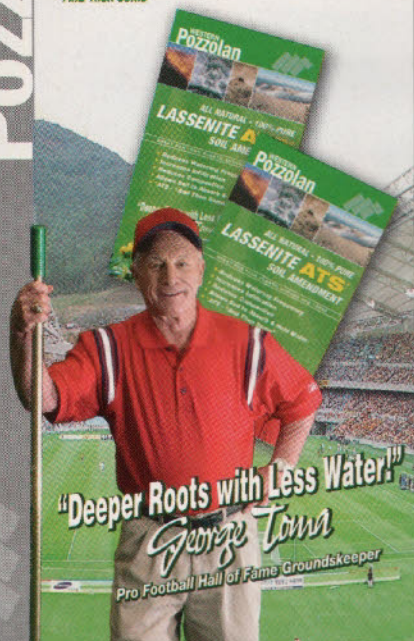
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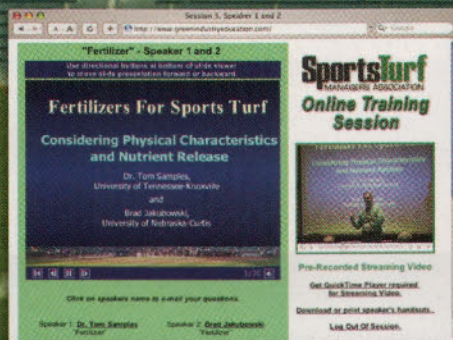
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Jacobsen	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-154	154	52
Kifco Irrigation	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-132	132	37
KRain	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-111	111	3
Kromer	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-121	121	21
Lebanon Turf	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-112	112	5
Mar-co Clay Products, Inc.	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-124	124	29
MASA	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-156	156	45
Missouri Turf Paint	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-155	155	45
Newstripe	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-157	157	43
Oil Dri/Pro's Choice	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-131	131	36
Oil Dri/Pro's Choice	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-152	152	48
Partac Peat/Beam Clay	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-137	137	46
Peat Inc.	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-140	140	46
Profile Products	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-117	117	15
Rain Bird	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-122	122	23
Rotadairon Emrex	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-145	145	47
RTF Turf Producers Association	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-141	141	46
Southern Athletic Fields	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-130	130	35
Sports Turf Managers Association	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-135	135	42
Stabilizer Solutions	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-123	123	27
SubAir Systems	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-138	138	45
The Toro Company	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-110	110	2
Tifsport Growers Association	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-115	115	10
Turf Specialties	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-129	129	35
Turfco Manufacturing	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-119	119	19
TYCROP	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-136	136	38
Varicore Technologies	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-153	153	51
Wessco	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-146	146	45
Western Pozzolan	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-149	149	48
World Class Athletic Surfaces	http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-127	127	32

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- F ☐ Sports Complex G ☐ Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer
T ☐ School, College or University P ☐ Park H ☐ Other (please specify) _____

2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)

- A ☐ EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR — President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director
B ☐ MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor
C ☐ GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
D ☐ SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
F ☐ COACH E ☐ Other (please specify) _____

3 Do you have the authority to buy, specify or recommend products and/or services for your business or organization?

- Y ☐ Yes N ☐ No

4 Yearly operating expenditures (excluding salaries)

- F ☐ Over \$1 million C ☐ \$50,001 - \$100,000
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Practice doesn't always make perfect

BY DR. DAVID MINNER
Professor, Iowa State University

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or email dminner@iastate.edu.

Or, send your
question to
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The city of Chaska, MN has a very nice baseball field that is being used by the high school baseball team, city amateur team, and other baseball teams, including games and practices. Early spring practices by the high school are the latest addition. Usually they start using the field in late April when the temperatures are in the upper 40's to lower 50's during the day and 30's at night. The games don't seem to be the issue, but practices are at this time. Is there any advice or help that you can offer that can be shared with superiors?

Before we get to the story at hand please note that this question was offered by Jeff Schmidt of ProSource One on behalf of a city sports field manager, Brian Jung. Great job networking guys, and kudos to Jeff for placing service ahead of sales on this call.

Practice doesn't always make perfect, especially if it's on the game field. I write several letters a year maligning coaches and athletic directors for allowing practice to occur on the football game field, but with baseball there usually isn't an alternative field dedicated for practice.

Most all baseball fields at some point serve as the competition game field for some level of play. In northern climates spring baseball activities start as soon as "they can get on the field" and that usually translates into no standing snow, water, slush, or soft foot printing conditions. Coaches usually push the limit by using mats on soft ground around the mound and home plate.

The net result with these early spring practices is that normal wear is occurring at a time when the grass is not growing and the soil is soft. This leads to soil compaction and removal of turf cover. Administrators need to realize that traffic on athletic fields is a cumulative type of injury. A field rating program can help you determine just how much traffic your particular field can withstand <http://turfgrass.hort.iastate.edu/extension/EGtrafficsurvey.pdf>.

There are no universal numbers that tell you how much traffic is too much traffic; you need to determine that by evaluating your own fields under your specific playing conditions. For a better understanding of how traffic influences grass, mat, and soil go to <http://turfgrass.hort.iastate.edu/extension/EGtrafficscenario.pdf>.

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Recovery time on athletic fields is vital to maximizing playing conditions during the prime playing season. Most single team high school baseball fields will tolerate a spring and summer schedule involving both games and practices. Generally, competition games will take priority over practice activities. In this case there is also a priority that needs to be assessed between different leagues and with regard to special events.

Brian, like most field managers, doesn't make this decision. When he asks to limit field activity it is not a personal attack on a user group, although it is often perceived that way, instead it is an integrated assessment of field agronomics, experience with seasonal traffic, and the expectations for field performance at different times throughout the year.

The field appearance and playing quality has vastly improved over the last few years since Jung and the City Parks Department have put additional resources into core harvesting, topdressing, seeding, and rolling. Jung credits Dale Welter, a volunteer field manager, for taking this field under his wing and providing the TLC that was needed to take it to the next level. Yes, volunteers can be an effective and important part of a baseball field management strategy.

It's important to prioritize field use and to assess the degree of field decline occurring from each user group. User groups tend to think in terms of a block of time that they are allowed to be on the field. In this case the high school wants to use the field for early spring practice. Field managers are more in tune to the growing season and how the traffic during specific blocks of time influences field playing quality throughout the season. Somewhere in the decision process a parks director must weigh the virtue of allowing spring practice against the added traffic that results in poor playing conditions later in the season; and in this case when a major event like the Amateur Championship is scheduled.

Kicking the high school baseball team off of the stadium field doesn't solve the problem. The high school team and coaches deserve a place to practice as soon as the weather permits. There is a field at the high school but it is in poor shape, drains slow, and is seldom ready for early spring activity. I would work with the high school boosters and the City Parks Department to collaborate on a renovation of the high school baseball field and give the high school team priority use of this field for practice.

It may not work for Chaska but at other institutions we have installed a "short field" adjacent to the competition



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