

Profile of New Board Member Daily

Darian Daily has been involved in the professional sports turf industry for 16 years. After graduating with a BS in Plant and Soil Science from Middle Tennessee State, Daily worked with a variety of sports turf fields including parks and recreation, college baseball, AAA baseball, and professional soccer. He currently is head groundskeeper at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati.

Daily's professional highlights include:

- * 1999 STMA Municipal Football Field of the Year.
- * Employee of the Year with Brentwood (TN) Parks in 1999, and Employee of the Year with the Columbus Crew Stadium in 2000.
- * First Head Groundskeeper at the first soccer-specific stadium in the U.S.
- * Hosting the 2000 MLS Cup
- * Hosting the United States World Cup Qualifier with Mexico on Feb. 28, 2001

Daily has been an active member of the STMA for eight years and has served on the membership committee. He was a founding member of the TVSTMA, and served as President of the OSTMA 2001-2002. He currently serves as chairman of the OSTMA Program Committee. Darian currently resides outside of Cincinnati with his wife, Carole, and 4-yr-old daughter, Peyton.

George Toma Golden Rake Award, which acknowledges an individual's strong work ethic and job performance. Dr. A.J. Powell, University of Kentucky, was awarded the Dr. William H. Daniel Award, which acknowledges his significant contributions to the sports turf industry through research, teaching and extension outreach. The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was presented to Lynda Wightman of Hunter Industries. The Gill Award recognizes an individual for their hard work in the sports turf industry and acknowledges their dedication and service to the STMA.

In addition, Field of the Year winners were honored. The winners for Baseball include: Thomas Nielsen, Louisville Slugger Field, Louisville, KY (professional); Jarad Alley, Isotopes Park, Albuquerque, NM (collegiate); and Joseph Harris, Doubleday Field, Cooperstown, NY (schools/parks).

In the Football category, three winners took home awards. They are: Chris Morrow, Dallas Cowboys Football Facility, Irving, TX (professional); Leo Goertz/Craig Potts, Kyle Field at Texas A&M, College Station, TX (collegiate); and Jim Wilson, Blue Valley District Activities Complex Football Field, Overland Park, KS (schools/parks).

For Soccer, John Netwal, CGCS, North Scott Community Schools, Eldridge, IA, was honored for his work in the schools/parks category.

The Softball winner was Jennifer Roeber, Bowlin Stadium, Haymarket Park, Lincoln, NE (collegiate).

Two Complex-of-the-Year awards were

presented. In the professional category, Joe Kennedy III, Surprise Recreation Campus, Surprise, AZ, and in the schools/park category Blair Elliot, Aspen Recreation Center Community Campus, Aspen, CO, took top honors.

Bayer Environmental Science, Covermaster, Jacobsen, Hunter Industries, Nu-gro, Turface Athletics, Turf-Seed, West Coast Turf and World Class Athletic Surfaces sponsor the STMA awards program.

STMA Announces Election Results

The following officers and directors were elected to serve on the 2005 STMA Board of Directors:

Officers

President - Mike Trigg, CSFM, Waukegan Park District, Waukegan, IL

Past President - Bob Campbell, CSFM, University of Tennessee Athletic Department, Knoxville, TN

President-Elect - Mike Andresen, CSFM, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Vice President - Commercial - Victoria Wallace, Tee and Green Sod, Inc., Exeter, RI

Secretary - Abby McNeal, CSFM, Invesco Field at Mile High, Denver, CO

Treasurer - Boyd R. Montgomery, CSFM, Sylvania Recreation Corporation, Sylvania, OH

Board Members

Professional Facilities - Darian Daily, Paul Brown Stadium, Cincinnati, OH (see sidebar).

Colleges & Universities - Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Other Schools - George C. Trivett, CSFM, Granite Falls Middle School, Lenoir, NC

Parks & Recreation - Lance Tibbetts, CSFM, Town of Windham, Windham, ME

Commercial - Tra DuBois, World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc., Leland, MS

Research, Teaching, Extension - Dave Minner, Ph.D., Iowa State University, Ames, IA



Front row from left to right: Mike Trigg, CSFM, Vickie Wallace, Bob Campbell, CSFM, Tra DuBois, Abby McNeal, CSFM, and Mike Andresen, CSFM. Back row from left to right: Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, Lance Tibbetts, CSFM, George Trivett, CSFM, Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, Darian Daily, and Dr. David Minner.



SAFE Raises \$25,000+ at Conference

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments, (SAFE), STMA's charitable arm, raised \$25,500 at the 2005 STMA Annual Conference in Phoenix in January.

Leading the donations was the Jacobsen/Textron Golf Tournament, which raised \$16,000. In addition, Jacobsen/Textron funded \$30,000 of the tournament costs. Highlight of this year's tournament was a hole-in-one by Luke Yoder, director of field and landscape maintenance at San Diego's Petco Park.

Due to the efforts and hard work of auctioneer Tom Curran, and the help of John Mascaro and Steve Torske, the Silent Auction, Live Auction and Raffles

raised \$9,500. A special raffle, a chance to win a spot on the grounds crew for the All-Star Game, was donated by Heather Nabozny of the Detroit Tigers. Steve Gilbertson, City of Lino Lakes, Chisago City, MN, won the opportunity to work on the crew July 9-12, and will receive lodging and transportation.

SAFE's mission is to support sports field-specific research, scholarship, and educational programs to promote user safety. SAFE believes that science is the key to benefit sports fields in the areas of playability, user safety, and the environment. The results of SAFE's support will assist athletes at all levels with safer playing fields.



Dave Rulli and Steve LeGros catch up at the Jake tournament.

chapter news

Profile

The newest addition to the STMA chapter network, New England Sports Turf Managers Association (NESTMA), brings 219 members into the affiliated chapter program from more than a half dozen states.

Thirteen board members govern the chapter. Serving as President is David Pinsonneault, Public Grounds Superintendent, from Lexington, MA. Vice President Nick Caggiano is the Park Superintendent

in Nashua, NH. The Treasurer, Tim Walsh, holds the position of Public Works Director in Westwood, MA, and Assistant Superintendent Mike Buras, CSFM, from Longwood Cricket Club in W. Newton, MA, is Secretary. Holding the office of Immediate Past President is Mary Owen, Extension Turf Specialist, at the University of Massachusetts.

NESTMA holds an annual summer field day the second Wednesday in August with the proceeds going to the Charlie Mruk Scholarship Fund. Other

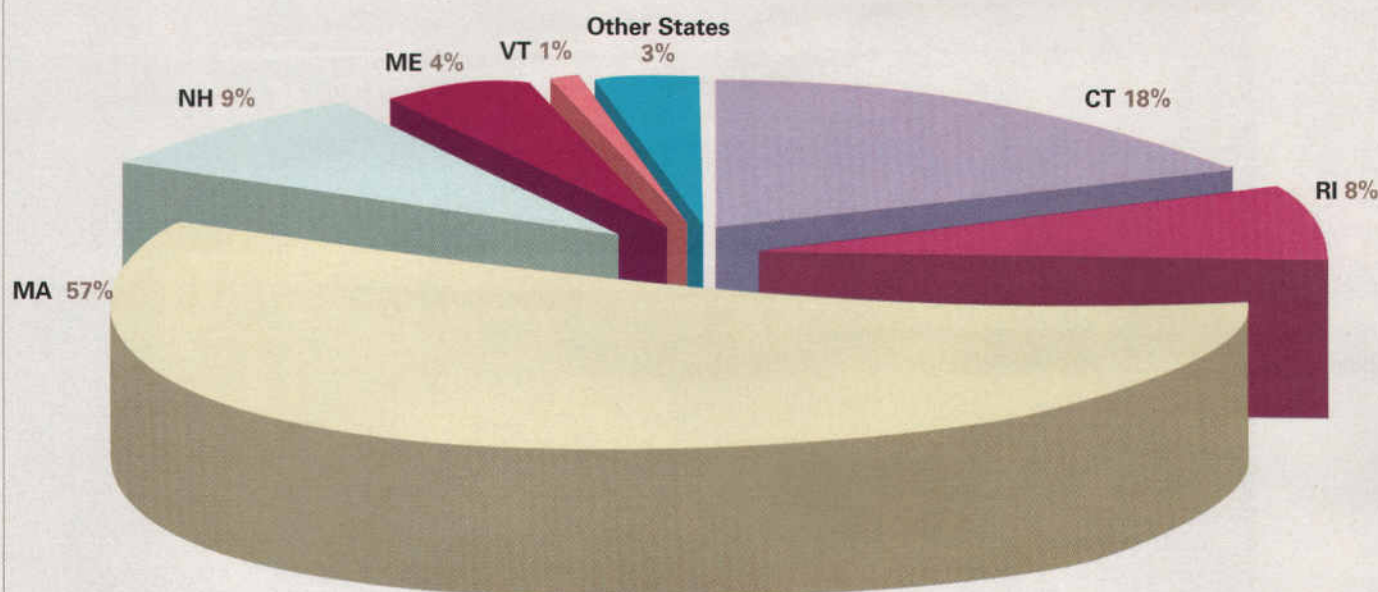
educational offerings include free workshops for members in the spring and the fall, held in various New England locations and alternating between professional, school and municipal facilities.

North and South Texas Chapters Merge

A process that began in 2003 has culminated in the consolidation of the North and South Texas Chapters, now known as the Texas Sports Turf Managers Association (TXSTMA).

This action was undertaken to strengthen volunteerism, increase membership, provide more effective governance, and provide more value to vendors. The North Texas Chapter, which was the more established chapter, and the younger, less established South Texas Chapter have been able to collectively build a strong nucleus by combining each chapter's resources. Both chapters had a 100% approval from their members to consolidate into one chapter. A Board of Directors comprised of members from each former chapter governs the new association. The association will host meetings in Dallas/Ft. Worth, San Antonio/Austin, and Houston to provide access to all members.

NESTMA Membership Statistics



Chapter Events/Contacts

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:

Contact Chris Calcaterra (e-mail) at chrisc@peoriaaz.com or call 623/412-4231; or Bill Murphy at e-mail bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us, or 480/312-7956.

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly called Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization - MAFMO Chapter STMA):

Events: Spring meeting at RFK Stadium March 16 from 9:30 - 2:00. See how the RFK is being transformed to a Major League Baseball Stadium that will also host Major League Soccer. Lunch will be served. Cost is \$25. Contact Graham Davis at gdavis@american.edu or call 301/495-5522.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:

Events: Baseball Seminar April 21, Loveland. Michael Robinson will discuss baseball field maintenance techniques and build a regulation pitcher's mound. To register, call 303/346-8954 or go online to www.cstma.org. Contact: www.CSTMA.org, call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303/346-8954, or contact President Richard Buelter at 303/233-2922 or dbuelter@jeffco.k12.co.us.

Florida #1 Chapter:

Contact: John Mascaro at 954/341-3115 or STMA@turf-tec.com.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:

Contact: Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College at 314/392-2328 or e-mail krone@mobap.edu.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:

Contact: Skip Kirby at 770/928-1580 or skip@sportsturfmanagement.com.

The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:

Event: Education/general meeting, City of Walnut, March 24 from 11:00-2:00. For more info, call Emilio Avalos at 949/824-8243 or email ecavalos@uci.edu.

Illinois Chapter (formerly Midwest Chapter) STMA:

The Midwest Chapter officially became the Illinois Chapter last November. Contact: <http://mcstma.org/>, or call Libby Baker at 847/263-7603 or e-mail Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:

Contact: Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at 515/232-8222 or fax 515/232-8228 or e-mail Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers

Organization (KAFMO/STMA): Events: KAFMO will participate in the Northwest Pennsylvania Athletic Field, Turf and Ornamentals Conference March 22 at Allegheny College in Meadville. Topics will include selecting infield mixes; using mushroom soils and composts; and drainage. For more information call Jeff Fowler at 814/437-7607. Contact: Dan Douglas,

emhunter@usa.net.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:

Contact: Loren Humphrey at: 402/461-2356 or lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:

Contact: e-mail HQ@sfmanj.org, call 908/730-7770, or visit www.sfmanj.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):

Contact: OSTMA Headquarters at 888/824-9805 or 419/824-9805 or Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, at 419/885-1982 or visit www.ostma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:

Contact: Bob Christofferson at 206/346-4218 or bchristo@mariners.org.

Southern California Chapter:

Contact: Chapter Hotline at 888/578-7862 or 760/226-8873 or Michael Tarantino at 858/679-2526 or by e-mail:

MTarantino@powayusd.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA:

Contact: Dr. Trent Hale at 843/662-3526 ext. 206, or by e-mail at tchale@clermson.edu or visit our website at www.scstma.org.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:

Contact: Headquarters at 866/TXSTMA1 (866-897-8621), or e-mail T.J. Thompson at: TXturfmanager@prodigy.net.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):

Contact: Chapter President Chris Pearl at 615/429-9673 or visit www.tvstma.org.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:

Contact: Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority, via e-mail at Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov or at 703/324-8590.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:

Contact: Chris Brindley at 715/346-3622 or cbrindle@uwsp.edu.

Forming Chapters:

New York Sports Turf Managers Association:

Contact: Mike Albino, 315-468-6225 or 315-427-1214, or email mikealbino@earthlink.net

North Florida STMA Chapter:

Contact: Mark Clay at 904/633-6116 or Jay McCord at 904/448-2583.



Reading Phillies, 610/375-8469, ext. 212 or e-mail kafmo@aol.com.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:

Contact: www.kystma.org, Tom Nielsen at TNielsen@batsbaseball.com or Donnie Mefford at dbmeff00@email.uky.edu or 859/257-1451.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):

Contact: Headquarters at 517/712-3407, or go to www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Chapter STMA:

Contact: www.mstma.com, chapter President Greg Hoag at 651/486-8295 or email greg.hoag@metro-inet.us.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:

Events: March 30 meeting at The Mid America Sports Complex in Shawnee. A panel of specialists will discuss the costs, design, construction and maintenance associated with the new styles of synthetic sports turf. A local architect will discuss the challenges of working with sports field designers and contractors whose performance does not meet expectations. Contact: Paul Hecker at 913/971-9717 or email phecker@olatheks.org.

New England STMA (NESTMA):

Contact: David Pinsonneault at 781/861-2757 or dpinson@ci.lexington.ma.us.

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:

Contact: Janet Gift at 530/758-4200 or email Emory Hunter at

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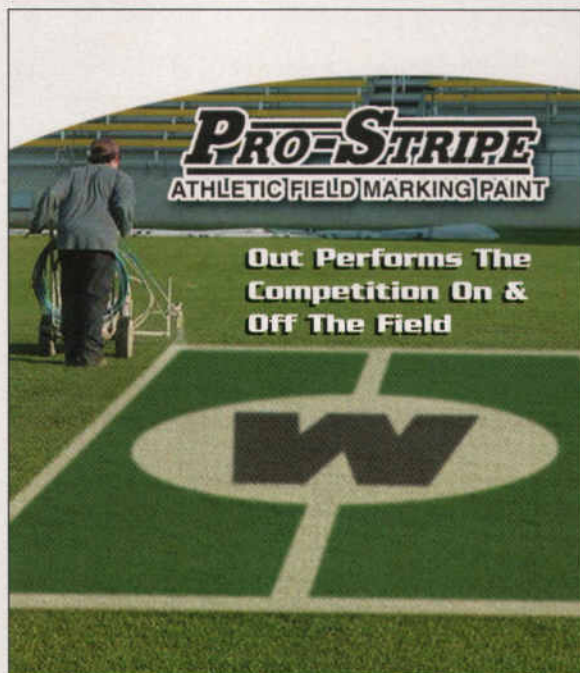
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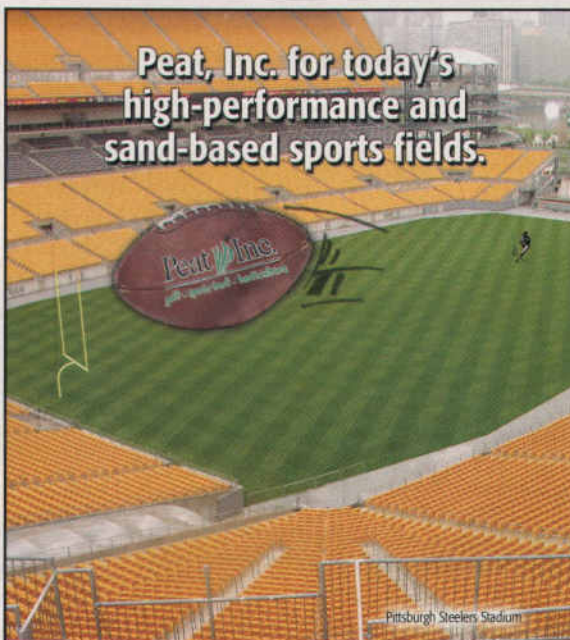


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Failure to plan ... is planning to fail

At the STMA Conference in Phoenix I learned that I should be part of the decision process as my athletic director is considering installing one of the new rubber-infill fields. Our Midwest college is in the middle of an athletic facility fundraising campaign, and because half the teams in our conference have switched back to synthetic our AD wanted to keep pace. I showed them some of the cost comparisons presented at the conference and they asked that I get more information on a range of natural grass options. I may be able to keep grass as an option since they really want to use some of the money for other upgrades like the track and training facility. Our current field gets college games, some practice, and some high school football. We have about 35 activities on the field now but we were also hoping to have more practices on the field if it were synthetic. Our two grass practice fields are really beat up. Can you provide some field renovation/rebuilding options that could be competitive with or even cost less than, synthetic turf?

Grounds Facility Manager from Indiana

Dear Indy . . . actually we have shared a few emails over this situation and the manager wanted to understandably remain anonymous through the decision process. We started off with a Ross Kurcab quote that sums it up best: "Failure to plan is planning to fail."

It is vital that the Sports Turf Manager be invited into the decision making process for any type of athletic field development project. Once invited to the table it is important that you provide accurate information that provides the best surface for your entire facility. In the race towards rubber-infill surfaces we have completely forgot about the entire facility planning process; hence failure to plan.

Natural grass is and will always be the preferred surface by most athletes. In the 2004 NFL Players Survey 85% preferred grass, 6.3% preferred artificial, and 8.4% had no preference. Most facilities I visit have noticed improvement of their grass practice or game fields following installation of a synthetic field somewhere at the facility. This occurs because the coach has the option of practicing on the synthetic whenever they choose. If the grass field is too worn or too wet, then go on synthetic. If the synthetic is too hot or players are fatigued and recovering, then go on the grass. The fortunate coach will have both options and both fields should be in the best condition possible.

The part of the equation that is out of whack is that most synthetic surfaces are placed on the competition field in the stadium, thereby forcing players and coaches to play on a surface that is not their preferred choice. A more sensible approach would play to the strength of a synthetic field by placing it in the higher use practice area. It just makes sense, the most durable field in the highest use area. Athletic directors seeking rubber-infill surfaces as a solution to their overused and worn out natural grass fields makes perfectly good sense to me. However, simply replacing a functional grass field just to follow the trend in the conference has no practical basis and shows no fiscal responsibility. Placing the synthetic surface on the practice facility makes better use of a durable surface. Synthetic fields should be viewed as the durable workhorse on the farm. By preference alone, synthetic fields are not the "belle of the ball" and should not necessarily reside in the castle.

Synthetics have a very important role in providing a durable practice field that can be used daily, by multiple groups, and in wet conditions. When properly

placed and used in the practice facility synthetics relieve pressure from grass fields and this improves the conditions of the entire facility. Each facility situation is different and the AD must weigh many factors concerning, traffic, budget, field user groups, boosters, coaches, players, field proximity to other activities, multiple uses, lighting, maintenance and others. In the planning process the AD should consider placing the synthetic field on the practice facility to maximize performance of all the other fields, including the game field.

Since you asked, here are some of my best cost-effective field renovations for comparison. They are based on an 80,000 sq.ft. field. For comparison it is important to include the total cost for installing a rubber-in-fill field, not just the synthetic carpet surface. The total cost for the sub-base, gravel bed, drainage, grading, synthetic surface, and irrigation ranges from \$600,000 to \$800,000.

USGA Perched Water Table Sand Based System. This has been the standard for more than 15 years for rapid drainage and they have been used for pro, college, and high school fields with good success when constructed and managed properly and combined with a traffic control program. The cost ranges from \$600,000 to \$800,000.

Sand Pad. These fields typically have 6-12 inches of a sand root zone placed directly on subsurface soil with a network of drain lines. They have eliminated the gravel blanket and reduced the root zone depth to provide less material cost. They can provide the same level of drainage and performance as the USGA style field. When reducing material depths it is important to have an experienced contractor since the over designed drainage system is no longer there to buffer drainage imperfections by inexperienced contractors. The cost ranges from \$400,000 to \$600,000.

Sand Bypass System. These fields have narrow sand-filled trenches placed 20 inches apart. The narrow trenches are connected to larger sand trenches and a network of drain tubing that carries collected water from the field. A 1-inch sand topdressing layer over the entire field connects the narrow trenches and keeps them from sealing during muddy events. Since native soil remains between the trenches wet conditions can occur during a game, however this type of field stays considerably drier and drains quicker than conventional native soil fields. An example of this type of system can be found at <http://www.korosystems.com/topDrain.html>. The cost ranges from \$72,000 to \$100,000.

So you see, Indy, I'm not against installing a new rubber-infill on your facility. They are sure better than any of the synthetics we have had in the past. What I am against is using them in the wrong situation that leads to competitive play on an inferior surface. I often hear coaches and athletic directors comment that they want the best playing surface for their team. Well, the best game field for a facility with your level of traffic is natural grass and the best practice field is one of the new rubber-infills. Don't settle for second best by failing to plan. **ST**

QUESTIONS? Send them to Dave Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011, or email dminner@iastate.edu. Or, send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email gmliller@mail.ifas.ufl.edu.



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