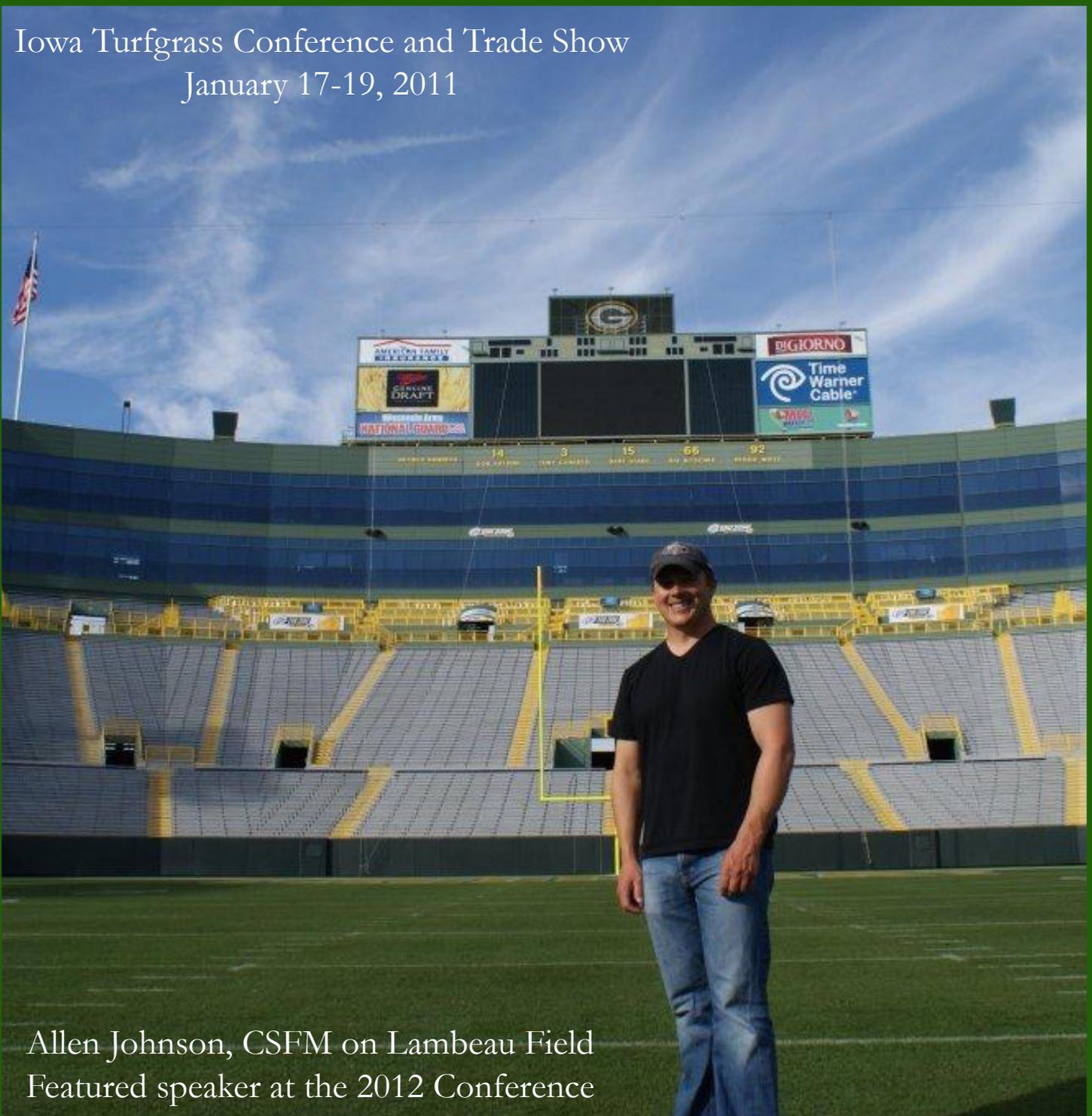


The *Sideline* Report

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

December 2011

Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show
January 17-19, 2011



Allen Johnson, CSFM on Lambeau Field
Featured speaker at the 2012 Conference

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For more information regarding articles and advertising rates contact the editor.

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A Letter from the President- Dare I Say It?

Tony Senio, University of Iowa



Dare I say it's my favorite time of the year? The beautiful sound of air being forced through an irrigation head, the smell of fresh grease being pushed into the zerks of the snow blades, the crew has been laid off for the season which includes that one kid you wanted to fire at the beginning of November but decided to just give really crappy jobs to instead of dealing with the drama – yes it's the most wonderful time of the year!!

Several years ago I wrote about my annual tradition of putting on excessive winter-weight. The over-eating and lack of physical activity were a much welcomed change from the rest of the year's hectic pace. However, in the waning years of my twenties, a problem slowly started to arise from this gluttonous ritual. It used to be that each spring I would have the weight from the previous winter burned off by the end of April. But for the last four years or so, I have worked off a little bit less each season. I guess the ol' metabolism ain't what it used to be. Needless to say, the time has come to change my evil ways.

My wife is a personal trainer and I tried working out with her last year but it was embarrassing – she basically ran circles around me. Then she got pregnant and we had a baby in July. Knowing she would want to start working out again as soon as possible, I jumped at the chance to join her hoping that pregnancy had knocked her back down to my fitness level. So since August, I've been slowly working my way to better health. In fact, we trained for a Ruckus in Kansas City at the beginning of November. What's a Ruckus? Basically four miles of mud with 20 obstacles spread throughout. I'm proud to report I finished in 45 minutes, 15 minutes faster than the wife! (Don't tell her I told you that part),

Anyways, as my last nugget of advice to you all as President, I want to encourage you all to take care of yourselves physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Our jobs are laborious, intense and stressful. It can be easy to forget or hard to find the motivation to be sure we are caring for ourselves as much as we care for our fields and the others in our lives. Find time for a walk

for a walk or better yet start a workout regimen. Eat healthier. Exercise your mind – read, do the crossword, learn a new skill. Also, don't forget to find a release, preferably a safe and legal one, something sacred to you, personally, that you can turn to when you need your 'battery recharged' - as the great Mike Andresen would say. Most importantly however, take time to nurture the relationships in your life. Nothing will be more rewarding and you never know what can happen.

We're not as young as we used to be boys but our hearts are strong and we've got a lot of good yet to do. I leave you now with this passage I came across recently from Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem Ulysses. Old and home after all his adventures, the weathered warrior contemplates taking his crew to sea once more:

*Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.*

It's been my honor to serve you all. I wish you the happiest of holiday seasons and a wonderful new year. May it be filled with good health, good company and good drink!



2012 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

Jeff Wendel, CGCS, Iowa Turfgrass Institute

The 2012 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show is January 17-19, 2012. The 'early bird' registration is the lowest price offered and is only available to members. That rate is NOT published on the form you receive in the mail with the conference program. You can download the 'member only' registration form from the secure page of the ISTMA website. If you have any trouble, please call the Iowa Turfgrass Office at 515-232-8222. The deadline for the 'early bird' rate is December 15th.

The 'show' is scheduled Tuesday through Thursday again in 2012, with the traditional 'workshop day' on Tuesday, January 17th. The Workshop lineup includes a variety of speakers and topics and has sessions of value to both newcomers and seasoned turfgrass managers. The entire show is in the Downtown Marriott Hotel this year, with the Trade Show on the Marriott 3rd Floor.

Jeff Schmidt, CGCS will moderate the General Session on Wednesday, January 18th. Keynote Speaker is Chad

Carden. See Chad's profile at: <http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/iticonference.htm>. As always we are happy to have Dr. Minner, Dr. Christians, Dr. Jones, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Cindy Haynes and Dr. Jeff Iles presenting at our conference. Other featured speakers this year are Dr. Zac Reicher from UNL, Alan Johnson of the Green Bay Packers and Amy Fouty, CSFM of Michigan State University. Don't miss the ISTMA in Action talk by Jason Koester on Thursday morning.

Dr. Fred Whitford of Purdue University will make the 2012 Pesticide Applicator Training an enjoyable experience. Dr. Whitford manages to make the PAT fun and interesting with his style and expertise, plan to get your credits at conference and miss the boring videos later in the year.

Visit the Iowa Turfgrass Conference website at: <http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/iticonference.htm> for more information, links to our Trade Show exhibitors and a complete program.

Please keep in mind the critical importance of our Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show. The Education provided helps you maintain your 'edge' in managing your turfgrass and the show provides the needed resources for the ISTMA and the Iowa Turfgrass Office to continue to thrive. Plan now to attend! ISTMA Annual Meeting,

The ISTMA Annual Meeting is Wednesday, January 18th at 3PM at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott. ISTMA members will review the ISTMA financial, present Awards & Scholarships and elect new Board Members. It is very important for ISTMA members to attend.

Turfgrass Industry Reception

The 2012 Reception at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott is Wednesday, January 18th at 6:30 PM. The reception is open to all registered conference attendees & exhibitors. Thanks as always to our Reception Sponsors who make this event possible.

Visit: <http://www.iowaturfgrass.org> complete list of the 2012 Sponsors.

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STMA Benefits for ISTMA Members

Joe Wagner, City of Iowa City

I want to give you all an update on what ISTMA members receive from the STMA as a benefit of being an affiliated chapter, the bang for our buck. I have been serving on the STMA Chapter Relations Committee for the past couple of years and want to make sure the members of ISTMA know what they are entitled to. One of the biggest benefits we get is the STMA gives affiliate chapters two free registrations to their annual conference. One of these complimentary registrations is to go to any chapter member that has never attended the winter session. The other goes to an executive board member or non-board member, whatever and however our Board of directors sees proper. If you are interested in these opportunities, or think you qualify make sure you contact your board representative and let's make sure we take advantage of these offerings. For a member of the Board of Directors or someone who has interest in becoming a board member in our local chapter the STMA offers a Chapter Officer Training Session. An attendee of the COTS session can receive \$200.00 to help offset their costs. So if you don't think you will be able to attend due to financial reasons here are some great opportunities

that national STMA offers anyone in our chapter to help offset the cost of their Conference.

We as a chapter spend \$550 per year in dues to remain an affiliate. In return STMA offers the ISTMA \$500 for chapter development on top of the two free conference registrations. This money can go towards funding speakers for our education events, office equipment, software, register a web address, logo development, chapter banner procurement, procurement of mailing lists of high Schools, Parks and Recreation societies, and turfgrass associations to disseminate Chapter information, it can also be used in newsletter development.

It is a huge benefit for all of us to be affiliated with the STMA. I suggest if you have any interest in taking advantage of the benefits the STMA offers contact your board representative. Bottom line, if you want to go to the STMA national conference for free you better contact the ISTMA or your board representative, it just might happen!

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Bio- Stimulants: What Are They? Where Do They Come From?

What Do They Do?

Brent Smith, Floratine Central Turf Products

Bio-Stimulants are not a new topic in Sports Turf Management. There is often confusing information put forth in the field due to an overall lack of understanding of the vast types of bio-stimulants and research surrounding these types of products. My goal is not to cite a bunch of research and convince you of the benefits of these products, but to show you how they are currently being used in the field and to provide some clarity to as to what bio-stimulant products are in their makeup, where they come from, and explain some of the benefits to soil and plant systems. You can do a Google search or check University and Supplier websites that list all the research information that you can handle. Not to say that more work doesn't need to be done, because it certainly does, but if you look at the vast number of people who use and believe in these types of products, I think we are past the point of speculation regarding bio-stimulants. If you don't believe me I challenge you to give them a try and see for yourself. Chances are that you probably are using one more bio-stimulants whether or not you realize it!

The definition of a bio-stimulant is ANYTHING that enhances the growth patterns or processes of plants that are NOT NUTRIENTS. The most common ones used in the turf market are: Humus and Humic Acids, Plant-Like Hormones / Seaweed Extracts (that contain Plant Hormones), Amino-Acids, Vitamins, among a host of other types of non-elemental nutrient supplements. It is important to note that most bio-stimulant product manufacturers add nutrient supplements to the bio-stimulant products in order to support the plant response that is

being initiated. For example: If a manufacturer wanted to push a certain metabolic process that aids in root production, they would (or should) incorporate nutrients that are also known to aid in that rooting response like Calcium, or Phosphorus. Some would argue that you are getting the desired response from the nutrient portion of the product. I would argue that you certainly are getting benefit from the nutrient, but the combined effect of the bio-stimulant and nutrients are providing a stronger response together than if used alone or separately. I would use the example of weight lifting. If I lift weights and eat well, take vitamins, and use amino-acid / protein supplements (a bio-stimulant) the results are going to be better than simply lifting weights alone. You certainly can build muscle by just lifting weights, but if we supplement the recovery process with the very component of muscle tissue (amino acids, protein, and vitamins), we will get the desired result much faster. The same is true for plant responses to bio-stimulants that are coupled with nutrients.

One of the most common bio-stimulant used in agronomy and turf around the world is Humus and Humic-Acid. Many organic fertilizers use these components as a carbon source (hence organic – meaning carbon containing) to feed the microbes. Microbial populations in the soil feed on carbon sources, including thatch, amino acids, among other carbon sources. You can get a good growth response from adding a humic containing (organic granular) product to the soil because you are providing a food source to “fire-up” the beneficial microbial activity, which in turn helps to solubilize nutrients that are “tied-up” (unavailable for plant use). Another benefit of increased microbial activity is that it also increases carbon dioxide (CO₂) release from the soil (a bi-product of aerobic microbial activity). The increased CO₂ evolving from the soil will help to jump start Photosynthesis (CO₂ + H₂O + sun (chlorophyll) = CHO (carbohydrates). CO₂ is the first raw material that is needed in the photosynthetic process! That is why you get such a great color and growth response from a product that has relatively little nutrient and Nitrogen content! Humic products also naturally contain a very strong negative charge on



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the molecule. When introduced to the negatively charged soil structure you get a sort of chemical aeration, where the soil particles on a microscopic scale are physically pried apart, freeing up room for roots and oxygen/gas exchange and releasing nutrients that were previously unavailable for plant uptake. Basically any soil type sand, silt, clay or anywhere in-between will benefit from Humic and Humic Acid applications whether or not they are combined with nutrients.

Plant Hormones / Seaweed Extracts are another extremely common bio-stimulant source that is incorporated into turf products. Some manufacturers simply use the extracts from seaweed, where others modify the ratios and levels of each component to give a specifically desired response to the plant on which they are applied. Gibberellic Acid (GA), Auxin (AU), and Cytokinins (CY) are the 3 plant hormones that are contained in all living plants. Seaweed extract is the most common source to get the raw materials (hormones) that are used in the manufacturing of end user products. Manipulating the levels or ratios of the 3 hormones can give different plant responses. Products containing

higher levels of GA components typically give better density and topical growth responses, while products containing higher levels of CY typically give better rooting responses. Some manufacturers contain patents on specific ratios of these components as they have done the research and development to manufacture very specific products that target a given plant response such as density or rooting. Incorporating nutrient supplements along with the hormonal signal increases the desired plant response. Some of the most common bio-stimulants are plant growth regulators that work by manipulating the production or translocation of the three plant hormones, particularly GA.

Amino Acids and Vitamins are another class of bio-stimulants that most fertilizer (and some chemical) manufacturers are incorporating into turf products. I find these products to be the most interesting of all the bio-stimulant classes due to the wealth of benefits researchers and end users are finding in Professional Turf Management. Amino acid technology is also heavily used in the pharmaceutical industry as

Continued on page 8

Bio-Stimulants Continued...

translocation technology to effectively deliver medication to specific sites of the human body. Amino acids are nitrogen-containing components that are used in protein production. (Amine – literally means Nitrogen containing). They are the building blocks of all cells and the plant produces them through photosynthesis. We simply cannot grow grass without Nitrogen because it is the basic building blocks of amino acids, proteins and therefore plant cells and tissue. The theory behind supplementing these bio-stimulants is the same as the weight lifting example stated above. We can literally save the plant energy by supplementing the building blocks directly into the plant, rather than relying solely on the plants ability to produce them on its own. Certainly during stress (heat, mechanical, sodium, etc...) if we can save the plant energy, it will have the ability to do other necessary functions for survival, like fight off pathogens and so on. There are very specific amino acids that are responsible for a number of different plant processes. For example: A certain class of amino acids and proteins are responsible for isolating and destroying pathogens (disease). Some companies I am told even make turf products specifically targeting those amino acids as supplements!! The latest trend is that the chemical / fungicide companies are seeing benefits to these amino acid based bio-stimulant supplements and are bolstering their products in order to help the plant defend itself, other than just targeting the pathogen with chemical means, which is great in my opinion. There is so much more to learn in regards to helping the plant defend itself against all forms of stress.

Amino Acids and Vitamins have other benefits as well. They act as natural chelating agents, so when you combine them with nutrients they act as a protective coating (to keep the nutrient from getting tied up in the spray tank and or soil), which aids in uptake and translocation of all the elements! Better uptake and translocation means better efficacy, lower application rates, and lower cost! Have you ever heard the term “Antioxidant”? Essentially Vitamins are Antioxidants. We have these creepy things in our bodies (plants do too) called free radicals. They are essentially a free ion or electrically charged particle that is created from all forms of stress like drinking alcohol, smoking, and everyday activities in humans. In the plant it might be heat stress, mowing, pathogens, traffic and so on. These free radicals

are looking to combine with other components to balance their electrical charge and will do so by literally stealing components (an electron for example) from healthy cells. This is what causes (or one of many causes) aging and death of cells in all living organisms (also known as senescence in the plant world). Antioxidants or vitamins are what counteract these free radicals and can delay the death of otherwise healthy cells. Antioxidants help to keep our cells from being attacked by combining with free radicals before they can steal components from healthy cells. Pretty cool I think. Just thinking about it makes me want to take that daily multi-vitamin and reminds me why I do to begin with. I don't think you can find a vitamin supplement for turf in and of itself, but certainly there are products that have them in there as an added benefit.

Amino acid products are created from a number of raw material sources. The most common sources are bi-products from other industries like: Bone meal, Blood meal, Feather meal, Sewage plants, Chicken and Turkey waste, Soy, Milk and so on. Each source has higher concentrations of certain amino acids, some more beneficial than others in regards to plant benefits. There are approximately 23 “essential” amino acids that the plant requires. The most plentiful and cheapest raw material sources of amino acids unfortunately do not contain all of the essential elements required by the plant. Therefore most amino acid turf products on the market do not contain all of the essential elements due to the extra costs of acquiring the sources. Depending on who you ask you will get different answers as to what sources contain the most beneficial amino acids. The answer usually coincides with what materials are in the products that the person you ask uses or supports. There are certainly benefits to any and all amino acid supplements, but to what degree depends on the situation. I feel that a blend of sources that give you the widest array of amino acids is the best approach. To create products that have the widest array of amino acids requires a wide array of raw material sources. Unfortunately those sources are usually more expensive and come from the soy and milk categories, which are less plentiful in terms of sourcing.

There is still so much to learn about the whole subject
Continued on page 9

Bio-Stimulants Continued...

of bio-stimulant supplementation in regards to turf management, but I guarantee the subject is in its infancy and is not going away. With increased legislation and market demand (and higher costs) on Chemicals and Nutrients, Professional Turf Managers are going to continually have to find ways to increase plant durability, playability, and stress tolerance with new technologies that are safer for the environment and individuals using and playing at our facilities. The entire goal of creating and selling these types of products is to give the turf manager a greater margin for error when it comes to the stresses of growing turf under high traffic, low mowing heights, poorer water quality, while budgets get tighter. Not to mention the global markets for materials competition from synthetic manufacturers, and competition on the local level from the neighbor down the street. I don't quite see myself as an "old timer" quite yet, but just think of the ways we have changed our management styles and the technologies that have emerged the last ten years or so in the industry. In my relatively short time (13 years or so) in the

turf business I have learned that change is a given. To survive in this business those that can adapt to change the quickest will have the advantage over those that resist it. If you have not taken the opportunity to dive into the bio-stimulant arena of turf products, I would suggest you do. As a matter of fact you are probably already using them and don't even realize it!!

I hope your season is going well. Please do not hesitate to call, email, (or any of the other social media outlets you choose!) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Brent J. Smith
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Finally December

TJ Brewer, CSFM, Burlington Bees

We all just got a belly full of Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday of the year. Why is Thanksgiving my favorite holiday of the year? It is the least commercial holiday that we celebrate. It is not tradition to exchange gifts or cards, just time to get together with friends and family and be thankful for what we have. In today's world thanksgiving is overshadowed by Christmas trees covering all the stores and Black Friday. I remember when I thought Thanksgiving was too early to start thinking about Christmas, now I can't even buy my Halloween costume without walking through an isle of candy canes and ornaments. I think this is sad because the idea of Thanksgiving is so great... just be thankful for what and who you have.

Welcome to December... about four months ago I didn't think it was ever going to get here. The last two summers have been very difficult growing seasons, making even the best wonder if they even know what they are doing. I know I was!! Near the end of our baseball season I was looking forward to this time of year because it gives me more time to learn what I may have done wrong, what I can do differently, and how to approach next year. I am sure if you are reading this you are a lot like me... always looking to learn something new and find new ways of doing things. This is also conference time of year.

Conference is one of the best tools we have in our industry. This is a place where there is a wide variety of educational and informative sessions. This is also home to the best tradeshow in the region. Most of the vendors we use are in attendance to show us and tell us about the cutting edge technology that will make our fields so much better. From equipment to seed, and chemicals to irrigation it is all there and it is always neat to learn about and see the new products. The tradeshow floor is also a great place to talk to other professionals about what they use and what they think about it, or compare notes on a piece of equipment you are looking to buy.

When it comes to conference education we are so lucky many of us probably take for granted the high profile industry professionals we have in our own state. Iowa

State is in our back yard and their faculty is a big part of our educational sessions. Dr. Dave Minner and Dr. Nick Christians are two of the most highly respected turf educators in the nation and they are available to us at the ITI conference. These two alone are a huge asset to us then add in Dr. Donald Lewis, and Dr. Marcus Jones from Iowa State as well as Andrew Hoiberg and Nick Dunlap and we have an educational super lineup and we are still not happy. We continue to bring in well respected educators from outside of the state, this year Dr. Zac Reicher (UNL) as well as some of the most highly respected industry professionals that are on the top of their game. I can't wait for this conference.

The educational opportunities offered by the ISTMA have been gaining momentum and I would put them against those offered by any other state. Along with the conference the three workshops offered are out of this world. This past year the workshops brought you all to my place, The Burlington Bees, where I had some of baseball's most respected groundskeepers on hand to share their knowledge and stories. In Ames, you had the opportunity to become a certified irrigation auditor, and at Kirkwood everyone experienced three different facilities that are at the top of their class. I know the ISTMA is working hard to continue to provide such powerful educational opportunities, I hope you all have the opportunity to take advantage of them.

Last but not least I hope you find this publication, The Sideline Report, to be useful! We work very hard at filling it with useful information that is suitable to the conditions you are facing when you are facing them. This is the first year of the electronic sideline report and hopefully you are finding it useful. Hopefully you have enjoyed all of the information and look forward to reading it. If you have any suggestions about content or want to contribute to The Sideline Report we would love your help and feel free to contact me.



ISTMA Conference Social
Tuesday January 17th, 2012
Cub Club at Principal Park
1 Line Drive Des Moines, IA
5:30 - 9:30 PM



Please RSVP on your conference registration or email to Sarah at sarah@iowaturfgrass.org

Send your pictures from the 2011 season to be featured at the Social! Send pictures to Jason Koester, CGCS at jkkoester@yahoo.com or Jeff Bosworth at jeff.bosworth@drake.edu

ISTMA will host an exciting opportunity to socialize with your peers and vendors during the 2012 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show. On Tuesday evening following the all day workshop, ISTMA will be having a Social at Principal Park's Cub Club. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available. A shuttle will be available from the Downtown Marriott Hotel to Principal Park's Cub Club for transportation to and from.

Join the ISTMA for a great night of remembering the 2011 season with a short program and great networking!



78th Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

January 17-19, 2012

Downtown Des Moines Marriott Hotel

Tuesday January 17, 2012

Turfgrass Fundamentals Workshop

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:30	Species Selection & Establishment	Nick Dunlap, ISU
9:15	Soils 101	Andrew Hoiberg, ISU
10:00	Break	-----
10:15	Cultivation & Topdressing Strategies for Various Situations	Dave Minner, PhD, ISU
11:00	Turfgrass Weed ID & Management	Jeremy Buhl, PBI/ Gordon
11:30	Lunch	-----
12:30	Fertilizer Basics	Marcus Jones, PhD, ISU
1:30	Turfgrass Disease ID & Management	Erika Saalau Rojas, ISU
2:15	Break	-----
2:30	Turfgrass Insect ID & Management	Donald Lewis, PhD, ISU
3:15	Chelated Iron & Micronutrients 101	Mark Howieson, PhD, Becker Underwood

Sports Turf Workshop

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:30	Lambeau Field through the Years, Grass Master System and Grow Lights	Allen Johnson, CSFM, Green Bay Packers
10:00	Break	-----
10:15	U2 Concert/ Field Renovation at Spartan Field	Amy Fouty, CSFM, Michigan State University
11:30	Lunch	-----
12:30	Lambeau and the Concert, Weather Conditions, Maintenance & Practice Fields	Allen Johnson, CSFM, Green Bay Packers
1:45	Growing Turfgrass in Drought Conditions	Dave Minner, PhD
2:15	Break	-----
2:30	Invasive Grasses on Sports Fields	Zac Reicher, PhD, UNL
3:00	Maintaining Consistent Playing Conditions from Year to Year	Amy Fouty, CSFM, Michigan State University

Mathematics of Turfgrass Management

Must Register to attend

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:00	Mathematics of Turfgrass Management	Nick Christians, PhD
10:00	Break	-----
10:15	Mathematics of Turfgrass Management	Nick Christians, PhD

Wednesday January 17, 2012

General Session/ Keynote

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:30	Awards	Jeff Schmidt, CGCS
8:45	Scholarships	Troy McQuillen, Kirkwood CC
9:00	Iowa Golf Association	Bill Dickens, IGA
9:15	Hope this Doesn't Happen to You	Zac Reicher, PhD, UNL
9:45	New Products	Exhibitors
10:00	Keynote Speaker	Chad Carden
11:00	Trade Show Grand Opening	-----

Sports Turf Session

Time	Topic	Speaker
1:30	Scholarship/ Student Talk	Troy McQuillen, Kirkwood CC
2:00	Sports Turf Problems & Solutions	Panel
2:45	Break	-----
3:00	ISTMA Annual Meeting	-----

Thursday January 19, 2012

Sports Turf Session

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:00	Technology	Tim VanLoo, CSFM & Steve Bush, CSFM
8:45	Break- Trade Show Open	-----
10:15	Maintaining Sports Fields on a Municipal Budget	Brad Thedens, Sioux Falls Parks & Rec
10:45	ISTMA in Action	Jason Koester, CGCS, Grinnell College



Iowa Turfgrass Institute



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More information is available at www.iowaturfgrass.org/iticonference.htm



78th Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

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Amy Fouty, CSFM
Michigan State University



Amy Fouty began working in the turfgrass industry 21 years ago pursuing a career in the golf turf industry. Following graduation from Michigan State University, and a couple of years as a golf course superintendent, she decided to switch career paths and pursue athletic field management. Amy is currently in her seventh season and is responsible for the Spartan Stadium field, the football practice complex, baseball, soccer, and softball facilities and new athletic field construction for the athletic department at Michigan State University. Prior to MSU, Amy was a groundskeeper at the University of Michigan managing the daily field operations for football and soccer for five seasons.

Amy holds a two-year degree in turfgrass management from Michigan State University and is in the process of completing a B.A. in Psychology at MSU. She served as President of the Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association, serves on the education and grants committee for the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, chairs two national STMA committees, and has authored several articles. She was awarded the prestigious STMA Field of the Year for College Football Fields in 2005. She is an accomplished presenter, speaking at more than 10 national, regional and state conferences and educational events. She earned the CSFM designation in 2003.

Notice of Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Annual Meeting

Wednesday January 18, 2011
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78th Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

Featured Speakers 2012



Allen Johnson, CSFM Green Bay Packers

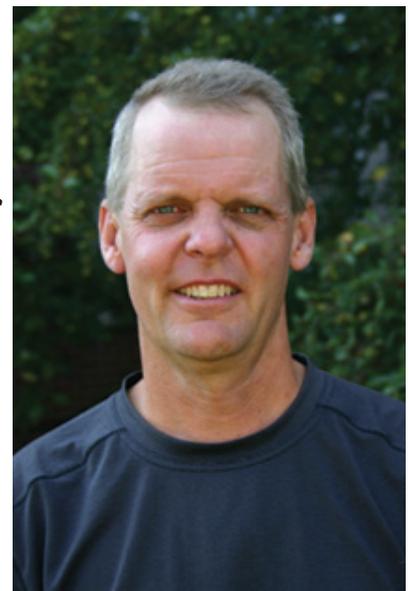


Allen Johnson, CSFM has been the Fields Manager for the Green Bay Packers for the last 14 seasons. Before making Lambeau Field home, he grew up on a dairy farm in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He served in the U.S. Army during the 1st Gulf War. After four years of service to our country he attended Northern Michigan University and received a Bachelors of Science degree in Public Administration. He then received an Advanced Turfgrass Management Certificate from Penn State University. Allen is now in his 15th season for the Green Bay Packers and serves actively on the STMA Board.



Zac Reicher, PhD University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Zac Reicher is currently a Professor of Turfgrass Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Before taking on those responsibilities he earned his Bachelors and Masters Degree from Iowa State University. He moved on to Purdue University in where he taught and earned his PhD. Zac maintains an active research program that focus' primarily in weed management and reduction of management inputs while teaching turfgrass science classes and on-going education for professional turf managers. In his free time, he bow hunts for deer and turkey and tries to master flyfishing.



Appalachian Service Project

Kerry Anderson, Valent Professional Products

After returning from Jonesville, Virginia from the latest Appalachian Service Project (ASP), I started reviewing some of the pictures we took while helping a family in need make their house “warmer, safer, and drier”. Our family, a grandmother of 80, along with her son and granddaughter lived in a home that in parts was more than 100 years old, and it was definitely showing its age. Prior to our arrival the house was close to being condemned. The roof was falling in and water was destroying the ceilings and floors. Floor joists were rotten from the many years of neglect and were collapsing beneath them. We were the fourth group from ASP to be at this sight. Other groups had replaced one side of the roof that had been falling through, floor joists were repaired or replaced and rough flooring was installed. Drywall work had commenced and was ready for sanding and painting.



Kerry Anderson (back row, far left)



The items that we would be responsible for during the week of our service involved removing 2 layers of shingles on the back roof, patching bad spots and replacing the roof with tin. The kitchen floor needed to be finished, installing tile and baseboard. The front living area needed a laminate floor installed. The grandmother’s bedroom needed the ceiling sanded and painted, closet doors installed and a shelf put up as well as trim installed. In addition, we needed to clear the back yard of 10+ foot tall Ragweed to access the roof for the tear off and installation of tin. We had a lot of work to finish in 5 days but I knew how hard our crew would work to achieve our goals and that gave me confidence. Without fail, our groups worked quickly to accomplish our assigned tasks and were able to move on to other jobs that were only in future plans. Usually we have to leave our unfinished projects for future crew’s completion. This gave us a great feeling of accomplishment this year since we had really lived up to the mission of making this home “Warmer, safer, and drier”. ASP is an extremely worthwhile organization that works in the Appalachian Mountains to help families in need. Of the 200+ families that apply to the Jonesville site alone, only around 12-15 homes can be worked on per year. ASP is currently expanding to bring more adult groups into their program. They have a strong youth program during the summer, but need more adults for the difficult tasks they are faced with. The website www.asphome.org is where you can find information about the opportunities to share of your time and talents. Any talent level can be utilized. There are plenty of tasks, from painting and cleaning to structural integrity issues, there are a multitude of opportunities for all skill sets. Can you give of your time and talents to help others that are less fortunate? As a final Big THANK-YOU, the group especially praises the assistance from Valent’s Matching Gift Program. This allowed our group to purchase materials to help in the restoration process and allowed a family to have a better life.

“Repurposed” Corner - Reclaimed Snow Fence Lumber

Damon Carson, Repurposed Materials

The Byproduct of Industry:

Out West is one of the largest sources of used lumber in the United States. The source...gigantic wooden snow fences.

These elaborate wooden snow fence structures provide protection for roadways from the hazards of blowing snow throughout the winter. There are hundreds of miles of these vast wooden structures.

The science and design of these massive fences cause the howling wind carrying the snow to change direction causing it to dump the snow to the ground rather than carrying it on to the highways. These fences consequently save lives and bundles of money in snow plowing that doesn't have to happen.

(The “Blizzard Wizard” is the nickname given to the scientist, Dr. Ronald Tabler, who pioneered the design and usage of these snow fences.)

As with most structures, these structures require routine maintenance so the structures maintain their structural integrity. Whole sections are systematically disassembled and new built in their place.

The Repurpose:

The primary members of these structures are rough sawn, pressure-treated 2” x 6” fir and pine boards.

As you might imagine, this reclaimed lumber has all kinds of outdoor, structural re-uses.

In the country, building barns and outbuildings with this lumber is quite popular. Using them to build fences and corrals is likewise popular.

They are also ideal for decking on raised walkways in wetlands and in parks.

In urban settings these 2x6's are used to build raised garden beds BIO BOX and link to accompany this article if published: Damon Carson is founder of Repurposed Materials. They have a diverse selection of “repurposed” products for sale. www.repurposedmaterialsinc.com or 303-478-6193

Damon Carson
c/o Repurposed Materials
damon@repurposedmaterialsinc.com

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Dues Reminder

If you have not paid your 2012 ISTMA Dues they are due by February 1. Second Notice Reminders will be sent in the Mail on December 1, 2011.



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Griffith Accepts Position at Ajinomoto North America

Terry Griffith, Ajinomoto Inc.

Terry Griffith has recently accepted the position of Sales and Marketing Manager- Ajinomoto Specialty Fertilizers for Ajinomoto North America, Inc. Griffith has been in the Iowa turf industry over 30 years working for distributors servicing the golf, lawn care, grounds maintenance, and landscaping markets. He has most recently worked for Agrium Advanced Technologies.

Ajinomoto is a Japanese company that is basic in amino acid production and has had a presence in Iowa since the mid 1980's. The Iowa plant is located at Eddyville between Ottumwa and Oskaloosa. Ajinomoto is one of the largest producers of amino acids globally and has been in existence since 1909. Thier first American

office was opened in New York in 1917.

“I am very excited about Ajinomoto and their amino acid technology”, says Griffith. “We have university trials from Iowa State, Virginia Tech, University of Nebraska, and University of Florida that show some exciting results. Amino acids are so critical for the health of the turf plant and do so many positive things.” GreenNcrease is the flagship product of Ajinomoto Specialty Fertilizers.

Griffith will be responsible for establishing a turf distributor network as well as overseeing sales of raw materials to other suppliers of amino acid products and E-commerce.

Office of Pesticides Launches Online Database

Mona Bond,

EPA's Pesticide Program has released a new online searchable database, called Inert Finder. This database allows pesticide formulators and other interested parties to easily identify chemicals approved for use as inert ingredients in pesticide products. It will allow registrants developing new products or new product formulations to readily determine which inert ingredients may be acceptable for use as well as making this same information more readily available to the public. Users can search for inert ingredients by chemical name or Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) Registry Number to determine whether inert ingredients are approved for products that have food or nonfood uses. Search results will also provide any applicable use limitations and will flag inert ingredients for which companies have asserted data compensation rights.

Inert Finder was developed in response to a longstanding need expressed by the regulated community and others for a resource that consolidates the several lists

of approved inert ingredients into a readily searchable format. For food use inert ingredients, Inert Finder includes links to the Code of Federal Regulations, which is the legal record regarding inert ingredients that have exemptions from the requirement of a tolerance for residues on food. The system does not include information about ingredients in individual pesticide products.

You may access inert finder at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/inertfinder>. EPA welcomes your questions or comments about this new tool. Please email them to the Inert Ingredient Assessment Branch (inertsbranch@epa.gov).

The home page for InertFinder includes a link to another online searchable database called the Chemical Data Access Tool, which allows users to find health and safety information submitted to EPA under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) at http://java.epa.gov/oppt_chemical_search/.

2011 “Most Influential People in the Green Industry”

Dave Minner, PhD, Iowa State University

LOUISVILLE, KY. (Oct. 27, 2011) -- Green Media, a division of M2MEDIA360 -- publisher of Arbor Age, Landscape and Irrigation, Outdoor Power Equipment and SportsTurf -- is proud to announce the 2011 selections for “Most Influential People in the Green Industry.” Green Media’s “Most Influential People in the Green Industry” were nominated by their peers for their ongoing contributions to the Green Industry. Nominations were reviewed by Green Media’s in-house panel, and the 2011 selections for “Most Influential People” were chosen from throughout the Green Industry.

The professionals selected for this honor exemplify commitment to the Green Industry, and have exhibited a widespread influence on their peers. Green Media congratulates all of those chosen for this year’s list of “Most Influential People in the Green Industry.” They are as follows:

- Dan Ariens, president and CEO, Ariens Company
- Mark Chisholm, arborist, climbing champion, instructor and industry spokesperson, Aspen Tree Expert Co., Inc.
- Stephen Cieslewicz, president and chief consultant, CN Utility Consulting
- Tom Delaney, director of government affairs, Professional Landcare Network (PLANET)
- Bill Harley, immediate past president and CEO, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
- Kris Kiser, president and CEO, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
- David Minner, Ph.D., professor, Department of Horticulture, Iowa State University
- Lynda Wightman, industry relations manager, Hunter Industries

The “Most Influential People in the Green Industry,” will be profiled in the January 2012 issues of Arbor Age, Landscape and Irrigation, Outdoor Power Equipment and SportsTurf.

Congratulations to Dave Minner, PhD and Lynda Wightman. Thank You for the work you do for the ISTMA!



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Fall Traveling Workshop Review

Troy McQuillen, Kirkwood Community College

The ISTMA presented their third and final of the 2011 workshops at Kirkwood Community College on September 22nd. This was the first hosting experience for Kirkwood and the workshop was a success. Troy McQuillen began the event with some introductions to the facilities along with recognizing the 80 Sports Turf professionals and students in attendance.

Joe Wagner, Tony Senio, and Tim Van Loo, CSFM started the workshop with a panel discussion about student sports turf internships, industry expectations, and what students can do to become a professional in the sports turf profession. The panel shared their personal experiences with hiring interns and what they expected out of an internship performance. The panel also shared specific coursework and educational experiences that would be beneficial in the sports turf management profession.

Following the panel the participants loaded busses for the next stop on the workshop agenda. Steve Nelson, Jamie Johnson, Steve Bush CSFM, Jared Aubry, and John Fitch presented the new athletic field construction project for Linn Mar high school. Steve Nelson (Linn Mar School Director of Facilities) shared how the school board decided to build a 3 sport complex and the progress on the field construction. Steve Bush and Jared Aubry (Bush Sports Turf) as the field construction contractors discussed each of the field construction processes, from rough grade, drainage, irrigation, finish grade, and field establishment. Bush Turf also presented some of the latest technology in sports field construction used on the Linn Mar project. John Fitch

(Shive Hattery) shared his impact on the project and the importance of writing construction specifications for contractors to follow to ensure product and construction. Jamie Johnson finished the tour at Linn Mar with some information about maintaining Linn Mar grounds and the input's that go in maintaining the high standards of Linn Mar's Athletic Fields.

After lunch the workshop continued the education North at Blue Grass Enterprises. Mike and Aaron Loan of Blue Grass Enterprises presented the workshop participants with information about their custom bluegrass and RTF sod products. Blue Grass Enterprises demonstrated a look at the complete sod operations along with a live look at the stacked and large roll cutting operations. "The Blue Grass Enterprise visit was unique as it's not a turf experience that you get to see everyday" commented Tim Sims (student at Kirkwood Community College)

The ISTMA would like to thank Bush Sports Turf, Shive Hattery, MTI Toro, and Kirkwood Community College for sponsoring the fall traveling workshop. A special thanks to Blue Grass Enterprises for sponsoring, hosting, and providing the ice cream social at the end the workshop. Another thank you to Linn Mar schools for hosting the workshop also.

The 2011 ISTMA workshops were a great success. We appreciate all the vendors, host, sponsors, and speakers. Look forward to the 2012 workshop line-up at this year Iowa Turfgrass Conference.

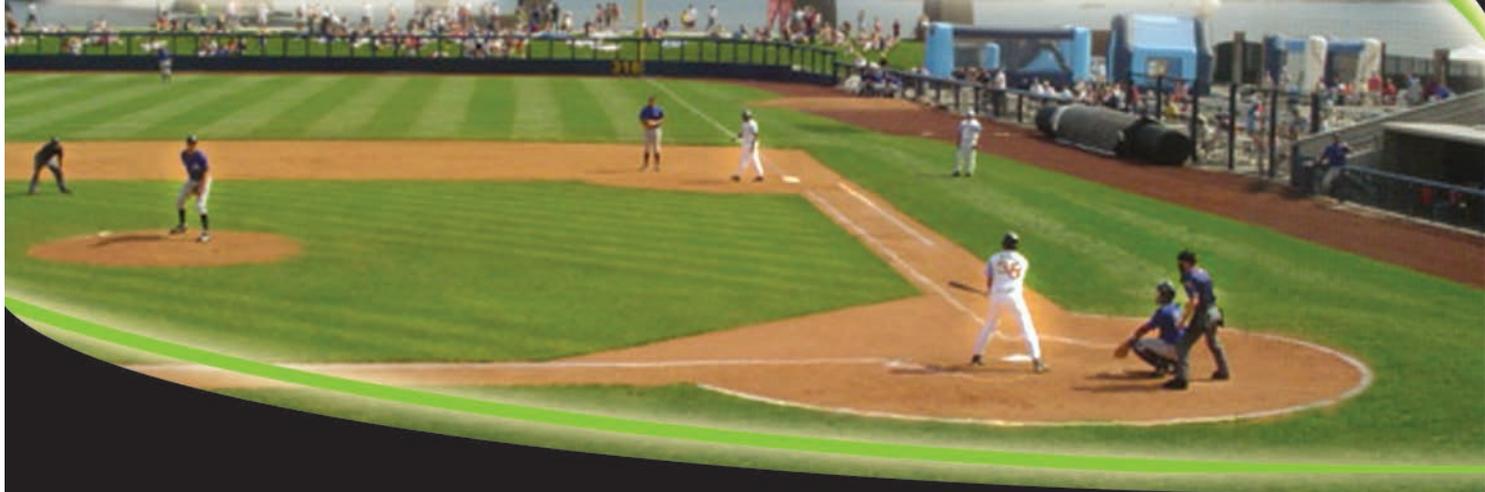


Left: Steve Bush, CSFM talked to the workshop attendees about baseball field construction at the Linn Mar High School. Right: Mike Loan gives a demonstration of sod cutting at Blue Grass Enterprises.

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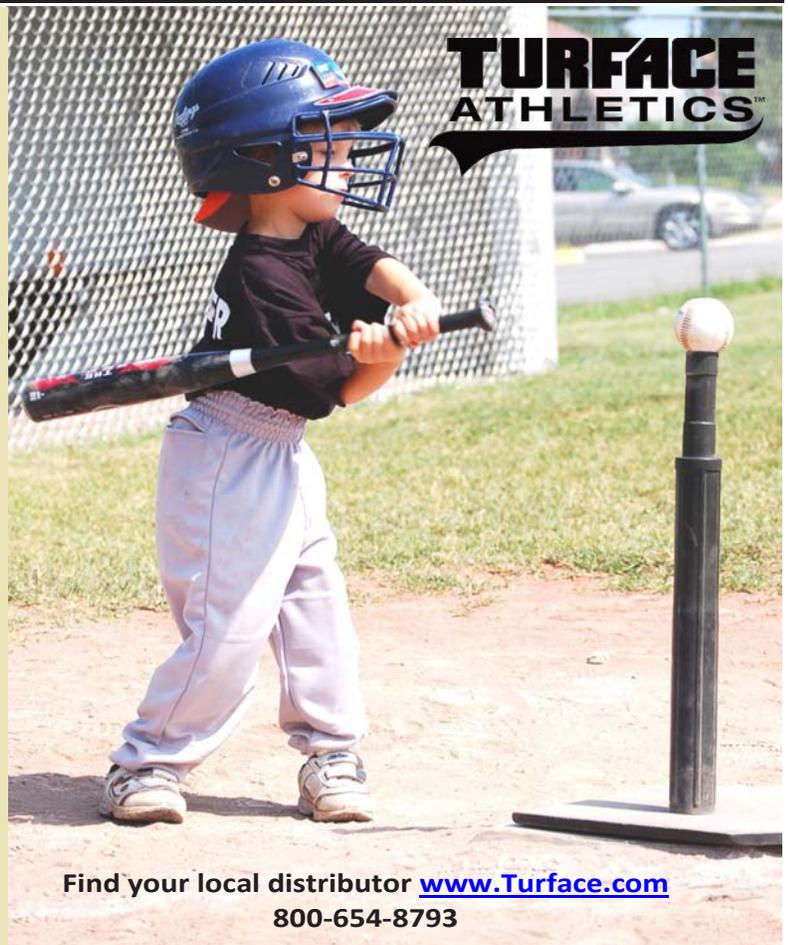
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Turf Equipment. How Old is Old?

Josh Shull, TurfWerks

As a Turf Equipment Vendor for almost 7 years now, I have seen a lot of interesting Equipment barns. I have also witnessed many Grounds Keepers and Mechanics being asked to make their old and tired equipment keep going. The famous line from boards and upper management seems to be “Do you think we could make it one more year?” Bailing wire, duck tape, and spot welding only last so long.

As this seems to be the trend, there are a few key things to remember when taking care of your equipment.

1. Grease fittings – Grease is inexpensive and makes things work a lot easier and longer.
2. Change oils on a timely basis – Manufacturers make these recommendations for good reason.
3. Check over machinery daily for fluid levels and leaks - preventative maintenance is the best.
4. Replace bearings as needed, keep blades sharp, and grind reels and bedknives when needed.
5. Most importantly keep equipment clean – this makes it easier to detect problems.

I have included a sample Maintenance and Lubrication chart that usually comes with any new equipment. Find this chart and keep it readily available and check off each procedure as you do them. Some good ideas I have seen are putting the charts on clipboards and placing them on the wall near the machine or have a wall area designated in your shop for all your clipboards with Maintenance charts.

These all seem like common sense items, but routinely get overlooked as we get busy with the seasons long days. Most Grounds Keepers don't have the luxury of having a full time mechanic so they must do this work

themselves. If this is your case consider designating one person on your staff to do these simple tasks above. Another method would be to have the operator who runs the machine perform these responsibilities, but in many cases there are a lot of different operators for each machine. My suggestion would be to find a method that works for you and implement it.

So back to the question of “How old is old?” This is a question that gets brought up a lot when I am talking to Grounds Keepers and decision makers. The life expectancy of any piece of equipment depends on the use, condition in which it is used, and simple preventative maintenance items that are done to it. I have seen equipment that is 30 years old and still working and I have seen equipment that is 3 to 5 years old that is tired and ready to be replaced. There is no magical formula for determining the answer to this type of question.

So how do you keep your facility from getting into the position where everything is old and tired? Make a replacement plan. (I have included a sample of a replacement schedule)

1. Take an inventory of all your current equipment. Take note of the Year, Hours and general description. (Poor, Average, Good)
2. Each piece of equipment has a useful life. This is different for each type of equipment. Ask your vendor to help you with this. (IE: A Sodcutter is going to last a lot longer than a rotary mower)
3. Now you can put together a replacement schedule for the next 10 years (Remember it is a guideline and will change)

Hopefully by utilizing better Maintenance practices and having a Replacement plan you will help keep your Equipment fleet running sound during its useful life.

Sample Equipment Replacement Schedule

Equipment	Model	SN	Year	Condition	Useful Life	10 Year Replacement Schedule										
						2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Sample Equipment A	T426	345886	2008	poor	4	X				X					X	
Sample Equipment B	L575	590599	2006	average	8			X								
Sample Equipment C	M4125	399595	2010	good	5				X						X	
Sample Equipment D	E344	485768	2007	good	10						X					
Sample Equipment E	J562	990933	2009	fair	4		X				X					X

6.1 GENERAL

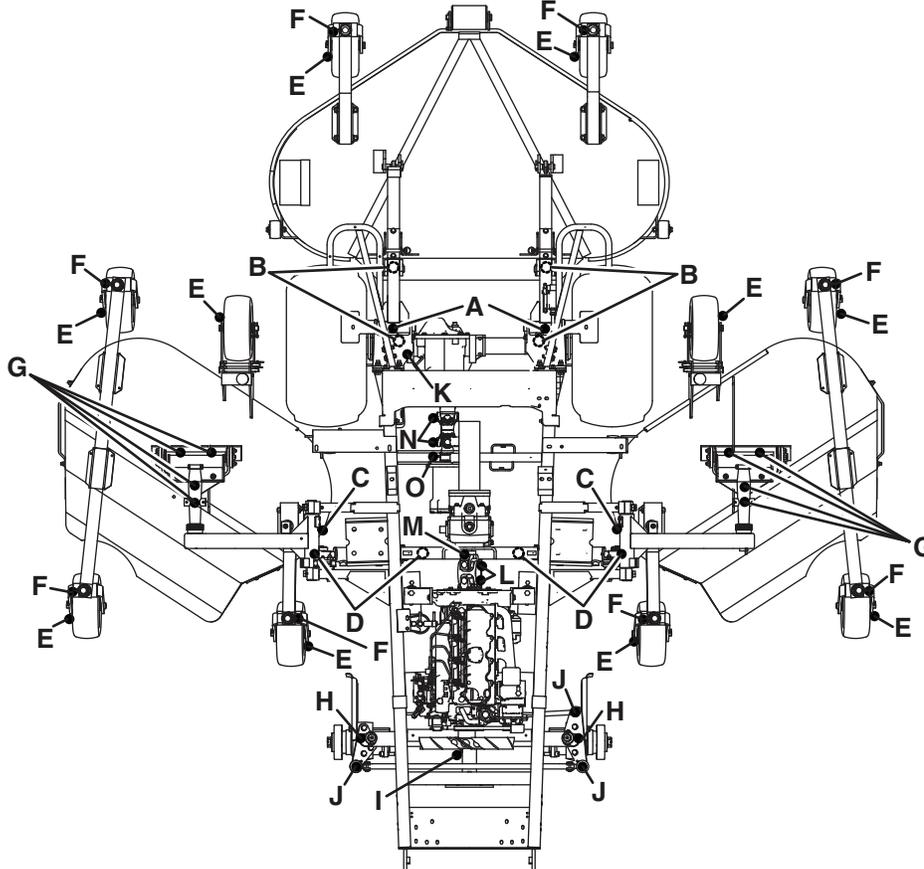
WARNING

Before you clean, adjust, or repair this equipment disengage all drives, lower implements to the ground, engage parking brake, stop engine, and remove key from ignition switch to prevent injuries.

1. Always clean the grease fitting before and after lubricating.

2. Lubricate with grease that meets or exceeds NLGI Grade 2 LB specifications. Apply grease with a manual grease gun and fill slowly until grease begins to seep out. Do not use compressed air guns.
3. Periodically apply a small amount of lithium based grease to the seat runners.
4. For smooth operation of all levers, pivot points and other friction points that are not shown on the lubrication chart apply several drops of SAE 30 oil every 40 hours or as required.
5. Grease fittings every 25 hours.

6.2 LUBRICATION CHART



Description

- A** Front mower arm pivot
- B** Front lift cylinders
- C** Wing mower arm pivot
- D** Wing mower lift cylinders
- E** Caster Wheels
- F** Caster Arms
- G** Deck Pivot Housing

Fittings

- (2)
- (4)
- (2)
- (4)
- (10)
- (8)
- (8)

- H** Steering Axle Spindle Housing (2)
- I** Steering Axle Pivot (1)
- J** Steering Axle Ball Joints (4)
- K** Brake Pedal Pivot (1)
- L** Pump Drive Shaft Crosses (2)
- M** Pump Drive Shaft Spline (2)
- N** Axle Drive Shaft Crosses (2)
- O** Axle Drive Shaft Spline (1)

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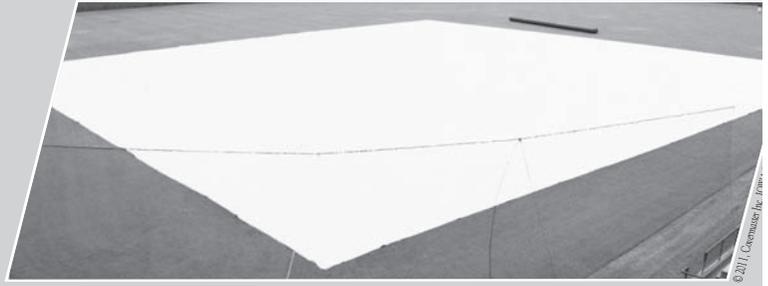
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