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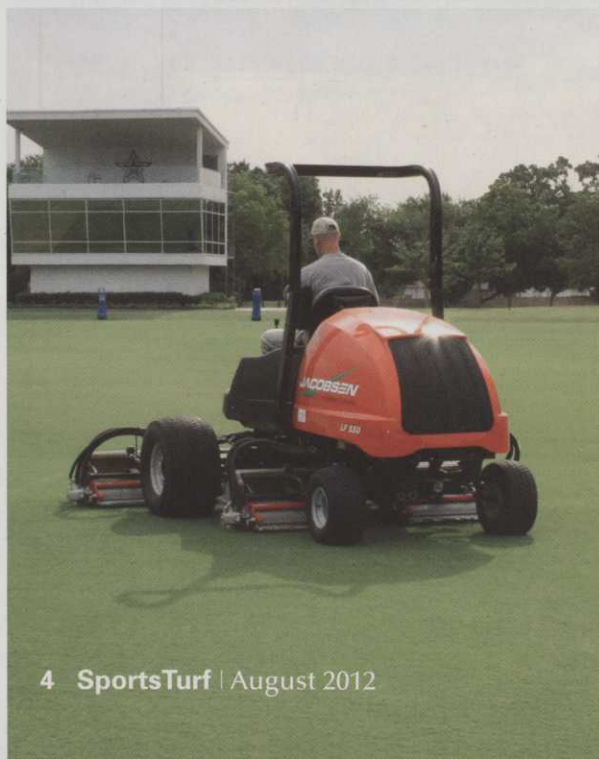
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On the cover: Allen Reed led the way to FC Dallas Stadium's winning the 2011 STMA Professional Soccer Field of the Year Award. Reed fought extreme temperatures, both hot and cold, and the ever-present revenue-producing events to garner the award.

SportsTurf

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From the Sidelines



Eric Schroder
Editorial Director

eschroder@m2media360.com

717-805-4197

I am Penn State

THIS ISN'T THE COLUMN I HAD PLANNED TO WRITE. But because of the crimes of one evil man, and the decisions made by a handful of others, my alma mater, The Pennsylvania State University, is being dragged through the mud from coast to coast. And I am sick about it.

I have a 13-year-old son. It's difficult to imagine his being in the shoes of the victims of the monster who is Jerry Sandusky. I don't see how those men can ever be made whole again, and most likely many of their family members will never get over it either. Perhaps a whole lot of money is coming their way down the road but does anyone really think that will even up things?

No one knows how much Joe Paterno, a great but flawed man, knew or understood about his former colleague's disgusting behavior and now, thankfully as far as I'm concerned, he's dead and so can't be paraded about on TV to defend himself. Evidence uncovered in the university's own investigation of the scandal points to Paterno's not being completely in the dark regarding the situation. And I think when Paterno told students outside his home after his firing late last year, "I should have done more," he knew he hadn't done the right thing, horribly so. Cancer, schmancer—this realization is what killed the coach.

That the suits that ran Penn State covered up Sandusky's crimes to protect the university's brand, and the football program, there's little doubt, which was inexcusable behavior that I trust will mean prison time for them.

What a comedown for a football program that prided itself on being "cleaner" than our competition. And Penn State was cleaner—until we became what many now must consider the "dirtiest" of all time.

I don't agree with all the harsh penalties the NCAA handed down but Penn State deserved a heavy hand, given that the decisions made by the "leaders" allowed Sandusky to continue to ruin the lives of young men. It's a shame that so many innocent folks, from students to business owners to football players, faculty, and alumni, will long pay the price for those decisions.

But amid all the heartbreak and tears, recriminations and finger-pointing, one thing keeps coming to mind: those so-called leaders who failed those young men are not Penn State. I am Penn State.

Dan Douglas, head groundskeeper for the Reading Phillies, is Penn State.

Allen Johnson, head field manager for the Green Bay Packers, is Penn State.

Brad Park, Rutgers University sports turf specialist, is Penn State.

Vickie Wallace, University of Connecticut extension educator, is Penn State.

The student-run IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, which raised \$10.7 million for pediatric cancer research at the 2012 event alone, is Penn State.

The *Wall Street Journal's* #1 school in a survey of top corporate recruiters is Penn State.

A major college football program that graduates 80% of its team and shows no achievement gap between black and white players is Penn State.

If there ever was a very large, very diverse group of Americans who will put their hearts, minds (and yes, wallets) together to make something good come of tragedy, it is the Penn State community, past, present, and future. Just watch and see.

SportsTurf

1030 W. Higgins Road
Suite 230
Park Ridge, IL 60068
Phone 847-720-5600
Fax 847-720-5601

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SportsTurf

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STMA Office

805 New Hampshire Suite E
Lawrence, Ks 66044
Phone 800-323-3875 Fax 800-366-0391
Email STMAinfo@STMA.org
www.STMA.org

Editorial

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Charles Forman
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Eric Schroder
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**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT**
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**VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS
AND HUMAN RESOURCES**
Mary Jo Tomei

DIRECT MAIL LIST SALES
Cheryl Naughton 678-292-6054
cnaughton@m2media360.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
Phone 845-856-2229 Fax 845-856-5822

REPRINTS
Cheryl Naughton 678-292-6054
cnaughton@m2media360.com

Account Representatives:

Leslie Palmer
16267 W. 14 Mile Rd., Ste 202
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
Ph: 248-530-0300,
ext. 1402
lpalmer@m2media360.com

Bruce Loria
626 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 500
Los Angeles, CA 90017 • Ph: 213-596-7226
bloria@m2media360.com

Classified Sales/Marketplace:

Glenn Datz
Phone: 213-596-7220
Fax: 213-624-0997
gdatz@m2media360.com

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President's Message

Dr. Mike Goatley

Goatley@vt.edu



Skin cancer is real danger for outside workers

I HAVE DECIDED TO BE A "LIFE SAVER" THIS MONTH. No, I have not joined the Avengers. I am simply following up on a challenge by my dermatologist, Dr. Chad Johnston. Dr. Johnston played football at West Virginia and his passion for sports remains strong as he volunteers as coach for the Blacksburg High School football team. This gives Chad a definite interest in sports turf, and after he found out what I do and my current role in STMA, he suggested I take the opportunity of using my President's Message to pass along some very important information—don't mess around with skin cancer. It is one of the easiest diseases to cure if treated in its early stages, but it becomes deadly if ignored.

As a kid working in the tobacco fields of Kentucky, I considered it a country boy's badge of honor to be as tanned as possible during the summer. Because of my failure to respect the sun as a youth, I now have to pay Dr. Johnston a visit every 6 months. Over the past year I have had four basal cell carcinomas removed. A most recent spot found just below my left eye requires a visit to a plastic surgeon due to its location. (One of my "friends" said, 'A visit to a plastic surgeon might not be such a bad thing for you.' I hope you mistake me for Brad Pitt later this year). It struck me while watching sports turf managers go about their business under the blistering sun this summer that there are many others that need to be examined by a dermatologist regularly.

Do you have skin lesions that just won't heal? Have moles recently changed in color or shape? And is there anyone that can help identify trouble spots that perhaps you can't (or don't want to) see? My wife, Lisa, identifies most of my suspicious lesions and insists on accompanying me to Dr. Johnston's office. It's rather embarrassing for a 50-year old man to take his wife to the doctor's office, but she is going to insist that certain spots that don't concern me are biopsied by Dr. Johnston, and almost every time, the spots she identified have been found to be malignant.

One of the great things about our jobs is working outdoors, but chronic exposure to the sun is ultimately a terrible thing. Be sure to liberally apply sunscreen every day to all of your exposed skin, especially your ears and nose. Our annual conference trade show always features a free skin cancer examination booth, so those of you coming to Daytona Beach next January, be sure to take advantage of this service. But if there is ANYTHING suspicious right now, don't wait for Daytona Beach. Schedule an examination as soon as possible. It might just save your life.

Now that my superhero duties are complete, I ask that you pay special attention to our Compensation Report on page 40 in this month's issue. I believe you will find the information to be both interesting and useful. Take care.

Mike Goatley



Environmental stewardship & your maintenance plan: *SET AN EXAMPLE*

>> **SUNRISE** over the Nation's
Capitol Cup Lacrosse event.

Environmental stewardship is now common in all aspects of our lives. Just look around you while you are reading now; there likely is an example close by. Recycling receptacles, energy efficient lighting, and low-volume water fixtures; the transition to “green” is no longer just a fad that is dictated by a person’s political affiliation or geographic region. Protecting the environment is recognized as a moral responsibility.

Sports field and parks maintenance departments are realizing that going “green” is not a complex issue. Rather it is a basic use of simple conservation. Ironically, maintenance budgets are becoming financially “green” by adopting new methods and technologies to reduce waste in order to save the environment.

For sports field and park maintenance departments con-

sidering options to become more environmental friendly, it can initially seem as a daunting task. But to start, there are five pieces of a maintenance program that can have the largest environmental impact: nutrient management, pesticide usage, equipment fleet management, irrigation practices, and field paint. Focusing on these five elements will initiate the “green” direction of a program. Let’s

Soil testing
4-5 times a
season can
illustrate to a
manager the
need for macro
and micro-
nutrients.

examine each of the pieces and explore the potentials for evolution in the maintenance program to protect the environment and to save money.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Environmental Impact: It is possible for some fertilizer nutrients to leach through the soil via storm water and irrigation when used incorrectly or in excess

Evolution Potential for Maintenance Programs: Technologies in both granular and liquid fertilizers allow managers to exert more control over their plant-feeding pro-

Many granular technologies are based around the timed "release" of nutrients. Some are controlled by chemical formulations, some have special "coatings," and others use basic mineralization. All of these different release methods provide turfgrass managers with control over the quantity of each nutrient they want to provide a growing turfgrass plant.

In addition, regular soil testing provides a base line of plant available nutrients in the soil and will supply the estimated nitrogen release (ENR) from organic matter present. Soil testing 4-5 times a season can illustrate to a manager the need for macro and micro-nutrients. Tracking the ENR provides the ability to cut back on nitrogen inputs as the soil microbes break down the organic matter and release nitrogen.

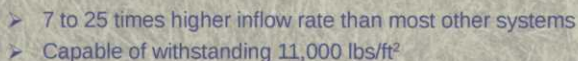
Liquid fertilizer and bio-stimulant use is growing in the sports field maintenance industry because of the increased growth control they provide to managers.

Bio-stimulants provide an avenue of natural, healthy growth that reduces the need of mineral fertilizer. Because of environmental stresses (drought, excess rain, heat) and physical stresses (traffic, mowing, compaction), the turfgrass plant is not always able to perform its natural growth and development processes. Bio-stimulants are organic products that use plant hormones to promote growth while aiding in plant metabolic processes such as respiration and photosynthesis.

Overall, the usage of foliar fertilizers and bio-stimulants gives managers the ability to grow a stronger, healthier plant by using less material and providing non-harmful, naturally plant-occurring compounds.

Environmental Impact: Historically, some pesticides have been non-selective in the "good" or "bad" pests that they can kill, earning a connotation of fear for the word "pesticide."

Fungicides are important in the battle to combat turfgrass diseases. Stress conditions from weather and foot traffic make the grass plant susceptible to invasion from disease pathogens. *Fungi?*



“

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cides aid in the battle against the attack of diseases during these stress times.

Advancing science allows us to understand why these pathogens can adversely impact the plant. For simple examination, we can use a human analogy: A human who has a balanced diet, hydrates, exercises regularly, and gets adequate rest has high energy levels and a strong immune system that can fend off infections and diseases naturally.

Likewise, a healthy grass plant has some of the same natural responses and energy reserves to fend off disease and consequently withstand more traffic. Balanced fertilization, proper water amounts and timing, continued soil aeration, and appropriate mowing height; all are steps toward a healthy plant with strong cell walls, deep roots, and energy levels to withstand stresses and diseases.

Insecticides. Advancements in insecticide technology are providing some of the most dramatic environmental differences for managers of sports fields and parks. For example, a grub control product that has come to the market is from a new chemistry class that requires no signal word on the label. The chemistry is based on a naturally occurring substance found in the bark of *Ryania*, a tree and shrub species. This technology is not required by the EPA to include a safety signal word on the label after acute toxicology testing showed no harm to humans, birds, or fish.

Equipment companies are now producing hybrid mowers that require up to 40 percent less diesel fuel and are comparable in cost to conventional mowers.

Therefore, grubs, one of the most common and destructive insects on cool season turfgrass, can now be treated without any danger to the environment or patrons on the fields or in the parks.

Other products and companies are involved in creating natural occurring technologies as well. Even natural substances such as garlic oil and cedar oil can be used to reduce populations of nuisance insects such as gnats, ticks, and ants.

Additionally, new turfgrass plant genetics creating stronger and healthier plants that can withstand more damage from diseases and insects. The stronger plants raise the threshold for treatment from pesticides completely.

EQUIPMENT

Environmental Impact: A fleet of maintenance equipment, mowers, utility vehicles, and tractors, among others, rely on pe-

>> Water on SoccerPlex Stadium at night.

