

# SIDELINE REPORT

August 2016

Will You  
Be There?  
9.7.16

# Iowa Turfgrass Office

1605 North Ankeny Boulevard, Suite 210  
Ankeny, Iowa 50023 - 4163

Phone: (515) 635 - 0306  
Fax: (515) 635 - 0307

[www.iowaturfgrass.org/istmahome.htm](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/istmahome.htm)



**Randy Robinson**  
*Chapter Executive Officer*  
(641) 485 - 3249 [cell]  
[randy@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:randy@iowaturfgrass.org)



**Shawn Fopma**  
*Creative Director / Newsletter Editor*  
(515) 710 - 2402 [cell]  
[shawn@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:shawn@iowaturfgrass.org)

Follow us!  

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>3</b>	<b>President's Message</b> Troy McQuillen
<b>6</b>	<b>Turfgrass Office Update</b> Randy Robinson
<b>10</b>	<b>Fall Workshop Preview</b> Lee Van Meeteren
<b>12</b>	<b>Thoughts Before the Fall Begins</b> Tim Van Loo, CSFM
<b>24</b>	<b>Introducing Ben Grimm</b> Ben Grimm
	<b>Fall Workshop Host</b> <b>4</b>
	<b>Fall Field Prep</b> <b>14</b>
	<b>Summer Workshop Recap</b> <b>19</b>
	<b>Sports Turf Manager of the Year</b> <b>20</b>

## ADVERTISER INDEX

D & K Products.....	6
Pace Supply.....	7
Floratine Central Turf Products.....	10
Bush Sports Turf.....	12
River City Turf & Ornamental.....	12
MTI Distributing.....	13
Van Wall Equipment.....	15
Turface Athletics.....	17
ACME Materials Company.....	18
Commercial Turf & Tractor.....	24
Covermaster.....	25

# President's Message

*By: Troy McQuillen, Kirkwood Community College*



I am sure that many of you are looking for the much needed relief in the summer weather and settle into your fall work. The board is also looking forward to the fall season as there are two more ISTMA workshops to consider attending.

Lee Van Meeteren, with the City of Sioux Center, has planned a great workshop filled with education and networking opportunities on September 7th. This will be a great opportunity for the ISTMA to show their support in northwest Iowa.

Our last workshop of the year will be on December 1st at Kirkwood Community College. Austin Fisher, the new turfgrass management instructor at Kirkwood Community College, will be putting the finishing touches on the workshop and I will have the agenda out very soon.

The first week of August the board of directors met for our summer board meeting. All board members were present and we were able to get a lot accomplished on behalf of the organization. The ISTMA board continues to be successful with the budget, workshop attendance, and support from our industry's partners.

The board and I appreciate all the support that the membership and partners of the ISTMA have provided this year. Let's keep up the strong support of the ISTMA and I look forward to catching up with everyone in Sioux Center.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy McQuillen'.





# Meet: Lee Van Meeteren



**Lee Van Meeteren is hosting the upcoming Fall Workshop on September 7, in Sioux Center.**

## **1) How did you become interested in turfgrass management?**

I first was very involved in the lawn care side of turf and always had a very strong interest in wanting to get into sports turf, and I didn't have formal education in turf but management from college. So, an assistant parks director job was available and I thought it would be a great way to get into the industry and learn as fast as I could. As I am now in the industry of sports turf, I enjoy it more and more. I enjoy getting to know the guys and learn from everyone that has been before me, and getting involved as much as possible has opened many doors for me.

## **2) What does your current job consist of?**

I am currently employed by the City of Sioux Center as the Parks Director. I oversee around 400 acres of city-owned property from college sports fields to water well sites and retention ponds. It is a very interesting job, but without all the other city-owned property I wouldn't have the equipment and manpower to do what we do at our sports facilities. We currently have three full time employees and nine part time summer help and spring and fall is a whole other topic.

## **3) What is your favorite aspect of your current position?**

What I love most about my job is the crews I get to work with! As I get older and it seems like the crew gets younger, it's fun to teach and just get to know the things they deal with. Also, to have an opportunity to shape the way this community looks and draw people to the parks system and to bring my own kids to the parks and have them enjoy what I work so hard to provide, but to also hear random comments from strangers in the parks and fields that don't know me talk about how nice things are always brings a smile to my face.

## **4) What are your hobbies while away from work?**

This might sound a little odd, but I love to farm! Driving truck, planting corn, or just working the ground that my grandpa farmed for 60 years always brings such enjoyment to me; and I love to teach my son our family history! But spending time with my family as much as I can through just being at home or at the lake or sitting at ball games.

## **5) What do you enjoy about being an ISTMA member?**

What I enjoy the most about being a member of the ISTMA and also a board member is being a part of a group of people that has so much knowledge and willingness to help teach and work through problems. We are all here to be a part of the industry as a whole. I just enjoy being invested in my passions and to me being a member and board member for the ISTMA is a part of my job. I try to take advantage of other people's knowledge to do my job better.

# Fall Workshop

**September 7 - All Seasons Center**

770 7th St NE, Sioux Center, Iowa 51250

**Host:** City of Sioux Center

Lee Van Meeteren

David Egdorf

**8:00am**

Registration and Breakfast

**8:30am**

Welcome

**9:00am**

Mound and Home Plate Repair

**10:15am**

Aerification, Seeding, and Topdressing  
Simple In-season Repairs

**11:15am**

Painting of Artificial and Natural Grass Fields

**12:00pm**

Lunch

**1:00pm**

Field Safety

**2:00pm**

Ride and Drive

**You are invited to attend the 2016 Fall Workshop!**

Registration Deadline is September 2.

Return the registration for or register online at:

[www.iowaturfgrass.org/istmaevents.htm](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/istmaevents.htm)

IOWA CHAPTER  
**SportsTurf**  
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

  
*Sioux Center*  
growing • bright

  
DORDT  
COLLEGE

 **ICON**  
AG & TURF

 **MIDWEST FIELD turf**  
Synthetic Grass Systems

 **MIDWEST**  
EST. 1980  
TURF & IRRIGATION

 **Pioneer**  
ATHLETICS

 **TITAN**

 **VHLS**  
Van Holland  
Lawn Service  
Serving You in Every Season

 **VanWall**

 **ZIMCO**  
SUPPLY COMPANY

# Turfgrass Office Update

By: Randy Robinson, Chapter Executive

**O**n July 20, the Iowa Turfgrass Institute held the annual Field Day Classic again at Ballard Golf and Country Club. Of course, it wouldn't be a Field Day Classic if it wasn't 95° out and humid. It was a hot day, but the tournament was full and everyone had a great time. Thanks to Darrin Johnson, Dr. Adam Thoms, Isaac Mertz, and Jeff Wendel,

CGCS for their help with set up and registration.

The end of July brought on the annual Field Day at the Iowa State University Horticulture Research Station. Normally this event is even hotter than the Field Day Classic; not this year, in fact there were many individuals with

long sleeves on for most of the day, including myself. This was my first Field Day as the Executive Director of the ITI and it was quite a learning experience. Overall the day went pretty smoothly. Thanks in part to Dr. Adam Thoms, Dr. Nick Christians, Nick Howell, and the entire horticulture farm staff.

This event used to be the staple of the summer. Hundreds of people would attend to brush up on their skills, look at new research, and network with old friends and vendors. In the past few years, attendance has been a struggle. Why is that? Is it not important enough anymore? Do you want to see different research? Is it a bad time of the year? I know that we are in a society of hand-held devices and you can find virtually everything you need to know by the push of the button. But those devices don't offer hands on training from experts, you can't get down on the ground and look and feel research,

**TURFACE ATHLETICS™**

**Turface MVP**

No other infield conditioner has been used on more diamonds than Turface MVP. Its large particle size resists compaction and controls moisture. MVP is ideal for infield maintenance as well as construction. And because of its low bulk density, Turface covers more surface area than other infield conditioners.

Des Moines Office (800) 798-9352  
Cedar Rapids (319) 409-1195  
Omaha Office (402) 201-2521  
Bettendorf Office (563) 823-1842

**D & K**  
Products  
Your Turf Products Supplier  
www.dkturf.com

and you can't network with colleagues on your device. Let get better at this and support those that are supporting you.

All right, I'm off my soapbox. I encourage anyone with input, advice, comments, or complaints, to get a hold of an ITI board member or myself. Let us know what would make it better. We are already in the planning process for next year. We are looking strongly at the timing of the event, with the possibility of moving it to late August or early September. Dr. Adam Thoms will provide new, interesting research for you. Also, I would like to see more vendors come with demonstrations and more interaction for the attendees.

It's a process, and change isn't always easy for some, but Dr. Thoms and myself are dedicated to making this event better for all involved.

In a few weeks, we will be headed up to Sioux Center for the Fall Workshop. Lee Van Meeteren has put a lot of work into this event, and by the sounds of it, you won't want to miss it. The event is on September 7 and registration begins at 8:00 AM. Let us know and we will get you signed up. Also, if you are going to go up the night before, it looks like we will be putting together a social event that night. If there is enough interest we will get it set up, so stay tuned.

On the horizon is the ITI Benefit Tournament. You won't want to miss it this year. We are over in Eastern Iowa at the prestigious Elmcrest Country

Club, home of Zach Johnson. For more information go to [www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org) or call or email us at the turfgrass office. There will be some nice gifts for all golfers, so you are going to want to be there.

Thanks again to everyone for all the support you have given me in my first year as your Chapter Executive. We can't move forward without the help and service of our strong membership. Thanks again and have a great rest of the season.

## Pace Supply

TURF & LANDSCAPE



GRACO

FIELDLAZER S100



**ARE YOU READY FOR FOOTBALL?**  
CUSTOM STENCILS,  
HASH-MARK , FIELD NUMBER SETS,  
MASCOT LOGOS,  
AND MORE!

1-800-396-7917

[www.pacesupplyia.com](http://www.pacesupplyia.com)

98 E. CEMETERY RD

[info@pacesupplyia.com](mailto:info@pacesupplyia.com)

FAIRFAX, IA 52228

FAX: 319-846-2983



# TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

By: Dr. Adam Thoms

The 2016 ISU Turf Field Day is in the books, and attendees enjoyed perfect weather, informative talks, and great food. Speakers covered topics including: pollinators, athletic field safety, irrigation audits, putting green organic matter management, how to prune trees on a golf course, weed control for ground ivy, just to name a few topics. The group also participated in the popular and informative weed, disease, and insect walk, and finished with lunch and a trade show with exhibitors. Exhibitors provided demonstrations and answered questions after lunch. We look forward to a bigger field day next year with many new projects being underway!





Special thanks to Colby Marriott and NB Golf Cars for donating extra carts for the event!



2016 Champions (L to R): Brady Carpenter, Glenn Robinson, Conner Perry, and Tyler Rabey.



Chapter Executive Director Randy Robinson attempts a putt during the round.



Attendees gather at the reception following the event.

## Field Day Classic Results

### First Flight winners

#### 1st - 59 (13-under)

Tyler Rabey, *Ballard Golf & Country Club*  
Brady Carpenter, *Ballard Golf & Country Club*  
Conner Perry, *Ballard Golf & Country Club*  
Glenn Robinson, *Ballard Golf & Country Club*

#### 2nd - 61 (11-under)

Ross Huff, *D & K Products*  
Corby Peterson, *Bos Landen Golf Club*  
Alex Olsen, *Grinnell Golf & Country Club*  
Connor McKay, *Grinnell Golf & Country Club*

### Second Flight winners

#### 1st - 64 (8-under)

Rob Lindsay, *Coldwater Golf Links*  
John Newton, *CGCS Veenker Memorial*  
Brian Fell  
David Wallace

#### 2nd - 64 (8-under)

Kevin James, *City of Urbandale*  
Kevin Shawgo, *City of Ames*  
Joshua Thompson, *City of Ames*  
Chad Milang, *City of Urbandale*

# Fall Workshop Preview

By: Lee Van Meeteren, City of Sioux Center

**A**nother summer will soon be in the books! Up here in Northwest Iowa, it's been a very interesting spring and summer with many great challenges, but there is also some very interesting progression up here. With fall fast approaching, all of us turf managers are all trying to figure out how we are going to get it all done this fall, now that summer help are gone, but also continue to maintain our complexes and also continue to learn. That is where I come into play. September 7 is fast approaching and I would love to see as many people come to Northwest Iowa to get not only a great education from some great speakers, but also to see another part of the state and learn about challenges and things that work here. We all feel this is a great part of the state with great athletics and high standards of playing surfaces.

Located in Sioux Center, Iowa, Open Space Park is home to Sioux Center high school sports and also to Dordt College. We have a very interesting complex in that we have what is called a joint use configuration -- the city of Sioux Center owns all the facilities and the schools and the city all pay for a one-third of all costs of operation and expansion. Not only does this control costs for all parties involved, but allows the schools to expand at higher rates and do what schools are meant to do: educate our students. I feel I am very lucky to be the manager at a complex with this setup, even with the challenges of dealing with two schools and a city and trying to decide how to best spend the budget. We all have very open minds to the needs of different sports and work hard to keep this fair! I will be speaking more on this at one of the sessions that day.

We have all types of fields at this complex: natural-soil baseball and softball, three of the five soccer fields, two recreational softball fields, one artificial football field, and also two sand-based soccer fields. I feel this helps us cover many different aspects of what we do in our profession.

So I am not going to beg, but please come! It will be well worth your time and money and everyone here on staff will be more than willing to stay as long as needed to answer any and all of your questions.

If needs for hotels are on your agenda, please call me here in Sioux Center or Randy or Shawn at the turfgrass office. Thank you and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone here. God bless!



Brent Smith  
563-210-1616

Jason Allen  
402-250-2609

[www.floratinecentralturf.com](http://www.floratinecentralturf.com)





IOWA TURFGRASS  
INSTITUTE

# 35th ITI Benefit Golf Tournament

THUR  
Sept 22 2016



Elmcrest Country Club  
1 Zach Johnson Dr NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Registration Begins at 10:00 AM  
Shotgun Starts at 11:00 AM  
Dinner and Prizes to Follow

\$125  
Per Player

\$500  
Per Team

Deadline to Sign Up:  
September 16, 2016

To Register:

<http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/events.htm>  
[randy@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:randy@iowaturfgrass.org)

All proceeds benefit turfgrass education and research in Iowa!

# Thoughts Before the Fall Begins

By: *Tim Van Loo, CSFM, Iowa State Athletics*

If you are reading this, my guess is you have something to do with the turfgrass industry, most likely sports turf. You are very likely to be heading into the last part of the growing season with many things yet to accomplish. For me, August and September are my busiest months of the year. There is an excitement, anticipation, and hesitation all at the same time. Was all the work that we did in the off season enough to get through the grind of the fall?

I have written many articles about what I do to get ready for the fall: aerification, fertility, top-dressing, and other cultural practices. I hope you don't mind if I drift from the normal turf talk and go a little different direction. If you know me, I am an open book. I can't hide how I am feeling on a specific day so I don't try, very hard. Lately, work has not been my major focus and I am not ashamed to admit it.

When I was younger and just getting started in this industry, I never understood how some days my coworkers just seemed to be in a different place. Physically they were at work, but mentally they were somewhere else. There was something in their life that needed more thought and reflection than work itself. Now that I am a bit older, getting close to 40, I understand more of what all life can demand on a person. I have been happily married 14 years and have six children, four of whom were adopted. My home life demands a lot of me physically and mentally much of the time. Sometimes more than I think I can handle, but things seem to always get better.

I share some of the details of my life with you to make a few points. Our jobs demand a lot of us; there is immense pressure for perfection (mostly from ourselves) and games / events all the time. The stress of work is sometimes

**BUSH**  
**SPORTS TURF**  
REAL SPORTS REAL TURF®



Dan Klindt

Seed

Chemicals

Fertilizer

Ice Melters

563-370-2515

[dklindt@goldstarfs.com](mailto:dklindt@goldstarfs.com)

1 0

2 0

3 0

4 0

5

enough to ask yourself, is all of this worth it? Then you factor in outside stresses and it's no wonder why we see "burnout" in our industry. I want to encourage each of us to recognize the pressures and embrace them. Most of all, if someone you work with is having a bad day, don't assume they are aware or even recognize it. It might be the time to ask if everything is all right or give them some space. If they start talking, listen! Don't try and fix the problem unless they ask for help.

I am no longer naive enough to think that people should leave outside stresses at home. At some point, the outside stresses can consume us and affect us at work. It's okay to have a bad day once in a while. Lately for me, work has been my safe haven, my piece of normal

/ consistency in my life. I have found myself just wanting to jump on a mower and find peace in the job that I am doing.

I encourage all of you as you move into the fall. Stay focused on what you can control, and give in to things you can't. Enjoy the ride of life and all the seasons it throws at you. I am firm believer that we aren't given more than we can handle. If you find yourself at the end of your rope, try to find comfort there because it might be where you are supposed to be!

If you want to talk turf or anything else, feel free to contact me.



# Toro Sand Pro<sup>®</sup>



## Features

- Kawasaki<sup>®</sup> 12.2 hp (9.1 kW) gas engine
- Power steering via independent control sticks
- Transport speed of 12 mph
- Patent-pending "flex" tooth rake system
- Integrated nail drag/flex groomer for infield grooming (patent-pending)
- Hydraulic-powered rear attachment lift



**Count on it.**



MTI Distributing  
[www.Mtidistributing.com](http://www.Mtidistributing.com)  
 (515) 661-6800



# Fall Field Prep

*By: Patrick White, Sports Field Management Magazine*

**M**arc Stine, owner of Stine Turf and Snow in Durand, Michigan, maintains both residential lawns and a wide array of local baseball, softball, football, and soccer fields. For much of the year, the maintenance is pretty similar, but come fall he starts to see a big difference. “With home lawns, after Labor Day nobody seems to care. I wish people would put more effort into their lawns in the fall to keep them strong and get them ready for spring,” he notes.

“Obviously, football and soccer fields are being

used more in the fall, so we’re a little bit more maintenance-intensive on those, just to keep them up through the fall,” says Stine. “We do aerifying in the fall, [and] any bare areas or thin areas we overseed right after we aerate.” Overseeding is a pretty constant effort on these fields through the fall due to heavy use, particularly between the hash marks and between the 20-yard lines on football fields, where the bulk of the wear is.

“We’ll go in and overseed before games, and then the players will cleat that seed in while

Originally published in the September 2014 issue of SportsField Management magazine:

<http://www.sportsfieldmanagementmagazine.com/maintenance/fall-field-prep/>

1 0

2 0

3 0

4 0

5

they're playing," says Stine, noting that it's wise to take advantage of the free labor. He uses the same approach on soccer goalmouths. "We may have to overseed four or five times during the season, depending on what the game schedules are," he says. "We have youth games, JV, varsity, the band – just a lot of wear on these fields."

Stine's maintenance program includes deep-tine aerification using a Soil Reliever, as well as shallow aerating during the fall. "With the Soil Reliever we use solid tines, and with the shallower aerator we pull cores," he explains. Once football and soccer seasons are complete, he deep tines those fields to get them ready for winter. "That really helps with drainage, especially when we get heavy late fall rains, it's really amazing what that deep-tine aerifying does to prevent ponding," says Stine.

He also applies fertilizer and weed control to the sports fields at this time. The first step is a

mid-August application on soccer and football fields to get them peaking for Labor Day, around the time the first games take place. "Then we put down a broadleaf weed control between the middle of September and the middle of October – that helps clean the fields up and get them ready for spring," he states. "As far as fertilization, we pump up the potassium a little bit on the fields in the fall in September, and then we'll do a winterizer application, usually around the middle of November."

Stine says this regimen helps the turf store up nutrients, both nitrogen and potassium, for spring. "It's sort of like putting money in the bank for spring; the plant can store the energy in its roots, which gives a little quicker green-up in the spring," he notes. When it comes to baseball and softball fields, as well as soccer (a spring sport for girls in that area), it's also easier to make these applications in the fall than in the spring when they're constantly in use and condi-

## When capacity counts, count on the 9009A

Boasting a total cut width of 274 cm (9ft), the new 9009A combines maximum capacity with superb cut quality.

Its unique double-yoke design, ensures the 5 large rotary decks hug contours effortlessly for a visibly better finish. Intelligent features like easy cut height adjustment, eHydro auto throttle and the TechControl system for managing mow, turn and transport speeds, provide you with smooth, consistent productivity all day long.



Olathe, Omaha, Rock Island, Urbandale  
800-444-8873 [www.vanwall.com](http://www.vanwall.com)



tions are likely to be wetter.

JC's Lawn Service in Anderson, Indiana, also has a special niche in athletic field management. Owner Josh Cage says that fall is one of the busiest times of the year for these services.

"A good aerification program is important," emphasizes Cage. "We usually do that once a month." Some people shy away from core aerification during the season if they don't have the equipment to pick up the cores, but he's found ways to get good results even without a sweeper. "If you plan ahead, you can let things dry out after you aerify, drag everything with a baseball infield drag mat, and that helps to mix overseed in. Then you can use rotary mowers to finish chopping up the material," he explains. He prefers to irrigate right before core aerifying to get everything moist, but then shuts the irriga-

tion system off for a few days afterwards to get everything dried out.

Cage also overseeds about once a week on football and soccer fields during the fall. "If they're getting heavy play and you get a rainy football game, we try to overseed right after the game, and incorporate some aerification and topdressing about once a month," he notes. Under normal conditions, he likes to overseed prior to games so the players' cleats will help establish seed-soil contact. Otherwise, a slice seeder is used to help incorporate the seed. Topdressing after overseeding helps to hold the seed down into the soil, as well, Cage adds. He avoids using a super-fine sand topdressing and typically uses a UGSA-spec topdressing with a mix of slightly larger particle sizes.

"I like to be a little more aggressive with fer-

1 0

2 0

3 0

4 0

5

tilization than a lot of people are,” he says. “Coming out of the summer, the turf is pretty stressed from the heat and disease. So I like to go at about 3 pounds of nitrogen [per 1,000 square feet]: 1 pound around September 1, 1 pound around October 1, and 1 pound around November 1.” He uses a 50 percent slow-release formula for the first two applications, and then straight urea for the last. While the fertilizer helps promote spring green-up, more importantly it helps keep the turf actively growing and recovering during the fall playing season, explains Cage.

Though he admits it’s a tough sell to most schools and rec parks, Cage urges his customers to devote some resources in the fall to maintaining baseball and softball fields, which he says often get ignored throughout the summer and fall months.

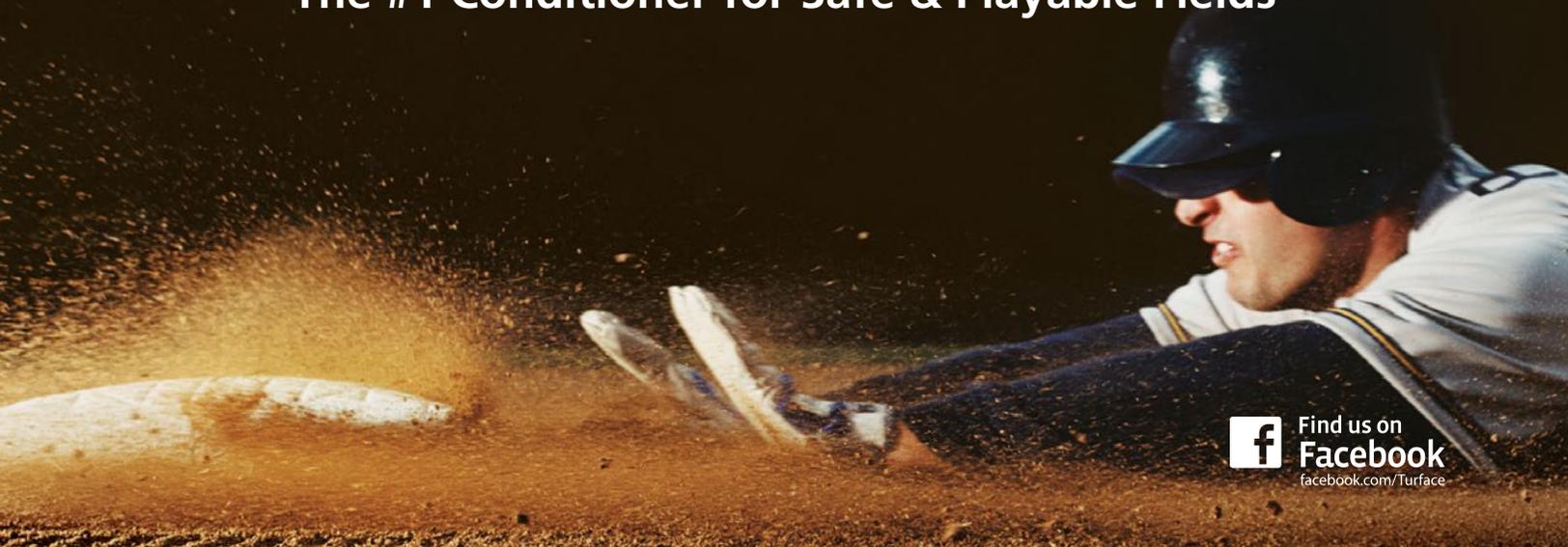
“The fall is a great time to check your surfaces and regrade; if they’re low, you can incorporate some new infield fill. It’s also a good time to send out soil samples to get them tested, because you’re not in a hurry. Based on your sand-silt-clay ratio, you can get recommendations so you know what to add. There’s also plenty of time in the fall to order those materials,” he notes. “In the spring, you’re often in a hurry and you’re fighting rain. Around here, you’re also fighting frost.” It’s tough to regrade fields that are constantly freezing and thawing and wet, and the result is often a mess, observes Cage.

“In the fall, everything tends to be dry, so you can till in the new material, grade everything and compact it,” Cage explains. Even if the field doesn’t require this level of renovation, fall is a good time to edge baselines, which often get filled in with weeds and crabgrass during summer months, he adds.



# YOUR HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

The #1 Conditioner for Safe & Playable Fields



Jim Bidack, a golf course superintendent who also operates Oklahoma Sports Turf Company, says that fall maintenance in his part of the country means a lot of overseeding with ryegrass on baseball fields. “We’ll also do some topdressing to cover the seed up and help get some good germination,” he explains, adding that they apply about 200 to 250 pounds per acre of high-phosphorus fertilizer to help bring the ryegrass up. Bidack works with many school systems, and many smaller schools that don’t offer football frequently play baseball in the fall, as well as the spring.

He also overseeds soccer fields with ryegrass. Bidack says, “Those fields just get a tremendous amount of use in the fall and early winter.” The overseeding helps get the fields through the season, he explains.

Football fields pose an even greater challenge, though he’s found one tip that helps when it

comes to topdressing football fields: “I don’t like using mason’s sand on football fields; when you have 22 kids out there with cleats on running around on every play, that sand moves. Compost doesn’t move,” Bidack states. Using an organic compost or a product called Rich Mix, which is about 70 percent ground topsoil and 30 percent cow manure compost, has produced much better results for him, he notes. “That does a great job,” Bidack reports.

Depending on the customer’s budget, Bidack recommends aerating in the fall. He uses a topdresser with twin spinners and puts down about 5 to 6 tons per field. On smaller areas, such as ball field infields, he uses a Toro 1800 topdresser. On some fields, Bidack applies a fall preemergent herbicide.

What else does Bidack do in the fall? “Deer hunt!” he says. A good lesson: Get your fall maintenance work done, and then you’ll be able to focus on other activities.



# Tops in Topdressing

Let us meet all your topdressing needs

Topdressing is a necessary component in the management of fine turf. Let ACME Materials provide custom mixes and equipment to meet all of your topdressing requirements.



Premium Sand for Golf and Athletic Turf

**563 340 8873**

Curt Mattan – Sales Manager

Our topdressing application equipment is available for customers who purchase our quality topdressing. Use it to spread your topdressing perfectly.



# ISTMA meets in Pella for the Summer Workshop



Kevin Vos, CSFM explains the basics of cricket and managing the cricket surface.



Erik Christiansen, of EC Design Group, teaches attendees about irrigation design and maintenance.



Casey Scheidel, CSFM speaks about constructing the Pella Sports Park and the challenges he faced.

The ISTMA greatly appreciates the support of the following sponsors for their generous support of the 2016 Summer Workshop:

Commercial Turf and Tractor  
D & K Products  
Green King Turf  
Iowa Cubs Sports Turf  
MTI Distributing  
Zimco Supply Company



President Troy McQuillen walks attendees through an irrigation audit.



# Sports Turf Manager of the Year

**A**t the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show in January, Jesse Roeder was awarded the 2015 ISTMA Sports Turf Manager of the Year award. Jesse is currently the head groundskeeper at the Cedar Rapids Kernels' Veterans Memorial Stadium, which also won the 2015 Baseball Field of the Year award. Congratulations to Veterans Memorial Stadium and Jesse Roeder!

## 1) Tell us a little about where you are from.

I was born in Clinton, Iowa, but I have resided in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for the last 22 years.

## 2) What interested you in a career in turfgrass?

I grew up around baseball my whole life as my father, Jack Roeder, was a General Manager in the Midwest League for 30 years. I developed an interest in taking care of baseball fields and working in sports turf throughout those years.

## 3) Tell us a little about your current position.

I am the head groundskeeper for the Cedar Rapids Kernels (Single A Affiliate of the Minnesota Twins) and the Waterloo Bucks (Northwoods Collegiate League).

## 4) What type of staff do you have and what important role do they play?

I have one full-time assistant that works with me during the day before games and also when the team is on the road. On game days, I have my full-time assistant and three part-time assistants that help work the game, which includes pre game, mid game drags, and also post game field work.

1 0

2 0

3 0

4 0

5



**5) What are your career goals?**

To continue to work on baseball fields as long as I can and to keep them in the best shape possible.

**6) What is one thing you've done that you're most proud of so far?**

Besides being the Iowa Sports Turf Manager award winner in 2015, I was also the Midwest League Groundskeeper of the year in 2005.

**7) What does winning Sports Turf Manager of the Year mean to you?**

It's quite an honor, because there are so many top notch sports fields in Iowa that could have won the award also.

**8) Who was the first person you told about winning the award?**

My wife of eight years, Mindy.

**9) What are your interests outside of work?**

I enjoy watching and playing baseball with my sons Tyler and Logan.

**10) Tell us about your family.**

I have two sons, Tyler, who is 18 years old, and Logan, who is 6 years old, and also my wife Mindy.



# Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Field of the Year

## PURPOSE

To recognize the excellence of sports fields maintained in Iowa. To show appreciation for the Sports Turf Manager and staff's efforts in leading the Sports Turf industry into the future. The Iowa Sports Turf Manager's Association, by sponsoring this award, wishes to promote excellence in management of sports fields and the turf industry. Please include pictures of the field with your application and letter.

## CRITERIA

- Located in the State of Iowa
- Resourcefulness of staff, budget, maintenance practices, challenges in the management of the athletic field
- Condition & aesthetics of the athletic field
- Number and type of games and/or events
- Previous recipients may reapply if all requirements/applications are met.

This award will be presented at the ISTMA Annual Business Meeting at the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show in Des Moines in January.

## Nomination Form

Please PRINT CLEARLY or TYPE information requested below:

Field Type:     Baseball         Softball         Football         Soccer

Name of school, park district, or agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of school, park district, or agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number of Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Newspaper(s) to send Press Release: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Current reasons for nomination of the field/fields (i.e. current sports turf field conditions, major projects, aesthetics, etc.). Please provide a written letter of explanation on why the field/fields should be recognized as ISTMA Field of the Year.

I certify that the information in these nomination papers is true, current and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Nominator (Please Print Legibly)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Nominator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position of Nominator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number of Nominator

We ask that this nomination paper be co-signed by other permanent co-workers or by other members of the Iowa Sports Turf Manager's Association.

Co-Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Iowa Turfgrass Office, 1605 N Ankeny Blvd Suite 210, Ankeny, Iowa 50023-4163  
Deadline: October 31**

# Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Sports Turf Manager of the Year

## PURPOSE

To recognize a Sports Turf Manager for their professional ability and contribution to the sports turf industry of Iowa. To show appreciation for the individual's efforts in leading the sports turf industry into the future. The Iowa Sports Turf Manager's Association, by sponsoring this award, wishes to promote excellence in management of sports fields and the turf industry.

## CRITERIA

- Be professionally engaged in a management position in the sports turf industry.
- Level of contribution by the turf manager to the sports turf industry.
- Management performance: i.e. current sports turf field condition, work ethic, creative skills to enhance his/her facility, maintenance projects participation.
- Contribution to the local community.
- Previous recipients may reapply if all requirements/applications are met.

This award will be presented at the ISTMA Annual Business Meeting at the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show in Des Moines in January/February each year.

## Nomination Form

Please PRINT CLEARLY or TYPE information requested below:

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number of Nominees: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school, park district, or agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of school, park district, or agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Newspaper(s) to send Press Release: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Current reasons for nomination of this applicant (i.e. current sports turf field conditions, major projects, work ethic, job performance, etc.). Please provide a written letter of explanation on why the nominee should be recognized as ISTMA Turf Manager of the Year.

I certify that the information in these nomination papers is true, current and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Nominator (Please Print Legibly)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Nominator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position of Nominator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number of Nominator

We ask that this nomination paper be co-signed by other permanent co-workers or by other members of the Iowa Sports Turf Manager's Association.

Co-Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Iowa Turfgrass Office, 1605 N Ankeny Blvd Suite 210, Ankeny, Iowa 50023-4163  
Deadline: October 31**

# Introducing Ben Grimm

By: Ben Grimm, Iowa City Community School District

**M**y name is Ben Grimm. I am the Grounds Manager for the Iowa City Community School District and currently the Northeast ISTMA Director. I've been working in the industry for 20 some years. I started in the industry working for the City of Muscatine when I was around 14 years old. At the time, Kevin Vos was the manager, Joe Wagner was the assistant, John Newel was a temp, and Tony Seino joined us around the same period of time. I was first assigned at the ball park weed trimming and picking up trash. Somewhere along the way I managed to drive a five-wheel AMT up a ten-row bleacher and had all five tires off the ground. Shortly after, I was reassigned to the soccer complex. I'd like to think it was because

I admitted to my mistake and Kevin and Joe saw value in that. More likely, they felt they needed to keep a closer eye on me. Either way they began to teach me more about the trade. I vividly remember mowing for the first time. Joe had to put a phone book under me and pulled the seat belt super tight. I didn't have enough weight on my bones to override the safety sensor in the seat. The mower kept cutting out every few feet. I spent the rest of my high school career learning the trade while working at the complex.

After graduating from high school, I moved to the Iowa City area. By this time Joe had taken his position for the City of Iowa City. It was under Joe that I gained most of what I know about

managing grounds with limited or no pesticides. At the time, the lack of pesticides annoyed me, but the lessons have become something I fully appreciate at this point in my career. I spent the rest of my college career working for Joe before taking a Greenhouse Manager position for the Kirkwood Community College Horticulture Department.

Kirkwood was a start-up operation. The

## COMMERCIAL TURF SERVICES

AUTHORIZED CONTRACTOR / DISTRIBUTOR

**800-748-7497**

- \* Universe Fraze Mowing \* Seeding \*
- \* Overseeding \* Synthetic Turf Cleaning \*
- \* Deep Tine Aerating & Topdressing\*
- \* Athletic Field Renovation \*

**[www.commercialturfandtractor.com](http://www.commercialturfandtractor.com)**

**Bryan Wood**

*Agronomist / Turfgrass Specialist*

*Serving The Turf Industry Since 1982*

**Cell: 660-646-9394**

**or 816-665-6207**

**[bigwoodysauce.com](http://bigwoodysauce.com)**

1 0

2 0

3 0

4 0

5

Department had moved into a new facility and I was in charge of helping to get the gardens and greenhouse operational. Although the position was not focused around athletics like I had traditionally worked on, it did allow me the opportunity to dabble in all areas of horticulture. Leaving Kirkwood, I had experience with everything from prairies and food production, to grapes and ornamental flowers.

This diverse background turned out to be what Iowa City Community School District was looking for. For 26 years the grounds maintenance had been contracted out. I was hired on to implement the new Grounds Department. This has turned out to be a great challenge, especially with limited or no pesticide usage for 30 different facilities. I've been fortunate to have an exceptional crew to work with and to help over-

come the challenges.

Now onto a more personal level. By nature, I am more of a loner. I spend most of my free time with my wife and family. I have three brothers and three sisters. With such limited time in life, my siblings are more like best friends. We have small family gatherings about every weekend. My wife is truly my best friend. She is originally from Mexico and we spend a lot of time traveling through the Sierra Gorda's to go see her family. We are currently expecting our first child in December of this year. At 37 years old, I've waited a very long time to have children and cannot even begin to explain the excitement in our house. In my free time, I listen to hours of music each day. Primarily classical, but I dabble in everything. I also enjoy researching World War II and working in my vegetable garden.

## Outsmart Mother Nature... Year Round!

# EVERGREEN™ TURF COVERS

With 30 years of field proven experience and the longest warranties, EVERGREEN™ from COVERMASTER is the smart choice

### SMART EDGE TECHNOLOGY™

- Hems and grommets are not required
- Unlike Polypro fabrics, EVERGREEN™ will not unravel
- Can be cut to custom sizes and shapes on site
- Anchor pins can be placed anywhere on the cover

### UNIQUE DESIGN CREATES A TRULY 4-SEASON TURF COVER

- Winter blanket • Early spring green-up • Summer overseeding & repair • Frost protection • Extend your growing season

### BE SURE TO ASK FOR EVERGREEN™, THE ONE WITH COLOR

- Provides additional light spectrum benefits for the turf
- Choose color based on your climate



Can be cut or shaped without fraying thanks to Smart Edge Technology™



The with and without look of natural turf using the EVERGREEN™ cover



**COVERMASTER™**  
**AHEAD OF THE GAME**

Call Toll Free: 1-800-387-5808  
Int'l: 416-745-1811 • FAX: 416-742-6837  
E-mail: [info@covermaster.com](mailto:info@covermaster.com)  
[www.covermaster.com](http://www.covermaster.com)



[covermaster.com/evad/](http://covermaster.com/evad/)

# 2016 Calendar of Events

**27**

**APR**

## Spring Workshop

Burlington High School  
Burlington, Iowa  
Host: Paul Swafford

**18**

**MAY**

## Extension Fundraiser

Hillcrest Country Club  
Adel, Iowa  
Host: Paul Mayhugh

**29**

**JUNE**

## Summer Workshop

Pella Sports Complex  
Pella, Iowa  
Hosts: Nunnikhoven & Vos

**20**

**JULY**

## Field Day Classic

Ballard Golf & Country Club  
Huxley, Iowa  
Host: Tyler Rabey

**28**

**JULY**

## Field Day

ISU Turfgrass Research Station  
Ames, Iowa

**07**

**SEPT**

## Fall Workshop

City of Sioux Center  
Sioux Center, Iowa  
Host: Lee Van Meeteren

**22**

**SEPT**

## ITI Benefit Tournament

Elmcrest Country Club  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Host: Clayton Krieger

**01**

**DEC**

## Winter Workshop

Kirkwood Community College  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Host: Troy McQuillen

**17**

**JAN**

## Iowa Turfgrass Conference

Prairie Meadows Event Center  
Altoona, Iowa



# Iowa STMA

@iowa\_stma

ISTMA will be the recognized leader in strengthening the Sports Turf Industry and enhancing members' competence and acknowledgment of their professionalism.

## What's happening on Twitter?



**West Marshall Turf @DougW14** • Aug 13  
Harvesting aeration cores. They will be used to make free compost for the citizens of Ankeny.



**Iowa Cubs Sports Turf @IowaCubsTurf** • Aug 10  
Might be 90's predicted the next 10 days, but holes have to be punched in the off season for the playing season!



**Colin Stuhr @STUHR14** • Aug 7  
Shaping moguls for cross country. My Sunday Funday!



## Who To Follow



**Iowa STMA @iowa\_stma**



**IA Turfgrass Office @laturfinstitute**



# 2016 ISTMA Board of Directors



**Troy McQuillen**

*President*

Kirkwood Community College  
6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
319-398-5441  
troy.mcquillen@kirkwood.edu

**Lee Van Meeteren**

*Southwest Director*

City of Sioux Center  
335 1st Ave NE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
712-722-0761  
leevm@siouxcenter.org

**Brent Smith**

*Exhibitor Director*

Floratine Central Turf Products  
2738 222nd Street  
DeWitt, IA 52742  
563-210-1616 (work)  
thestrongestturf@hotmail.com

**Elliott Josephson**

*Vice President*

Prairie Ridge Sports Complex  
220 West First St  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-963-3577  
ejosephson@ankenyiowa.gov

**Colin Stuhr**

*Southeast Director*

City of Iowa City  
203 North 5th St  
West Branch, IA 52358  
563-271-7966  
colin-stuhr@iowa-city.org

**Casey Scheidel, CSFM**

*At-Large Director*

I-Cubs Sports Turf  
1 Line Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
515-243-6111 (work)  
caseys@iowacubs.com

**Zach Smith**

*Northwest Director*

Council Bluffs Sports Complex  
2900 Richard Downing Ave  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503  
402-699-1497  
zsmith@councilbluffs-ia.gov

**Brad Thedens**

*At-Large Director*

City of Sioux Falls Parks & Rec  
2401 West 49th St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605-359-0323  
bradley.thedens@gmail.com

**Tim Van Loo, CSFM**

*Past - President*

ISU Athletics  
1800 S. 4th St. Jacobson Bldg  
Ames, IA 50011  
515-509-8035 (cell)  
vanlooti@iastate.edu

**Ben Grimm**

*Northeast Director*

Iowa City Community School District  
1137 South Riverside Dr  
Iowa City, IA 52246  
319-540-5398  
grimm.ben@iowacityschools.org

**Shaun Eberhart**

*At-Large Director*

Northeast Community School District  
3690 Hwy 136  
Goose Lake, IA 52750  
563-249-4549  
shaun.eberhart@northeast.k12.ia.us