Winter in the Wine Country with ASBA

ASBA has a long history of tropical destinations for its Winter Meeting. This year, we're doing something completely different: making tracks to California’s wine country.

The 2018 Winter Meeting, scheduled for February 22-25 in Napa, is by far the best opportunity of the new year to connect with ASBA. Be a part of our growth and progress by sitting in on Division meetings, brainstorming topics for the Technical Meeting and position papers for the website, working on projects, committees and more. There are also great opportunities to catch up with friends after hours. ASBAs golf and tennis outings are always well-attended and popular, providing a fun way to blow off some steam and challenge your colleagues.

Our host property is the Meritage Resort and Spa. Centrally located in the idyllic wine country, The Meritage Resort and Spa in Napa offers easy access to Napa Valley, Sonoma County, and several major airports. After hours, you can enjoy wine tastings, vineyard tours – or just spend time relaxing poolside, sampling some of the award-winning cuisine or getting some exercise on the golf course or tennis courts. The Meritage's Tuscan-inspired décor will transport you, relax you and have you wondering why you never visited before – and when you can return.

Plus, this is a great time to be visiting this area of California. Following the wildfires, the area is working hard to make a comeback. The Meritage is undamaged and the region wants to prove there’s still plenty to see and do. By paying a visit, you’re helping to support family businesses, vineyards and more that depend on tourists to sustain them. So in addition to helping to grow the ASBA, you’re helping a part of the USA bounce back.

Still on the fence? The meeting basically covers a long weekend. You can fly out, spend the weekend with ASBA getting some R&R – and be back in plenty of time. There's no reason to miss this meeting!

Information on ASBA’s Winter Meeting is already available on ASBA’s website, www.sportsbuilders.org. Click on the “Events” tab and select the Winter Meeting from the drop-down menu.

Technical Meeting 2017: ASBA Returns to New Orleans

Colleagues. Content. Creole food.

The ASBA Technical Meeting returned to New Orleans, and as might be expected, the good times rolled. This year’s meeting, held December 1-5 at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, brought in more than 600 industry members from across the U.S. and outside it.

Highlights of the meeting included:
• An outstanding program of technical content, designed to appeal to industry members of all interests and specialty areas. Sessions focused on tennis, track, fields and business topics, as well as on courts and recreational surfaces, to dovetail with the Association’s new division.
• Plenty of opportunities to catch up and socialize with friends and colleagues on both the tennis courts and the golf course, as well as during the meeting.
• The announcement of ASBAs annual award winners. (A more detailed article on this can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.)
• An excellent keynote presentation by Garrison Wynn, who spoke on “The REAL Truth about Success: What the Top 1 Percent Do Differently

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2017 Technical Meeting (continued from page 1)

and Why They Won’t Tell You.” Wynn also presented two excellent breakout sessions following his keynote address

- A top-notch trade show with industry-specific products and services, which this year had more than 60 exhibiting companies. The exhibit hall was the location for receptions, meals, breaks and other gatherings, and additionally had lounge areas with TVs to watch games in progress.
- A great location – the Hyatt was near the Mercedes Benz Superdome and the Smoothie King Arena, and was just a short distance from the historic French Quarter and all its diversions.
- The ability to catch up on Association business, take certification exams, work on projects and committees and more

If you missed this meeting, ASBA has two pieces of good news for you. The first is that you can catch up on the presentations at the Technical Meeting by going to the ASBA website and Clicking on “Events.” All materials will be shown there.

The second piece of good news? You can mark your calendar now for next year’s Technical Meeting: November 30 – December 4, 2018, at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess in Scottsdale, Arizona. This location, the scene of our 2015 Technical Meeting, was easily one of the biggest meetings ASBA has ever put on. You won’t want to miss the Technical Meeting or the surroundings. More information on this meeting will be made available in the months to come.
FROM THE CHAIRMAN

ASBA By the Numbers:
Things Are Looking Up
by Kristoff Eldridge, CTCB, ASBA Chairman

Spending time last month with nearly 650 of my fellow ASBA colleagues in New Orleans, Louisiana was enjoyable and enriching, as it always is. Added to that was being elected Chairman of this association, which was, and is a humbling and motivating experience.

My sincerest thanks to Pete Smith, CTCB, who just completed his two-year term as Chairman of ASBA in December. Pete saw us through an extensive strategic planning initiative during his two-year term – one that has paved the way for a new Courts & Recreation Division, a new Spring Regional Meeting as part of our annual schedule of events, continued double-digit growth in our meeting attendance and membership, and expansion of our technical offerings like meeting apps and a mobile technical app. Pete has continued in the footsteps of his predecessors in leaving ASBA in a position of strength, earning all of our gratitude in the process.

Perhaps ASBA’s most enviable stat is our 95% member retention rate, year over year. As I mentioned during my acceptance speech in New Orleans, a retention rate this high is almost unheard of in the association world. It means that ASBA is consistently offering a valuable return on the investment of our time and money. This is not something we should take for granted because it could change. We need to continue to challenge ourselves to offer our members what they need to stay competitive in the marketplace; and the technical information they need to continue to “build it right.” It also allows us an opportunity to impact positive change within our field. What are some ways we can build longer lasting, more consistent, better performing playing surfaces? The American Sports Builders Association is the collective that might be able to provide answers.

To that end, the Board will be conducting another strategic planning effort in mid-2018 to continue to survey the sports design and construction environment to ensure that we’re meeting members’ needs and giving you the tools to prosper. It’s been three years since our last plan – an eternity in today’s fast-paced world. So many of the goals that came out of that last meeting have been achieved or are an ongoing implemented action. It’s time to set some new goals this summer.

ASBA continues to be the forum where those who care most about sports design and construction gather to share ideas, compare techniques, discuss trends, and learn about new products. I participated in my first ASBA technical meeting more than 15 years ago and was blown away by the brain trust of experience and talent and, even more impressively, their willingness to share. I continue to be blown away each and every time I attend an ASBA event. It is truly the single best investment a builder or designer can make in his/her future development.

We continue to strengthen our relationships with our industry colleagues at ITF, STC, USTA, NCAA, NFHS TIA, USAPA and STMA; and are moving quickly to forge new partnerships and relationships in the Courts & Recreation area (basketball, volleyball, etc.) as we know how critical it will be to ASBA’s success.

If you were not at the Technical Meeting in New Orleans, you missed a great event. However, all is not lost for the year. With upcoming meetings in Napa, Kansas City and Scottsdale later this winter; and a host of webinars and online opportunities in the works, there will be plenty of opportunities to engage with your ASBA colleagues. I hope to see many of you next month at the Meritage Resort in Napa, where we can toast to a happy and successful 2018. Thank you so much for your time. Cheers!

www.sportsbuilders.org
ASBA’s Regional Meeting: Bringing the Meeting to the Industry

From webinars to mobile apps, ASBA is always looking for ways to spread the good word about quality design and construction. Here’s one way that launched last year and became such a success that we’re doing it again: the Regional Meeting.

The premise of ASBA’s Regional Meeting is simple: bring the meeting to the members. Last year’s meeting was in the Northeast (New York), and this year, we’re moving to the middle of the country to serve our Midwestern members, by hosting our event in Kansas City, Missouri.

The 2018 Regional Meeting will be held March 7-8 at the Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza. The meeting will include some hands-on technical sessions as well as at least one offsite trip to watch good practices in action.

Meeting details and registration information are currently online at www.sportsbuilders.org, where it will be found under the Events tab at the top of the page. Information will be mailed out to members as well. If you have questions, call 866-501-ASBA (2722).

ASBA Introduces Mobile App

ASBA now has its own mobile app (ASBA Diagram Showcase), available through the iTunes and Google stores, free of charge. The app contains a sampling of technical diagrams from our construction and maintenance manuals – including Tennis, Running Tracks, Sports Fields, Courts & Recreation and Pickleball.

The app is intended to be a resource when you’re on a job or in the field and need to reference a dimension or specification. It is not intended to be as comprehensive as our manuals – but rather, complementary to them.

Check out our app and send us your thoughts. We’d love to hear what you think.

ON THE BOOKSHELF

Coming Soon: A New Tennis Courts Book

Easily one of ASBA’s most popular publications, Tennis Courts: A Construction and Maintenance Manual, is expected to be published in the summer of 2018.

The Joint Editorial Board, composed of representatives of ASBA and USTA, has been laying the groundwork for what will be the ninth edition of this book, and has provided Newsline with a sneak preview of some of the “new and improved” features, including expanded and updated sections throughout the book on post-tension concrete courts, LED lighting and adaptive/wheelchair tennis. In addition, here will be increased use of photos throughout the book.

The new Tennis Courts book, like ASBA’s other publications, will be available in both hard copy and pdf form.

Keep an eye on Newsline for more updates!


ASBA’s new edition of Sports Fields: A Construction and Maintenance Manual, has arrived and is now available in both hard copy and electronic format.

The book includes updated drawings as well as information including alternate infills, sustainability and recycling of field components. It also has updated information on amenities, accessories and equipment as well as expanded sections on design.

The publication is $44.95 and can be ordered from ASBA’s website by selecting “Publications” from the menu bar at the top of the page.

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ASBA Announces New Officers, Directors

ASBA has announced the election of new members of its Board of Directors.

Announcement of the new officers and directors was made at the Association's Technical Meeting, recently held in New Orleans, Louisiana. More than 600 industry members attended the meeting, and the trade show included 60-plus exhibitors.

Kristoff Eldridge is the new Chairman of ASBA. Eldridge, who has served as president of the Track Division, has been active in the Association on multiple levels, including serving on committees, speaking at meetings, reviewing technical articles and working on Association projects and publications. He is a Certified Track Builder (CTB). Eldridge is with Cape & Island Tennis & Track, located in Pocasset, Massachusetts.

Matt Strom of Leslie Coatings in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the Association’s new Tennis Division President. He is a Certified Tennis Court Builder (CTCB) and previously served as a Builder Director on the Board. He has been active in various aspects of the Association as well.

Mark Heinlein has been elected President of the Association’s Fields Division. Heinlein, who holds the designation of Certified Fields Builder (CFB) works with Turf Reclamation Solutions in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has served as a Builder Director on the Board and also chaired the working committee to revise the publication, Sports Fields: A Construction and Maintenance Manual.

David Moxley has been re-elected to the office of President of the Supplier Division of the Association. Moxley, of Sportsfield Specialties, Inc., Delhi, New York, has been active in the Association as a board member, as well as on various committees.

Randy Resley, (Sport Court of the Rockies, Highlands Ranch, Colorado) has been appointed as President of the newly-formed Courts & Recreation Division; and Kirk Grego, CFB, (Mid-America Golf & Landscape, Lee’s Summit, Missouri) has been appointed Secretary/Treasurer-Elect.

Three other individuals will join the Board of Directors representing the Builder Division. They include David Clapp, CFB-S, CTCB (Baseline Construction, LLC, Knoxville, Tennessee), Todd Dettor (Fast-Dry Courts, Pompano Beach, Florida) and Jameson Shelley, CFB-S, CTB (Byrne and Jones Construction, St. Louis, Missouri).

Continuing on the Board of the Directors are Past Chairman Pete Smith, CTCB (The CourtSMITHS, Toledo, Ohio); Track Division President Troy Rudolph, CFB, CTB, CTCB, (Elite Sport Builders, Phoenix, Arizona); Professional Division President Megan Buczynski, PE LEED AP, (Activitas, Dedham, Massachusetts); Secretary/Treasurer Ed

ASBA Welcomes New Members

ASBA welcomes the following members that have joined since we published our last newsletter.

Classic Sports (Builder) 3207 W. Benders Landing Spring, TX 77386 281-687-0384

Sandia Speck, Owner mckennaconstruction@comcast.net www.classicsportshouston.com

GTM Architects (Professional) 7735 Old Georgetown Road, Suite 100 Bethesda, MD 20814 240-333-2015

Nakia Wallace-Randall, Marketing Manager nwallacerandall@gtmarchitects.com www.gtmarchitects.com

Homesports (Supplier) 420 North Geneva Road Lindon, UT 84042 801-768-4663

Emmanuel Karlsson, General Manager emmanuel@dominatorhoop.com www.dominatorhoop.com

Midwest Sport and Turf Systems, LLC (Builder) 10138 S. Bode St., Unit E Plainfield, IL 60585 630-430-3300

Jody Factor, Partner j.factor@mwtscs.com www.midwestsportsturf.com

Perfect Play Fields & Links (Builder) P.O. Box 24006 Belleville, IL 62226 618-234-7888

Mike Munie, CFB-N, President Mike.munie@perfectplayfieldsandlinks.com www.perfectplayfieldsandlinks.com

Redexim North American (Supplier) 427 West Outer Road Valley Park, MO 63088 636-825-8300

Paul Hollis, Vice President paulhrcl@aol.com www.redexim.com

Sports Contractors Unlimited, LLC (Builder) 2010 Oak Grove Road, Bldg. 4, Suite 2 Hattiesburg, MS 39402 601-818-0070

Tommy Shook, Managing Member tshook@scculc.com www.sportscontractors.org

Stewart Tennis Courts & Fencing, Inc. (Builder) 723 12th Street, E. Bradenton, FL 34208 941-746-7718

Matthew Knott, Owner Matt.stewarttennis@gmail.com www.stewarttennis.com

Texas Sports Builders (Builder) 6413 N. State Hwy 349, Bldg. B Midland, TX 79705 432-617-3029

Stephanie Sparkman, President steph@texasportsbuilders.com www.texasportsbuilders.com

Woodard & Curran (Professional) 41 Hutchins Drive Portland, ME 04102

Thomas Shay, PE, Associate Principal/Technical Manager tshay@woodardcurran.com www.woodardcurran.com

Norton, RLA, ASLA (Holcombe Partners, Birmingham, Alabama); Supplier Division representatives Jeff Bryant (Advanced Polymer Technology, Corp., Brick, New Jersey) and Randy Futty (California Sports Surfaces, Andover, Massachusetts); Professional Division representative Chris Sullivan, RLA (Verde Design, Inc., Santa Clara, California); and Builder Division representatives Bob Cohen, CFB-S, CTB (Robert Cohen Co., LLC, Albuquerque, New Mexico) and Paul Nagle, CTB (Nagle Athletic Surfaces, Inc., Syracuse, New York).
ASBA Announces Winners of Annual Awards

One of the highlights of the ASBA Technical Meeting is the announcement of the winners of the annual awards program, and this year was no exception. Awards are presented each year to facilities built by ASBA members, which best exemplify construction excellence.

Awards are presented in various categories: Tennis Courts, Running Tracks, Sports Fields, Indoor Facilities and Track and Field Facilities. Projects are scored individually based on considerations such as layout and design, site work, drainage, base construction, surface, amenities, innovation and overall impression. Winning entries are those whose cumulative scores meet or exceed the standard.

Winning projects are as follows:

**Distinguished Track Facilities**

**Distinguished Outdoor Track Facilities**

Durango High School Track & Field
Durango, Colorado
General Acrylics Inc., Phoenix, Arizona

Bowman County Track & Field
Bowman, North Dakota
Fisher Tracks, Boone, Iowa

Hillsboro Public Schools Athletic Complex
Hillsboro, North Dakota
Fisher Tracks, Boone, Iowa

Paxton Consolidated Schools Athletic Complex
Paxton, Nebraska
Fisher Tracks, Boone, Iowa

Robert L. Peterson Memorial Field
Dakota Valley, South Dakota
Fisher Tracks, Boone, Iowa

MIT Steinbrenner Stadium
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Cape and Island Tennis & Track, Pocasset, Massachusetts

Sheila and Morris Cregger Track
Columbia, South Carolina
Medallion Athletics Inc., Mooresville, North Carolina

ADM Community School District Stadium
Adel, Iowa
Fisher Tracks, Boone, Iowa

**Distinguished Indoor Track Facilities**

Clemson University Indoor Track
Clemson, South Carolina
Medallion Athletics Inc., Mooresville, North Carolina

Franklin & Marshall College ASFC Schnader Field House
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Sasaki Associates Inc., Watertown, Massachusetts

**Distinguished Track & Field Facility**

Espanola High School Athletic Facility
Espanola, New Mexico
Lone Mountain Contracting Inc.

**Distinguished Tennis Facilities**

**Distinguished Outdoor Tennis Facilities**

Winding Cypress
Naples, Florida
Welch Tennis Courts Inc., Sun City, Florida

The Wheeler School Tennis Facility
Seekonk, Massachusetts

Cape and Island Tennis & Track, Pocasset, Massachusetts

West Ottawa Middle School Tennis Facility
Holland, Michigan
GMB Architecture + Engineering, Holland, Michigan

Miami University Women's Tennis Courts
Oxford, Ohio
Sportworks Field Design, West Chester, Ohio

Coopersville High School Tennis Facility
Coopersville, Michigan
GMB Architecture + Engineering, Holland, Michigan

Southern Wesleyan University Tennis Facility
Central, South Carolina
Baseline Sports Construction LLC, Knoxville, Tennessee

Daly Field Tennis Facility
Brighton, Massachusetts
Activitas Inc., Dedham, Massachusetts

City of Palm Beach Gardens Tennis Center
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
Fast-Dry Courts Inc., Pompano Beach, Florida

Laguna Beach High School
Laguna Beach, California
Zaino Tennis Courts Inc., Orange, California

Loomis Chaffee School Tennis Facility
Windsor, Connecticut
Milone & MacBroom Inc., Cheshire, Connecticut

Trump National Doral Miami
Doral, Florida
Fast-Dry Courts Inc., Pompano Beach, Florida

Hudsonville High School Tennis Facility
Hudsonville, Michigan
GMB Architecture + Engineering, Holland, Michigan

Kearney High School
Kearney, Missouri
McConnell & Associates Corp., Kansas City, Missouri

Lower Merion Residence
Gladwyne, Pennsylvania
Pro-Sport Construction Inc., Devon, Pennsylvania

Pinecrest Residence
Pinecrest, Florida
Fast-Dry Courts Inc., Pompano Beach, Florida

**Residential Tennis Facilities**

Kumin-Loring Field
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio

The Fessenden School
Kumin-Loring Field
Newton, Massachusetts
Stantec Sport Group, Boston, Massachusetts

Southeast Missouri State University
Capaha Field
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Byrne & Jones Construction, Bridgeton, Missouri

Brooks School
North Andover, Massachusetts

Huntress Associates Inc., Andover, Massachusetts

Northland College Ponzio Stadium Field
Ashland, Wisconsin
Rettler Corp., Stevens Point, Wisconsin

The Rivers School–Nonesuch Field
Weston, Massachusetts
Stantec Sport Group, Boston, Massachusetts

Sacramento State Baseball Field
Sacramento, California
Siegfried, Sacramento, California

Pine Lake Preparatory Athletic Complex
Mooresville, North Carolina
Medallion Athletic Products Inc., Mooresville, North Carolina

Lakeside Field at Northwestern University
Evaston, Illinois
SCG Fields, LLC, Brecksville, Ohio

Drexel University Vidas Field
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Stantec Sport Group, Boston, Massachusetts

Mount Holyoke College
South Hadley, Massachusetts
Activitas Inc., Dedham, Massachusetts

Calvin Falwell Field at City Stadium
Lynchburg, Virginia
SCG Fields, LLC, Brecksville, Ohio

Dick Meador Stadium
Lawrenceburg, Indiana

The Fessenden School
Kumin-Loring Field
Newton, Massachusetts
Stantec Sport Group, Boston, Massachusetts

Southwest Missouri State University
Capaha Field
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Bray & Jones Construction, Bridgeton, Missouri

Brooks School
North Andover, Massachusetts

Huntress Associates Inc., Andover, Massachusetts
Agawam High School Baseball Facility
Agawam, Massachusetts
Milone & MacBroom Inc., Cheshire, Connecticut

New Milford High School Athletic Facility
New Milford, Connecticut
BSC Group Inc., Glastonbury, Connecticut

Covrett Stadium & Fishburn Family Field
Highland High School
South Bloomfield Township
Morrow County, Ohio
Sportworks Field Design, West Chester, Ohio

Lapeer Field
Lapeer, Michigan
Foresite Design Inc., Berkley, Michigan

Agawam High School Track & Field Facility
Agawam, Massachusetts
Milone & MacBroom Inc., Cheshire, Connecticut

Dartmouth College
Hanover, New Hampshire
Activitas Inc., Dedham, Massachusetts

Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium
Denver, Colorado
SCG Fields, LLC, Brecksville, Ohio

University of Oregon Jane Sanders Softball Stadium
Eugene, Oregon
Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture & Planning, Eugene, Oregon

Cornell University Schoellkopf Field
Ithaca, New York
Stantec Sport Group, Boston, Massachusetts

Multiple-Field Facilities
The Roxbury Latin School
West Roxbury, Massachusetts
Stantec Sport Group, Boston, Massachusetts

Beechwood High School Athletic Complex
Fort Mitchell, Kentucky
The Motz Group, LLC, Cincinnati, Ohio

Sunset High School Athletic Fields
Beaverton, Oregon
Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture & Planning, Eugene, Oregon

Daly Field
Brighton, Massachusetts
Activitas Inc., Dedham, Massachusetts

Newman Elementary School Athletic Fields
Needham, Massachusetts
Weston & Sampson, Worcester, Massachusetts

Boston College High School Athletic Facility
Boston, Massachusetts
Activitas Inc., Dedham, Massachusetts

Colby College Baseball & Softball Complex
Waterville, Maine
Activitas Inc., Dedham, Massachusetts

Distinetulous Court & Recreational Facilities

Outdoor Pickleball Facilities
Sun City Festival Pickleball Park
Buckeye, Arizona
General Acrylics Inc., Phoenix, Arizona

Chicken N’ Pickle
North Kansas City, Missouri
McConnell & Associates Corp., Kansas City, Missouri

Residential Pickleball Facility
Hereid-Rivet Residence
Chatham, Massachusetts
Boston Tennis Court Construction Co., Inc., Hanover, Massachusetts

Indoor Pickleball Facility
Chicken N’ Pickle
North Kansas City, Missouri
McConnell & Associates, Kansas City, Missouri

Silver Award
Franklin & Marshall College ASFC Schnader Field House
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Sasaki Associates Inc., Watertown, Massachusetts

Silver Award
Hudsonville High School Tennis Facility
Hudsonville, Michigan
GMB Architecture + Engineering, Holland, Michigan

Bronze Award
Keaney High School
Keaney, Missouri
McConnell & Associates Corp., Kansas City, Missouri

Silver Award
Sheila and Morris Cregger Track
Columbia, South Carolina
Medallion Athletics Inc., Mooresville, North Carolina

Bronze Award
ADM Community School District Stadium
Adel, Iowa
Fisher Tracks, Boone, Iowa

Within each category, specific facilities were chosen from among all winning entries to represent the best of athletic facility construction. The winners were as follows:

TRACK DIVISION

Outstanding Outdoor Track Facility of the Year
MIT Steinbrenner Stadium
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Cape and Island Tennis & Track
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Silver Award
Kearney High School
Kearney, Missouri
McConnell & Associates Corp., Kansas City, Missouri

Silver Award
Pinewick Residence
Pinewick, Pennsylvania

Silver Award
Pinewick Residence
Pinewick, Pennsylvania

Silver Award
Pro-Sport Construction Inc., Devon, Pennsylvania

Silver Award
Chatham, Massachusetts
Boston Tennis Court Construction Co., Inc., Hanover, Massachusetts

Silver Award
Kearney High School
Kearney, Missouri
McConnell & Associates Corp., Kansas City, Missouri

Silver Award
Sheila and Morris Cregger Track
Columbia, South Carolina
Medallion Athletics Inc., Mooresville, North Carolina

Bronze Award
ADM Community School District Stadium
Adel, Iowa
Fisher Tracks, Boone, Iowa

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ASBA Presents Industry Merit Award to Don Smith, CTB

This year’s Technical Meeting included a special honor – one ASBA does not give often, or lightly: the Industry Merit Award. The award, which recognizes outstanding contributions not just to the sports facility construction industry but to ASBA as well, has been presented only a handful of times, each time, to very deserving individuals.

This year’s honoree, Don Smith, CTB, of Denver, Colorado, has served the Association as a Builder Director and as Track Division President. He has additionally served on the Awards Committee and has been instrumental in the Track Book Committee. He has also been an active member of the Track Technical Committee, the Outreach to Stakeholder Organizations Task Force, the Create High-Impact Webinars and Build a Knowledge Library Task Force, as well as the past Tennis and Track Certification Advisory Committee. He has also served on ASTM’s Track Task Force.

Don Smith was also key to working on the Association’s first Certified Builder exam program – and years later, when the test was revised and standardized, he was an integral part of the effort. He has also helped prioritize, and then served on, the InterAssociation Committee, which to this day continues to meet with track governing bodies on an annual basis. He also worked to help develop the Track Certification system that has been published in the Track Construction Manual, and accepted by NCAA and NFHS. Even after moving into independent consulting, his knowledge and understanding of the industry, as well as design and construction, made him a much-sought-after contributor.

Sam Fisher, CTB, of Fisher Tracks, who made the presentation to Smith at ASBA’s Opening Breakfast, encouraged all attendees to consider the history of the Association and their possible contributions to it:

“I ask each one of you in this room this morning to take a look at your neighbor on the right, your neighbor on the left and then ask yourself, ‘Am I or either one of these individuals going to be working in this industry for nearly four decades?’”

Citing a friendship with Smith that spanned more than three decades and noting his impeccable credentials, Fisher added that Smith has never been one to fall back on traditional approaches to problems, instead preferring to create innovative solutions and techniques.

Smith, who was attending his last Technical Meeting prior to his retirement, looked stunned by the award as ASBA’s attendees gave him a standing ovation for his dedication and hard work.

“He will be sorely missed,” concluded Fisher.

Smith joins an elite group of honorees, including ASBA’s founders, longtime contributors to the Association and others. He will also retain Life Member status in the Association.

Congratulations, Don!

ASBA Tennis Tournament

2017 Tennis Tournament Winners – 1st place team - John Hanna and Pat Hanssen and 2nd place team Bill Rapp and Rich Benson.
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 Announces New Certified Builders

ASBA recognized the following individuals as Certified Builders:

Tennis

Greg Nichols, CTCB
Premier Surfaces Solutions, Inc.
1621 Metropolitan Blvd., #200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
850-925-0212
greg@surfacingteam.com

Michael Robinson, CTCB
Talbot Tennis
4225 JVL Industrial Park Drive,
#504
Marietta, GA 30024
678-469-9909
mrobinson@talbottennis.com

Track

Jonnie Deremo, CTB, CTCB
General Acrylics, Inc.
22222 N. 22nd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85027
602-569-9377
jderemo@generalacrylics.com

Joff Weller, CFB-S
Byrne & Jones Construction
13940 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Louis, MO 63044
314-809-3851
jweller@byrneandjones.com

Fields

Joseph Martin, CTB
Paragon Sports Constructors
5001 Saunders Road
Fort Worth, TX 76119
817-343-2903
jmartin@paragon-sports.com

Tommy Shook, CTB
Sports Contractors Unlimited, LLC
2010 Oak Grove Rd., Bldg. #2
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
601-818-0070
tshook@sllc.com

Jeff Fowler, CFB-S
Sprinturf, LLC
550 Long Point Road, #205
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
765-744-2757
jfowler@sprinturf.com

Eric Rice, CFB-S
AstroTurf Corp.
5113 Red Bud Road, NE
Calhoun, GA 30701
706-428-4798
erice@astroturf.com

Matt Rinas, CFB
The Motz Group
12955 York Delta Drive
North Royalton, OH 44133
513-533-6452
mrrinas@themotzgroup.com

Mark Weightman, CFB-S
Act Global
4201 West Parmer Lane, #B-175
Austin, TX 78727
412-592-3859
mweightman@actglobal.com

Tennis Court Contractor of the Year

Competition Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

Each year, Tennis Industry Magazine honors its Champions of Tennis: individuals who have contributed to both the tennis industry. One of the awards it presents is Tennis Court Contractor of the Year. The award, presented at the closing night dinner, honors not just construction excellence but service to ASBA.

This year’s honoree was Competition Athletic Surfaces in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In addition to providing outstanding construction in the Southeast, Competition, through its president, Lee Murray, has provided Newsline articles and is a frequent attendee at Technical Meetings.

Murray told TI he had gone into the sealcoating and paving industry after college and migrated into tennis and track. Four decades later, he noted, the company retains its focus on creating the best athletic surfaces possible. Competition’s focus has broadened a bit, and it now also builds synthetic fields as well as indoor and outdoor courts and recreational surfaces. Even with those changes, Murray finds the work just as satisfying as he did back in the 1970s.

“There are two things I really love about this. I’m the kind of person who likes to stand back at the end of the day and see what I accomplished. I can measure what I got done and whether I think it was good. You also know you’re creating the spaces for people to go outside and do something healthy. I think a lot of us don’t realize how much we’re really contributing to people’s wellness.”

Congratulations to Competition Athletic Surfaces, and to Lee Murray.

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Tennis Court Contractor of the Year

Competition Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

Each year, Tennis Industry Magazine honors its Champions of Tennis: individuals who have contributed to both the tennis industry. One of the awards it presents is Tennis Court Contractor of the Year. The award, presented at the closing night dinner, honors not just construction excellence but service to ASBA.

This year’s honoree was Competition Athletic Surfaces in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In addition to providing outstanding construction in the Southeast, Competition, through its president, Lee Murray, has provided Newsline articles and is a frequent attendee at Technical Meetings.

Murray told TI he had gone into the sealcoating and paving industry after college and migrated into tennis and track. Four decades later, he noted, the company retains its focus on creating the best athletic surfaces possible. Competition’s focus has broadened a bit, and it now also builds synthetic fields as well as indoor and outdoor courts and recreational surfaces. Even with those changes, Murray finds the work just as satisfying as he did back in the 1970s.

“There are two things I really love about this. I’m the kind of person who likes to stand back at the end of the day and see what I accomplished. I can measure what I got done and whether I think it was good. You also know you’re creating the spaces for people to go outside and do something healthy. I think a lot of us don’t realize how much we’re really contributing to people’s wellness.”

Congratulations to Competition Athletic Surfaces, and to Lee Murray.
**ASBA Technical Sessions: An Inside Look**

Did you miss the ASBA Technical Meeting? What you missed out on was an excellent program of industry-related sessions. Here’s an inside look at a few of those. Oh, and if you want the full notes, go to the ASBA website, www.sportsbuilders.org, and choose Events from the top menu. A drop-down bar will include “Technical Meeting Presentations.” Presentations can be accessed free of charge.

In the meantime, here’s a *Reader’s Digest* version of the meeting.

**Geotechnical Reports Demystified:** Jim Catella, CFB, CTB (Clark Companies), Kenneth Schmidt, PE, Todd Smith, CFB (Academy Sports Turf)

This presentation broke down the information contained in soil reports, and allowed attendees to see exactly how it related to their work, no matter which level of a project they were responsible for. Catella, for example, noted the importance of understanding infiltration rates, freeze/thaw data and soil stability information.

“From our viewpoint,” Catella noted, “you need to understand these reports are not put together by someone who understands our industry.”

However, the panel noted, these reports can be extremely valuable – once readers understand what they’re looking at, and if there is good communication between the person who is going to be writing the report, and the sports facility design and construction professional.

“If you have the opportunity to talk to the geotechnical professional before they go to work,” noted Smith, “it’s always better. You can tell them your requirements and the things you care about.”

Many reports spend far too much time dissecting information such as the load-bearing ability of the surface. In reality, a running track, a sports field or any other recreational surface will ever have to hold anything that heavy, and other data, such as the plasticity of the soil, will be far more important.

**Best Practices in Jobsite Planning:** Tom Benz, CTB (Oval Tennis, Inc.), Mike Edgerton, CTCB (Copeland Coatings), Kevin Healion (Century Tennis, Inc.)

The session was a discussion of challenges unique to sports builders in best practices for jobsite planning. This was broken down into four segments:

- Understanding your timeline:
  - Knowing where you come into the project is key. Learning compliance dates is equally important.
  - Meeting owner expectations: A smoothly-run project can turn into future opportunities
  - Submittals: Where a line such as “and/or equal” is included, make sure to stay ahead of all projections and minimums
  - Contractual obligations: These may include AID, OSHA, negotiated terms, bonds/insurance, certified payroll, permits and regulations, and installer background checks

Presenters took the floor to discuss personal experiences on jobsites. Kevin Healion addressed material orders and lead time, as well as shipping, delivery and handling – all of which can factor into the finish date on a project. In addition, presenters gave case studies – Tom Benz presented one regarding the Mountain Racquet Club.

**Alternative Infills: A Third-Party Perspective** – Mike Gentile (Sports Labs USA, Dan Strunk, University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture)

Mike Gentile and Dan Strunk first shared a listing of infill characteristics as pertaining to a third party. These included the following:

- Impact attenuation layers
- Infill characteristics
- Properties
- Reduction in surface temperature
- Drainage issues
- Infill migration
- Infill reuse

During discussion of these issues, it was noted that Dan Strunk was a leading researcher at the Center for Athletic Field Safety, which has conducted (to date) approximately 25 sports research projects. The university has over five acres of athletic turf that is presently serving as the grounds for various studies. Studies include the effects of maintenance on turf systems (this might include the effects of brushing and grooming each plot of grass after every 20 games). It was noted the center of fields is where most play occurs, and as a result, that is where most testing was done.

Time was devoted to discussions of crumb rubber (still considered the standard in field building) as well as alternative infills. No matter which infill is used, it was noted, maintenance is essential. Injury-wise, not as much testing has been done on alternative infills, which continue to evolve. Constantly testing, through use and weather events, will be the key to a continued understanding of field safety.

At the end of the presentation, the floor was opened up for Q&A from attendees. And invariably, the question came up: “What advice do you give builders who are faced with questions and concerns from parents who want to know about crumb rubber?”

“Listen,” said Mike Gentile. “Listen to their concerns. It’s essential we do that. That’s the most important thing we can do in this industry.”

**Concrete Preparation & Coating Application Techniques**: Wesley Baum (Advanced Polymer Technology) and Jonnie Deremo, CTCB (General Acrylics)

The session began with a review of the three factors most often to blame for surface failure:

- Product
- Application technique
- Surface preparation

The presenters noted that proper testing must be done on concrete slabs prior to coating. Should the slab fail any of these tests (mainly moisture-related tests) and should the contractor move forward with coating, the surface itself will not perform as expected.

Other variables were reviewed. Because concrete cure time will depend on climate, as well as humidity, testing conditions must also be carefully
monitored; surfaces installed in a dry climate will often be less problematic, but this is in no way guaranteed.

Equipment to prep concrete was reviewed, including hydroblasting and shotblasting. (It was noted that even if a court is to be converted to a different surface, such as one with a cushioned surface, testing should still take place.)

Many states also have specific requirements that will affect surface preparation. California, for example, has had to rethink using a pressurized water blaster because of regulations concerning runoff.

Many tests, including calcium chloride, as well as tests using probes, are inexpensive to perform, and particularly should be used in light of the potential impact on the outcome of the project.

Effects of Weather on Polyurethane: Christian Martinkat (Stockmeier Urethanes USA, Inc.), Paul Nagle, CTB (Nagle Athletic Surfaces)

Putting an entertaining spin on an essential topic, Chris Martinkat and Paul Nagle set up this session in a Jeopardy! format, handing out Mardi Gras beads for correct answers (and good tries, and even downright amusing answers).

Following a review on the chemical properties of polyurethane, and on the different types of polyurethane, the presenters offered a review of different track systems. They also noted best practices for mixing components, application and more, and shared various horror stories from jobsites. One essential point: Always cap drums and totes when not in use or when leaving the jobsite for the day, to prevent water from getting in through precipitation, spills or any other means. Something equally important: Don't spray when conditions are windy, since the spray can adhere to cars, buildings and more.

After that, the games began. The presenters used humor and a spirit of competition (and an ever-growing number of beads being handed out) to get attendees to answer questions, including:

Why isn't my polyurethane curing?
What can dark spots be attributable to?
Why is the track surface sticky in spots?
Why are products gelling so slowly?

Attendees also told stories about problems they had encountered on various job sites and how they had addressed them.

By the end of the session, there were plenty of beads handed out – but more importantly, plenty of new insights into common problems.

Courts & Recreation: Trends, Fads and Court Accessories: Randy Resley (Sport Court of the Rockies)

Randy Resley, the new Division President for Courts & Recreational Surfaces, presented this overview. He noted the growing popularity of pickleball and the fact that a session had previously been presented on it at the Technical Meeting. Pop tennis is another emerging trend; the USTA is promoting it heavily.

In addition, Resley's presentation used video clips to illustrate the increasingly sophisticated use of computer graphics on basketball courts and soccer arenas. Over the course of the next few years, he added, March Madness may look entirely different, thanks to these techniques.

Another trend is that of indoor courts being lined for multiple sports. As more schools and rec centers become increasingly land-locked, it is conceivable that arenas may be lined up to 10 different ways.

ASBA’s Golf Tournament: A Win/Win

When you have a course as great as TPC Louisiana, is there anything that could make it better? Sure is – the addition of ASBA members.

The ASBA Golf Tournament, a fixture on the Technical Meeting calendar, was offered on Friday, December 1, sponsored by Liberty Tire Recycling. Plenty of members and guests hit the links, enjoying good weather and clear skies, not to mention the opportunity to engage in good-natured competition, making it a win/win!

Results were as follows:

1st Place – Low Score – Matt Hicks + Ben Traetow + Matt Riggs + Tom Brockman
Closest to the Pin # 3 – Joey Alexander
Closest to the Pin # 17 – Patrick Buganski
Longest Drive – Matt Riggs

Itching for some payback? ASBA members will play golf again at the Winter Meeting, as well as at the Technical Meeting next year in Scottsdale!

The ASBA Golf Tournament at TPC Louisiana included sightings of the local wildlife, including this gator. It served as a great reminder not to pursue lost balls - even in shallow water.
Mark Your Calendars!

February 23-25, 2018
**ASBA Winter Meeting**
Meritage Resort and Spa
Napa, CA

March 7-8, 2018
**ASBA Regional Meeting**
Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza
Kansas City, MO

Nov. 30 - Dec. 4, 2018
**ASBA Technical Meeting**
Fairmont Scottsdale Princess
Scottsdale, AZ

www.sportsbuilders.org

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.