

John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

» **Answer:** from page 17

The dead spots on this field are not the result of grazing cattle or even vandalism. The dead spots were a mystery until the areas were closely examined. Upon inspection, fertilizer prills were still apparent in the dead spots. After questioning the caretaker for the field, it was determined that he had used a push spreader days earlier to fertilize the field with Urea. Each time he filled the hopper, he left the spreader open, allowing the fertilizer to spill out onto the turf, causing the dead spots. Anyone who has fertilized with a rotary spreader before has probably made the same mistake once or twice, but to repeat the action on the same field over and over does make one scratch their head in amazement. This proves that with even the best-intentioned people can do at least as much harm in the world as they do good.

Photo submitted by Jeffrey T. Fowler, County Extension Director, Penn State University, Franklin, PA.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 call (850) 580-4026 or email to john@turftec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of *SportsTurf* magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.

SportsTurf

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Healthy & Well-Conditioned

The STMA Annual Report and 2008 Financial Audit Results

As the economy tightened in 2008 and throughout 2009, many leaders were afraid to move forward, and their prevailing 'doom and gloom' attitudes rapidly damaged the progress of their organizations.

Not so at STMA.

The STMA Board of Directors reacted with refreshing optimism and purpose. Their focus became even more unshakable: to provide maximum value to the membership during this time of uncertainty. The guidepost for the Board has always been its strategic plan. After another careful review of its goals and progress, the Board directed resources to programs and services that could be of immediate help to our membership.

Strengthening Our Roots

STMA's roots have always been in education. Our mission, "To be the recognized leader in strengthening the sports turf industry and enhancing members' competence and acknowledgement of their professionalism" is all about education.

In the last quarter of 2008, STMA hired its first staff member whose specific role is to develop educational tools and resources. Many resources have been added to the website including information on cool and warm season grass management; design and renovation; pests, diseases, and weeds; irrigation and drainage; and environmental stewardship. In addition, www.STMA.org now hosts 15 educational bulletins, 14 online classes, a PowerPoint presentation and two DVDs to help with the continuing education of sports turf managers.

Actively Growing

During the previous twelve months, STMA achieved several "firsts" during its twenty-eight year history. The association membership voted in its first female president, Abby McNeal, CSFM. This election also saw the first race between two candidates for the new position of Secretary/Treasurer. The outcome of this race put into motion the new ascension process to the Presidency. Other firsts include the expansion of the Board of Directors to 13 members and shortened officers' terms from two years to one year.

The STMA Certification Program passed a milestone of 100 Certified Sports Field Managers, and the association affiliated its 32nd chapter, the Oregon STMA.

2008 Financial Audit Results Independent Auditors' Findings

STMA continues to demonstrate sound fiscal management; and for the fourth year in a row has posted positive financial growth. The Board of Directors approved a recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee to engage a professional financial management company to help it diversify its financial portfolio. In the third quarter of 2008, STMA retained the services of Citi-Smith-Barney.

Long CPA, PA conducted the 2008 annual audit. Per the STMA Financial Policy, the Board directed 75 percent of the net increase in unrestricted assets (\$136,080) to the STMA Reserve Fund. The Reserve fund helps to sustain the association's operations in case of an emergency and provides a resource for financing valuable opportunities to benefit the membership. Funds from this reserve cannot be used without a three-fourths majority vote of the STMA Board of Directors. The Board seeks to build the reserve fund to cover one full year of operations.

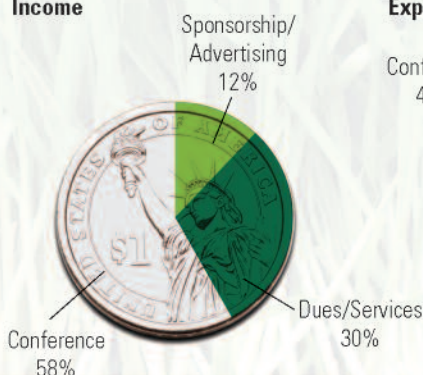
Independent Auditor's Report

	2008*	2007*	2006*	2005**
Support & Revenue	\$1,199,759	\$1,201,349	\$1,111,763	\$998,452
Expenses	1,018,319	908,502	878,544	834,677
Excess (Deficit)				
Revenue over Expenses	\$ 181,440	\$ 292,847	\$ 233,219	\$163,775

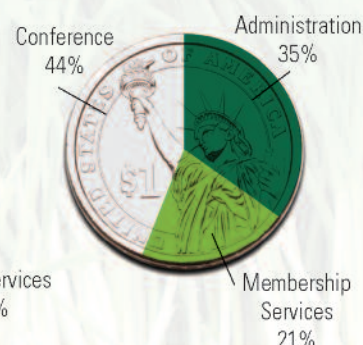
\$136,080 Allocated to Board Reserve Funds

Figures provided by * Long CPA, PA, Lenexa, Kan.; **Bogner & Long Certified Public Accountants, Lawrence, Kan.

Income



Expense



STMA rolled out its Playing Conditions Index (PCI) for its members to use to gain recognition for their knowledge and expertise. The PCI is proving to be an excellent evaluation instrument for field playability and a communication tool to use with the media, employers, players, coaches and fans. It also has helped members to validate budget expenses and support the need for additional resources.

STMA also conducted its first two-day regional conference with a full exhibition in June in Ames, Iowa. Bringing national-level education to local chapter members is a key objective for the association.

Beginning in 2010, to help counter the effects of the economy on employment, STMA is forgiving dues payments for up to six months for unemployed members, while continuing to provide all the benefits of membership.

STMA's Super Bowl

Just a few weeks before the NFL's championship game, STMA holds its main event: the STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition. For the first time ever, the conference was held in San José, Calif. STMA received outstanding ratings from attendees on its educational program and networking events. In addition to the excellent marks, the Return on Investment (ROI) of attending this conference was calculated at a whopping 1,375 percent!

Cultivating Partnerships

As the economy was having holes punched in it, opportunities emerged, and STMA was poised to act. The association collaborated with several groups and initiated joint projects including signing a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Global Sports Alliance—USA. The goal is to support and encourage projects that are mutually beneficial and of environmental significance.

STMA is also a co-sponsor of the new certification program of the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA) and is providing technical expertise to its sports field construction manual.

International opportunities are on the horizon for STMA, and as a first step the association has developed a model for international sports turf groups to become affiliated organizations.

These and all of STMA's relationships are key to the advancement of the profession.

SportsTurf

MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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Colorado turf manager deals with flash flood

DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE, major rain storms hit the Denver area, bringing 2-inches of driving rain and hail within 30 minutes and the streets swelled with water.

Here in the suburb of Glendale we are currently building a new park and practice field adjacent and uphill from our stadium, called Infinity Park. Because of all our construction, we had been required to put filters over all of the storm drains and put up both a silt fence and a chain link fence around the construction area. The covered drains couldn't handle the storm water and it built up behind the fencing, reaching a level of nearly three acre feet of water. Then it broke through, sending a

flash flood over our synthetic field and onto the lowest point—our stadium field.

At 2:14 pm, more than 2 feet of water covered the stadium pitch. We have cleanouts at all four corners, positioned off the pitch surface. They tie into 8-inch drainpipe that then joins into the city's main 12-inch drain line. We pulled the cleanout covers and used push brooms to try to keep the silt agitated in the water to keep it off the field surface. The water was coming on the field faster than those drains could handle it, so we had to keep clearing clogs there to keep it flowing. By 6 pm we were down to 2 inches of water on the perimeter of the field.

The next step, when the surface was dry enough, was sweeping the field to clear away the sticks, pop cans, leaves and assorted debris the water had deposited. Then we used a solid tine aerator to break up the silt layer and get the oxygen to the roots. We're left with about a 1/8-inch layer of silt on top of our sand surface.

We'll continue solid tine aeration as we can work it in and plan to top-dress with straight sand to help break up more of the silt, hoping to gradually move it through the profile and out of the field. ■

Joshua Bertrand is manager of turf operations for the City of Glendale, CO.



➤ **Left: A WALL OF WATER** breaks down several construction fences.

➤ **Middle: WATER** began to flood Infinity Park at 2 pm.

Tools&Equipment

LockUp & Dimension herbicides

LockUp is now available through distributors as a formulated product for superior control of dollarweed in the South and dandelion in the North. It offers postemergence weed control, provides activity at extremely low use rates and can be applied to wet or dry cool- or warm-season turf.



Dimension specialty herbicide provides preemergence and early postemergence control of crabgrass, and season-long control of crabgrass, goosegrass, spurge and *Poa annua*. With multiple formulations, including the water-based Dimension 2EW, Dimension can be used in established lawns; golf course fairways, roughs and tee boxes; and commercial sod farms without staining surroundings. Dow Agrosciences, www.dowagro.com



ProScape granular with LockUp, Dimension

LebanonTurf has introduced ProScape 19-0-6 with LockUp, a specialty herbicide that provides weed control on white clover, dandelion, kyllinga and English lawn daisy among others. The granular product provides activity at



low use rates, generally 0.02 to 0.06 lbs. of active ingredient (penoxsulam) per acre, and can be used on wet or dry foliage and on warm- and cool-season turf. The product includes LebanonTurf's MESA, the first nitrogen source to combine ammonium sulfate with methylene urea in a single particle. ProScape 22-0-6 with Dimension is a zero phosphorus fertilizer herbicide combination that provides preemergent and early postemergent control of many annual grassy weeds that can infiltrate sports turf. Dimension is a premium control choice for annual grassy weeds and small-seeded broadleaf weeds. It enables early postemergent control of crab-

grass and extends the window for crabgrass control application by two to four weeks. ProScape 22-0-6 contains 40 percent MESA nitrogen, which combines Meth-Ex methylene urea with ammonium sulfate. The homogeneous, slow-release granules deliver brilliant color, quick response and extended feeding without flush growth or excessive clippings. LebanonTurf, www.lebanonturf.com

ALOFT insecticide, DISARM fungicide

ALOFT is guaranteed to control white grubs and all major insect pests throughout the season. It combines immediate knock-down of early-season adults and surface-feeders, plus outstanding systemic activity to provide residual control of all white grubs, plus escaped larvae from early-season adult or surface-feeder eggs laid before application.

University trials prove DISARM fungicide provides unsurpassed strobilurin disease control. Used alone or in combination with other non-strobilurin fungicides, DISARM controls all major turfgrass diseases, at a lower cost per acre than competitive strobilurins. It is the only strobilurin labeled for control of light-to-moderate infestations of dollar spot. Arysta LifeScience, www.arystalifescience.com



Controlled-release fertilizers

POLYON and DURATION CR controlled-release fertilizers gradually and consistently deliver nutrients to turfgrass over a longer period of time to achieve the ultimate playing surface with fewer applications. Manufactured by Agrium Advanced Technologies, POLYON and DURATION CR fertilizers use advanced polymer-coating technology that relies on temperature to drive nutrient release, regardless of moisture levels, and provide consistent performance without surge growth. These controlled-



release fertilizers can also be impregnated with pre-emergent herbicides to provide long-lasting weed control both efficiently and economically. POLYON offers more polymer-coated nutrient choices than any other brand and can deliver nutrients for up to 12 months. DURATION CR offers longevities up to 180 days. POLYON and DURATION CR fertilizers are available from a variety of fertilizer suppliers throughout North America. Agrium Advanced Technologies, www.agriumat.com



Herbicides from FMC

Echelon herbicide from FMC Professional Solutions provides preemergence and early postemergence control of crabgrass, goosegrass and sedges in sports turf as well as other sports-focused settings. Used in typical spring preemergence applications, Echelon offers control beyond that of traditional preemergence herbicides, saving the applicator time and money on weed control later in the season.

Dismiss turf herbicide and Dismiss South herbicide provides fast visible sedge control through contact activity and long residual

sedge control by penetrating the tubers and destroying the reproductive structures. Both products provide visible control of yellow nutsedge and green kyllinga in 24-48 hours, and Dismiss South offers enhanced control of purple nutsedge in warm season turf types. FMC Professional Solutions, www.fmcprofessional-solutions.com



Tools & Equipment



Honda commercial mowers

Honda's HRC Commercial Series mowers consist of two models: the self-propelled, hydrostatic drive HRC216HXA and push-type HRC216PDA. The HRC Series' mowing performance is enhanced by offering Honda's exclusive MicroCut twin-blade mulching technology. Twin blades produce finer clippings for mulching, and finer clippings means less bagging. The HRC mowers incorporate a number of key features including: Dome shaped deck design that facilitates both bagging and mulching while delivering finer clipping particles; improved heavy duty handlebars that are now adjustable for height; front bumper provides mower deck and engine protection; also allows convenient transport tie down; and durable, lightweight Xenoy wheels with axle protectors.

www.hondapowerequipment.com



Harper verticutter

The Harper Verti-Cutter has many innovative features that make use of screw type depth adjustment that allows for the exact control. The Verti-Cutter's chain drive prevents slippage that allows for higher ground speed and aggressive verticutting. The trailer design of the PTO allows for easy hook up and maneuverability.

www.harperindustries.com



Tow-behind verticut mower

Ariens Company offers the TVM-3077 tow behind verti-cut mower, part of the Gravely Turf line. Designed to optimally operate with tractors in the 24 hp to 45 hp range, the TVM-3077 uses the tractor's power to operate the lift hydraulics and the PTO belt drive, eliminating the need for drive hydraulics and reducing stress and heat build up on the tractor. The TVM-3077 gives a deep cut for thatch removal with minimal turf disturbance or light grooming ideal for overseeding to promote quick seed germination. Available in 3-gang (77-inch) or 5-gang (130-inch) widths.

www.ariens.com



MultiSpread 320's new light material sides

Earth & Turf LLC introduces light material sides for its MultiSpread Model 320. With this convenient option, the 1-cubic yd. topdresser virtually doubles its capacity when spreading light materials such as compost, calcined clay, etc. Maximum load capacity using the light material sides is 3,600 lbs. Features exclusive, wide-spread beater, it spreads a wide variety of topdressing materials such as compost, sand, infield mix, calcined clay, crumbed rubber, and grass clippings. Two-wheel ground drive or available hydraulic drive and 26 x 12.00-12 turf tires insures easy pulling by 20-HP tractors. Overall height with light material sides, plus narrow overall width, allows operators to reach in easily from either side to cut crumbed rubber super sacks when loading.

www.earthandturf.com



Riding spread and spray applicator

Engineered and designed by Turfco to make your job easier on residential and large commercial projects, the T3000 enables you to spread and spray at the same time at 6 foot or 9 foot widths, and matching capacities will enable you to complete up to 4000 square feet per minute with precision. Cruise control safely locks in your speed, freeing one hand for spraying or spreading. It also offers the best spray on the market using a unique, adjustable high-pressure, high-velocity system that creates larger droplets for better coverage, less drift and fewer callbacks.

www.turfcoirect.com

Spreaders for sports fields

Although all Dakota spreaders will topdress sports turf, Dakota Peat has two models specifically designed for sports fields, the Dakota Model 412 Turf Tender and 414 Turf Tenders. These two units have the same fingertip controls as our 410 Greens topdressers, but with larger capacities. The 412 has a 2 ½-yard hopper and the 414 a 5-yard hopper. They can spread many different materials including fertilizer.

www.dakotapeat.com



TurfEx introduces bulk material spreaders

TurfEx, a new product division of TrynEx International, introduces its line of bulk material spreaders. Designed to mount on tractors, utility vehicles or pickup trucks, the units are equipped with an auger for feed and control of bulk material, including fertilizer, compost, pelletized lime, topdressing, and other granular products. They have the ability to be used in a variety of applications and are also capable of spreading snow and ice removal products. Both models have adjustable stainless steel spinners and also have variable speed control, which ensures precise material feed and spread pattern. Spread width is adjustable up to 30 feet.

www.trynexusfactory.com



SuperSoil liquid compaction relief

Increased soil pore space allows for greater water infiltration and retention, increased oxygen and CO2 exchange, and reduced compaction, all enabling roots to grow deeper. SuperSoil is a liquid compaction-relief product that increases soil pore space by combining small soil particles to create larger ones. The product negatively charged polymers dissolve alkaline salts, allowing bicarbonates to move deep into the soil profile and out of root growth areas. SuperSoil is a once or twice-a-year solution. SuperSoil is NOT a surfactant, wetting agent, polyacrylamide or penetrant. Ask about the 100% money-back guarantee on the performance of SuperSoil. No known chemical incompatibilities.

www.supersoil.net



ShootOut portable soccer goals

Bison ShootOut portable aluminum soccer goals set the standard for durability and safety. Goal sizes range from 9' Bantam to 24' Competition in 4" round, 4" square, or 2" x 4" tubing. All have QwikTrack net attachment plus a Torque Tested backstay attachment that eliminates corner weld failure common on other portables. Official size goals are compatible with gooseneck football goalposts to fit under football goals when both sports share the field. Complete ShootOut packages include nets and wheel kits.

www.bisoninc.com



New water-saving technology

UgMO is a new water-saving technology with applications for all types of sports turf. UgMO is an underground, wireless soil monitoring system that brings data 24/7 on soil moisture, temperature and salinity directly to turf managers' fingertips via wireless sensors and a highly intuitive software program. It removes completely the guesswork of when, where and how much to water, when and how much to fertilize, where to target disease prevention, etc. UgMO was installed at the Home Depot Center in Carson, CA, which features state-of-the-art stadiums and facilities for soccer, tennis, track & field, lacrosse, rugby, baseball, softball and more.

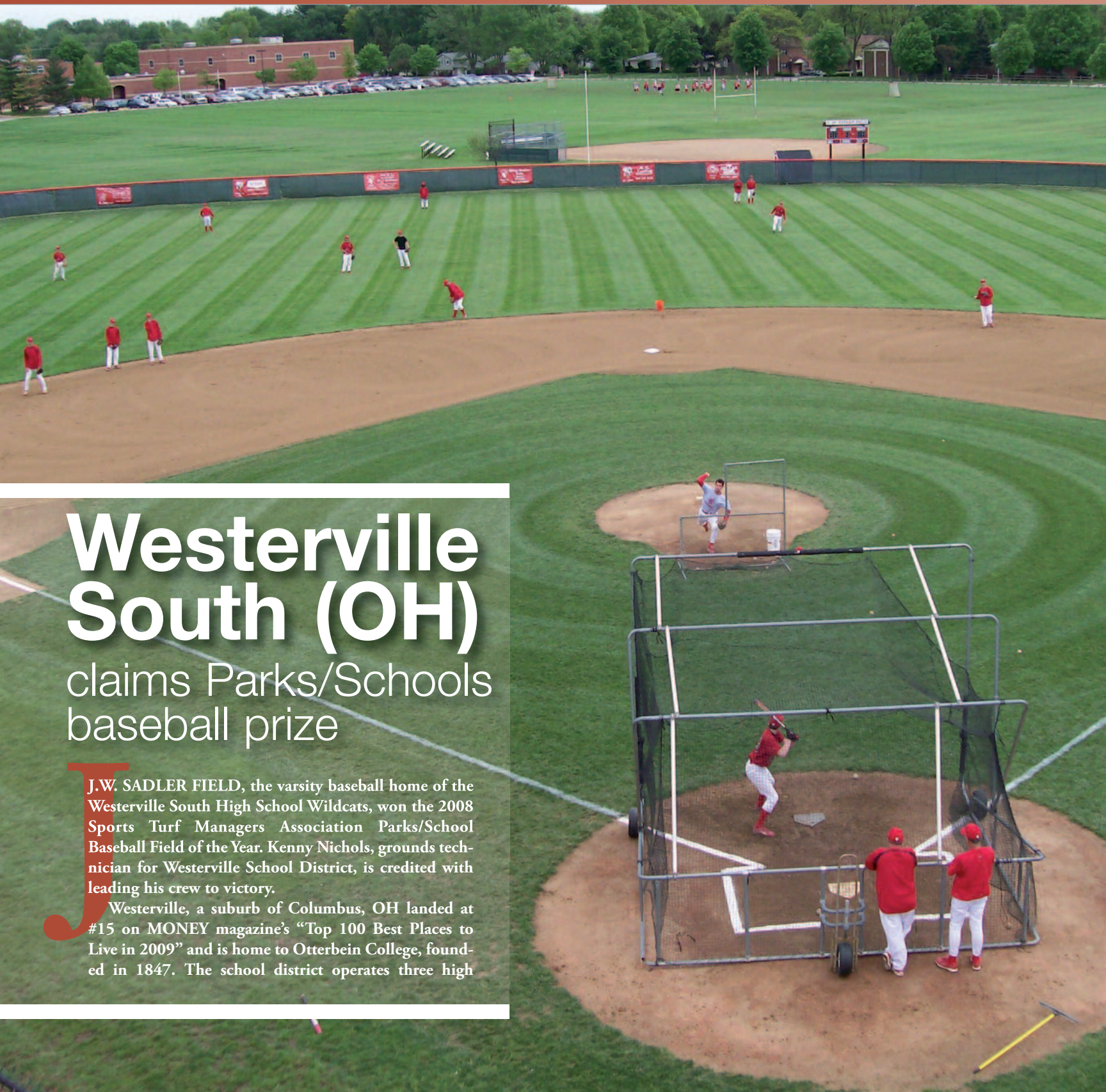


FIELD OF THE YEAR

Westerville South (OH) claims Parks/Schools baseball prize

J.W. SADLER FIELD, the varsity baseball home of the Westerville South High School Wildcats, won the 2008 Sports Turf Managers Association Parks/School Baseball Field of the Year. Kenny Nichols, grounds technician for Westerville School District, is credited with leading his crew to victory.

Westerville, a suburb of Columbus, OH landed at #15 on MONEY magazine's "Top 100 Best Places to Live in 2009" and is home to Otterbein College, founded in 1847. The school district operates three high





schools, the oldest of which is South, opened in 1960, four middle schools, and 16 elementary schools.

Originally built in the 1970's, Sadler Field sees nearly 400 hours of play a year and consists of native clay soil, with an infield mix of 34% sand, 34% silt, and 32% clay, with about 5% calcined clay mixed in. Nichols also uses KB Clay infield mix that is 70% sand, 5% silt, 25% clay.

Regarding special challenges, Nichols wrote in his award entry: "While we face many of the same challenges as other high school baseball facilities, such as unpredictable weather, overuse, unplanned events, vandalism, etc., the highest hurdle we have to overcome is a lack of funding for field maintenance.

"While baseball is a popular sport and is supported in our community, it simply does not draw the fans nor enjoy the popularity that sports like football and basketball do. Since it does not bring in the funds from ticket and concession sales, a natural consequence is it does not get the same level of support or funding when it comes time for budgets to be put together.

"This funding problem is compounded by the fact that the playing surfaces of baseball fields, by their nature, require more extensive and meticulous care than those of most other high school sports.

"So we are left with a dilemma; the need to provide and maintain a safe and playable field with limited resources to do so. Of course, there is also the desire to provide an attractive field that encourages the players and leaves them with an increased sense of self-worth and value by playing there.

"Our solution to clearing this funding hurdle and meeting our goals has been to work consistently to develop a spirit of teamwork, cooperation and communication within the entire organization. We realized several years ago that the one resource we had a lot of was people. From volunteers, parents, players, coaches,



OVERSEEDING PROGRAM

Late May: 2-3 lbs. 1000 sq. ft. on infield and aprons; rake-tined/aerated.

Mid August: 2-3 lbs. 1000 sq. ft. on infield and aprons; rake-tined.

Late November: 3 lbs. 1000 sq. ft. on all turf areas; rake-tined/aerated.

Monthly in season: 3-5 lbs. 1000 sq. ft. on basepaths; cleated in.

Seed specifications: Urban Ecstasy "C" mix by Southwest Landmark that includes 29.7% Bladerunner tall fescue, 24.78% Raptor tall fescue, 24.76% Crossfire II tall fescue, 14.82% Cruiser perennial ryegrass, and 4.96% Brooklawn Kentucky bluegrass.

grounds and custodial staffs to the athletic director and fans, we set out on a course to get each of these groups working together to make J. W. Sadler Field one that players and fans alike would remember. Each group has played a pivotal part in making this field a success and one that stands out from the rest.

"Coupled with an attitude of continuous improvement and ongoing development, we plan to continue to make this baseball field all that it can be and to bring out the best in the players who use it."

SportsTurf: How has the recession affected your operations?

Nichols: With the passage of an operating levy in May 2006, our school board made a commitment to the Westerville

community to maintain a balanced budget with those funds through June 30, 2010. Increased costs for goods and services coupled with decreases in state funding have made it necessary for all of our departments to make concessions in their budgets and staffing levels in order to maintain that commitment.

Although we are challenged to be increasingly more creative and efficient in our operations as we find ways to do more with less, ultimately, we are becoming better and stronger for it.

ST: What changes to your maintenance plans are you expecting to make this year, if any?

Nichols: Constant improvement is a way of life for us; a habit we have developed and encouraged through years of

FIELD OF THE YEAR



FIELD MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

- Ford compact tractor
- John Deere garden tractor/mower
- Deere compact tractor/loader (borrowed)
- Two Deere Z-mowers
- Gator utility vehicle
- Bas
- Basic mini motor grader (borrowed)
- EZ-Go golf cart
- Bluebird sod cutter (borrowed)
- WCS tine groomer
- Keystone mat drags
- Echo string trimmer
- Echo power broom
- Deere handheld blower
- Cub Cadet tank sprayer/spreader
- Toro 686 aerator
- Ohio Steel tow roller
- Pioneer Athletic paint striper
- Spectra LL 200 laser (borrowed)
- Chalker
- Plumb fiberglass tape measures
- Craftsman wheelbarrow
- Line-Mate lining tools
- WCS mound tamp and other hand tools



FERTILITY PROGRAM

March: annual soil test

Mid May: 14-28-10, .75-lb. N/1000 sq. ft.

Mid June: 25-2-5, .75-lb. N/1000 sq. ft.

Late August: 14-28-10, .75-lb. N/1000 sq. ft.

Late November: 46-0-0, 1.5-lb. N/1000 sq. ft.

Fertilizer specifications: Groland by Southwest Landmark that includes 14-28-10, 50% XCU; 25-2-5, 40% Uflexx with 33% Milorganite; and 46-0-0, 100% QR

practice. So it goes without saying that we will try several new things and make many adjustments this year to improve our operations and service levels.

Currently we are assessing areas that can be revamped to eliminate manual labor. For instance, at J.W. Sadler Field we are rounding the rear corners of the skinned area behind first and third—the ones where the groomer doesn't reach. We are planting grass there to eliminate the need for raking by hand and to allow both grooming and mowing to be completed with a machine.

We are also looking at ways to reduce the labor intensive practice of string trimming. We expect to achieve this by such things as: reducing, eliminating or modifying corners and other areas where mowers won't fit, using growth regulators and adding impervious surfaces.

ST: What's the best piece of turf management advice you have ever received?

Nichols: It comes from a quote by baseball great Harmon Killebrew, who said, "My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, 'You're tearing up the grass.' 'We're not raising grass,' Dad would reply. 'We're raising boys.'"

In other words, as important as it is for us to raise good, healthy turf and create safe and attractive fields to play on; at the end of the day, what really matters are the children we are raising and developing to be the world of tomorrow. After all, people matter most and developing people is our business. Dirt and turf are simply components in the quest for this higher purpose.

ST: How do you balance your work and personal time?

Nichols: That's a tough one since I, like many others, love the work I do and easily lean toward being out of balance on the work side. Some ideas that I find helpful in my struggle to achieve this balance are:

Know your priorities—mine are: God, my wife, my children, family and others. Work is something I should do because of and for these. It is not an end in itself.

Be aware of the need to be balanced. I have to know there is a need to fill it.

Be accountable for that balance to others. Give them permission to keep me in check.

Practice getting in and staying in balance. Like baseball or any other sport, we get good at what we practice. Good or bad. Practice good.

ST: What do you see yourself doing 10 years from now?

Nichols: Westerville City Schools should still be here providing the best possible education to the next generation. For me, I'll probably still be working dirt and developing people. Growing up, one of the things I wanted to be was a farmer, tilling the soil and growing crops. Though not in the way I dreamed of, that is actually what I get to do in some of my work here. Long term, I would like to work at the university level and/or in the area of sports field construction. ■

The STMA Field of the Year Awards Program has been made possible through the generous support of its sponsors. They include: Carolina Green Corp.; Covermaster, Inc.; Hunter Industries; Turface Athletics/Profile Products, LLC; Scotts Professional Seed; and World Class Athletic Surfaces.