

Sideline Report

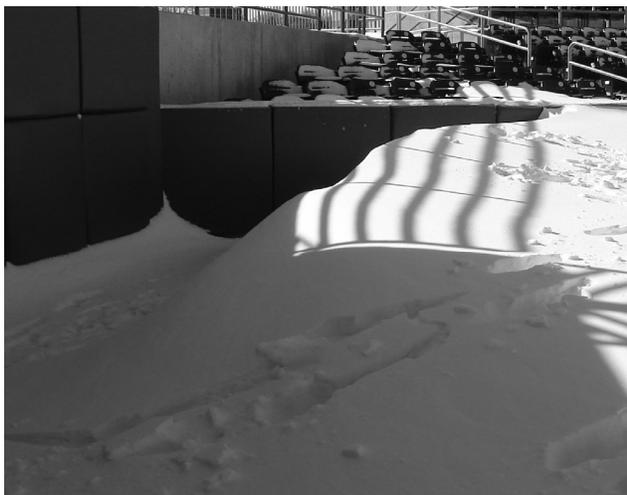
Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

April 2010

From Snow to Grow, Spring Greenup Tips

—Mike Poll

Spring green up can have its difficulties in Iowa. Cool temps, spring rains, and even extended snow cover are some things to overcome. Spring sports start when the snow is gone and the temperatures reach 40 degrees, for most athletic programs from pee wee soccer to pro sports. We need to do the best we can, the fastest we can, to get our athletic fields playable and safe.



Spring green up should start in the fall with a late application of balanced fertilizer. This gives the turf grass proper nutrients to come out of winter ready to grow. When the air temperatures in the fall start cooling, the soil temperatures stay relatively warm. The roots continue to take up and store the nutrients from the late fertilizer application for the spring.

Spring is the most active growing season for turf grass. Starting the spring with a large amount of fertilizer won't always get the results you're looking for. This may result in excessive foliar growth. It will green up your turf grass, but at the cost of increased mowing. A booster application of half rate fertilizer will give you a little pop to help get the green up process started.

Growth covers can be used in early spring for newly seeded areas. Growth covers help keep the ground warmer and moist that gives the seedlings optimum growing conditions. However, there are a few things to consider. Growth covers can be expensive, and have a shelf life. At a local high school we reseeded down the middle of the field in the fall and they covered it with some covers. When the spring came and the snow was gone, the soccer teams started practicing on the field right over the covers. Make sure you have good communications with

the coaches to let them know when and where they can practice. Growth covers can even be used on established turf to help with the green up process for an early spring event.

Another option is to mow off or scalp off the old growth of the grass. This gets the brown look of the turf grass out to show the new green growth starting from the crowns. This also lets more sunshine in to start the photosynthesis process. Timing of this mowing is important. This causes a stress on the turf grass and if cold temperatures continue, the grass could not respond to the mowing. Also, if your field is going to have excessive play early, this might not be a good option. Keeping the old growth can help protect the crowns until the turf grass is actively growing.



Keeping records is also important. Keeping track of snowfall and snow cover amounts each year will give you an idea of what you're up against in the spring. Trial and error, or different approaches to different fields, should also be recorded. These records will help you determine what to do to each specific field to achieve the proper green up you're looking for.

Hopefully spring is right around the corner and we can all start to do what we love once again. April 8th is the season opener for the Iowa Cubs and we are hoping for the snow to be gone. I have learned from Chris Schlosser that the mounds, skin area and playability of the field trump green turf grass when we open up the second week of April in Iowa. I hope that you have a great spring!!

People Are Watching

—Mike Andresen, CSFM

We are all aware of the bright light that shines on our industry. In most cases, Sports Turf Managers are thought of as instrumental in providing safe and attractive surfaces for our clients (athletes of all ages) to compete on. Whether you manage park fields or professional fields, you play a critical role in maintaining grass healthy enough to withstand overuse and field abuse.

Whether you admit it or not, Sports Turf Managers are also judged by our stewardship. Casual visitors, athletes, and parents all judge us on the level we protect natural resources and provide safe environments off of our fields. Everyone in this state knows what a pesticide application posting sign looks like and the message it conveys. Our industry is an annual target by many. Already within the Iowa Senate there has been legislation floated about that would impact you!

Senator Joe Bolkcom, District 39 (Iowa City and Johnson County) introduced legislation at the committee level which would legislate a \$500 fine be assessed to applicators that leave fertilizer on paved drives or walkways. Simply, if you fertilize a lawn area and some of the fertilizer prills are left on an adjacent paved area, you would be in violation of this newly discussed law and possibly be fined up to \$500 per occurrence.

Mona Bond, Iowa Alliance of Environmental Concerns, worked effectively during the early stages of this legislation and was able to see the legislation die in committee. It seems that annually there is an attack on our profession from the legislature and Mona has done wonderful work on our behalf. Though SF2081 died for now, there is always a chance of its intent being attached to future 2010 legislation.

There are two lessons I'd like to offer: 1) Have a relationship with your elected officials that make up these laws we all work under. I've developed an email relationship with those that represent my district and it's comforting that they actually do read the emails and are interested in my viewpoints. In one instance I've now personally met the representative and he "has a face to go with a name". 2) Though this specific legislation didn't make it out of committee, the lesson is very clear! When we make applications of fertilizer or other products on our fields, always use a power blower to eliminate any trace of product from areas other than those we intended to make an application to. Blow off all sidewalks, curbs, and driveways. Our water is a precious resource and though the state won't mandate it for this year, I personally don't want foreign materials making their way into our waterways or other off-target areas. As a profession, we're better than this! Put the products on areas where they do some good. People definitely are watching!

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President's Report — Don Larson

Here it is, spring already, and by the time you are reading this, spring sports should already be well under way. It will also be time to turn on the irrigation systems and check them out to make sure they are working the way they should. Hopefully, all the snow will be gone except for maybe some of the big piles.

Hopefully, none of you will have to be dealing with any flooding. With all the snow cover we have had this winter, if it melts to fast, it will be a very real danger. I know they're expecting the Ames High baseball field at Brookside Park to flood this spring.

Along with the weather we will have to deal with tighter budgets. When making cuts, besides using your own judgment, you can talk to other ISTMA members to see what they are doing. You could also call Dr. Minner for his opinion. In times like these, we need to use every resource available to get us through. The ISTMA is a very important resource with talking to other members, newsletter articles, and the website. As a member, you need to make use of all of these to show those in charge you are becoming more efficient and still maintaining safe field conditions.

On March 29th, Dr. Minner and I are going to make a presentation at the Athletic Directors Conference in Iowa City. With the new membership classification to include Athletic Directors and coaches, we are hoping to get more school districts involved with ISTMA. Our approach is to make them see that they need the resources available to them through the ISTMA membership to keep their fields safe and in good condition, whether they are natural grass or artificial.

Hope to see you at workshops this year. Have a good spring!

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Changes in Iowa State University Athletics Turfgrass

Mike Andresen, CSFM, was recently named Director of Facilities and Grounds for Iowa State University Athletics. This move opened up the position of Athletic Grounds Manager and a recent hiring filled ISU's need impressively. The hiring also added a very strong professional to our Iowa chapter roster!

Tim VanLoo, CSFM, was hired from Northwestern University to fill the Grounds Manager position. Tim, his wife, Amber, and their son, Steven, moved to the Ames area in mid-March. Tim is responsible for all ISU Athletics landscaping, general grounds, practice and playing field surfaces.

Tim received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Michigan State University where he served an assistantship with the Athletics Department. He helped

renovate many of Michigan State's athletic fields and consulted in Athens, Greece for the 2004 Olympic Games. Tim has been Director of Facilities/Agronomist at Northwestern since 2007. He is a frequent speaker at Sports Turf related workshops and conferences, including last summer's STMA Regional Conference held in Ames.

Tim is an active committee member with STMA and is a Board Member for the Illinois Sports Turf Managers Association. He also serves as Secretary/Treasurer for the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. I believe it is safe to say Tim is a leader in our profession and his skills will help ISTMA for years to come. When you get the chance, give a hearty ISTMA and Iowa welcome to our new chapter member, Tim VanLoo, CSFM, from Iowa State University!

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Name: Shawn Crain
Job Title: Parks Maintenance
Company: City of Ames



1. What originally got you interested in a turfgrass related career?
I was a baseball fanatic as a kid. I played little league and had High School players as coaches, so I would go to the High School field to hang out and watch them practice and play games. At the time they also took care of their own field so I was asked if I would like to help out and I thought that was awesome and it stuck with me ever since!
2. What was your first turf related job?
I worked for Nevada Parks & Rec. which had a wide range of turf and horticulture tasks.
3. How long have you been in your current position?
2 yrs. with Ames Parks & Rec.
4. What is the extent of your responsibilities in your job?
To oversee River Valley Softball complex, Ames Skate Park, City of Ames playgrounds and other assigned tasks by the department.
5. Do you have any special projects you are currently involved with?
Updating the irrigation system at River Valley. This would be installing new controllers at both North and South River Valley plus updating the heads, we moved two fields back to 300 feet and needed to irrigate new sod. Also helping create S.O.P.'s for playground safety, and pruning and trimming maintenance in parks. We will also be opening a new aquatic center this year in Ames that will have many maintenance needs.
6. What is the most gratifying/rewarding aspect of your job?
Knowing that you personally improved something for the better. I don't think you need an award or high praise for everything you do, but its nice to have your work noticed by your users and superiors. A simple and sincere "hey that looks great" can go a long way.
7. What do you see as the most challenging aspect of your job?
Making sure everything is as safe as possible. With a high number of users on our fields, playgrounds and other park facilities it is hard to be everywhere doing routine checks as quick and often as you would like. But I have a great part time field guy that stays on top of things we need to tend to.
8. If you could choose one thing to change that would make your job easier, or allow you to perform your job better, what would it be?
As far as turf items go, a dedicated sprayer would be a great start.
9. What do you consider to be your most valuable piece of equipment and why?
We at least have an aerifier, its old but still can get the job done. We sit in a low river area where there is a high water table plus we easily flood with the river close by. So we tend to get a lot of water compaction but great fertile soil. A new one of these could also fit in that one thing to make your job easier question.
10. How long have you been a member of the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association?
Sometime in 1994
11. How did you first come in contact with ISTMA?
Gary Peterson, anyone who did not have the pleasure of meeting Gary really missed out. He came to my baseball field and spent a lot of time with me and showed a real interest in helping me get started in the sports turf career. I for sure joined right away after that meeting. Mike Andresen, CSFM and Kevin Vos, CSFM were also extremely helpful early on with any questions as well.
12. What do you think is the best benefit of being a member of ISTMA?
I think we have some of the best resources and knowledgeable people in the country right here in our own state chapter, and our workshops are very beneficial. The irrigation workshop this fall Joe Wagner and his staff put on was one of the best I have been to in years.
13. What hobbies and interests do you have away from work?
Family trips, I coach sports for the Nevada Schools, Hawkeye football season ticket holder for life, Fish, and coach my own kids sports teams.

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The Can-Spam Act

—Jeff Wendel

The CAN-SPAM Act sets the rules for commercial email and gives recipients the right to have you stop emailing them. The Act also sets tough penalties for violations. There are 'extensive' rules that are beyond the scope of this article, but let me try to get the basic message out. You can find a "The CAN-SPAM Act: A Compliance Guide for Business" on the Federal Trade Commission web page at: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/business/ecommerce/bus61.shtm>

What matters most is the purpose of your message. If your message contains "Commercial content – which advertises or promotes a commercial product or service, including content on a website operated for a commercial purpose," it must comply with the requirements of the CAN-SPAM Act. If it contains only "Transactional or relationship content – which facilitates an already agreed-upon transaction or updates a customer about an ongoing transaction" it can't contain false or misleading routing information, but is otherwise exempt from most provisions of the CAN-SPAM Act.

There is an extensive set of rules and related exceptions, but here is the basic stuff, again I must stress that this is just basic info, please do your research to make certain you are in compliance. The most important item for our members is that the sender of a "Commercial content" e-mail must; "Use a footer in emails that allow for opt out of future emails." The ISTMA "Quicknotes" message has this type of footer. It reads simply; --- You are currently subscribed to istma as: jeff@iowaturfgrass.org To unsubscribe send a blank email to leave-istma-1033445U@list.iowaturfgrass.org

It is also a good idea to maintain a companywide DO NOT EMAIL list and to faithfully honor request to NOT use an Email address.

Continued on page 8

The Can-Spam Act

—Jeff Wendel
Continued from pg 7

If you are receiving messages from Mona Bond of IaAEC through her 'Constant Contact' list serve you also see there is an 'opt out' message in the footer; commercial list hosting companies will require CAN-SPAM compliance and will make certain your messages fit within the rules. Many of these types of service are amazingly inexpensive, Iowa GCSA and ISTMA both use a company called 'A-List Hosting' and IPLCA and IaAEC use Constant Contact.

The Iowa Turfgrass Office gets a good number of e-mails and telephone calls regarding the issue of 'solicitation' e-mail messages. Electronic communication is critically important to business and we know that our industry partners need to contact customers using the electronic methods available today. Please make sure all those communications comply with the CAN-SPAN Act, your customers will appreciate it and your concern for their time and privacy shows your commitment to good customer relationships.

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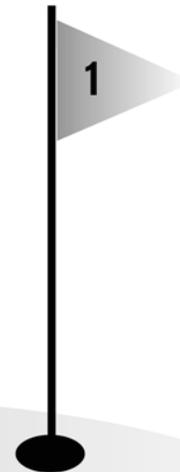
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Sport Turf Manager of The Year

— Ben Grimm and Paul Swafford

Tony Senio, Sports Turf Manager for the University of Iowa was named Sports Turf Manager of the Year at the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association (ISTMA) Annual Meeting on January 20th, 2010. The Award was presented at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines as part of the 76th Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show.

What is your currently job title and for what organization? Sports Turf Manager for the University of Iowa Athletic Department

What originally got you interested in a sports turf career? It started just as a summer job for the city of Muscatine. I seemed to have a talent for it and was encouraged by Joe Wagner to continue on with it.

What is the most gratifying/rewarding aspect of your job? Mostly the relationships I've built with peers, coaches and players

What do you see as the most challenging aspect of your job? Dealing with administrators and other "powers-that-be" who don't have a clue about what goes into this job. Overuse of fields with minimal recovery time.

What is the fondest memory of your career? the endless hours of labor put into maintaining and preparing Kinnick Stadium for Big Ten athletes, 70,000 fans and a national television audience

Who has been the biggest influences in your career and why? Joe Wagner, without a doubt. I never would have had my first job or any of my subsequent positions without him.

Who on your crew would you like to thank for their support? I have high standards of the guys that work for me and have had great fortune in the ones that have made the cut. I remember everyone that has been with me and appreciate all of them but two stick in my mind as my go-to guys - Jarod Tylee and Michael Murphy.

What does it mean to you to receive this ISTMA award? I am very grateful to my fellow Sports Turf Managers who nominated me for this award and to the Awards Committee for choosing me. I feel this award reflects as much of the away from work things I've done in the past as it does the on field aspects of my job which I am glad for.

What are some advantages for young sports turf managers joining the ISTMA? The networking aspect of this organization is as valuable as any education you will receive. Building relationships with other STMs will help you solve future problems, learn

of employment opportunities and give you an amazing group of friends.

Any other comments you like to add? The ISTMA only exists with the hard work of its members. I challenge everyone to get active and help us make our association great.

Thank you to Tony for all of his hard work he puts into the industry and ISTMA.

“Potent leadership is a matter of being aware of what is happening in the group and acting accordingly.”

- John Heider

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Joe Wagner, Athletic Facilities Manager for the City of Iowa City was awarded the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association (ISTMA) Golden Cleat Award at the ISTMA Annual Meeting on January 20th. The Award was presented at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines as part of the 76th Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show. The Golden Cleat Award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to Sports Turf Management in Iowa.

What is your currently job title and for what organization? Turf Grass Specialist for the City of Iowa City

What originally got you interested in a sports turf career? When I was working the Golf Industry for the city of Muscatine they built a top notch Soccer complex, as I worked both locations I seemed to enjoy working on facilities for young athletes more than grouchy golfers, so I made the change over for my employment and took the job in Iowa City.

What is the most gratifying/rewarding aspect of your job? The end results of our work, watching young athletes enjoy the fields, I love the smiles, also the networking of my peers, new faces and old, have made several contacts that have become close friends.

What do you see as the most challenging aspect of your job? Rain out situations, trying to take a wet surface and make it playable and safe, convincing some coaches that it is just not safe to play today.

What is the fondest memory of your career? When we came together at Parkersburg as a chapter, it was very rewarding and we met the goals of the Coach Thomas, his wish for a community devastated by a tornado.

Who has been the biggest influences in your career and why? Several people have, my Brother John helped me get started, my first boss John Weiskamp at Muscatine Municipal golf Course influenced me and I learned a lot about Turf and irrigation. In Sports Turf Kevin Vos, CSFM played a big role in my Sports Turf knowledge, taught me a lot, how to be more of a perfectionist on all work you do, learned how to grow grass under terrible conditions. My peers over the years have given me a lot of advice as well.

Who on your crew would you like to thank for their support? My whole crew over the past 13 years in Iowa City, I have always felt I am just a reflection of them.

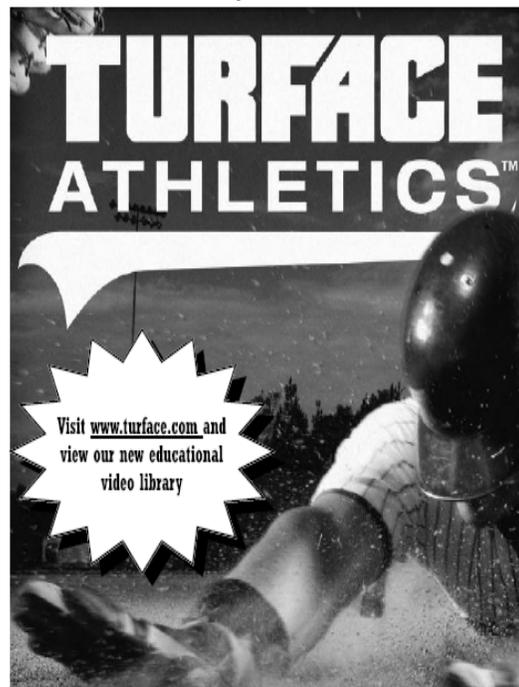
What does it mean to you to receive this ISTMA award? Means everything to me, something I thought maybe after I retired I might get, having my name as a recipient on this award is an honor looking at the past winners

What are some advantages for young sports turf managers joining the ISTMA? The network of people they can meet, the old Turf Managers that are here in Iowa are among the best in the nation. A group you can learn a lot from, they taught an old dog like me new tricks. They are willing to help anyone who has passion for the Industry. They can connect them with other Turf Mangers in the United States and help them possibly fill the dream they have.

Any other comments you like to add? I would just like to thank ISTMA for giving me this award, it is an honor and I thank you for letting me be a part of such a fine organization.

Thank you to Joe for all of his hard work he puts into the industry and ISTMA.

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First off, I would like to say thank you for my election. It is an honor to serve on the ISTMA Board of Directors. The ISTMA is a great organization with very passionate members who encompass a mass knowledge of Sports Turf Management. I have enjoyed the time I have spent in the ISTMA and look forward to serving on the board. I have made a lot of new friends being involved in organizations and I am eager to introduce myself to all of you that I have not met.

My turf career started off as summer help at Oakwood, my home town golf course, helping my Mom and Dad in Conrad, Iowa. I really enjoyed the outdoors and the game of golf so it worked out great! This experience really sparked my interest so after high school, I attended Hawkeye Community College and graduated with an AAS in Horticultural Science. Once my college days ended, I accepted the superintendent's position at Beaver Meadows Golf Course in Parkersburg, Iowa. Four seasons later I moved to Grinnell Country Club for seven seasons. Then a great opportunity came up to become Sports Turf Manager at Grinnell College and have been here for two seasons. I had always wanted to try my

hand at sports turf management and have enjoyed the move.

I have been married to Kara for teen years and have one son, Jase, who is two and a dog, Fletcher, who is nine. I enjoy spending time with my family, the outdoors, watching and playing all sports, attending Iowa State Cyclone sports and following the St. Louis Cardinals and Pittsburgh Steelers!

Other than the weather, I really enjoyed the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. What a great collection of Turf professionals, educational opportunities, equipment, and networking opportunities. The sessions presented by our turf professional peers were very informative and open for discussion. Great job guys! Also, congrats to Kirkwood on their great finish at the STMA Turf Bowl Challenge! Great accomplishment guys, your hard work really paid off. Congrats to all the award winners and remember to nominate someone for next year's awards! There are many that are very deserving. Make sure to tell all the vendors and ITI staff THANK YOU; their support is awesome and the key to a successful organization and show. If you have not attended the Turf Conference, I strongly suggest you do. It is a great experience and one of the highlights of my winter.

Hope to see you at the excellent workshops that are lined up for the 2010 season. If you ever have any ideas for the ISTMA feel free to contact any of the board members. This is your organization! Good luck with upcoming spring season.



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I would like to start by letting all of you know how excited I am to serve on the board as the Northwest Director. Through the years I have taken advantage of the educational programs ISTMA has offered through the hard work of past and present board members. Now I feel it is my time to step up and try helping in some way.

What a winter!!! I am writing this on February 26 and I hope by the time you are reading this you have forgotten about winter, all the snow is gone, and we are beginning to mow some grass. However, I have a funny feeling we will have snow piles around well into April. It has been a winter of records in Des Moines. It seems as each day goes by we are breaking a new one. As of March 1st, we are 80 plus days with over five inches of snow on the ground. With almost 62 inches of snow in Des Moines this winter we rank 5th of all time in snow fall, with the month of March still to go! With all the snow and very cold temperatures we have had this winter, I worry what things might look like this spring. From the turf to trees to plant material, we have had some prolonged periods of sub-zero temperatures that were uncharacteristic to our plant zone and we're sure to see some affects as a result of this.



1. 72" ... 1910-1911
2. 70.9" ... 1885-1886
3. 64.1" ... 1961-1962
4. 62.9" ... 1981-1982
5. 61.7" ... 2009-2010
6. 59.7" ... 1974-1975
7. 58.5" ... 2007-2008
8. 58.4" ... 2003-2004
9. 58.2" ... 1959-1960
10. 57.8" ... 1904-1905

Sitting with at least 15 inches of snowpack on the ground, I'm worried about spring sports beginning and getting the fields ready, as I'm sure you all are too. When will the snow melt, and how fast? Drake softball has their first home-stand the last weekend of March. I began removing some of the snow drifts last week from the field. But how much do you try and remove? Or do you just let Mother Nature do her thing? Spring football starts March 24; having synthetic turf helps my football worries. Track season begins in April with the Drake Relays beginning April 21. In my seven years at Drake we have not had snow on or during the Drake Relays, however, if there was going to be a year, 2010 would be that year!

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Time is short to take advantage of ISTMA's first workshop of 2010! On Wednesday, April 21, Cownie Recreation Complex in Des Moines will play host to a baseball focused workshop. Iowa Cubs Head Groundskeeper, Chris Schlosser, with Casey Scheidel and their crews, will host this exceptional opportunity to learn maintenance of baseball fields. Fellow experts, Dale Getz, CSFM from the TORO Company, Dr. David Minner, ISU, and TJ Brewer, CSFM from the Burlington Bees baseball club, will be featured presenters along with Chris and Casey. Grab the insert in this newsletter, look at the education details, and register to take advantage of learning from these great professionals. You can also find more details on the website: www.iowaturfgrass.org.

North Scott Schools and John Netwall will play host to an exciting Sand-Based Football Field workshop on June 9th. Presentations will focus on all aspects of building and managing sand-based fields. Bush Sports Turf is sponsoring the day, as well as the keynote presenter: Steve Wightman from Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego, California. Steve is a legend in sports turf management from his days at Qualcomm and at Denver's Mile High Stadium. The chance to soak up even a little of his wisdom is a "can't miss" opportunity! I encourage you to set this day aside and join a huge group of fellow Sports Turf Managers in welcoming Steve back to Iowa at one of our state's best athletics facilities. Details can also be found on the website.

The University of Iowa will host a "Diversity in Playing Fields" workshop in September. Host Tony Senio will provide a learning tour of sand-based fields, artificial turf fields, Hilltopper infield (softball) mix, native soil fields and other unique surfaces. The artificial turf system at the university field hockey complex will simply amaze you and is worth the price of registration by itself. The exact date and the list of presenters will be finalized shortly. Please check the website for more information as it becomes available.

The Workshop Committee has now expanded and morphed into the Education Committee. The ISTMA Board felt one committee should be responsible to coordinate all Sports Turf related chapter education. With this directive, and with Co-Chairs Joe Wagner and Tony Senio, the committee

has already met and coordinated this year's three workshops as well as the Sports Turf track for the 2011 Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. By organizing and getting information out early, it is the hope of the committee that ISTMA will provide you education that is of the highest quality to help you become the best professional you can be. We're working on new initiatives that you'll appreciate and that you're going to want to take advantage of. We hope you find the workshops exciting and worthy of your attendance. The better education this chapter can offer its members, the better turf professional you'll be and the better professional organization we'll become! Attend a workshop this year and bring a friend. When you grow, we grow. As always, if there's any education you'd like to have presented or if you'd like to host a workshop, please let one of the Co-Chairs, the President, or the Turf Office hear from you!

Visit:

www.iowaturfgrass.org

for event and workshop
information.

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Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

Cownie Baseball & Soccer Workshop

April 21st 2010

Cownie Baseball Park, 2050 SE 22nd Street – Des Moines, Iowa

Host Manager: Chris Schlosser

Sponsored by MTI Distributing

- 8:00- 8:30 Registrations with Coffee/Rolls - **Sponsored by MTI Distributing**
- 8:30-8:35 Welcome - Chris Schlosser, Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management
- 8:35-8:45 Quick Overview of Cownie Baseball - Casey Scheidel, Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management
- 8:45-8:55 Quick Overview of Cownie Soccer - Joe Grandstaff, Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management
- 9:00-9:45 Aerification Management Practices - Dale Getz, CSFM - The Toro Company
- 9:45-10:00 Break - **Sponsored by MTI Distributing**
- 10:00-10:20 Mound Maintenance on Clay Surface - T J Brewer, Community Field Burlington
- 10:20-10:45 Mound Maintenance on a Flex Clay Cap - Casey Scheidel, Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management
- 10:45-11:30 Sand Pads& Slit Drainage, Lower Cost Great Performance - Dave Minner, PhD, ISU
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch Break & Vendor time - **Sponsored by MTI Distributing**
- 12:30-2:00 Laser Grading Skin areas - Casey Scheidel, Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management
- 2:00-2:30 Break - **Sponsored by MTI Distributing**
- 2:30-3:10 Skin Maintenance on Ag Lime Profiles - Casey Scheidel, Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management
- 3:10-3:45 Skin Maintenance on Clay Profiles - Chris Schlosser, Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management

All Topics/Times are subject to change

All Sessions are hands on and on the field

X-----

Registration Form – ISTMA Workshop – April 21, 2010, Des Moines, IA

Name: _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Pre-registration by April 16th

- Members (\$35)
- Non-Member (\$50)
- Student (\$15)

STUDENTS MUST PRE-REGISTER

On-site Registration

- Member (\$40)
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PAYMENT METHODS:

BY MAIL: Please make checks payable to: **Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association**
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Hello my friends and thank you. Thank you for the kindness, generosity and love that you have showered on me and my family after the death of my father. Few of you met him but, in many ways, he was one of us. His canvas wasn't necessarily turf grass; rather, he was a master gardener and landscaping visionary who spent every hour outside of work and church with his hands in the earth.

You know, death is an interesting time. So is life for that matter, however when people are confronted with death the range of reactions is all over the place. I know some people use death as an excuse to withdraw and push others away. They put on a tough exterior and often continue this front until their own time is up. I know others who use death as an excuse to sin it up, living a fast life full of toxic substances and toxic people. Then there are those that take death and use it as motivation to better the rest of their existence.

My dad use to say in his thick Samoan accent, "Tomorrow never come." Now he wasn't suggesting we buck all responsibility, blow our savings on a month long bender and completely disregard any planning for the future. What he was saying was that we shouldn't worry too much. He was saying that we better appreciate the things we have rather



than dwell on the things we hope to get. We better greet each sunrise with enthusiasm and we better tell the ones we love how much they mean to us. Instead of waiting around for a future we like, maybe we should like the future we have.

The other morning my wife, daughter and I were sitting around eating breakfast. It was early and we were still pretty groggy. My wife sat sipping her coffee as she read the paper. My daughter was playing with her fruit and humming some horrible Taylor Swift song. I was leaning on one arm, picking at my food with the other and contemplating how one glorious animal could produce both ham and bacon. There wasn't much conversation taking place, actually I think my daughter called to me twice before I acknowledged her.

"Daddy...DADDY!" she said

"Huh?" I responded as I came out of my breakfast-induced coma.

"Are you happy?" asked my five-year-old. WHAM! Now I was awake. I don't recall ever being asked that before and I wasn't really sure how to answer.

"Yes," I said in a tone that was as much of a question as it was an answer. My mind raced quickly through the components of my life making sure that was the right response. But before I could finish my evaluation, she fired an even tougher question.

"Why are you happy?" Well now I was completely knocked off stride. There was no short answer to that query and, as profound as it was, I couldn't imagine that she was searching for an equally profound answer. So I spit out some response that I knew she would understand.

"This bacon makes me happy," and with that the cross-examination was over. But it got me thinking. I was certain that the answer I gave to the first question was right but I was also certain that, regardless of how much I love bacon, the answer to the second question was incomplete. What did make happy? After some soul searching I started my "happy list" with the three H's - Hunting, Hawkeyes and Hops. I concluded it with the three F's - Faith, Family and Friends. *Continued on pg 17*

I joined ISTMA originally to help me find a fulltime job. And whereas, in a roundabout way, it helped me achieve that goal, this organization helped me find much more important things. Through it I've found an opportunity to influence young minds and the future leaders of our industry. Through it I've found avenues to service my community and other communities around the state. Most importantly, I've found a network of friends that is irreplaceable and much more valuable than any job could ever be. My dad was not a wealthy man and it will not be entirely difficult to divide up his belongings in the next few months. But the hundreds and hundreds of well wishers that came through the line at his visitation and sat in a cramped church for a two hour funeral proved just how rich he was and showed what matters most. Relationships are the cornerstone of a fulfilled life.

I want you to read this last paragraph slowly, pausing after every statement. Take a minute and look at your hands. Go ahead. Set this down and look at your hands. Wait that won't work - then you can't read this. How about looking at your left hand;

use the other to hold on to the newsletter. Ok, now think about where that hand has been (nothing dirty either)...Take your time...Think about where that hand was 5 years ago...20 years ago...40 years ago...Is there a wedding ring on that hand? Think about what your hand was like before that and think about what it's been like since...Is there a watch on that wrist? Think about the story behind that watch...Or maybe you're wearing one of those colorful cause bracelets. What's the motivation behind that? ...Are there scars on that hand? How did you get them? ...Think about all of the things that brought that hand to this place...Now, think about where that hand will be tomorrow...Where it will be in 10 years...20 years...50 years...What parts of the world will that hand touch? Who will it touch? Who will **you** touch? Do you believe that hand has a destiny? Well, I believe you make your own. There's only your time and then there's not your time. So what are you going to do with yours? I'm going to make more friends. I love you boys and thanks again.

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Upcoming Events

ISTMA Baseball & Soccer Workshop

April 21st, 2010

Cownie Baseball Park, Des Moines

Host Manager: Chris Schlosser

Note: The Baseball venue is on SE 22nd Street just before you reach Cownie Soccer!

ISTMA Turf & Technology Workshop

June 9th, 2010

North Scott Football Stadium

Host Manager: John Netwal

2010 Chapter Challenge

ISTMA vs. MN-STMA

Friday, July 16th & Saturday, July 17th, 2010

Woodbury, MN

Friday: Golf in Woodbury at course TBD 11 AM Tee Times

Saturday: Softball in Woodbury at facility TBD 10:00 AM

Optional Group Event Friday Evening, July 16th

Chicago White Sox vs. Minnesota Twins at brand new Target Field

Game starts at 7:10pm*

2011 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

January 18-20, 2011

Polk County Convention Complex & Marriott Hotel

Des Moines, IA

It's time for a Contact Check-Up

If you have not recently reviewed your contact information in the STMA membership database, log in at www.STMA.org. You will be taken to your personal home page where you can update your information. Accurate contact information will help STMA provide the most timely and direct services to you and will help us to prepare an accurate Membership Directory. The Directory will be mailed to you in July.

STMA Headed to Pacific Northwest for Regional Conference

STMA will be hosting the 2010 Regional Conference July 21-22 in Seattle, Wash. The Intermountain, Northern California, Oregon, and Pacific Northwest chapters are participating in this highly anticipated event. More than 10 hours of top-flight education and an outdoor exhibition will bring attendees from all over the northwest. The educational program and exhibition schedule are still being finalized, but the event will include all meals and a night at Safeco Field enjoying the Mariners take on the White Sox. Costs to attend and exhibit are still being finalized as well.

More information will be available in April's STMA Electronic Newsletter, but if you have questions or are interested in exhibiting, [send us an email](#).

**Turf and Technology Workshop
June 9th, 2010**

North Scott Community School
Featuring NFL Head Groundskeeper

Steve Wightman

Of San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium

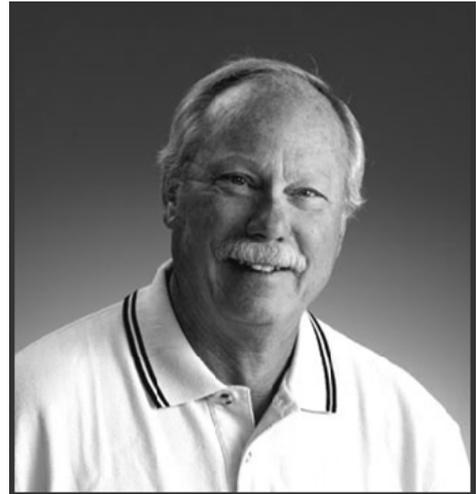
If you manage turf or athletic fields at any level of play, this is a workshop you cannot afford to miss! This will be an on-the-field, hands-on workshop featuring some of the top turf managers and industry professionals in the nation. Register early as reservations will be limited to the first 150 people.

North Scott Football Stadium 200 S. First Street Eldridge, Iowa.

Steve Wightman

**Field and Operations Manager
Qualcomm Stadium**

Steve has been managing sports fields for over 37 years. He began his career in 1973 in Denver where he managed over 250 recreational ball fields for the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. In 1976 he moved over to Denver's Mile High Stadium where, for 13 years, he managed the playing field for the Denver Broncos and the Minor League baseball team. In December of 1988 Steve became the Field Manager at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium (later renamed Qualcomm Stadium). Then, in 2004 he was promoted to Stadium Field and Operations Manager. His professional career has afforded him opportunities to be involved in numerous major professional sporting events including the 1992 All-Star game; 1994 World Cup; 1998 World Series; and the 1998 and 2003 Super Bowls. From 1990 to 2000 he was an instructor for the Golf Course and Sports Turf Management Class at Cuyamaca College located in the San Diego area. Throughout his career, Steve has been an active member of the sports turf industry - member and past president of the National Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA); member and past president of the San Diego Chapter of STMA; and member of the San Diego Golf Course Superintendents Association (SDGCSA).



Steve Bush, CSFM
Agronomist, Bush Sport Turf

Steve Bush is a certified sports field manager and agronomist, with over 20 years of experience in the turf industry. He is the owner of Bush Sports Turf a company specializing in the design, construction and maintenance of sports fields. His projects include PGA golf courses, Big Ten and Big Twelve athletic fields, Minor and Major league baseball complexes as well as professional and college fields.

Presenting Sponsors



Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

Turf and Technology Workshop - June 9th, 2010
North Scott Community School



Dr. Dave Minner, PhD.
Iowa State University

Dr. Minner is a Professor with an extension, research, and teaching appointment in the Horticulture Department at Iowa State University. He received a B.S. from the University of Delaware, M.S. from the University of Maryland, and Ph.D. from Colorado State University. He has been involved with athletic field construction and research for the past 24 years. He consults nationwide on sports field and golf course issues, writes a monthly question and answer column for SportsTurf magazine, and has served 2 terms on the Board of Directors for the Sports Turf Managers Association. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Minner to our conference.

Tim VanLoo, CSFM
Tuft Manager
Iowa State University

Tim VanLoo is the Manager of Athletic Turf and Grounds at Iowa State University. Tim earned a B.S. and M.S. at Michigan State University in Crop and Soil Sciences (Turfgrass). Tim was the Associate Director of Facilities/Agronomist at Northwestern University Athletics from 2007-2010.



Eric Simmons
LLA, Hunter Industries

Eric Simmons is a Licensed Landscape Architect in the State of Illinois. He graduated University of Illinois with a Bachelors of Landscape Architecture and has spent 18 years in the Illinois landscape & irrigation industry. He currently represents Hunter's specification efforts in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin & Iowa

Doug Kieffer
Spectrum Technologies

Doug Kieffer graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2000 with an M.S. in agronomy. He has worked for Spectrum Technologies in Plainfield, IL for 10 years. His responsibilities include technical support and conducting product testing and development, mainly in the soil/water product area.



Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

Turf and Technology Workshop - June 9th, 2010
North Scott Community School



John Netwall, CGCS
North Scott Schools

John Netwal is a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. He has served a golf course superintendent for Glynn's Creek Golf Course in Long Grove, Iowa, and the TPC at Deer Run in Silvis, Illinois. He developed and maintained these facilities and their management programs. He is currently working with North Scott Community Schools, maintaining the District's building and grounds.

Steve Christian
Dakota Peat

National Account Manager and Rotzone Consultant for Team DAKOTA- DAKOTA Peat, DAKOTA Analytical, Inc. , DAKOTA Blenders. Steve has experience in almost every aspect of rootzone structure. From major league venues to multiplex community fields. Steve has been involved in countless initial construction projects, renovations, and field maintenance consultations





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Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

Turf and Technology Workshop - June 9th, 2010

North Scott Community School

Featuring NFL Head Groundskeeper - Steve Wightman

- 8:00 **Registration and Welcome**
- 8:30 **Building Cost Effective Sports Fields** - Steve Bush, CSFM, Agronomist, Bush Sports Turf
Take an in depth look at the construction of a sand cap football field as we dig in to see how it's constructed.
- 9:15 **What it Costs to Maintain High Quality Turf; The real story** - John Netwal, CGCS, North Scott Schools
John will explain his fertility and maintenance schedule and the actual yearly cost to maintain his fields.
- 9:45 *Break Coffee, Juice, Doughnuts – Sponsored by Bush Sports Turf, Hunter industries, Dakota Peat & Spectrum Technologies*
- 10:00 **Developing Root Zones for High Quality Turf** - Steve Christian, Dakota Peat
Get to the root of what makes up a high quality root zone.
- 10:30 **Managing Your Field to Maximize Playability** - Steve Wightman, Field and Operations manager, Qualcomm Stadium
Steve will share his wealth of knowledge and years of experience managing professional sports fields. He will give hands-on examples of time proven practices we can all use to improve our facilities.
- 11:45 **Iowa Home-Cooked Barbeque Lunch with all the trimmings** Vendor Time
Sponsored by Bush Sports Turf, Hunter industries, Dakota Peat & Spectrum Technologies
- 1:00 **Topdressing and Turf** - Tim Vanloo, CSFM, Iowa State University
Tim will demonstrate and explain this critical tool for high quality turf maintenance.
- 1:30 **Irrigation: Demystifying Decoders the Two Wire Revolution** - Eric Simmons, LLA Hunter Industries
Eric will explain the latest in irrigation technologies, including 2 wire systems.
- 2:00 **Technology Tools for Turf** - Doug Kieffer, Spectrum Technologies
See what's new for turf managers and try out some of the latest tools and gadgets to make your job easier.
- 2:45 **Research Results You Can Use Today** - Dave Minner, PhD, Iowa State University.
Dr. Minner will have on site plots to demonstrate some of his latest research findings.
- 3:30 **Old Fashioned Ice cream Social and Informal Q&A** Featuring Whiteys Ice Cream
Enjoy some ice cream and the chance to ask questions and talk one on one with NFL, Big Ten, Big Twelve, High School and industry turf professionals. Spectrum technologies will have several of their devices available to get some hands on experience with, as well as demonstrations by other vendors.
- 5:00 **Head home with a lot of great ideas**

X-----

Registration Form – ISTMA Workshop – June 9th, 2010, Eldridge, IA

Name: _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Pre-registration by June 3rd

- Members (\$40)
- Non-Member (\$50)
- Student (\$15)

STUDENTS MUST PRE-REGISTER

On-site Registration

- Member (\$60)
- Non-Member (\$70)

PAYMENT METHODS:

BY MAIL: Please make checks payable to: **Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association**
 Mail registration & payment to: Iowa Turf Office, 17017 US Hwy 69, Ames, IA 50010-9294

BY FAX: Credit card payment OR Purchase Order **ONLY**— Fax 515-232-8228

Type of card: MasterCard VISA Purchase Order # _____
 Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
 Card Holder's Name (please print) _____
 Signature _____

Contact information:
 515-232-8222
 jeff@iowaturfgrass.org
 patti@iowaturfgrass.org

Since I took the Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) certification exam, people have been asking me about it. It seems as if there is much interest in becoming certified, but nobody knows enough about the requirements to go through the process. The qualifications for applying to take the CSFM certification exam can be difficult and the test can also be intimidating. Hopefully this article will persuade you to become certified or mark on your calendar when you will be qualified. Questions I have heard regarding the process are: “What’s in it for me?”, “Is it worth it?” I can’t answer all of the questions, but hopefully understanding why I chose to become certified and a little more about the process will answer some questions.

If you are anything like me, you spend a lot of time trying to improve your skills and performance with your career. I always find myself reading *The Sideline Report* or *Sportsturf* magazine or reading books and looking up internet articles pertaining to sports turf management. About a year ago, I was looking for a way to improve my standing in this profession and boost my resume. I looked into certificate programs offered by several universities, thought about taking some online courses, and even looked into a Masters program. The one I finally decided on was the Certified Sports Field Managers (CSFM) program through the STMA. At this point, I only knew three things about the CSFM process: it involves letters after your name, there is a test, and you need “points” to qualify.

It didn’t take me long to figure out more. The STMA has a very comprehensive section on their website devoted to the certification process. This is where I found out that the points system to become certified is a lot easier to figure out than Chinese algebra. They are based on a combination of experience and education points. The experience points are based on your employment responsibilities (i.e. Head Groundskeeper, assistant, grounds crew) and the number of years you held each position. The education points are simply based on what kind of degree you have. Don’t worry if you don’t have a college degree, you can still become certified! I realized that after the 2009 season I would be qualified to take the test, so now what? Once I knew when I could take the test, I started preparing. I obtained a detailed exam competency outline (study guide) from the STMA website and highlighted all of the bullet points I felt I needed to work on. I read chapters of my turf books, looked up online resources, as well as reviewed my weeds, insects, and diseases to help prepare for the test. I also printed off the practice exam, included online, and took that sucker about a hundred times to practice testing. I really got to know the information that was on it! I knew the weakest part for me would be the warm season grasses and their issues. I don’t deal with them on a daily basis, like most of you, so I don’t know much about them and admittedly (sorry Dr. Minner & Dr. Christians) I have forgotten a lot of the warm season stuff I learned in my turf classes.

I took the test at the STMA national conference. You can also take the test locally at an STMA approved testing site. Using the resources STMA made available to

me and through obtaining all of the “points” needed for qualification, I felt that I was pretty well prepared for the test. I didn’t like all of the warm season questions, but I am sure there is someone down south complaining about the number of cool season questions. I thought the test was fair. Several questions were worded to trick you, but what test doesn’t have that problem? I believe that any of you who are qualified would feel the same way and pass the test without a problem!

Now that I am certified it is a pretty simple process to maintain it. I need to obtain a series of Continuing Education Units (ceu’s), and Industry Service Points (isp’s) over a three year recertification period. I have to earn three ceu’s. This is done by attending local or national conferences, workshops, or short courses. The amount of points offered for each is determined by the STMA based on contact hours, content, and documentation submitted by the sponsoring agency. Over the same three year period I must obtain 9 isp’s (approx. three each year). These are earned by participating on local or national boards or committees, writing a sports field related article in a local or national publication, hosting related events, uncompensated community service, hosting an internship program, and several others. This part is pretty straight forward and the STMA website provides a detailed list of points and units.

Now, the question is: What’s in it for me? In the world of today, in order to apply pesticides, do first aid, CPR, AED, coach, drive, hunt, or even fish, we need a license or certification. If you look at many other professions, they revolve around these things. The certification validates me to outsiders, even if they do not know what it means they know I am certified. The more certified managers there are the better it looks from the outside, and more outsiders will recognize it. Am I seeing immediate results from my certification? No. It will take time, and it will take more certified managers to make a difference. In a job search I would imagine it will help me stand out above others that aren’t certified to a hiring manager. It even helps my word hold more weight to superiors who know I have this certification.

I would suggest that everyone become certified. It will be of great benefit to you, but more importantly it will be a huge benefit to our industry. The more certified managers we have, the more weight we pull as a group of professionals, not just lawn mowers and dirt rakers. I think the benefits of certification are going to be seen down the road when the CSFM is widely recognized by outsiders and not just those in this industry. The only way to accomplish this is for everyone qualified to get certified or mark on your calendar when you will be qualified. If anyone is interested in learning more about the CSFM process, take a look at the CSFM section of the STMA website. You do not need to be an STMA member to become certified, or to look at that section of the website. You can find the STMA website at: www.stma.org. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.



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