

The *Sideline* Report

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

December 2015

***2016 Iowa Turfgrass Conference
January 25 - 27, 2016***



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A Letter from the President

By: *Tim Van Loo, CSFM*



The winter time, a time to regroup and assess what worked and what didn't. Here in central Iowa we had the best year to grow grass that I have experienced in my six years at Iowa State, and for that I am thankful. Some of you experienced a little drought and some of you experienced lots of rain. It still amazes me how different weather can be just 100 miles away. All that said, we finished another growing season and need to start thinking about the next growing season.

I look forward to winter time for a couple of reasons, but the main one is turf conferences. I am blessed with the opportunity to attend both national and local conferences. Conferences, for me, are an opportunity to learn new things from speakers, as well as, other turf managers. Most of my changes are made after talking with people that have solved the problems that I am currently trying to overcome. Our industry is one that should pride itself on not having "trade secrets."

If you are one that can't get to a turf conference, I would encourage you to take advantage of recorded seminars and also ask people you know in the industry for help if there is something that you are struggling with. We are all trying to make the fields we manage better, but we should also be willing to help make other's fields better if we can.

I would also like to take this time to say thank you for all who were members of the ISTMA this year. I hope you have found your membership useful and something that has had more value than the money that was spent for the membership dues. I hope you also consider remaining a member and find value moving forward. Also, if you know of someone that could benefit from an ISTMA membership, please don't hesitate to tell someone about the association. Finally, don't hesitate to offer suggestions to the Board of Directors or speak with Randy or Shawn in the turfgrass office on how we can better serve you.



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www.floratinecentralturf.com





Keynote Speaker

Teacher, coach, principal, banker, author, husband, father and powerful speaker, Kent Stock is also the man who coached the 1991 Norway High School baseball team during their now-famous final season. As depicted in the 2007 film, *The Final Season*, the nationally recognized Norway baseball team came together under inauspicious circumstances. They defied the odds under the leadership of first-year head baseball coach, Kent Stock, and proceeded to win Norway's 20th state title.

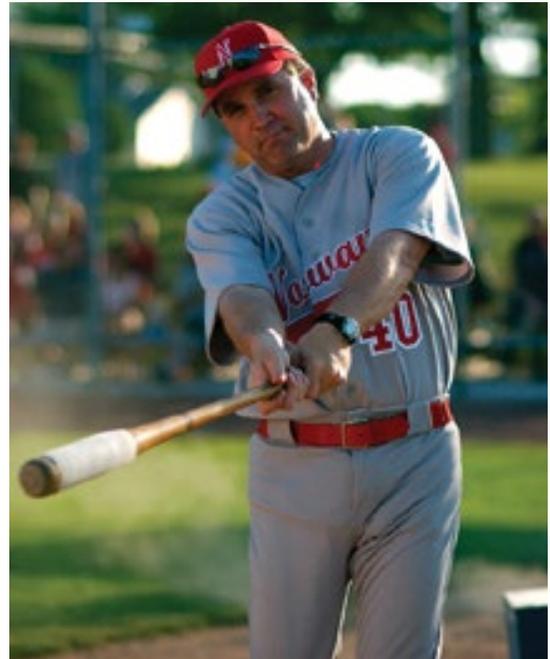
Growing up in central Iowa, Kent excelled at baseball with the support of his close-knit family. To begin his college career, Kent selected Waldorf College, whose baseball program was then ranked 13th nationally. He played second base for Waldorf and then transferred to Luther College his junior year. There he continued to pursue his love of the sport while earning his undergraduate degree in business management with a minor in education.

Kent began his career in Belle Plaine, Iowa where he became well known and respected as both a teacher and coach. While scouting a game he met the head coach of nearby Norway, Iowa's famous baseball team, Jim Van Scoyoc, who agreed to interview Kent for an assistant coach position that had just opened up in Norway. Over the years, Norway, a tiny community of less than 600, defied statistical probability by producing 16 professional baseball players and countless college players. Baseball was pivotal in this small Iowa town.

After a year as Van Scoyoc's assistant, Kent became the head coach just as Norway was notified that the school would be merging with a neighboring school in the fall, making the summer of 1991 the last baseball season as Norway High School. The team, led by 30-year-old Kent, had only one goal in mind as they started their final season – to win Norway's 20th State Title. As you'll see in the movie, they accomplished just that.

Kent remained at Belle Plaine High School another seven years before earning his Masters degree from Drake University in education administration. Kent left Belle Plaine in 1998 to take a middle school principal position in the Linn-Mar Community School District.

Kent authored a book titled, "Heading for Home: My Journey from Little League to Hollywood." Today, Kent is a relationship manager at Community Savings Bank in Cedar Rapids. He lives in Marion, Iowa with his wife, Laurie and two daughters. While a long-time inspirational force for the many students he has taught and coached over the years, their families and countless educational providers, Kent launched his professional speaking career in 2007. His messages of motivation and relationship building have a powerful impact on young and old alike. His stories transcend the baseball field, classroom and office.



Please join us in the General Session on Tuesday, January 26!

Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

Workshop Schedule: Monday, January 25, 2016 - Coralville Marriott & Conference Center

Sports Turf Workshop

- 9:00 Sports Field Construction and Renovation
~ Jeff Salmond, CSFM, University of Oklahoma
- 10:15 Managing 2A School District Sports Fields
~ Shaun Eberhart, Northeast Community School District
- 11:15 Coping With ICCSD Pesticide Ban
~ Ben Grimm, Iowa City School District
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 ISU Sports Turf Research Park
~ Dan Strey, Iowa State University
- 1:45 Preparing and Recovering from Special Events
~ Jeff Salmond, CSFM, University of Oklahoma
- 2:45 Justifying Sustainable Irrigation
~ Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries
- 3:45 Summer Patch
~ Paul Koch, PhD, University of Wisconsin

Turfgrass Management Workshop

- 9:00 The Art and Science
~ Ryan Adams, M.S., Iowa State University
- 10:15 Species Selection and Management
~ Nick Christians, PhD, Iowa State University
- 11:15 Cool Season ID
~ Isaac Mertz, M.S., Iowa State University
- 12:00 Lunch

Lawn / Landscape Workshop

- 9:00 What's New in Weed Control?
~ Nick Christians, PhD, Iowa State University
- 10:15 Plants with Style
~ Kelly Norris, M.S., Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
- 11:15 Designing with Maintenance in Mind
~ Tyler Baird, City of Iowa City
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 Keeping Up Your Business Image
~ Ryan Adams, M.S., Iowa State University
- 1:45 Kentucky Bluegrass Diseases
~ Paul Koch, PhD, University of Wisconsin
- 2:45 Irrigation
~ James Essex, Iowa Irrigation
- 3:45 Controlling Warm Season Grasses
~ Jason Van Engen, Reliable Property Services

Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

Concurrent Sessions: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 - Coralville Marriott & Conference Center

General Session / Keynote - Sponsored by Syngenta

- 9:00 Awards
~ Troy McQuillen, M.S., Kirkwood Community College
- 9:15 Scholarships
~ Troy McQuillen, M.S., Kirkwood Community College
- 9:30 Association Newsletters
~ Shawn Fopma, Iowa Turfgrass Institute
- 9:45 New Products
- 10:00 Keynote Speaker: How Do You Want to be Remembered?
~ Kent Stock
- 11:00 Trade Show Grand Opening

Sports Turf Session

- 1:00 Poa Annuua Control in Sports Fields
~ Nick Christians, PhD, Iowa State University
- 2:00 Sports Turf Case Studies
~ Tim Van Loo, CSFM, Troy McQuillen, M.S., Ryan Adams, M.S.
- 3:00 ISTMA Annual Meeting

Parks / Grounds Session

- 9:00 Thinking Outside Your Park
~ Zac Hall & Colin Stuhr, City of Iowa City
- 10:15 Efficient Park's Maintenance Practices
~ Joshua Thompson, City of Ames
- 11:15 Tank Mixing Herbicides
~ Ryan Adams, M.S., Iowa State University

Concurrent Sessions: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 - Coralville Marriott & Conference Center

Sports Turf Session

- 10:00 Phosphites
~ Ryan Adams, M.S., Iowa State University
- 10:45 Not All Liquids are Foliar
~ David Hunter, Floratine Midwest

ISTMA Annual Meeting Notice

The ISTMA Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 3:00 PM.

Try Something New

By: Chad Peterson, City of Cedar Rapids

Well, another season has come and gone. If you're like me, this is the time to reflect on how the past year went, what went well and what didn't work so well. I take this time to go over my notes from the year and start to plan for what I can do differently starting in the spring.

This past year I was able to try a few new things. I'm one that doesn't like to do the same thing year after year. I feel that you will never progress if you continue to stay in the same pattern year after year. Some things might work and some things might not, but how will you know if you don't try? For example, I tried growth regulators in my paint for the first time due to the lack of staff in the fall to try and stretch my time on a painter. I found that I could get an extra week or so out of my lines, freeing staff to complete other small projects. An example of one thing that didn't work so well was I was more aggressive aerifying my goal mouths through the season. I used solid tines and slicing tines on alternating weeks. The end result, for me, was that I may have put too much stress on those areas during play. I now

have some goal mouths that are pretty bare. The benefits may not show up until next season, but for the time being, it doesn't look like I will be that aggressive in the future. To remedy the worn goal mouths, I will dormant seed and do a heavy topdress of compost and sand. That will help with compaction issues down the road. Like I tell my staff, it's just grass, we can get it to grow back.

Trying new things can be stressful at times not knowing the ultimate outcome. If you feel apprehensive, try it in a small area first and then expand from there. I think you will find that the more you try, the more comfortable you will get with experiments, and ultimately, the better your fields will be. Reach out to others in our field and see what they are doing differently to get ideas on what to try. We are always happy to help and to give advice.

Enjoy the offseason and the holidays. I hope to see a great turnout at the Turf Conference in Coralville this year.

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82ND ANNUAL IOWA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW REGISTRATION FORM

January 25 - 27, 2016 • Coralville Marriott & Conference Center - Coralville, Iowa

USE ONE FORM PER NAME, PHOTOCOPY BLANK FORM AS MANY TIMES AS NEEDED
 Please PRINT all information clearly and exactly as you wish it to appear on your name badge.

Name _____ Telephone _____
First Last
 Company/Organization Name _____ E-Mail _____
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Address City St Zip

Conference Registration

	Pre-Registration Before 1/11/2016	Onsite & After 1/11/2016	Total
Member Price Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> IGCSA <input type="checkbox"/> ISTMA <input type="checkbox"/> IPLCA <input type="checkbox"/> IGA <input type="checkbox"/> ISBGA <input type="checkbox"/> IPRA			
_____ 3-Day Registration with Workshop (Includes Tues / Wed Trade Show, Lunches & PAT)	\$195	\$215	\$
_____ Registration for Monday Workshop Only (Includes Lunch)	\$140	\$150	\$
Choose Your Regular Workshop			
1st	2nd	(Mark your 1st choice in the 1st column & 2nd choice in the 2nd column)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Golf Course Workshop (120 limit)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Turfgrass Management Workshop (120 limit)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lawn Care & Landscape Workshop (120 limit)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sports Turf Workshop (120 limit)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration for ISTMA Membership Social – Backpocket Brewing Company – 5:00PM		Stand Alone Rate \$125	W/ Other 3-Day Registration from same company \$50
		ISTMA Members	No Charge
Non-Member Price			
_____ 3-Day Registration with Full-Day Workshop (Includes Tues / Wed Trade Show, Lunches & PAT)	\$210	\$240	\$
_____ Registration for Full-Day Monday Workshop Only (Includes Lunch)	\$155	\$165	\$
Choose Your Regular Workshop			
1st	2nd	(Mark your 1st choice in the 1st column & 2nd choice in the 2nd column)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Golf Course Workshop (120 limit)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Turfgrass Management Workshop (120 limit)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lawn Care & Landscape Workshop (120 limit)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sports Turf Workshop (120 limit)	
_____ 2-Day Registration (Tuesday & Wednesday [Includes Trade Show (both days) & PAT])	\$150	\$160	\$
_____ 1-Day Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday or <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday [Includes Trade Show & PAT]	\$110	\$120	\$
_____ Student Registration (3-Day Pass. Does NOT include PAT) Call for One or Two Day Rates	\$ 55	\$ 60	\$
_____ Trade Show Only (per day) <input type="checkbox"/> Tues <input type="checkbox"/> Wed (Includes Lunch / Does NOT include PAT)	\$ 50	\$ 55	\$
_____ Members ONLY	Members	Members	
_____ Trade Show Only (per day) <input type="checkbox"/> Tues <input type="checkbox"/> Wed (Includes Lunch / Does NOT include PAT)	\$75	\$80	
_____ Non-Members			
_____ Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) ONLY (Wednesday PM, does not include Trade Show)	\$ 50	\$ 55	\$
_____ Iowa GCSA Member Breakfast • Wednesday 6:30 AM	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$
_____ Spouse Registration: <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday (Complimentary)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
_____ Spouse's Name: As it will appear on the badge _____			
_____ Turfgrass Research Donation \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____			\$

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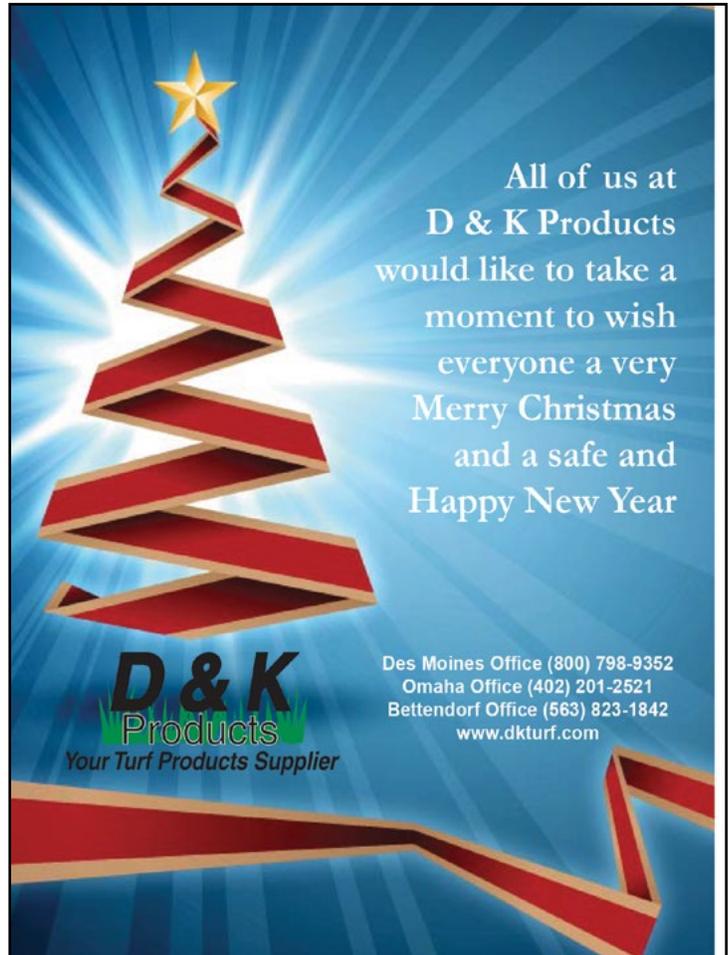
Detailed Record Keeping

By: Jason Koester, CGCS, Grinnell College

Have you thought, man I wish I could remember the spreader setting for this fertilizer? Or I wish I could remember seeding time and rate it was applied? I have a solution for you, keeping a daily log account for your fields. Detailed record keeping for your facilities can be very beneficial. Knowing exactly when things are done will help you plan for the future and budget, correct timing of the work you need to perform and will also give you a solid foundation to back up your work.

I keep very detailed records for the facilities that I manage. I have compiled records every year that I have been managing turfgrass. Pesticide records are required by state law, but I decided to take my record keeping to the next level. The records are a year long process of daily tracking of the sports facilities. Among the records that I track: weather (high temperatures, rain, snow, wind), pesticide and fertilization applications and their results, mowing, painting, renovations, cultural practices (aeration, sand topdressing, spiking, dragging), general maintenance (fields or buildings), pests (weeds, insects, disease), seeding, irrigation upgrades or repairs, irrigation start up and shutdown, irrigation run time, spreader and sprayer settings for all applications, events held on the fields, and ideas for the upcoming season.

I have a hand written tablet I keep daily records on. My penmanship is not the best in the west, so in the winter I convert my daily log into a highlighted synopsis for the season. This word processing document provides a clean, professional looking recap of the the season. We keep the year end layout the same for the most part so it is easy to compare seasons to each other. This record keeping process does involve a time commitment, but the reward is worth the price. Having precise facts will help you make better decisions and help take some of the guess work out.



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2016 ISTMA Membership Social

Backpocket Brewing Company | 5:00 PM | Monday, January 25, 2016

Please RSVP on your conference registration or email to Shawn Fopma at shawn@iowaturfgrass.org.

Send your pictures from the 2015 season to be featured at the Membership Social! Send pictures to Jason Koester, CGCS, at jkkoster@yahoo.com or Jeff Bosworth, CSFM, at jeff.bosworth@drake.edu.

ISTMA will host an exciting opportunity to socialize with your peers and vendors during the 2016 Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. On Monday evening following the Sports Turf Workshop, ISTMA will be having a Social in the Backpocket Brewing Company, near the Coralville Marriott Conference Center. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available.

Join the ISTMA for a great night of remembering the 2015 season with a short program and great networking!

IOWA
SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



Putting Your Field to Bed

By: Ryan Adams, Iowa State University Turfgrass Extension

It is that time of year again, the days are short and turf growth has finally stopped after another long season. Most turf managers have moved indoors and are spending time with their families. In the back of our minds, we all are hoping for a mild winter and quick green-up in the spring. As Dave Minner once said, "If you are darn glad the fall season is over and you don't want to see that field until next year, then expect it to look like a pasture because you are treating it like one." For spring sports, especially soccer and baseball, this would be an enormous mistake. How the fields are left going into winter is the best-case scenario, come March. The field does not simply improve over the winter; it only has the potential for further deterioration. Spring conditions can often be too wet to core, seed or topdress before the spring playing season begins. Putting your field to bed in the fall will help it wake up ready to go in the spring.

Fall Sports

Overseeding your football field throughout and after the season will increase your stand going into the next season. Adding Kentucky bluegrass and/or perennial ryegrass even as late as mid-November can go a long way to improving a damaged field. Spread seed over the high traffic areas and allow players to cleat it in during the season. Sure, some of the seedlings die or will not make it through a tough Iowa winter, but some will survive and be weeks and months ahead of seed applied in the early spring. Fall established plants will be much stronger than plants established in the spring. Solid tine aeration during the playing season, followed by seeding, is another way to improve field conditions. Keep in mind your strategy for fall seeding. It not

only gives you some fall cover of bare areas with green color, but more importantly, any seedling that survives the winter will quickly mature in the spring and make a substantial contribution to the condition of the field in late spring and early summer. Spring seedings usually succumb to weeds, summer stress or traffic decline as the turf is too immature for wear.

Core aerating the field during or after the season followed by topdressing can help promote deep rooting. Drag the cores in if you have a sand-based field or remove the cores if the field is too hard from a high clay content. Removing cores will help you build up the sand content in the surface faster. If cores cannot be removed then topdress with sand first, then core, then drag the field. Deep tine coring with the Vertidrain or Floyd McKay is also very effective. After core aeration and topdressing, dormant seeding as late as early-mid November will help give the field a quick start in the spring. It is important to drag seed into the aerification holes or use a drill seeder to improve germination. Seed left on the surface will rarely germinate after being exposed to Iowa winters. Breathable covers also can be used to help extend the growing season and encourage green-up in the spring. Covers can also allow for seedling development during the winter; however, a snow mold treatment is highly recommended.

If every spring your field is subjected to knotweed pressure, you can apply a preemergence herbicide in the late fall, such as pendimethalin, to prevent early germinating knotweed in high traffic areas. Late fall preemergence herbicides should not be applied when fall or spring seeding is considered.

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Sodding is always a better late fall option to fix small wear areas in comparison to seed. Sodding in November is an instant solution to worn areas between the hash marks. It may be late in the season, but if a sod producer can cut and deliver sod then you can lay it on your field. Even if the sod does not thoroughly root down in the fall, it will give you a jump on the spring season and finish rooting in the spring.

Spring Sports

A fall maintenance program for soccer is very comparable to that of a football season. The biggest difference lies in the months available to prepare these tasks. If you have from July-November (no fall soccer in your area), then make sure to utilize these extra months. There is a greater need for fall maintenance because the field needs to be ready to go in April rather than August 15th.

The fall practice schedule for baseball and softball is usually not as demanding on the field as the spring game schedule. However, it is important to remember that the field condition entering the winter will be the same as the field condition during the start of the baseball and softball season, especially for college fields. College baseball and softball can start as early as mid to late February if weather allows. The first hint of spring and they usually will be on the field. The spring schedule for high school usually starts in April and continues through the summer months. A majority of the maintenance practices listed above for soccer and football can be employed for baseball and softball grassed areas.

The biggest difference in any baseball and softball field is tending to the skinned areas. Unfortunately, many of Iowa's skinned infields are neglected during the fall and winter. As we all know, the Iowa winds can be brutal in the winter, cutting through any jacket. These winds also blow

exposed and loose infield materials into the adjacent grass causing large lips to build up during the winter. Boards or silt fence can be used to reduce blowing dirt. Another simple method is to lay down a 2-by-4 along the perimeter of the dirt infield and adjacent to the grass where the lip usually starts to form. Lay the boards flat and stake them if needed. The dirt piles up on the boards and is easily removed in the spring when the infield is dragged.

Today, some high schools still disk skinned areas and leave the playing surface rough all winter. This works, if you don't need the field until late spring. Disking the field and expecting it to be ready for March is simply not possible. The worked infield will hold moisture and water, making it impossible to drag and firm surface prior to spring practices and games. Other infield areas such as the mound and batter's box should be reconditioned in the mid to late fall and then covered with a tarp for winter. Covering these areas with a tarp, ensure a quick spring transition and allow you to focus on other areas. Sodding worn areas in front of the mound and first/third base in the fall will also allow you to get the most out of the field early in the spring. I always encourage against using a nonselective soil sterilant in the fall to prevent weed growth in skinned areas. In the last two years, I have seen several of these materials displaced during winter and cause damage to turf areas.

To quote Dave Minner "The most important part of your fall program is to have a plan. Don't just drop the field after the last fall game and then try to get ready for next year in the spring". The fall is the best time to prepare for next season and the sooner you begin your fall maintenance programs, the better your field will look. The field managers that plan beforehand are always the ones with the best-looking fields. So what will your field look like in the spring? This is dependent on what you have done the last four months.



We Have Job Opportunities, Where are the Students?

By: Troy McQuillen, Kirkwood Community College

As a faculty member for the past 10 years I have seen many changes to the turfgrass management industry and the career opportunities that are available. I can remember a time when over 80% of the students were pursuing golf course careers following graduation, with the rest looking into sports turf and lawn care opportunities.

Today things have changed, my inbox, message board and telephone light up with job opportunities in all parts of the turfgrass industry. Both local and out-of-state organizations are looking for interns, assistant in training and able body students to learn the industry. The problem that exists is that Iowa has four two-year colleges and one four-year college that offer turfgrass management degrees. I am sure that each college will tell you that there is not enough students to fill that need.

The jobs are plentiful and there are not enough students to fill the positions. For the past four years, turfgrass programs from around the nation have been facing smaller populations of students enrolled in their coursework. (GCM magazine 2014) At Kirkwood, the trend has not been any different. Kirkwood is two-year A.A.S degree in the turfgrass management field, where students are required to complete 66 credit hours including an internship for their degree. In times of economic hardship, our student numbers grew. In 2008, we had over 60 students enrolled in the program and for the fall 2015 semester, we have just over 40 students. Here are some of reasons for the changing student numbers.

1. The economy has stabilized, jobs have opened back up and students with higher amounts of responsibilities need to support their families with a job.
2. Horticulture careers are not as rewarding from some students and parent's perception.
3. Work-ethic is changing in the demograph-

ics of students.

4. Influence by others. Each student makes a decision on the advice they receive from others. Individuals that are not familiar with our careers, can often time give bad advice.
5. Students not willing to relocate or be patient for full-time job opportunities. I strive to make students understand that it takes time to determine your success.

All of the fluctuations in student numbers are common in our industry, but here is some good news. The turfgrass industry is beginning to gain popularity especially in the high schools. School districts are exploring turfgrass management coursework with-in the FFA and Horticulture coursework they already teach. More students are starting to see the benefits of working with their hands and outdoors. Students are passionate about sports and realize that the turfgrass management career is a direction connection to that passion. Many students are realizing the importance of education through the classroom, internships and other work experiences to gain employment with-in this industry.

What can you do? Be a mentor and an advocate of your industry. If possible, give a young person an opportunity on your facility as summer or part-time job. Talk with coaches and administrators about getting help from the teams to spark interest from the group. If you're comfortable, take the advantage and speak in the middle schools, high schools, 4-H clubs and other career day activities in your area.

The need for keeping our industry viable is up to all of us. Keep promoting and get involved in whatever way possible. Turfgrass educators in our state are resources to you an access to the next generation of turf managers so don't hesitate to call or e-mail if you are looking for students for your organization.

Candidates for At-Large Director

Shaun Eberhart

Northeast Community School District - Director of Grounds
 ISTMA Member - 6 years



Employment History

- Northeast Community School District (2013 - Present)
- Reno Acres (May 2013 - October 2013)
- Upper Iowa University (2011 - 2013)
- Minnesota Twins (April 2012 - August 2012)
- Boston Red Sox (April 2011 - August 2011)
- City of Iowa City (August 2009 - November 2010)
- Clinton Lumberkings (November 2008 - July 2009)

Personal Information / Family / Hobbies

I reside in Charlotte, Iowa. My hobbies include watching sports, doing yard work, playing golf, camping and hanging out with friends and family. I do not have a wife or kids. I have had a love for turfgrass management since high school. My favorite part of my job is the challenge of balancing time, money and priorities and, of course, the end product I'm able to supply to the students and the community.

Education

- Upper Iowa University - Bachelor of Applied Plant Science
- Kirkwood Community College - Associate of Applied Science

Goals as a Board Member

My goal as a board member is to inform other small schools and municipalities of the importance of proper turfgrass management techniques and the knowledge that can be gained from becoming an ISTMA member. Many of these facilities are unaware that there are professionals that specialize in the maintenance of sports fields and general grounds. With this turfgrass exposure, hopefully it leads to a greater emphasis placed on field safety and job growth.

Doug Watt

West Marshall High School - Sports Field Manager
 ISTMA Member - 6 years



Employment History

- West Marshall High School (2006 - Present)
- Heartland Coop (2005 - Present)
- Bos Landen Golf Club (1995 - 2005)

Personal Information / Family / Hobbies

My wife is deceased after losing her battle with cancer in 2009. My son is currently a lineman for Mid-American Energy and my daughter is a junior at West Marshall High School. I like to hunt and fish when I have time. I also play a few rounds of golf each year.

Education

- Iowa State University - Bachelor of Science

Goals as a Board Member

The ISTMA has been very valuable to my "self education" in sports field management, particularly baseball, since I had no experience with the different soils and clays found there. The education from field days and the willing help from more knowledgeable managers has been a tremendous help to me. My goal is to help this organization thrive so these opportunities continue to be available to current and future sports field managers.

Candidates for Northwest Director

Zach Smith

Council Bluffs Recreation Complex - Sports Turf Technician
ISTMA Member - 4 years

Employment History

Council Bluffs Recreation Complex (2011 - Present)
Prairie Ridge Sports Complex (2010)



Personal Information / Family / Hobbies

I have been married for four years to my wife, Andrea. We have a 19-month-old son named Kasyn, and another boy on the way in February. I enjoy spending time with my wife and son, hunting and fishing. I have recently started playing golf, but rarely enjoy it.

Education

Iowa State University - Bachelor of Science

Goals as a Board Member

My goals as a board member would be to continue to learn from the members of our organization and help ensure that the useful information and methods, that each of us have, are shared with all of our fellow members. I would be happy to serve as a board member in a way that helps our membership to increase, and helps our current members to continually improve in our field of work.

Brad Thedens

City of Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation - Park Caretaker
ISTMA Member - 4 years

Employment History

City of Sioux Falls (2005 - Present)
TurfPros Lawn Care (2003 - 2005)
Frank's Construction (2001 - 2003)



Personal Information / Family / Hobbies

I've been married to my wife, Erica, for ten years. We have three children: Clay, who is seven years old, and twins Zack and Zoe, who are two years old. I enjoy going out golfing with my son, drag racing with my family and spending time with friends and family.

Education

Iowa State University - Bachelor of Science

Goals as a Board Member

As the Northwest Director and member of the ISTMA Board of Directors, I would like to increase the membership in the Northwest and help to get more involvement from the turf managers that are in this part of the state. I would also like to work with the rest of the board members to provide the best workshop and turfgrass conference education that we can, to ensure that the membership is receiving the information and training required to keep them leaders in their field.

Candidates for Northeast Director

Colin Stuhr

City of Iowa City - Assistant Turf Specialist
 ISTMA Member - 2 years



Employment History

City of Iowa City (October 2014 - Present)
 University of Iowa, seasonal (2011 - Present)
 Clinton Lumberkings (2010)

Personal Information / Family / Hobbies

I am your basic outdoorsman. I enjoy fishing, camping and hunting. I have a three and a half year old, chocolate lab named Chase; he is my duck hunting partner. I have recently just started bow hunting as well and bagged my first doe on November 8th, 2015. I am from eastern Iowa and I am now purchasing a house in West Branch, Iowa.

Education

Kirkwood Community College - Associate of Applied Science

Goals as a Board Member

My first goal as a board member is to make education workshops and conference sessions more available and useful for ISTMA members. Another goal is creating more benefits for all Turf Managers and finding out what Turf Mangers and Employers need concerning these benefits. I would like to get younger Sports Turf Managers involved and knowledgeable about the Sports Turf Industry. With the knowledge and resources we have within our chapter I have always felt we need to help less fortunate Communities/School Districts, via workshop or workday. I consider it an honor to run for a seat on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association.

Ben Grimm

Iowa City Community School District - Lead Grounds Technician
 ISTMA Member - 10 years



Employment History

Iowa City Community School District (June 2013 - Present)
 Kirkwood Community College (2008 - 2013)
 City of Iowa City (2003 - 2008)
 City of Muscatine (1994 - 1999)

Personal Information / Family / Hobbies

I grew up in Muscatine, Iowa, where I was heavily involved in soccer, swimming and baseball. The construction of the Muscatine Soccer Complex is what led me to groundskeeping as a temp, and ultimately the desire to pursue a career in Turfgrass Management. In my spare time, I listen to music of nearly every type. I do a fair amount of reading and study history extensively. I am married to my wife, Maria, who is a para-educator and working on a Master's Degree in Spanish.

Education

Kirkwood Community College - Associate of Applied Science

Goals as a Board Member

I would push towards educational components outside of the normal turf science. I've continually reminded my students, interns, and crew that the great turf managers do not have any more scientific information than they do. What makes them great is their ability to navigate things like Resource Allocation, Community Relations, Conflict Resolution, etc. Whether it's working with architects or Boy Scouts, turf managers have a basket of skill sets that need to be developed.

Candidates for Exhibitor Director

Casey Scheidel, CSFM

Iowa Cubs Sports Turf - Operations Manager
ISTMA Member - 9 years



Employment History

Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management (2006 - Present)
Colorado Rockies (2003 - 2005)

Personal Information / Family / Hobbies

I was born and raised near New Hampton, Iowa, and I enjoy spending time back on the farm. In my free time, I spend time with my wife, Carrie, and our two girls Ellie, 7, and Emma, 5. My hobbies include hunting, fishing, tailgating and Iowa State Cyclones' sports.

Education

Iowa State University - Bachelor of Science

Goals as a Board Member

I would like to continue to be a resource of information on athletic field maintenance and construction, work to continue education opportunities and build membership. I would also like to help the young members increase networking possibilities.

Cody Freeman

GreenKing Turf - General Manager
ISTMA Member - 4 years

Employment History

GreenKing Turf (2013 - Present)
Golf Enviro Systems (2011 - 2013)
Jeffco School District (2010 - 2011)
Denver Broncos (2005 - 2010)
Iowa State University (2004 - 2005)



Personal Information / Family / Hobbies

Personal: Past President of Colorado STMA, Former committee member for National STMA
Family: Recently moved back to Colorado, Married to Christina Freeman, 2 Labradors Retrievers
Hobbies: Pushing turf to its limits, Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Playing golf, Watching sports

Education

Des Moines Area Community College - Associate of Applied Science

Goals as a Board Member

Having been the president of the Colorado STMA chapter, I believe I can bring new and proven ideas to the Iowa STMA for fundraising, memberships, and scholarships. When new ideas are incorporated, excitement happens within the chapter. I want to be transparent to the membership on the workings of ISTMA and let the membership know that they can be a bigger part of the chapter then just paying dues.

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