

American Sports Builders Association

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Members of Sports Design and Construction Industry Honored at ASBA Technical Meeting

Forest Hill, MD – The American Sports Builders Association (ASBA), the national organization for builders and suppliers of materials for athletic facilities, has noted that several Association members were honored at its Technical Meeting, held recently in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Chairman’s Award: Ed Norton, RLA, ASLA (Holcombe Norton Partners, Birmingham, AL)
The Chairman’s Award is presented to an individual who has shown outstanding dedication to the ASBA. Ed Norton, this year’s honoree, has been a member of the Board of Directors, has spoken at meetings and served on committees, including the editorial board charged with reviewing and revising the publication, *Sports Fields: A Construction and Maintenance Manual*. He also has been active in a task force designed to raise the profile of the Association’s Design Professional Division.

In addition, three honorees were recognized with the *Tennis Industry Magazine* Champions of Tennis Awards. Those were as follows:

Tennis Court Builder/Contractor of the Year: Lower Bros. Co., Inc., Birmingham, AL
The Tennis Court Contractor of the Year is recognized not just for excellence in design and construction but in contributions to the industry. Linn Lower, the company owner, is a Certified Tennis Court Builder who serves on the ASBA Board of Directors as well as on the Association’s Technical Committee. He also was instrumental in the revision of the forms the Association uses in its certification program, including forms for application for the program and for maintenance of the credential.

Youth Tennis Facility Developer of the Year: Zaino Tennis Courts, Inc., Orange, CA
The Youth Tennis Facility Developer of the Year is recognized as an advocate not just for building courts for children’s play, or modifying them with 30- and 60-foot playing lines, but for advocating the sport as a whole and making it a welcoming experience for all new players. Zaino, which has more than three decades of experience in the industry, has been a strong supporter of youth play as well as an active member of the industry. In addition, Richard Zaino, the company owner and founder, is a longtime active member of ASBA and a Certified Tennis Court Builder.

Tennis Industry Service Award: David LaSota, (DW Lasota Engineering, Inc., Patton, PA)
A new award this year, the Tennis Industry Service Award recognizes an individual who has made unique and specific contributions to the tennis industry. LaSota, a professional engineer who has been involved in all areas of facility consultation, design and construction, with projects ranging from a single court at a park, to the massive 102-court USTA National Campus in Florida, has also volunteered his time as part of the Joint Editorial Board charged with reviewing and revising the ASBA publication, *Tennis Courts: A Construction and Maintenance Manual*.

These awards, presented each year, are part of *TI's* Champions of Tennis awards, presented each year by the magazine and honoring industry members in a number of categories, including tennis facilities, coaches, teaching professionals and more. Information on all Champions awards is available from *TI Magazine*.

The ASBA is a non-profit association helping designers, builders, owners, operators and users understand quality sports facility construction. The ASBA sponsors informative meetings, publishes newsletters, books and technical construction guidelines for both tennis courts and running tracks, and keeps its members aware of the latest developments in the industry. It also offers voluntary certification programs in tennis court, running track and sports field construction.

Available at no charge is a listing of all publications offered by the Association, as well as the ASBA's Membership Directory. For information on the ASBA, as well as on its publications, activities and upcoming meetings, please contact the Association at 9 Newport Drive, Suite 200, Forest Hill, MD 21050. The toll-free phone number is 866-501-ASBA, the local number is 410-730-9595, and the fax number is 410-730-8833. The ASBA also may be reached electronically via its website: www.sportsbuilders.org, or via e-mail at info@sportsbuilders.org.