Almond admits that construction was not easy. The site was a former railroad yard with existing soil that was very compacted and contaminated with debris, making it difficult to trench and install the 10,000 linear feet of piping. Further complicating construction was the fact that this was an Omaha Superfund site, meaning that the existing soil was not permitted to leave the site. This forced playing field contractor Nemaha Landscape to get creative and store excavated soil under the parking lot and other areas.

Because of the tight 13-week field installation time table, Nemaha Landscape was required to work around the stadium construction team. The contractor worked in three phases to allow other trades to finish on certain areas of the field. Amazingly, field construction was finished 1 week ahead of the deadline, but as a result of the schedule, the sod was not installed until November 2010. This created a new challenge for Turf Manager Dan Blank to establish the sod in a short time frame. "This is still a new field, Dan was able to get the new turf well rooted by the use of growth blankets," said Almond. Despite the small setbacks, Almond believes this field will stand up to what is thrown at it. "This field should get quite a bit of use, Creighton University plays their home games there, and it will host football/soccer games and concerts. I think we were able to balance the need for field use and drainage concerns."

TD Ameritrade Park opened on April 19, 2011 to host Creighton University vs. the University of Nebraska, attracting 22,187 fans, the largest regular season attendance this year in NCAA baseball. While Rosenblatt will forever be a part of the CWS identity, so far reviews have been favorable of the new stadium design. The 24,000-seat stadium features 360 degree views of the game from the concourse. Fans and media have commented on the ease of movement and room on the concourse, especially near the concession stands, as well as, the extra room in the aisles compared to Rosenblatt's cramped quarters.

The light-brown exterior brick, a high definition video board in right field, unique crisscross light standards, and an eye catching blue-green press box and club level combine to give the stadium a contemporary aesthetic appeal. In regards to the overall experience, Almond said, "There was a lot of interface between design disciplines inside and outside of the stadium that improved the process. The client was very involved in the project and we were lucky to have them trust us to use the right materials for them."

With the new stadium filling so many other needs, for Almond and the rest of the design team, the pressure to be like Rosenblatt was traded for desire to make a new imprint in the Omaha community. "Mainly, the client and design team wanted this field to have its own signature look and feel and I think we've accomplished that." The CWS will be played in Omaha for the 61st time and at TD Ameritrade Park for the very first time June 18, 2011. ■

Storm water management

I HAD NOT THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT STORM WATER MANAGEMENT before being charged with compliance at Ensworth School in 2009. Educating myself on what it is, why it is important and what can be done has been challenging yet rewarding. We now have a 10-year plan to implement on our 127-acre campus in Nashville, TN. Our site description begins with the realization that the property was formerly a Devon cattle farm adjacent to the 2,000-acre Warner Park System with a state highway running through part of the property and separating us from a housing subdivision adjacent to our property on the other side of the highway. We have two rivers bordering and joining in a corner of our property and a blue-line stream that enters from the park parallel to the highway then splits the property running into the river.

Identifying the *storm water outflow* from the now developed portion of our property begins the plan to manage storm water. All the catch basins in the parking lots, the downspouts and the athletic fields feed into these outflows into the *flood plain* and *floodway* not to mention the *floodway buffer*. Yes, learning the terminology is part of the process. We have 48.5 acres of property in the floodway and floodway buffer bounded by the two rivers. Along the two rivers is a greenway easement coming from the park system and exiting our property to Exchange Club baseball and softball fields. In addition the floodway contains a TVA power line easement, city water-line easement and a gas line easement.

Hawkins Partners, Inc., a landscape architecture firm, was employed to develop the plan. After our site description the area goals needed to be established. We developed six goals:

• To educate the student population of the Ensworth School and the community regarding the use, need and goals of storm water management practices.

• To accelerate the development of a diverse native vegetative cover for long-term stream bank stabilization at the adjacent river edge, to protect and enhance water quality and to provide wildlife habitat.

• To promote native species and eliminate invasive exotic species.

• To provide sports practice fields and cross country track opportunities while minimizing disturbance of grade and use of synthetic fertilizers.

• To allow for access and visibility between sports practice fields for safety purposes.

Several of our science courses get involved with the property during their curriculum requirements.

• To allow for access to the greenway within the greenway easement while providing a sense of separation from the privately owned and operated portions of the site.

We previously had forested stream and river banks, open meadow and mown grass for athletic fields, cross country course and parking. All had been pasture land previous to our ownership. We had seeded tall fescue into the onions, ironweed, golden rod, ragweed, and wild flowers where we were mowing. The stream banks had trees, river cane, and invasives such as privet and Japanese honeysuckle.

The management zones created that I now keep records of use and cultural practices on separately are: stream bank veg-

>> **A MAP OF THE ENSWORTH SCHOOLS PROPERTY** defining property lines, rivers, the stream, the highway, buildings, parking lots, athletic fields, greenway, cross country course, the flood plain, floodway, floodway buffer, pond, tennis courts, the storm water outflows and all the management zones.

John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

Answers from page 17

This athletic field had been completely renovated 6 months before this photo being taken. The area had previously been a parking lot for the city's former spring training site. New soil for the athletic fields had to be transported in for the construction project which was a mixture of 80% sand and 20% organic matter. The source of the organic matter was not clear as it was a low bid contract. After construction, it was determined that the organic matter was municipal compost which apparently had not been properly sterilized. After 2 weeks of wet South Florida weather, the maintenance crew went out to mow the fields and found them full of these nice white mushrooms. After the area was mowed, the mushrooms disappeared and have not returned since.

Photo submitted by Tom Curran, Sports Turf Manager at the City of Pompano Beach and the official SAFE Foundation auctioneer for STMA.

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@turf-tec.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.

etation, reforestation type A, reforestation type B, bio-swales A and B, bio-retention, existing meadows, re-established meadows, sports fields, greenway and overflow parking. Each of these zones requires a record of vegetation management. Vegetation management includes exotic removal, under-brushing, Bush hog mowing, raised canopy, landscape planting, turfgrasses, aeration, fertilization and weed management, trash collection and disposal as well as composting.

The Educational Interface involves the Service Learning portion of our curriculum as the students have planted trees the past 2 years and removed exotic invasives. Several of our science courses get involved with the property during their curriculum requirements. We anticipate community signage along the greenway to educate the public about the storm water implementation and impacts to the environment.

PHASING AND MONITORING

Phasing and Monitoring has been rewarding. Phase one had to be accomplished within the first 2 years. It has included planting wild flowers in the re-established meadows, planting 2-inch caliper, 1-inch caliper and whip trees in priority locations as well as installing 4 x 4-inch posts to define spaces that may be mowed and used regularly such as the sports fields and overflow parking. The posts also define the bio-retention areas so we could excavate and landscape them properly.

Phase two would involve the completion of the reforestation areas over the next 8years. Our plan during this process calls for quarterly meetings with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) staff. In addition we must submit an annual report summarizing our progress over the last calendar year and proposed implementation for the next calendar year.

Some really impressive records have resulted from this whole experience. I feel like we have a master plan for the entire property. This really helps define what we do and why. And that also helps me to transfer that information to other people such as our administration, parents and the community. We now have a color map of our entire property defining the property lines, the rivers, the stream, the highway, buildings, parking lots, athletic fields, greenway, cross country course, the flood plain, floodway, floodway buffer, pond, tennis courts, the storm water outflows and all the management zones I mentioned. We have an aerial photo of our property with nine points marked where we have a photograph documenting conditions in 2009 and at each meeting we have with NPDES.

We had two of our athletic fields moved and two others restricted to spring use. These four fields may not receive grading, drainage, underground irrigation or introduced bermudagrass. The same goes for the two grass overflow parking lots. We had already established bermudagrass on a fifth field and done some minor grading. We are able to keep the bermuda and install irrigation and drainage if we wish and have unlimited use. However, all the bleachers and ancillaries must be portable.

We may not use synthetic fertilizers on any of these spaces and we are restricted to broadleaf weed control. Soil tests are required for fertilization program dictation. Our overflow parking may only be used a certain number of times each year. We are required to allow the meadows to grow up all year long so that the root systems will grow deep. The deeper roots increase the field holding capacity of the flood plain soil. The infiltration slows the storm waters access to the rivers. This allows the rivers to not swell so quickly and handle the rain event with minimal flooding and erosion.

The increase in hardscapes and direct drainage funnel more volumes of water to our rivers faster which increases flooding potential and erosion. By increasing water infiltration in our soils and increasing the soil field holding capacity we may slow down the storm water's access to the rivers and help reduce the possibility of flooding.

MOTHER NATURE'S 2 CENTS

The irony of this plan is that we implemented it in February 2009 and Nashville experienced catastrophic flooding in May 2010. Eighty percent of our property flooded from our pond, stream and two rivers. Obviously this storm water was manifest not only from our property but all the properties contributing to the stream and two rivers. All of the athletic fields flooded with water levels of 10 feet or higher. The athletic building lower level flooded also.

My home is located down river and I had more than 3 feet of river in the house. We had experienced 13.57 inches of rain May 1 and May 2. I tell you this because the storm water plan has been viewed it two different ways: 1) It obviously didn't work because look what happened and, 2) This is exactly why we need to implement this plan as soon as possible and encourage our neighbors to be more thoughtful about their storm water management.

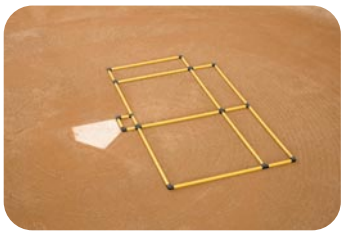
Difficulties may or may not be a part of our everyday life or even lifetime; however they will come. Preparation is the key in being able to manage and survive difficult challenges. The deeper the roots the better prepared we are to overcome the challenges. I find this to be true in human beings as well as plants, building foundations and histories of institutions and associations.

I believe athletic fields may become leaders in storm water management, water conservation and pollution filtration. Sod-producing grass root systems are the best pollutant filters. Sports fields catch storm water from many stadiums and parking lots. Catching all subsurface drainage from the fields and air conditioning units and using it to irrigate our fields will help with water conservation. Using central control irrigation systems with flow meters, low volume nozzles, heads that include check valves and flow stop options, and soil moisture sensors and weather stations also helps.

Can you imagine leading your institution down the path of environmental stewardship AND fiscal responsibility? How will you be received when offering your solutions as a problem solver? Do you know what rain gardens are? How about permeable concrete? Please consider offering your athletic fields as solutions rather than problems for the institution you serve. ■

Martin Kaufman, CSFM is head groundsman and sports field manager for Ensworth Schools in Nashville, TN and Secretary/Treasurer of the Sports Turf Managers Association.

Triple Play batter's box template



All of your batter's box sizes in one template. This durable, lightweight PVC batter's box template provides the outline for all three sizes of batter's boxes—3' x 6' for youth baseball, 4' x 6" for baseball, and 3' x 7' for softball. Simply align with home plate and scribe the outline of the box needed. Then use your field chalker to create the finished batter's boxes. Perfect boxes every time.

Beacon Athletics

Turfco introduces improved T3000 spreader & sprayer

Turfco introduces the newly redesigned T3000 spreader and sprayer that maintains an overall compact design while still offering 6- and 9-foot wide spreading widths. Optional electric start available and a 16-amp charging system provides greater versatility in mounting accessories. Cruise control helps maintain speed while freeing operators' hands to control spreading and spraying. A new variable speed diaphragm pump features Viton valves for extended life and minimized maintenance. The T3000's adjustable, high-pressure, high-velocity systems creates larger droplets for the best spray on the market with less drift and fewer callbacks. An improved spinner design is longer lasting and easier to maintain.

Turfco Manufacturing Company

Redexim North America introduces new SpeedSeed models

Redexim North America, Inc. is introducing two new models of their popular dimpled seeder, the SpeedSeed 2100 and 2400. These models are equipped with individual cast spiker rings which enable the operator to make turns while in operation; the V-shaped spikes produce holes, which funnel the randomly dispersed seed, concentrating them at the proper depth for best germination. The new high volume seed box uses a proven roller design with quick-change gears, allowing the machine an infinite range of feed rates with all types of seed, from very large to very small (bents) seed types. Finishing up is a large smooth-roller, which can be optionally equipped with a second set of spiker rings, followed by the rear brush.

Redexim North America

Wiedenmann's Super 500

The Super 500 high dump is a heavy-duty sweeper/verticutter/flail mower collection system by Wiedenmann. The optional multi-purpose sweeper head allows for verticutting and flail mowing while collecting clippings into a 3.5 cubic yard hopper with a high dump reach up to 83". Verticut spacing ranges from ¾", 1 ½", or 2 ¼". Options include a golf course kit and floating axles for following undulated surfaces and to avoid scalping.

Wiedenmann North America

Toro Pro Force blowers

The new Toro Pro Force is the most powerful single nozzle turbine-type debris blower in its class. This air power provides fast removal of grass clippings, leaves, aeration cores, or other unwanted debris from your sports fields, golf course or other maintained turf areas, and hard surface areas such as park trails, parking lots or golf car paths.

The Toro Company

New Stabilizer Gold infield mix

Stabilizer Solutions, Inc. is turning ball fields into gold with the launch of a new engineered soil, Stabilizer® Gold Infield Mix. This new Stabilizer mix reduces dust, mud, and erosion, keeping infields stable in a variety of weather conditions and allowing for extended play. This product is in-stock and available in Southern California by contacting Stabilizer Solutions, Inc. Comprised of a finely screened local aggregate, silt and clay, this mix is mechanically blended to be uniform throughout the soil profile and is the only infield mix guaranteed to have the original Stabilizer® mixed in it. Stabilizer Gold Infield Mix can be added to instantly improve and stabilize any existing infield.

Stabilizer Solutions

FMC introduces Talstar EZ featuring Verge granular technology

Talstar EZ Granular insecticide is now available with Verge granular technology; EZ with Verge yields a more uniform distribution of the granules during application, plus other benefits that make it better for the applicator. A unique, clay-based granule, Verge breaks down quickly to release the active ingredient and disappear into the landscape. Virtually dust- and odor-free, the new formulation is better for the applicator since it reduces exposure during application. Verge granular technology was developed by Oil-Dri Corporation, an industry leader in micro-particles and mineral processing. Highly effective and a proven insecticide product, Talstar EZ provides long-lasting control of the most problematic surface-feeding pests such as ants, billbugs, chinch bugs, fleas, and ticks.

FMC Professional Solutions

Turf Diagnostics expands services

With the ever increasing concern over athlete safety, knowledge of sports field hardness is critical to field managers and administrators. Gmax testing is the industry standard for sports field surface hardness evaluations, and Turf Diagnostics is the leading provider of Gmax testing. Our field hardness evaluations include shock absorption properties, head injury criterion, and other crucial field assessment information.

To improve service to clients in Texas and Colorado, Turf Diagnostics has signed service agreements with leading providers of turf products and services. Turf Materials Inc will represent our Gmax field hardness testing services throughout the state of Texas. G and S Solutions will represent our Gmax field hardness testing services throughout the state of Colorado. Turf Materials and G and S Solutions will be client liaisons, providing customer service and support before and after testing.

Turf Diagnostics & Design

Z-Spray Intermediate

This mid-range model from LT Rich can cover up to 70,000 sq ft of liquid application (1/4 gallon per 1,000 sq ft) per fill and hold more than 320 lbs of granular product on the unit. Powered by a 16-hp Vanguard electric start, using Hydro-Gear Pump and Parker Wheel Motors, this unit can cover even the largest of properties. With a 4.0 GPM Pump this unit can create constant by-pass agitation and able to spray wettable powder products. Give yourself more security with the Locking Caster System for more side hill stability, 2' or 6' or 8' or 10' spray width options, 50' (100' free option) Cox Hose Reel to reach those hard to get areas and the ability to interchange the nozzle tips.

L T Rich Products

NewLiner baseball chalk machines by Newstripe, Inc.

Newstripe's HD 50 and HD 100 baseball field chalk machines now feature a dual front wheel drive that eliminates the "skipping" that single wheel drive units encounter with uneven surfaces. The new drive keeps distributing chalk even when one wheel encounters a low spot in the surface. The result is a constant flow of chalk for more consistent lines. Plus, the dual drive guides the machine in a straight path allowing even the beginner to produce straight lines. The

50 lb. and 100 lb. chalk machines are backed by a 36-month warranty, produce both 2" and 4" wide lines and also feature a new rod hinge on the lid, sight window to see the chalk as it drops, 10" pneumatic tires and dual handles for better control.

Newstripe

For more information on any of these products, please visit www.greenmediaonline.com/productportal

F.O.Y.

Field of the Year

Henderson says, *"The biggest challenge in maintaining this field is the amount of use it receives from March to November with the expectations that it be maintained in tournament condition every day..."*

Daily tournament conditions make for Field of the Year winner

THE 2010 SPORTSTURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION BASEBALL FIELD OF THE YEAR AWARD in the Schools/Parks category was presented to Vince Henderson, turf manager for Glen Allen Stadium, Glen Allen, VA at last January's STMA Banquet in Austin, TX.

Henderson, who might be the only turf manager in the country with a BA in Economics, is responsible for maintaining 88 irrigated athletic fields, seven clay tennis courts, and 23 lawn and landscape areas. Before coming to work for Henrico County in Virginia 7 years ago, Henderson had used his turfgrass management degree from Horry-Georgetown Technical College in Myrtle Beach as a golf course superintendent for 12 years.

Full-timers on the award-winning staff included Jason Melton, Tim Coleman, Steve Speas, Ed Branch, Mike Acors, Mike Turgeon, Eugene Dodson and Lee Dodson. They were assisted by seasonal employees Phillip Saunders, Ethan Arnold, and Dave Maidens.

Glen Allen Stadium was built in 1993-94 and the field was completely renovated in 2006-07. Henderson reports the field saw about 715 hours of action last year, all of it baseball. It features TifSport bermudagrass, maintained at a 5/8-inch height of cut, and is overseeded with Allied Seeds ASP 6000 series blend @ 500 lbs. per acre, which is cut to ¾ inches. The rootzone composition is 90% sand, 10% Dakota peat and the drainage system is a modified herringbone drain tile under a 4-inch gravel layer.

Henderson says, "The biggest challenge in maintaining this field is the amount of use it receives from March to November with the expectations that it be maintained in tournament condition every day. A typical week is practice or games Monday through Thursday, two games on Friday, five games on Saturday, and three games on Sunday. Of course, district and regional tournaments for Babe Ruth, American Legion and local high school teams are on the schedule, as are some college showcase games, various clinics and some AAU travel team practices.

"Our staff takes great pride in all of our 88 fields and strives to maintain the same safe and well-conditioned fields at all our sites. We work hard with the every day user groups to move around as much as possible during practice time, and we typically ask that batting practices be held in the cages to reduce wear on the mound and home plate.

"As you might expect we have the typical wear areas at first and third base, in front of the mound and walkways from the dugouts

to home plate. We have overcome the issue at first and third base by modifying the radius cutout to accommodate the players' cheating in toward home plate. We still must re-sod in front of the mound every August; it is simply the cost of doing business. The walkways to home have also been cut out to avoid re-sodding there. I admit I didn't want to do this but did so at the request of the County Manager and Board Supervisor for the district; it does require more daily maintenance but the look is consistent and it is not thin and patched.

"Another big challenge is that since the renovation in 2006 we have battled a major infestation of Spring Dead Spot. The first summer we patched some areas, aggressively grew in other areas, and treated with Rubigan at the end of summer. We used two half rates of 4 oz/1000 spaced 6 weeks apart. We had great results the following year but then we used only a single, full rate of Rubigan the following year, at the beginning of fall. The results were almost a complete reversal of the gains we had made the previous year. We have since returned to the two split applications with very good results."

SPORTSTURF: What changes are you making to your maintenance plan for 2011, if any?

HENDERSON: We are not making any big changes this year to our normal schedule, but I think we always try to tweak things to make better use of manpower and materials. The schedule for our fields pretty much dictates our daily routine and we try to keep everything game ready. Of course, weather always plays a role in what we do, but the stadium field drains so well that rain is usually not an issue for an event if we need to cover the infield.

Monthly maintenance & fertility program

AS SOON AS TRYOUTS AND PRACTICES START in the middle or late February, the infield skin area is maintained daily, including the pitching mound and home plate areas. This practice lasts until the end of October. Amendments such as Turface and Quick Dry are applied as needed. Edging is performed as needed. Due to the structure of the root-zone we must irrigate almost daily from April through mid-October. Fertilization requirements vary depending on how much rain we get. In general, we apply approximately 6 lbs N/1000 sq ft per year to the outfield and up to 8.5 lbs N/1000 sq ft to the infield and sidelines due to the heavier traffic.

January/February

In the past we have covered the field with turf blankets but it appears that the ryegrass actually performs better when not covered. The TifSport bermuda tends to green up late anyway and other than Spring Dead Spot issues it is usually not affected too much by winter. The biggest challenge this time of year is managing freeze/thaw conditions on the skin. We tend to let weather conditions dictate playability.

March

The irrigation system is checked for problems and adjusted as needed. Soil samples are taken for analysis. The field is mowed as needed, which usually is 1-2x/week in March. The skin areas are maintained daily. Freeze/thaw conditions can make dragging a challenge but typically by the middle of this month temperatures are not an issue. Base paths and the infield arc are edged as necessary. Ronstar @ 3 lbs AI (0-0-7 carrier) is applied for pre-emerge weed control. We also fertilize the ryegrass @ .5 lbs N/1000 sq ft.

April

Practices and games are now daily events. Mowing frequency is increased to 3x/week. We fertilize in mid-month @ .75 lbs N and K per 1000 sq ft.

May

Mowing frequency is 3x/week in all areas. Height of cut is reduced from ¾ to 5/8 inches. Turf is fertilized with 1.5 lbs N/1000 sq ft to push the bermuda out of dormancy.

June

Mowing frequency is still 3x/week except during major tournaments when we mow daily. Ryegrass is completely transitioned out with Revolver during the last week of June. Turf is fertilized with 1 lb N and K per 1000 sq ft.

July

Mowing is reduced to biweekly with a Primo application @ .25 oz/1000 sq ft. This practice seems to reduce stress in high-traffic areas. We continue to fertilize @ .75 lbs N and K per 1000 sq ft. We topdress lightly with 100% sand during the second week to help reduce thatch and keep the playing surface as smooth as possible.

August

We apply Primo @ .5 oz/1000 sq ft and continue to mow bi-weekly. We aerate the entire field with 5 x 5/8-inch coring tines, drag cores, and collect remaining thatch. We topdress and drag as needed to achieve smooth surface. Fertilize with 1 lb N and K per 1000 sq ft.

September

We apply Primo @ .67 oz/1000 sq ft the second week of this month to prepare for overseeding. Fertilize @ 1.5 lb potash/1000 sq ft (5-10-30 with 7% Fe). Overseed with perennial rye at the end of the month (Allied Seeds ASP 6000 blend) @ 500 lbs/acre. We discontinue mowing until the rye is strong enough to withstand cutting, usually about 3 weeks. We roll the turf as needed for play.

October

Raise the height of cut back to ¾ inches and restart mowing operations around the middle of this month. Fertilize @ .75 lb N/1000 sq ft.

November/December

Mow as needed. Fertilize as needed with no more than .5 lb N/1000 sq ft.

Membership Application

SportsTurf MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

This form is only valid for first time STMA National members through Sept. 30, 2011 (membership benefits continue through Dec. 31, 2011)

Name _____ Title _____

Employer/Facility _____

☐ Business ☐ Home

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Ph: _____ Home Ph: _____ Cell Ph: _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Fax to: (785) 843-2977

Or mail with payment to:
Sports Turf Managers Association
PO Box 414029
Kansas City, MO 64141

Membership Category:

☐ Sports Turf Manager $55

☐ Sports Turf Manager Associate* (Additional Member(s) from the same facility) $55*

Please select the primary facility type where you are employed:

○ Professional Sports ○ Higher Education ○ Schools K-12 ○ Parks & Recreation

☐ Academic $55

☐ Student (Verification of enrollment) $25

☐ Commercial $148

☐ Commercial Associate* (Additional Member(s) from the same commercial company) $75*

☐ Affiliate (Person who is indirectly or on a part-time basis, involved in the maintenance/management of sports fields) $50

☐ Chapter Dues (Contact Headquarters for amount) $ _____

Chapter Name _____

☐ Contribution to SAFE Foundation (research, education and scholarship) $ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: $ _____

Payment Method:

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Purchase Order # _____

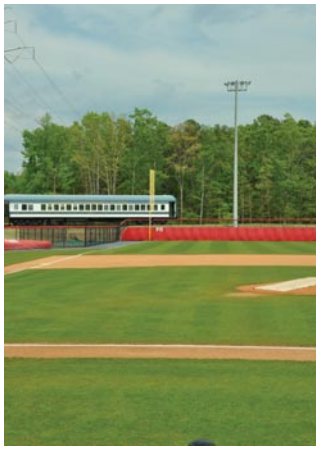
Credit Card: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Credit Card: Please do not email credit card info, please call 800-323-3875 to provide Exp Date: _____

Card # _____ Signature: _____

*There must already be a National Sports Turf Manager from your facility or Commercial Member from your company before you may sign up in the Associate category.

Phone: 800-323-3875 www.STMA.org



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

HENDERSON: Fortunately, the balance is much better now than it was in the past. I'm not exactly sure why, but the golf industry seemed to consume more time than sports turf. In either case, when you really like your work and love having time with your family, balance seems to take care of itself. It certainly helps that Kris and Haley are very understanding of my work. The hardest part to balance is how much control you give your staff. Due to the number of fields we maintain I have to be able to trust the staff to perform their tasks well. I am very fortunate to have a staff that is very dependable and a management that is very supportive of the work we do.

ST: How are you dealing with any budget restrictions that seem to be hitting all municipalities now?

HENDERSON: Just like other municipalities we have had to do some belt tightening. We have gone through our program and tried to find savings where possible, but still deliver the same or better customer service. With that being said, we have had tremendous support from Recreation & Parks Management, the County Manager's Office, and the Board of Supervisors. Their vision and leadership has greatly helped us through these tough economical times.

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

HENDERSON: I'm not sure I can point to one piece of advice and say that it is the best. When I first started in the turf business I tried to work for people who were successful and learn what made them successful. I learned something different from each that I believe that I have retained over the years. The key is to be confident in your decision making, but at the same time remember that you still have more to learn. Mistakes will happen, but you have to recognize it and learn from the experience. I have never worked for them, but I still love listening to guys like Bob Campbell and Mike Goatley talk about their experience in this industry. I've been growing turf in the golf industry or sports turf industry for 20 years now, but if I listen to either one of them for 30 minutes, I will take away something I can use on a regular basis. So, I would say listening is very important.

I am very fortunate to have a staff that is very dependable and a management that is very supportive of the work we do.

ST: Are you yet involved in "sustainable" management practices? If so, what are you doing?

HENDERSON: Didn't the turf industry invent "sustainable" management practices? I think in the current economical environment and the scrutiny of the turf industry in general requires us to use as many of these practices as we can. We are proactive in our management practices to be good stewards of the environment. We have not ventured into battery powered mowers as of yet, but I wouldn't rule out the possibility. We have always taken periodic soil tests to make sure we are on target, but we are currently working on nutrient management plans for our sites based on these test results. As far as organic fertilizers, we have used quite a bit over the years, but I don't think we could ever achieve the turf quality we want with a strictly organic approach. We have made really good use of quality compost in the construction and renovation of native soil fields.

ST: What job would you like to be doing in 10 years?

HENDERSON: Hopefully, I will still be working in the County of Henrico. I don't think I will ever be too far removed from turf. Now, in about 15 years, maybe I will be changing cups at some golf course before my 9 AM tee time and then catching a local football or baseball game in the afternoon. ■