



## 2025 – 2026 Executive Board Candidates

### **President**

Clint Steele, CSFM

University of Maryland Baltimore County



I am the Sports Turf Manager at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). I have been in that role for the last nine years. Growing up in Northern Virginia, I got my start in the sports field management industry while playing high school baseball. That is when the “bug” got me. I received my degree from Virginia Tech. For more than 25 years, I have worked at the parks & recreation, high school, contracting, and collegiate levels. It is an honor to serve on the Board of Directors for MASFMA, and I look forward to serving our members as we continue to navigate the challenges that lay ahead of us.

### **Vice President**

CJ Lauer,

Director of Operations, St Paul’s Schools



CJ has been involved in the turf industry from a young age. He has held Assistant Superintendent positions on golf courses around the Baltimore area and has been the Grounds Superintendent at multiple K-12 private schools in the Baltimore and Philadelphia

markets. CJ has been a member of KAFMO and MASFMA for multiple years along with serving as a board member of both organizations.

### **Secretary**

Rob Navolis

Manager, Montgomery County Parks



I have been working with Montgomery County Parks for a little over 5 years now. I started working on athletic fields in 2010 at The Lovett School in Atlanta, GA. I have been on the board of MASFMA for 2 years as the treasurer, prior to that I was a board member at large for the Parks and have worked with the education committee before that. I enjoy working with the team and helping to represent the members of MASFMA in all aspects of what we do, including helping to shape policy that impacts our industry on the whole.

I am married to my wife Erin for over 7 years now and we have a new puppy Patches that is beyond a handful.

I would very much like to be considered for the Secretary position and continue my time on the board.

### **Treasurer**

John Turnour

Washington Nationals



John Turnour will be entering his 16th season as Director of Field Operations for the Washington Nationals, and his 23rd season overall in Major League Baseball (MLB). Prior to his time in MLB, John worked on athletic fields at his alma mater, NC State, as well as in Minor League Baseball for the Durham Bulls (Triple A Affiliate). John has been a member of the Sports Field Managers Association (SFMA) for the past 21 years and has served on the

Board of Directors for the Mid-Atlantic Sports Field Managers Association Chapter (MASFMA) for the past two years.

John would be honored to earn your trust for the Treasurer position where he will proudly continue his service on the Board of Directors for the MASFMA Chapter.

### **Director: College/University**

Kaleb Lewis

Towson University



Kaleb Lewis joined Towson as the head campus turf manager in March 2020. His duties and responsibilities include managing the Towson Athletics fields to ensure a safe and playable surface for the Towson student-athletes. Lewis earned a Bachelor of Science degree in plant science from the University of Florida in 2017.

### **Director: K-12 Schools**

David Brown

Sussex Tech High School



I've been in the turfgrass industry for more than twenty-four years. I have been in my current role at Sussex Tech High School for two years. I have also had the pleasure to serve on the MASFMA board of directors for the previous 2 years.

William Miller

Wilmington Friends School



William Miller has served as the Superintendent of Grounds at Wilmington Friends School for 25 years, specializing in sports field management and landscape care. He holds a two-year certification in Turfgrass Management from Penn State University and is a Delaware Certified Nursery Professional. With a deep commitment to maintaining high-quality athletic fields and campus grounds, William brings both expertise and dedication to his work.

### **Director: Education/Extension**

Geoff Rinehart

University of Maryland



I have taught turfgrass management at the University of Maryland for 7 1/2 years and also have a 10% Extension appointment which focuses on variety trial data collection and assessment as well as outreach and education to all sections of the turfgrass industry. I have served as the Education Committee Chair for one term in the past and am currently a member of the Education Committee.

## **Director: Parks & Recreation**

Robert Anderson

M-NCPPC



As the Park Property & Permitting Manager, Robert supervises the process of permits for the use of athletic fields and turnkey sites. Robert is interested in joining the board to learn more about the industry as he has extensive experience dealing with athletic fields.

Sam Burris

Fairfax County



Growing up on a small farm in central Pennsylvania has grown my passion for turf and agriculture science. I love doing anything outdoors (golf and hiking the most), I love watching any kind of sport. I have a B.S in Turfgrass Science from Penn State University and an A.S in Landscape Nursery from Pennsylvania College of Technology. I worked on the Beaver Stadium Grounds crew while attending Penn State. I also had an internship at the St. Louis Cardinals/Montreal Expos Spring Training facility in Jupiter, FL. I have worked for multiple professional organizations in my career; Cleveland Browns, Baltimore Orioles, Washington Commanders and single A of the Washington Nationals. One highlight of my career was being a member of the 2006 Pro Bowl grounds crew in Hawaii. I was the headgrounds keeper of the University of Mary Washington athletic fields from 2006-15. While I was at UMW I managed 30 acres of natural grass fields and was involved with two major synthetic turf field projects from start to finish. I am currently the Turfgrass Specialist for Fairfax County Park Authority managing 230 acres of cool season athletic fields across the county and 10 acres of bermuda grass athletic fields along with 52 Individual synthetic

turf fields. Here in the county, I am involved with all the major synthetic and natural grass field renovations and projects from start to finish.

I feel I can bring my knowledge of the turf industry and involvement in other turf organizations to help keep the Mid-Atlantic Sports Field Manager Association moving in the positive direction and helping people in the turf industry moving forward. MASFMA will open new learning opportunities and open new doors to network for me moving forward.

Fred Johnson

MNCPPC



Fred is a Senior Park Manager with MNCPPC for over 30 years. He has a background in Wildlife Management Horticulture and forestry. Fred Manages over 86 parks within Prince George County. On his down between sitting on boards and work . He likes to travel and look at new homes being built.

Ed Wheeling

Baltimore City



Ed Wheeling Sr is a passionate individual with more than 18 years of experience in the Parks and Recreation industry. With a creative mindset and a commitment to engagement, he brings a fresh and innovative perspective to the parks industry. Ed is dedicated to enhancing visitor experiences, improving park facilities, and introducing community-driven programs that foster connections and promote healthy lifestyles. Always eager to explore new ideas, he believes in the power of creativity and transparency to transform public

spaces and strengthen community bonds. Ed has a deep interest in philanthropy, drawing, art, sports, and community service.

## **Director: Professional Sports Facility**

Clint Belau

Orioles



Clint Belau is the Assistant Manager of Field Operations with the Baltimore Orioles. Since joining the sports turf industry via an unconventional avenue in 2012, Belau has developed a significant, award winning career within the game. Gaining his start in sports turf at the Peoria Sports Complex, he moved on to the Albuquerque Isotopes organization in 2013, where he eventually took over as Head Groundskeeper, and became a two time recipient of the Pacific Coast League's Presidential Commendation for excellence in sports turf. Belau joined the Orioles at his current position in March 2022, and is a 5 year member of SFMA and a first year member of MATSMA.

The aforementioned "unconventional avenue" explanation goes as such. I grew up in Wisconsin, on a family dairy farm with 250 acres of farmland. I don't recall ever making the conscious decision to love the game of baseball, it's just always been that way. Fast forward through a childhood/early adulthood of playing the game, my skill level no longer matched the requirement to keep moving forward. At 20, I moved to Los Angeles and began a brief career in stand up comedy, then a longer career as a bassist. A decade in, I was working for pro audio company by day, playing shows at night, with occasional tours thrown in here and there. Unfortunately, I had gotten to the point where I couldn't look in the mirror and honestly say to myself that I truly love what I do. Music was a career that I fell into mostly by association, rather than a true love for playing the instrument. Thankfully, the saying "if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life" was re-introduced to me by my supervisor at the time. Being that he seemed to be the living version of that saying, I decided to take his advice and deeply consider what that might mean for me. Which brought me back, full circle, to my love for baseball. With not a whole lot of consideration for where it might take me, I packed up my 1999 Ford Taurus, and moved to Phoenix, thinking that if I can't find a job working on a baseball field in Phoenix, then it's probably not going to happen.

Within days of beginning my time at the Peoria Sports Complex, I knew I had found that love. Suddenly, money wasn't the driving force, and there was no more staring at the clock, waiting for the time for work to be over. Being out on those fields, striving to perfect my craft, became infinitely fulfilling. Admittedly, behind from not having a proper turf management degree, I knew I had to seek out everything that would help me become better. Thankfully, in joining the Albuquerque Isotopes organization, I had the guidance of 2017 Triple A Sports Turf Manager of the Year Casey Griffin. He allowed me to take my level of education relative to sports turf management as far as I wanted. The more research I did, the more my inner farm boy came out, and I quickly realized just how much I had taken in as a kid, while helping my parents care for our crop land. It all started to make more sense. I had become a baseball farmer.

Now, 10 years later, I can honestly say there hasn't been a day that this has felt like a job. It never feels like I *have* to go to the ballpark, it feels like I *get* to go to the ballpark. I'm extremely proud of path thus far, not only from a position or accolades perspective, but in how much I've learned, grown, and will continue to do both, as a sports turf manager in the future. This is my true love, and to continue to help the industry grow and move forward, is something I strive for daily.

Press links - <https://sportsfieldmanagementonline.com/2020/01/13/the-professional-and-personal-challenges-of-managing-multi-use-fields/11036/>

<https://www.milb.com/news/isotopes-head-groundskeeper-clint-belau-wins-pcl-field-of-the-year-pre-291739312>

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