Winter Meeting: The Perfect Way to Get Away and Get Things Done for ASBA

This year, ASBA’s Winter Meeting took a detour. Instead of hitting the islands, Florida or the Southeastern U.S., our meeting went west to California’s Wine Country. And what we found was a great location, excellent opportunities and fun diversions – all under sunny skies.

The meeting, which took place February 23-25, 2018, at the Meritage Resort and Spa in Napa, offered some excellent changes to get away from it all – and stay connected to ASBA.

Among the options for attendees who attended the sessions (conveniently held in the first part of the day) were the opportunity to work on awards program issues, develop ideas for position papers, suggest topics for Technical Meeting presentations and help with the work of the Certification Committee.

Afternoons were devoted to a variety of pursuits. Attendees were able to participate in a tennis outing, go wine tasting and explore the area. In addition, the Meritage’s full-service spa and amenities including pool, restaurants, fitness club and more, beckoned.

The enjoyable half-day outings included a wine tour, in which attendees learned about viticulture, grape selection and the process of wine-making. The

continued on page 2

ASBA Regional Meeting: Bringing the Meeting to the Members

ASBA’s second annual “Regional Meeting,” held in Kansas City, was another success. The event, which took place March 7-8, 2018, at the Intercontinental Kansas City, was well-attended with more than 70 participants.

The Regional Meeting provided a chance for sports facility contractors in the Midwest to connect with one another – and to attend educational sessions on industry matters.

Topics such as Jobsite & Project Planning (Jeff Emanuel, CFB, Nemaha Sports Construction, Sam Fisher, CTB, Fisher Tracks, Inc. and Craig Honkomp, PE, PS, LEED AP, Sportworks Field Design); Varsity Tennis Complex Post-Tensioned Project: A Case Study (Darrel Snyder, CTCB, Mid-American Courtworks and Harley Nethiken, Tech-Con Systems, Inc); Considerations in Designing and Constructing a New Running Track (Rick Ediger, Beynon Sports Surfaces and Ed O’Hara, CHA Sports); and Construction of New Natural Grass (modified) USGGA Sportsfield (Kirk Grego, CFB and Jeff Porter, Mid-American Golf & Landscape) were presented over the two days of programming.

In addition to traditional education sessions,

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2018 Winter Meeting (continued from page 1)

host, Verve Napa Valley, guided attendees through tours of Judd’s Hil, Inglenook and Charles Krug wineries, as well as Pine Ridge Cellars. When was the last time anyone was able to explore a vineyard, barrel aging cave or a wine estate? It was an excellent mind-opening – as well as tastebud-awakening – experience.

Missed this meeting and don’t want to miss the next one? Mark your calendar for 2019, when the meeting will take place February 22-24 at the Paradisus Palma Real in the Dominican Republic. We can’t promise a wine tour, but we can promise a tropical paradise. Information will be carried on the ASBA website, www.sportsbuilders.org, once it’s finalized.

2018 Regional Meeting (continued from page 1)

attendees were taken on tours of “Chicken N Pickle,” a unique pickleball/entertainment venue and 2017 ASBA award-winning facility of the year; along with a behind-the-scenes and on-field tour of Arrowhead Stadium, home to the Kansas City Chiefs. ASBA members who were involved in both venues helped to guide the tours.

The meeting concluded with a half-day hands-on training program at Kansas University’s Rock Chalk Park, in nearby Lawrence, Kansas. Sport-specific sessions and guided tours were led by ASBA members who were involved in the design and building of the facility’s track, tennis courts, softball and soccer fields.

Many thanks to all of the ASBA member volunteers who worked hard on planning and presenting this year’s Regional Meeting in Kansas City, including David Moxley, Chair; Kirk Grego, CFB and Jeff Porter, Jameson Sheley, CFB-S, CTB, Mike Mehaffey, CTB, CTCB, JR Rockenfield, CTB, CTCB and Rob McConnell, Rick Ediger and Ed O’Hara, Sam Fisher, CTB, Jeff Emanuel, CFB and Craig Honkomp, Darrel Snyder, CTCB and Harley Nethken.

We’d also like to thank our Regional Meeting sponsors: Pro Play by Schmitz Foam Products, Sportsfield Specialties, Inc. and Tecnologia Deportiva S.A.

With two successful regional meetings in the books, ASBA has begun planning the next one. Next stop in 2019: Atlanta! Want to learn more? Keep an eye on this newsletter and on the website!
By the time you read this message, I’m hopeful that we’re all working outdoors again. At the time of this writing, here in the Northeast we’re staring down the barrel of our fourth bomb cyclone this month. Or is it Bomboogenesis? How about we just go with snow storm? However sensationalized, by the Weather Channel, the result is a slow start to the construction season. Fortunately, the same cannot be said of the American Sports Builders Association.

ASBA is off to a strong start to the year, having had productive work sessions in February during the Winter Meeting. Despite the pull from Napa’s wineries, all four of our division working sessions were well-attended and fruitful. My uncle used to suggest if you sip a glass of wine and you’re not sure how to comment, just nod and say “Whoa! There’s a lot going on there.” The same phrase could be said (for very different reasons), of our Winter Meeting agenda. We uncorked ideas for the coming Technical Meeting presentations, reviewed the newly-released mobile app, and strategized about the new as well as vintage position papers we can undertake, to provide additional resources for our members. My apologies for the run-ons and cheesy puns; however, we’ll let this go to print anyway and just blame it on deadlines.

Our track and fields leadership will be meeting with NCAA, NFHS and NIAAA in early May for our annual communication meeting to discuss potential rule changes among the governing bodies that might impact us as builders and designers. We hope to be actively discussing any proposed rule changes in advance of their respective spring meetings, so that we can provide technical guidance to our partners in advance. If you have any suggested topics we should review with them, please don’t hesitate to send them to us in advance of the meeting.

We had strong attendance at our second Regional Meeting in Kansas City last month (details on that program in this newsletter). This event is unique in its hands-on approach, with field tours and demonstrations of a local pickleball facility, Arrowhead Stadium, and the tennis courts, track and softball fields at Kansas University’s Rock Chalk Park. Since I didn’t make it to this year to the Regional Meeting I can only say with confidence that I’m certain our talented ASBA staff and member volunteers put on an excellent program. Next year’s event will be held in Atlanta, with planning underway.

Our Awards Committees continue to tweak the application process for ASBA’s Awards program to make the process more user-friendly. Start early to compile your project entries and to start working on the applications. Don’t miss it! June 1st is the deadline for submissions.

On a serious note, ASBA’s Board has had frequent conversations about how to thank and recognize those individuals who work hard and volunteer tirelessly on behalf of ASBA and its initiatives. You help us to create certification programs, write and rewrite our construction and maintenance manuals, brainstorm ideas for the coming Technical Meeting – and then speak at them! The list goes on and on. We are very lucky to have access to the talent and human capital of our ASBA members. We want to do a better job of acknowledging your contributions, but for anyone who has volunteered one hour or 100 hours for ASBA: we appreciate you. It is this spirit of volunteerism that has created the ASBA culture from which we all benefit. It’s fitting, with National Volunteer Week approaching on April 15-21, that we give some thought to those hundreds of individuals who offer their time and energy to making ASBA the “better place” and the Association that it is today.

Thank you!
ON THE BOOKSHELF

Last Chance for Advertising in the New Tennis Courts Book

Have you made your reservations to advertise in the next issue of ASBA’s popular book, *Tennis Courts: A Construction and Maintenance Manual*? If not, you’ll need to act NOW!

For a limited time, ASBA is extending the deadline for advertising. The final deadline to make reservations for space is Friday, April 20. Don’t let that date be unlucky for you – make your reservations now!

Need convincing? The book is one of ASBA’s all-time best-sellers and this issue is expected to be even more popular. It’s sold not only by ASBA but by the USTA, and is available on Amazon.com as well.

Purchasers include builders, design professionals, specifiers, contractors, suppliers and owners/users, including schools, colleges, parks and recreation departments, club owners and managers and current and prospective owners of residential tennis courts. Most purchasers of this manual are planning projects for the very near future. These include clubs contemplating resurfacing jobs, to homeowners looking to build a backyard tennis court, to parks departments looking for a new facility design. And you can make sure that your company’s name is seen by all of them.

To find out what ad spaces are still available, and what would best fit your needs, call 410-730-9595 or e-mail Cynthia Sanchez at ASBA headquarters, cynthia@sportsbuilders.org.

ASBA Technical Publications

ASBA’s technical publications, including, popular and well-regarded *Construction and Maintenance Manual* series, are constantly being updated. We invite you to make sure you have the most updated issues of the following:


This book promotes the quality construction, maintenance and repair of pickleball courts by providing information to facility owners, administrators, coaches, builders, architects and engineers.


This book promotes the quality construction, maintenance and repair of indoor synthetic sport surfaces by providing information to facility owners, administrators, coaches, builders, architects and engineers.


This book promotes the quality design, construction, maintenance and repair of track facilities by providing information to facility owners, administrators, coaches, builders, architects and engineers.

ASBA Needs Photos of Basketball Courts, Volleyball Courts, Pickleball ... Well, You Get the Picture

As ASBA’s membership continues to diversify, the Courts & Recreation Division is becoming increasingly visible. Already, magazines are asking for articles on court care – and we need some photos to illustrate them.

If your company has worked on courts and recreational facilities (outside of tennis, track and fields), we invite you to share some pictures with us. Only a few requests:

- Photos need to be high-resolution: This means a minimum of 500K to 1 MB in size (larger is OK, too)
- Great choices are shots we don’t have right now: Those include:
  - **Basketball courts** (we have great indoor shots but very few outdoor shots, so any outdoor shots would be appreciated)
  - **Volleyball courts** (outdoor courts, both hard surface and sand surface)
  - **Playgrounds** (outdoor)
  - **Pickleball**: We have an awards category for pickleball but we’re still a little light on photos. Whatever you have would be great
  - **Outdoor inline hockey facilities**: We don’t have any and we do get asked for photos
  - **Futsal**: It’s an indoor sport but we lack photos of facilities

Any high-resolution photos can be sent to Mary Helen Sprecher at mhsprecher@gmail.com (note the new address). If you require a file-sharing system to send several large photos at once, please let Mary Helen know via e-mail so she can set you up with a Dropbox link.

Thanks again! We look forward to seeing your photos. Remember that as our Courts and Recreation Division grows, these photos will be more important than ever!
Raising the profile of your business is always important. Maybe you’ve been thinking about becoming more involved with ASBA and showing your support of the industry and all its work. Maybe you just want to publicize your company’s name and make sure industry members are aware of it.

The good news is you can get all that done by becoming a sponsor of ASBA. The 2018 Sponsorship Packages, now available to members, come in a variety of price points and offer multiple benefits – and not just those listed above.

In return for investing as a sponsor, you’ll raise the visibility of your company for an entire year. You can showcase your products or services to builders, professionals and other members of the tennis court, running track, field and indoor sports flooring industries through multiple venues and events.

While sponsorship used to encompass only the Technical Meeting, ASBA has broadened the opportunities to give member companies benefits all year long. Now, sponsorship is more valuable, more far-reaching and offers better visibility for you and your company than ever before.

And just as a quick note -- those who want to sponsor specific events at the Technical and/or Winter Meeting (the Golf Outing and Tennis Tournament, Wi-Fi at meetings, host bar at various receptions, awards or closing dinners, etc.) can still do all those things, and your sponsorship will be welcomed and appreciated, just as it always has.

For those who want a full-year investment, ASBA offers Complete Sponsorship Packages. A one-time investment at the price point of your choosing allows your company’s name to appear all year long. For example, at the Technical Meeting, you’ll receive:

- An 10’ x 10’ booth space
- Complimentary registration
- Recognition as a sponsor
- Your company’s name on signage and more.

At the Winter Meeting, you’ll see the following benefits:

- Complimentary registration
- Recognition at the Opening Reception
- A listing in the meeting program and more.

You’ll also enjoy all-year-round visibility through website and online advertising, a display advertisement in our Membership Directory, and your membership dues for the 2018 membership year will be paid.

Need some extra incentive? Act soon and you’ll have your company’s name included in the pre-publicity materials for the Technical Meeting. Start the membership year off right with your name in the conference brochure and show your support for the ASBA!

Want to learn more? Go to ASBA’s website (http://www.sportsbuilders.org/), and looking for the “Sponsorship Opportunities” button on the lower right-hand corner of the home page.

As always, it’s first-come, first-served (sponsorship levels have priority) — the earlier you apply, the more likely you are to have the space of your choice. Space is awarded according to the date your form and payment are received back here at ASBA headquarters. Sorry, no phone reservations can be accepted.

If you have any questions, please call Cynthia at ASBA, 866-501-ASBA (2722) or e-mail cynthia@sportsbuilders.org.

ASBA Welcomes New Members
Bermudagrass Expectations: Winter 2017-18

by Michael J. Munie, President, Perfect Play Fields and Links

Frequent conversations during this past winter have centered around potential winter-kill of bermudagrass athletic fields. The obvious question being, “What can we expect this year with the cold temperatures we have had, specifically in Missouri?” To try and answer this question, Mike Munie and Brad Fresenburg of Perfect Play Fields and Links began to contact several clients across Kansas, Missouri and Illinois asking if they could pull bermudagrass plugs and ship them to their home office in Belleville, Illinois. These plugs were pulled from mid to late January.

Results of the green-up varied across the region even though the actual January 2018 temperature deficit from average for Missouri, was only -0.2 F. Granted, we did see some huge dips in temperatures during January that the average does not indicate. We also know there were some cold periods in February as well (data not available at time of this writing). Field managers often blame temperatures as the only parameter for winter-kill forgetting that many other factors also play a role in survival of bermudagrass. These include: cultivar selection, planting dates, fall/winter traffic, soil moisture levels, mowing height, insulators such as blankets and snow cover, North facing slopes, over-seeding and shade. While Missouri January temperatures had some huge swings, soil moisture played perhaps a bigger role in winter survival due to the fact Missouri is in one of their driest winters in 40 years. Many sports turf managers and golf course superintendents had to recharge irrigation systems in late Fall/early Winter for that reason. Too much moisture makes plant cell susceptible to bursting during extreme cold and too little moisture increases chances of plant dessication due to drying out.

Managers have more tools in the box as we look at cultivars available for the upper transition zone. Latitude 36, NorthBridge, Riviera, Patriot and Yukon are the more recent selections that have proven well in the 2014 NTEP data, while TifTuf is one of the newest selections to watch for. In time, we believe bermudagrass cultivars will have sufficient cold tolerance to survive throughout the entire transition zone.

If managers have fall traffic on their fields, cultural practices, like raising the mowing height and over-seeding perennial ryegrass can help to reduce the rate of wear on dormant bermudagrass, even though research has not shown these practices to increase cold tolerance. It has been observed that areas with heavy fall traffic do tend to green-up later in the spring perhaps due to damaged aerial shoots and stems. In our samples, heavy traffic plugs demonstrated this delay; however, two heavy traffic plugs along the I-70 corridor never did green-up.

Other practices, like late fall fertilization and blankets/covers can promote green color and growth. Research is now showing that reduced late fall nitrogen applications do not contribute to winter-kill as once thought. Nitrogen applications from 0.38 to 0.75 lbs N/1,000 square feet into October can maintain fall color and perhaps provide some additional carbohydrates to the plant. This is a practice many field managers are incorporating into their fertility programs.

Soil testing remains important in knowing soil pH as well as phosphorus and potassium levels. There is no point in using winterizers if soil test indicate sufficient potassium in the soil and having proper phosphorus levels will promote better rooting during spring green-up. Saving money on winterizer applications can be achieved by conducting a soil test for a nominal fee.

Blankets and covers can extend fall color and promote spring green-up of both bermudagrass and over-seeded perennial ryegrass. Caution is the word though! If blankets are in place too long, grasses can lack the hardiness to survive on their own. The use of blankets prevents plants from naturally hardening off and extreme swings in cold temperatures can be devastating.

Plant growth regulators were thought to increase winter hardiness, but again, research still hasn’t proven this either. We can say there is no down-side to using PGRs, if a manager feels their use is beneficial. However, be absolutely sure that fields are 100% in full recovery before using any growth regulator.

If a manager has concerns about winter-kill, a simple canopy brushing technique can be used to assess the situation. Removing dormant leaf tissue exposes stolons for inspection. Green stolons generally indicate living tissue, brown stolons indicate potential winter

Indianapolis to Host United States Indoor Sports Association’s Conference May 15-18

The United States Indoor Sports Association’s 18th Annual Facility Operators Conference & Tradeshow is May 15-18 in Indianapolis, IN. It’s the annual retreat for the recreational indoor sports industry, including educational sessions, networking and much more. Meet facility owners, senior executives, and startups, as well as other industry leaders. For a full details, registration and membership information, visit USIndoor 2018 Conference.
injury. Keep in mind this technique only provides an indication of past weather events up to that point in time. Future weather events can change what you are presently seeing, so constantly monitor throughout the winter and early spring to have a better assessment of your situation.

In the plugs collected by Perfect Play, plugs with heavy traffic greened up slowly or not at all. While Riviera and Latitude 36 greened up very quickly in some locations, they were slower in others. Common bermudagrass, which is usually very hardy, eventually greened up, but at a much slower pace. What we found over three to four weeks was that most plugs eventually greened up. Again, high traffic areas slower with two plugs not coming out at all emphasizing the need to minimize traffic in the fall. So, can we predict with confidence the level of winter-kill for the spring of 2018, probably not. What we will see is variation among the cultivars with no consistency from location to location. There are too many factors to weigh in and while one field may have significant winter-kill, a field directly across the road may not. The variation is often that great, but if we do things culturally that benefit bermudagrass, then perhaps we can reduce our potential for winter injury. Monitoring on a regular basis is the key to being prepared for the worse. Every winter and field location is different, yielding to the many differences seen in spring green-up across the country.

Being prepared for the worst is a good first step and managers should be in contact with seed/sod suppliers early to see what their supply of materials will be. Keep in mind that sod farms are under the same weather conditions as many of your sports fields and plant material may be limiting.

One final note: In a year you suspect winter-kill, do not jump the gun with pre-emergence herbicides. Using the wrong herbicide can keep you from seeding, sprigging or sodding for up to four to six months. A choice for pre-emergence may be using nothing at all and then rely on post-emergence herbicides for weed control. This way options are open if significant winter-kill is realized on your fields.

Any questions pertaining to this article can be directed to Perfect Play Fields and Links at info@perfectplayfieldsandlinks.com.

### ASBA’s Awards Programs is Now Open!

And the nominees are … your project, if you decide to enter ASBA’s awards program. This year’s program is now accepting entries, meaning it’s time for you to nominate that project you want recognized.

Awards will be presented in several categories:

**Tennis Courts:**
- Indoor
- Outdoor
- Residential

**Tracks:**
- Indoor
- Outdoor

**Courts & Recreation Facilities:**
- Courts & Recreation Multi-Purpose
- Field House
- Courts & Recreation Multi-Purpose
- Gymnasium
- Courts & Recreation Multi-Purpose
- Fitness & Wellness

**Sports Fields:**
- Single Field
- Multi Field
- Track & Field

**Pickleball:**
- Indoor
- Outdoor
- Residential

On the fence about whether or not to enter? Consider this:

**Entering is easy:** You don’t need to worry about making copies or having photos duplicated. All entries are submitted online, eliminating the need for copying and shipping entries.

**It’s not as busy a time:** The awards entry process is open now and will remain open until deadline of June 1. This allows members to make the most of their slow season.

**It’s a members-only benefit:** Only ASBA members in good standing can apply for the awards program.

The ASBA’s awards program helps the Association close out each year and provides incentive for the next building season. Awards winners are formally announced during the Technical Meeting, ASBA’s biggest gathering of the year. Winners are promoted in a special brochure that can be given out to clients (and prospects) throughout the year.

But there are more reasons to enter than just bragging rights (although, make no mistake, that is an overwhelmingly attractive incentive.) However, the program serves other purposes, so if you’re on the fence about entering, think about the following benefits of the Association’s awards program:

**Helping the industry recognize a higher standard:** Each year, ASBA’s awards entries showcase not just aesthetic excellence but technical innovation. There are new developments in design and construction, as well as new technologies from suppliers and manufacturers that offer athletes the ability to train smarter, get better results and have a lower risk of injury. ASBA leads the way for the industry through its projects, and each year, those projects set a higher bar.

**Promoting green building:** The awards program includes special honors in the ‘Green’ construction category – facilities that adhere to a higher standard of sustainability and eco-friendliness. This encourages others in the industry to follow suit with their projects.

**Images of award-winning projects are promoted nationally:** ASBA uses photos of many of the award-winning projects in its publications as well as in magazine articles and online coverage. It’s invaluable promotion for the winning company – and of course, a big win for ASBA since it allows those who are considering building facilities to see the caliber of work our members can do.

**It’s a great sales tool for you:** Who doesn’t want an award-winning project in their company’s portfolio? This is your chance to set yourself apart in the market.

Want to know more? Awards application forms are posted here on the website, www.sportsbuilders.org. Log in and get started!
ASBA has a Twitter Account! Are You Following Us?

ASBA’s Twitter handle is @SportsBuilders – make sure you follow ASBA in order to get the latest on upcoming meetings, deadlines, new programs, publications and more.

See you in the Twittersphere!

P.S. ASBA is already active in Facebook (look under American Sports Builders Association) and has a group on LinkedIn (also listed under American Sports Builders Association). Be sure you’re following us in all the social media you use.

ASBA’s Position Papers: We Need YOUR Expertise!

You have the expertise. You have the knowledge. But if you’re not quite ready to sit down and write a full article, ASBA still has a place for you. The Association publishes a series of Position Papers, which are one-page technical documents on subjects of interest to those in the industry. And right now, we’re seeking people to help us write them.

ASBA’s current library of Position Papers can be found on the website, www.sportsbuilders.org, on the page for each division. They can be downloaded and printed out free of charge. They can be an invaluable source of information to members as well as to others in the industry.

To access the Position Papers for the Tennis, Track, Indoor or Fields divisions, click on the colored tabs under the words, “Build It Right.” Tabs are set up for each division. When that page opens, “Position Papers” should be the second option down.

Position papers address topics including (but not limited to):

- **Tennis:** Birdbaths, Asphalt Stripping, Regulating Pace, Pinholes, Rust Spots
- **Track:** Asphalt Acceptance, Equal Quadrant vs. Non-Equal Quadrant Tracks, Raised Curb vs. Flush Curb, Runways in D Areas, Water on Tracks
- **Fields:** Qualifying/Pre-Qualifying Sports Field Contractors
- **Courts & Recreation:** Concrete Compounds and Sealants, Jobsite Conditions, Static and Rolling Loads, Surface Tolerances and Testing

While ASBA has a great inventory so far, we’re currently in need of new material, particularly as pertains to new technologies for the industry. Have an idea for a Position Paper and want to write one? Get in touch with the appropriate Division President and offer your suggestions.

A few guidelines:
- Position papers should be limited to a one-page discussion of the topic
- Position Papers should not include brand names or proprietary systems
- Position Papers should address an issue other industry members are familiar with
- Position Papers should be the writer’s original material (rather than borrowing from a previously published article or presentation).
- Position Papers can be counted toward Certification points, since they include technical writing.

ASBA welcomes your interest in its Position Papers. Read some of them today and get started in writing some of your own. All ideas and inquiries are welcome!
ASBA Newsline - April 2018

Where in the World is ASBA?

As part of our continuing effort to promote ASBA as an industry resource in sports construction issues, following are some of the upcoming events at which ASBA will have a presence:

APRIL

Tennis Industry Association (TIA)
Executive Director Fred Stringfellow will be participating in the TIA Board of Directors meeting in Charleston, SC on April 9 and attending the Tennis Owners & Managers (TOM) Conference April 10-11.

MAY

Track/Fields Meetings with NCAA & Governing Bodies
ASBA’s Track Division, led by Troy Rudolph, Kristoff Eldridge and Paul Nagle; its Fields Division, led by Mark Heinlein and Jim Catella, and Executive Director Fred Stringfellow will be meeting with representatives of NCAA, NFHS and NIAAA in Indianapolis on May 4th in Indianapolis, IN. This annual track and fields event is intended to strengthen communications between ASBA’s builder and designer members, and the organizations who set the rules for our sports.

JULY

International Tennis Federation
Tennis Division President Matt Strom and Executive Director Fred Stringfellow will be attending the ITF Surfaces Foundation Board meeting in London, UK on July 5.

July Board/Awards & Strategic Planning Meeting
The ASBA Board of Directors, awards judges and the ASBA staff will be meeting in Chicago, IL on July 13 and 14 for the annual summer Board meeting and awards judging. This year’s meeting will include strategic planning exercises.

Technical Meeting: Returning to the Scene of the Best Meeting in Years!

ASBA has a long and distinguished history of finding great locations for its Technical Meeting. Last year, for example, was New Orleans. We’ve also been to Amelia Island, Florida, and San Antonio, Texas – just to name a few.

This year, ASBA will be returning to one of the locations members raved about: Scottsdale, Arizona. Once again, we’ll be meeting at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, which, as everyone will remember, has all kinds of beautiful amenities – a pool, ice rink, health club – and quite simply put, the most amazing holiday light display anyone has ever seen.

The dates of the meeting are November 30-December 4 and will include the trade show, technical sessions, receptions and networking opportunities, golf, tennis, division meetings, certification meetings and exams – and a whole lot more. Certification points as well as relevant continuing education credits are available as well.

An agenda is expected to be available soon and will be able to be found on our website, www.sportsbuilders.com. Members will receive a printed program automatically. Others can call to get their name added to the mailing list. The number is 866-501-ASBA (2722).

ASBA Has a Blog

ASBA has entered the blogosphere. In fact, we’re celebrating a second successful year of being on that scene.

For those who haven’t seen it yet, the ASBA blog comes out every Monday and includes information on trending topics in the sports facility construction industry. These might include ASBA happenings as well as news from the larger scope that affects our industry. Examples include:

- New sports that will impact the need for venues
- Happenings in the world of the Olympics, World Cup, etc. in terms of facilities
- Breaking news (this might include data on synthetic fields, information on safety issues in sports venues that made national news and so on)
- …and much more.

We’d like to make sure you’re receiving our blog. Sign up for it once and you’ll receive it regularly.

Want to sign up? Go to our website, www.sportsbuilders.org, and click on the button for ASBA Blog (on the right hand side of the page.) Once you’re into the blog, you can use the sign-up function at the bottom of the page.

Oh, and by the way, ASBA loves it when members either send us material for the blog, or even just suggest topics. Want to send a topic or a blog? E-mail your information to our technical writer, Mary Helen Sprecher, at mhsprecher@gmail.com.
Act Global Completes FIFA Goal Project

Act Global has been awarded the FIFA Quality Pro certification for the San Lazaro Leisure complex in Cavite City, near Manila, Philippines. As the country’s first FIFA Goal project, the pitch transformed a previously unused site into a world-class field, meeting the highest international performance and quality standards for elite level football.

The certification is a culmination of efforts that began at the groundbreaking of the facility three years ago. Previously, the area had been an uncontrolled dumping site for the past ten years and lacked the required stability for sub-base construction. The addition of underground water flows and structures were truly challenging. The site is envisioned to become the training center of the national teams as well as host international competition, friendly matches, and other related events.

The turf, using a Mattex fiber manufactured at Act Global’s Asian production facility, offers the Philippine Football Federation a high-performance surface with proven durability. Full maintenance training was given to the local groundskeeping staff by our dedicated installation team to ensure the players will reap the full benefits of the top quality field maintenance equipment supplied by Act Global as part of their FIFA Goal project.

For further details of how Act Global solved the above issues and successfully delivered this FIFA Goal Project please contact Act Global at info@actglobal.com.

APT Unveils New Products

Advanced Polymer Technology announced three new products for use with the Laykold/Laykold Masters brand of acrylic all-weather surface systems.

Laykold Crack Filler – This two component thixotropic polyurethane is designed to fill cracks in both asphalt and concrete substrates and seal porous mats. Laykold Crack Filler is an easy application filler/sealer which contains zero VOC’s, is composed of more than 35% renewable resources/10% recycled content, and has 65% elongation.

Qualicaulk – Qualicaulk is a SMX adhesive/sealant with high initial tack. Designed for sealing and bonding, structural elastic bonding, and elastic bonding of rubber mats while providing excellent adhesion on porous and non-porous substrates. Qualicaulk is free of isocyanates, solvents, halogens, and acids; is color and UV stable, and has over 500% elongation.

Laykold Masters Bond Kote – A specially designed latex emulsion primer for chemical bonding of acrylics to polyurethane substrates. LM Bond Kote also has excellent adhesion for bonding fiberglass mesh scrim to a sealed SBR mat. This easy to apply primer provides excellent bond strength between hard to bind systems.

For more information, please visit www.sportsbyapt.com or www.laykold.com.

Jon Isaacs Joins Team Laykold

Advanced Polymer Technology is proud to announce Jon Isaacs has joined Team Laykold! Jon brings a wealth of court surfaces experience, brand building knowledge, and leadership skills. Prior to joining Laykold, Jon worked 25-years with Connor Sports Flooring, the Official Basketball Court of the Final Four. During this time, Jon’s role grew from Regional Representative to Vice-President & General Manager which he served as the past 12-years while leading the company to a widely recognized, highly respected, #1 brand position.

Jon will be in charge of Laykold, Laykold Masters & OmniCourt Business & Brand Development. He is based in Chicago, IL and can be called at 847-922-0925, or e-mailed to jisaacs260@gmail.com.

Gezolan Expands U.S. Operations

GEZOLAN, a worldwide quality leader in the manufacture of synthetic EPDM granules, joined Partnership Gwinnett to announce the expansion of their U.S. operations to the City of Buford, Gwinnett County, metro Atlanta, Georgia.

GEZOLAN’s new 60,000 square-foot Buford facility, located at 4345 Hamilton Mill Road, will house their U.S. manufacturing plant and operations. This facility will be the only manufacturing plant located outside GEZOLAN’s international headquarters in Switzerland. GEZOLAN’s decision to expand internationally to Gwinnett County was driven by the need for additional production capacity to match their current growth rate. The company was also influenced by the successful experience of their sister company, KRAIBURG TPE (USA), located in the City of Buford, Georgia.

GEZOLAN has been manufacturing high quality synthetic EPDM granules for almost 50 years and have customers in more than 60 countries. Their product is commonly used in the installation of synthetic flooring and surface coating, including running tracks, safety flooring for children’s playgrounds and infill for turf.

The company has plans to coordinate, along with their Swiss headquarters, to produce and launch new products, as well as increase their staff by the end of 2018. GEZOLAN’s expansion will bring in a total investment of over $12,000,000 to Gwinnett County.

To learn more about GEZOLAN please visit http://www.gezolan.com/en. For more information, or to learn how to get involved in local economic development efforts, please visit www.partnershipgwinnett.com.

Celebrating 10 Years of ClayTech

Har-Tru, LLC is excited to share that the company is celebrating 10 years of ClayTech in 2018 by hosting play events around the country. ClayTech is a hybrid clay court that offers all the benefits and playability of clay without all the maintenance. The surface was developed and sold in Europe prior to its introduction to the US.

ClayTech is a court system that gets glued to an existing hard surface and infilled with red or green clay. It can be installed and playable in as little as 3 days. The base is a 1/4” needle-punch textile that never requires rolling, has permanent
lines, and needs minimal brushing and watering.

All weather is a term typically reserved for hard courts, but the company contends that ClayTech has a greater right to that claim than any surface they have seen.

There are now more than 700 ClayTech courts in 21 countries around the world and, with more interest in low maintenance options, Har-Tru expects those numbers to rise. The company reports that it sold more ClayTech courts last year than any year since the introduction of the surface.

According to Tracy Lynch, playing is believing. “The court sells itself.” That, he says, is why the company has decided to put on play events to celebrate the 10-year anniversary. Play events are being scheduled for May, June and July in Washington DC, South Carolina, Missouri, and New England. As dates and locations are finalized they will be posted on the company’s website at www.hartru.com. All are invited to participate.

Miami Dolphins Make Hellas Construction Official Partner

Hellas Construction was selected to install its Matrix® Turf with Helix Technology and its exclusive organic infill at the Miami Dolphins’ indoor practice facility at the Baptist Health Training Facility at Nova Southeastern University. The Dolphins are the first NFL team to go with organic infill for their synthetic turf fields. Hellas Construction was also named as an official partner of the Miami Dolphins.

The organic infill from Hellas is a combination of cork and coconut. When combined with silica pea gravel and the Matrix Helix Turf, the infill will stay put, with less splash-out. Surface temperatures on a synthetic turf field with the Hellas organic infill will also be up to 40 degrees cooler than a regular synthetic turf field with the black crumb rubber.

Hellas Construction is also the Official Turf Provider of Dallas Cowboys at AT&T Stadium and The Star in Frisco TX, Preferred Turf Provider of the Houston Texans at NRG Stadium, and exclusive turf provider of the Jacksonville Jaguars at Daily’s Place, next to EverBank Stadium.

Omnisports New Indoor Flooring Launched

Omnisports™ by Tarkett Sports is launching the complete NEW range of Omnisports™ indoor flooring. The new range includes Omnisports HPL, Omnisports 3.5 mm, Omnisports 5.5 mm, Omnisports 7.1 mm, Omnisports 9.4 mm, Omnisports 12 mm and Omnisports Lumaflex and our unique patented Omnisports EasyCourt.

Omnisports™ meets the intense demands of today’s sports and recreational environments. The complete NEW range of Omnisports™ indoor flooring accommodates any level of play, any budget and nearly any event.

Omnisports™ meets the health standards of phthalate-free ingredients, low volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions. Omnisports™ is certified asthma & allergy-friendly and meets the ASTM F2772 standard. It is the perfect gym floor for schools, universities and community centers, where a variety of sports or events might take place.

For more information, visit www.tarkettsportsindoor.com or call 706-383-5821.

Sports Turf Company Awarded Colquitt County High School Field

The Outdoor Field

Colquitt County High School’s practice facility was a project awarded to Sports Turf Company, Inc. through a competitive proposal process in early 2017. Construction of the one of a kind practice facility began in May and included the construction of an outdoor synthetic field and track and 100-yard synthetic indoor field.

Sports Turf Company began by establishing subgrade on the outdoor field and track area. A six-inch porous stone base was installed accompanied by a full underdrain system to allow a minimum of 60 inches an hour to drain successfully from the new synthetic turf field. Exterior field drainage was installed inside the track to ensure water wouldn’t travel back across the track surface.

The synthetic turf system installed on the field is an AstroTurf 3D3 system. This system features a rootzone, which is a texturized layer of fibers that draw down to encapsulate infill, resulting in minimal rubber splash, better shock absorbency, and less infill migration than basic systems. The last step of field construction, sand was incorporated into the synthetic turf system as a ballast before the SBR rubber was groomed into place. Z-Cap, a mineral that absorbs 81 percent of its body weight in water and then slowly releases it to cool off the field, was incorporated over the SBR rubber.

The Track

Sports Turf Company’s certified track builders constructed an 8-lane Spurtan BV track around the new synthetic turf practice field. Track construction began with installation of a four-inch stone base and 3-inches of asphalt. The Spurtan BV track surface was installed and the track lined for GHSA competition.

The Indoor Field

Once the structure was completed, Sports Turf Company began construction of the field in the indoor facility. The 100-yard synthetic turf practice field incorporates the same drainage design as the outdoor field. The indoor field also features the AstroTurf 3D3 turf system.

Synthetic Surfaces, Inc. Celebrates 45 Years

Synthetic Surfaces Inc., the makers of NORDOT® one-part solvent-based moisture cured Adhesives for synthetic turf and other recreational surfaces, is marking its 45th year in business in 2018. The founder and owner is Norris Legue, who is the chemist that developed the first one-part urethane adhesive used to successfully glue down a synthetic turf football field. Norris has been dubbed the “Guru of Glue” and is still the chemist that developed the NORDOT® one-part solvent-based moisture cured Adhesives for synthetic turf and other recreational surfaces.

Marking its 45th year in business in 2018, Synthetic Surfaces, Inc. is a Gold Sponsor of the ASBA. It has been a member since about 1990 when it was known as the U.S. Tennis Court & Track Builders Association (USTC&TBA).
Got Your Certification? Help Keep it up by Writing Technical Articles for *Newsline*

ASBA offers its Certified Builders two options for keeping their designation current. The first is the option to take the exam again. The second, however, includes an opportunity to benefit the industry itself: recertification by acquiring continuing education points. This includes writing technical articles for *Newsline*.

Note: Writing *Newsline* articles is only one method individuals can get points; other methods are described in the Recertification Handbook; Certified Builders are urged to refer to this for complete information.

ASBA is always interested in articles for *Newsline*, and welcomes the contribution of articles from its membership. **For an article to be considered as eligible for recertification points**, however, please keep the following in mind:

- Articles should address technical subjects designed to educate or stimulate discussion among builders. Therefore, articles must be technical, rather than elementary information. *Newsline*’s focus is educating those in the industry, rather than athletes or facility owners/managers.
- Articles for *Newsline* should include specific content that mirrors the content of the certification examination. (For example, an article might discuss specific construction details of a tennis court base, but the article should not go into details about keeping the surface of the court free of debris, since a builder already knows this).
- If considering a topic for a *Newsline* article, it might help to ask, “Would this make a good Technical Meeting session?” If it would, then it is likely to be a valid suggestion for a *Newsline* article.
- Articles for *Newsline* should be original material. If using any previously published articles or material for reference, please make sure to note this in the article.
- Please avoid using brand names; use generic terms instead.
- We recognize that your time as a Certified Builder is valuable, so it may be advisable to contact Association Headquarters prior to writing the article, just to make certain the topic is applicable for recertification points. That way, any ‘tweaks’ to the topic can be made in advance.

We look forward to your articles for the *Newsline*! Please address any questions concerning recertification to Cynthia Sanchez at cynthia@sportsbuilders.org.