

The last tip is to constantly get outside of your comfort zone. So what if you have never tried to make endzone stencils for a football field? So what if you have never designed a new pattern on your baseball field, or so what if you have never rebuilt an infield skin—just do it! Even if it is not major league quality, with a little time and effort you can still do some wonderful things for very little money that the kids and the fans will never forget.

ST: Tell us about your background, how you got interested in turf management, and what your specific responsibilities are now. How has membership in the STMA helped your career?

Brooks: I have been involved with growing grass most of my life, however not always as an athletic playing surface. Until about 5 years ago I grew grass for our family's beef cattle.

I received a BS degree in Animal Science from Clemson and then after deciding to teach I received a Masters in Ag Education with an emphasis in Turfgrass. After arriving at Hillcrest in Simpsonville SC, I went to a high school football game one night and saw the sorry state that our fields were in. And it just hit me, here are some great turfgrass labs! The marriage of agriculture and athletics was born soon after a visit to the AD and coach.

Our first year we only were responsible for the football game field. I think that the first year was basically a test for us to see if we knew what we were doing. The next year our responsibilities grew to include two practice fields, baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse. We were now



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FIELD OF THE YEAR

providing a turnkey service for all of our coaches. Our Sportsturf classes are responsible for the year-round maintenance of the fields including painting, and game day prep work.

After that long first year I knew that there was no way that I could do this job if I was going to have to re-invent the wheel with every task that I undertook, so a friend told me about the South Carolina STMA, and the STMA. This has been by far the best organization that I have ever been involved with as far as providing practical, professional advice as well as incredible networking potential. The STMA has afforded me the opportunity to meet and gain knowledge and friendship with two of the most respected turfgrass managers in my area: Mike Echols, head of athletic grounds for Clemson, and Clark Cox who is in the same position with the University of South Carolina. The impact that they have had on my students' lives is immeasurable, and I would not even be close to the position that I am in today without the help of these two. The STMA has also afforded me the opportunity to meet local vendors and sales reps for everything from my equipment needs to chemical and fertilized needs.

ST: What's your biggest challenge been this season?

Brooks: Our biggest challenge has been trying to manage the

transition times. Fall ball for baseball is generally going strong right at the time that we need everybody off for a successful overseeding process. Then when we are headed into playoffs and starting summer tournaments on our field, it is when we spray out our rye and our Bermuda is at its weakest. It is hard to get people to understand that these two times of the year are critical for the overall quality of the field, and the field can not be beautiful 365 days out of the year. Sometimes I just have to sit the coaches down and let them know that the field needs a rest if it is going to live up to their expectations the rest of the season.

ST: What is the best part of the job?

Brooks: The best part of my job is teaching young people about what I feel is without a doubt the most exciting, innovative, and rewarding subject in the school system. The implications of Sportsturf management incorporates math, plant science, agronomy, chemistry and agriculture into one exciting package for students. Our class projects have real-world impact around our school on a daily basis. Our work is not only graded by the teacher, but also by the student athletes as well as the community as a whole that uses our facilities. ■

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Laser level available

The **CL185 Laser** is fully self-leveling and designed for any flat or cone application up to -1.85%. Primarily used for sports fields with a radial fall, this laser level has a range of 1000-ft. diameter. Custom tailor the cone to your specific application by simply adjusting the slope to your specs you will have a perfect laser reference.

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SnowEx has available a new walk-behind spreader. The SP-75 features an exclusive single-slot port design, which makes the unit capable of freely spreading large bulk materials and bag salt. For sidewalks and other tight applications, the SP-75's hopper holds roughly 100 lbs. of material. A stainless-steel deflector encases the spinner to control spray pattern. Includes hopper cover to help keep materials dry and prevent overflow.

TrynEx International

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Bobcat

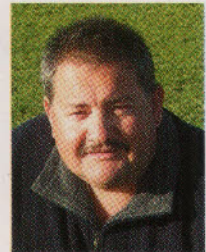
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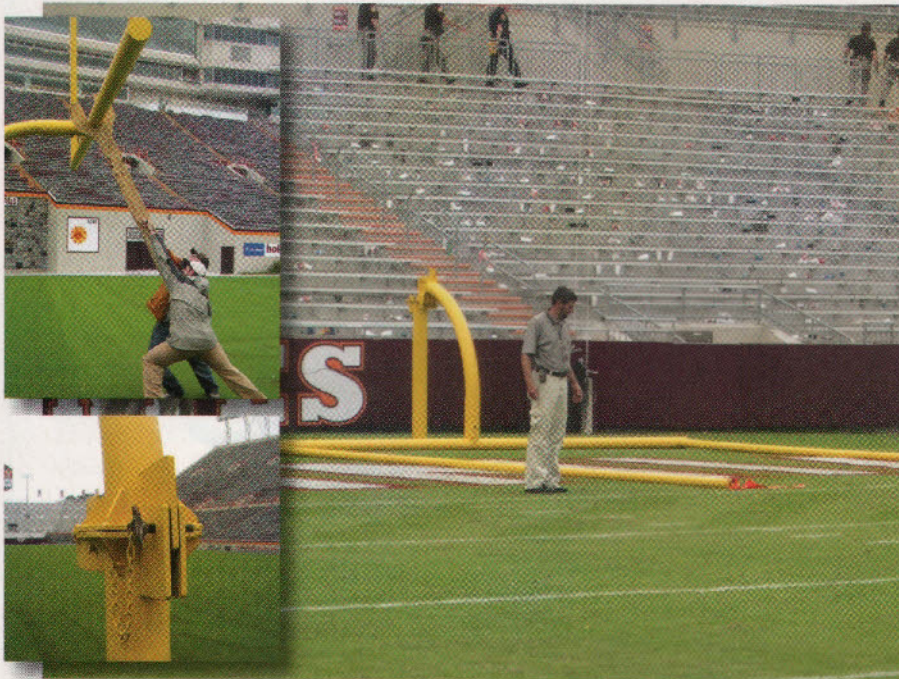
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John Mascaro's Photo Quiz



Answer: from page 23

The goalpost on the stadium field is not really a problem, but an attempt to avoid a problem. Rowdy fans didn't break off the goalpost; the grounds crew has gently lowered it onto the field. Several years ago, the sports turf manager at Virginia Tech was looking for a solution to the goalpost-breaking brigade. He contacted the University of Iowa and they sent him videotape on their system. Virginia Tech then modified the idea of a hinge on the goalpost to quickly allow lowering of the posts (see inset photo). The goalpost is simply held up with a specially designed tool and then the pin is removed from the hinge. The goalpost is then lowered to the turf. The record time at Virginia Tech for lowering the post is four seconds flat. That will stay ahead of most goalpost-breaking brigades.

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 Jason W. Bowers, Sports Turf and Athletic Grounds Manager at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. ■



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Final thoughts on STMA's silver anniversary

By David Minner, Ph.D

Throughout 2006 Dr. Dave Minner, a turfgrass professor at Iowa State University, has shared in his "Q&A" column lessons he's learned as a member of the Sports Turf Managers Association. Most of those lessons were directly related to maintaining turf. But these final three lessons are more "off the field" and just as valuable:

Lesson #23: Volunteers, whether players, parents, boosters, or other supporters of the athletic program can provide substantial support for the field. Let them choose between fundraising and maintenance on the field. Fundraising efforts are usually more effective when they are working towards a tangible item, like an irrigation system, core aerator, or mower. Actual work on the field requires careful organization and supervision but once mastered it can result in substantial pride in those involved and in community development.

Lesson #24: Balance your time between field and family to make you the best person you can be. Don't lose yourself and your family in this job. We tend to follow the golf course profession in many ways because of job similarities and the long hours invested during the sporting season. I have often heard the NFL referred to as "no family life" for the managers and crew that take care of these facilities.

One golf course survey indicated that nearly 50% of the superintendents feel that they have little free time. Many of you put the fields and your profession very high on your list of priorities. Just take a moment to consider if you are properly balancing field and family to make you the best person you can be. Don't forget the "players and fans" at home.

Lesson #25: Invest in the human resource. Provide educational opportunities by joining the national Sports Turf Managers Association (800-323-3875). Budget for personnel to attend educational meetings and "hands on workshops" held by your local STMA chapters. Develop a library of books, videos, and training manuals. Keep trade magazines in the break room for employees.

Are you looking for motivated employees? Watch who does the reading, asks the questions, and takes the special interest in the field. We all caught the bug for this profession somewhere along the line. Take notice of your employees and be ready to be a mentor to those that are ready and eager to listen.

Budgets are simply numbers on a piece of paper that restrict how much money we can spend in a given period of time. Don't be overwhelmed by numbers on paper and don't restrict your greatest resource, the human resource. Surround yourself with dependable, competent people whom often exceed your capabilities, and then learn to manage them. Empower others with your vision and watch as the human resource grows with the budget you have.

Dr. Minner is a Board member of the Sports Turf Managers Association and a professor at Iowa State University. ■



Photo credit: World Class Athletic Surfaces

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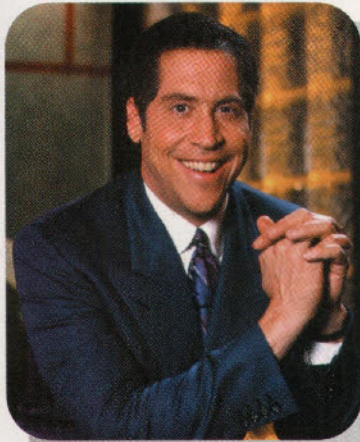
Natural Turf Benefits:

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- Extends playing season
- Eliminates standing water
- Reduces maintenance costs
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STMA welcomes author and entertainer Roy Firestone to Conference in San Antonio

By Patrick Allen

Michael Jordan. Muhammad Ali. Ted Williams. Great names. Legends of their respective sports. And Roy Firestone has interviewed them all.

George Brett. Dennis Rodman. Barry Bonds. Tough men. Yet Firestone elicited enough emotion from each to

draw them to tears in his interview chair.

Larry King. Jay Leno. Howard Stern. More big names. And those are just three of the people that Firestone has bested in various award categories for 7 Cable ACE Awards and 6 Emmy's.

Frank Sinatra. Lou Rawls. The Four Tops. Some of the most influential talents in the history of the music industry. And Firestone has opened for each one: as a PERFORMER.

Some people sing. Some people dance. Some sing AND dance. Roy Firestone sings, dances, talks, listens, writes, impersonates, jokes, jabs, ducks, dodges, but most importantly delivers. Who know what kind of cook he is, but I'd bet he gives grandma a run for her money.

Since he was first the sports anchor for KCBS in Los Angeles, then moving to ESPN and their show "UpClose" in 1985, Roy has interviewed more than 5,000 celebrities ranging from the mundane to the maniacal to the megastar. ■

STMA & its Volunteers Reap Rewards

Serving on an STMA Committee or Task Force can be a rewarding experience for you personally and professionally. Working together with others helps to hone your leadership skills, and your involvement in a national organization brings credibility to you and your organization.

Committees help to advance the work of the association by providing ideas, perspective and insight into the programs and services for its members. STMA truly benefits from your involvement, and we invite you to participate on a 2007 STMA Committee or Task Force.

For a list of the STMA Committees and Task Forces and their goals, go to the STMA web site at www.sportsturfmanager.org and click on About Us, Committees.

To be considered for service, please fill out this form and return it to STMA headquarters by Dec. 31. Appointments will be made no later than the STMA Spring Board meeting in March. ■

STMA Committee Volunteer Form

Name _____

Chapter _____

E-Mail _____

Industry Representation (check one) Schools K-12 Colleges & Universities

Commercial Facilities used by Professional Athletes Parks & Recreation

Student Research/Teaching

Committee Interest: (Check all that apply)

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Return this form to: STMA Headquarters, 805 New Hampshire, Ste. E, Lawrence, KS 66044, Fax: 785-843-2977, 800-366-0391, or via email STMAinfo@sportsturfmanager.org.

Deadline Extended to Dec. 31, 2006.



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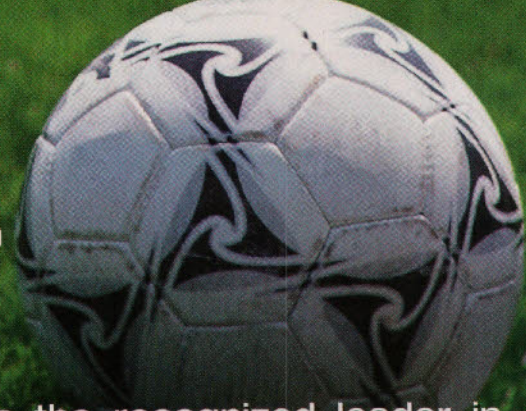
The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE), STMA's charitable arm hosts a live and a silent auction during the Annual Conference and Exhibition. We need your help to make our auctions successful, both with items we can auction off and by participating in the bidding process.

We accept almost anything you or your organization has to offer. Donations can include team gear, logo items such as shirts, hats, jackets, autographed baseballs and footballs, and vendor products (mowers, field rakes, fertilizers, etc.)

Please send all donations to the STMA Show office, 28, Pelham St., Newport, RI 02840, or contact Tom Curran, 954-786-4138, or Steve Torske, 402-472-4638. Donations at the Conference are also welcome.

Proceeds from the auctions fund the SAFE scholarship program, allowing the recipients to attend the conference, and provide two \$4,000 awards to the winners of the STMA Student Challenge, which is presented in partnership with SAFE and supported by Platinum Sponsor Hunter Industries. The auction dollars also contribute to the sports turf research fund. Once that fund reaches a threshold, projects will be funded. ■

Invest in your future. Join **STMA** today.



The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) is the recognized leader in championing the sports turf industry and its professionals. STMA members combine the science of growing turfgrasses and the art of maintaining fields to produce safe and aesthetically pleasing playing surfaces.

The three most important reasons for you to join STMA:

1. Job security

Take advantage of STMA's programs and services, and you proactively enhance your value to your employer.

2. Career success

The knowledge, skills and abilities you gain by accessing STMA's education and information can help you to prepare to take that next step in your career.

3. Recognition of your professionalism

STMA's advocacy with groups such as athletic directors, parks and recreation directors, coaches, and parents enhances the image of the entire profession.

The top three benefits you will receive as an STMA member:

1. A network of peers who are willing to share their best practices.
2. Opportunities for education to help you do your job better.
3. Quick access to information and resources to help you save time.

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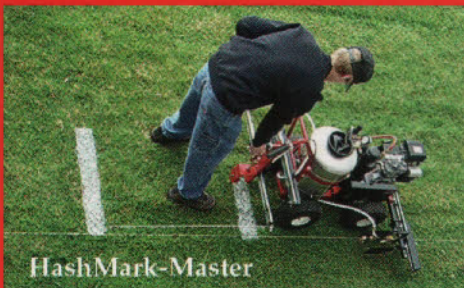


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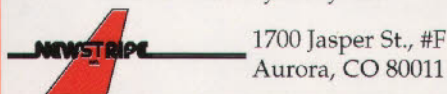
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STMONY

Sports Turf Managers of New York

"BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH COMPETENCY"

Chapter Profile: STMONY

- Year chartered: 2006 (26th Chapter of STMA)
- Number of Members: 240
- Chapter Officers:
- Executive Director Kevin Meredith
- President Mike Albino
- Secretary Paul Hoag
- Treasurer Mike Hunter
- Commercial Vice President Nick Redanty
- Dues: Individual \$50, or \$100 for 4 people; each additional member beyond 4, \$25 each; students \$15.

The STMONY chapter has experienced great success in its first year and predicts strong continued growth. When asked about this success, President Mike Albino attributes it to a combination of several things.

First, their chapter structure capitalizes on local involvement. "We bring our events to our members," says Albino. STMONY is segmented into eight zones, and each zone has a zone leader. "We ask the zone leader to set up a meeting place and time, and I do the rest. We have a chapter meeting in one of the zones each month," says Albino.

He schedules the meetings in locations that have had a particularly tough season. "That way," he says, "the meeting and networking sessions can help those sports turf managers solve their problems."

Albino and Executive Director Kevin Meredith attend each meeting. Between the two of them, they know almost everyone in attendance and for those they don't, they want to put a face with a name. "We want to meet face-to-face, listen to our members, and let them know about how the chapter can meet their needs." There is no charge for chapter meetings and Albino gets a sponsor to provide the food and beverage, so there are no cost barriers to attending. There is one annual meeting for all the zones.

Secondly, the dues structure really provides a great opportunity for multiple members to join. "Our dues structure applies to all members, sports turf manager and commercial alike," says Albino.

Third, Albino has a very focused strategy. "I have identified organizations that would benefit from being members, such as the building and grounds supervisors and the high school athletic directors," Albino says, "and I

direct my efforts to getting them to join. I go to every green industry meeting in the state."

Early on he concentrated his efforts on reaching every member of the national STMA in his region and all green industry members. When asked about his approach, he said, "I am relentless. I send multiple emails, and I faxed 600 people with letters and applications!"

Albino credits his company, Ballard Sports, for allowing him the time and resources he spends on STMONY. "I couldn't do it without Ballard's support," he says. When asked to project STMONY's growth, Albino responded, "We plan to grow the chapter as large as STMA over the next three to five years!"

STMA Chapters

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: www.azstma.com.

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

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: www.cstma.org.

Florida #1 Chapter: 954/782-2748

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: 770/928-1580.

The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: 909/594-5611 ext. 5174.

Illinois Chapter (formerly Midwest Chapter) STMA: 847/263-7603.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA): www.KAFMO.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: www.kystma.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): www.mistma.org.