

# Sideline Report

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

August 2010

## New Trends in Water Conserving Products, Practices and Programs

--Lynda Wightman

Why, as Sports Turf Managers, do you need to consider water conservation in your daily responsibilities? Because:

- We need to be proactive
- Water is in critical supply (underground aquifers are contaminated and drawing down)
- The Sports Turf Industry is very visible
- Our fields are becoming more environmentally conscience every day

We are stewards of the most precious natural resource on earth: water. "Experts on the Field". There are many new water use products offered today, that makes water conservation a no-brainer.

Climate-based controllers, or SMART systems, offer ET based data that automatically regulates the scheduling of irrigation for landscapes and turf. Some offer a true plant, soil and sprinkler database, thus being able to apply water during any season, as the plant needs it.

Sensors are now available which automatically turn off the irrigation system when it is raining, windy, and/ or freezing. Certainly saves harsh calls from the public when it is raining and the irrigation systems are running!

Simple drain check valves help keep the water in the pipes when low head runoff might take place due to elevation changes. A good example of water savings is:

1000' of 1" pipe; 50% of water drains when system shuts off  
4 gals. Per 100'; 20 gals. Drain/ irrigation cycle  
120 gals. Irrigation days/ year; **2,400 gallons/ year wasted!**

Pressure regulation, especially in smaller fixed spray sprinklers, can be created either in the sprinkler riser and/ or a device attached to the electric valve. As pressure increases, so does the amount of flow. With most sprinklers at higher pressures, there will be smaller droplet sizes, thus a "misting" effect. Obviously, with any wind, the water is wasted and isn't beneficial to the plant.

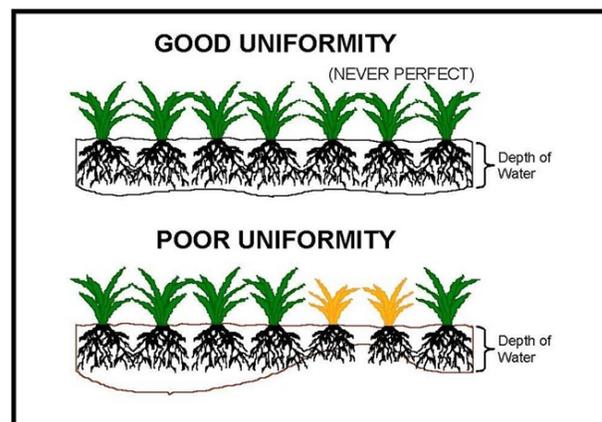
An example of water savings using valve regulation on large rotors is:

13.5 gpm @ 50 psi; 16.1 gpm @ 70 psi  
2.6 gpm (difference) x 20 mins.=52 gpm  
120 days x 52 gpm = 6,240 gpm saved  
at 50 psi regulation

Rotator nozzles have become the sprinkler of choice for areas 8' – 30'. They have a lower precipitation rate and a much higher uniformity rating that sprays used in these locations. Thus, allowing water to get into the soil without runoff and also avoiding brown doughnuts around the sprinklers (poor distribution uniformity - DU). With lower flow, the water savings are dramatic when compared to small area sprinkler use.

Uniformity is the term that describes how evenly the water is distributed by the sprinkler. Efficiency is the ratio between how much water the plant beneficially uses compared to how much water the system is applying. Why is maximizing water use and maintaining uniformity important? Water and energy conservation; eliminate nutrient leaching \$\$\$; reduce weeds and diseases. Safety; manage salinity/ poor water quality; improve playing conditions; improve aesthetics and have overall healthier plant material for first and foremost on the list.

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# New Trends in Water Conserving Products, Practices and Programs

continued from page 1

--Lynda Wightman

By conducting an irrigation audit, collected and analyzed data, showing the uniformity of a system, allows the end user to justify the cost of renovating an older system. Typically, we see audits with DU's of 35% – 40%! Think of how much water is being over-applied to make the dry spots go away.

An example of extended run times (wasted water!) is shown below:

DU%	Plant Water Req.	\ (divide)	DU	Runtime
30%	1"	\	0.3	3.33 mins.
50%	1"	\	0.5	2.0 mins.
70%	1"	\	0.7	1.43 mins.

There are many legislative trends for water conservation being implemented throughout North America. Ben Franklin has a great quote, "When the well is dry, we learn the worth of water". This is happening in states, such as Iowa, where contamination and quantity has become an issue.

Some alternative types of water that are being implemented and used are:

Reclaimed; harvested rain; desalinization of ocean water; and gray applications.

With the implementation of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), and the SSI (Sustainable Sites Initiative), water conservation is being addressed at all aspects using irrigation. In the SSI point system, design, installation and management play important parts in landscape and watering. We are also seeing Green Roofs (on top of parking lots and sports structures) which require optimum uniformity for irrigation and cooling. A few other initiatives that can be accessed on the internet are:

- SWAT – Smart Water Application Technology (testing of SMART irrigation equipment)
- EPA WaterSense program (individual certification available with IA auditor credentials)
- Alliance for Water Efficiency
- July Smart Irrigation Month (Irrigation Association)

In conclusion, there are a tremendous amount of new trends (to stay!), products and programs that are available and easy to access, which will help all of use water effectively and efficiently!

## Glyphosate Resistant Perennial Ryegrass is the Answer

—Mark Ackerman & Matt Klingenberg

Have you ever wondered why glyphosate resistant grasses aren't available to sports turf managers? Many people have heard the rumors of glyphosate resistant creeping Bentgrass and Kentucky Bluegrass, but these products haven't become available to our industry due to their ability to spread to other locations and become a weed. An ideal grass to put the glyphosate resistant gene in would be perennial ryegrass.

The benefits of glyphosate resistant grasses would be immense. A glyphosate resistant grass would allow turf managers to control broadleaf and grass weeds through a single herbicide application. Weeds like *Poa annua*, *Poa Trivialis*, quackgrass, brome grass, creeping Charlie, white clover, and wild violet will no longer be a problem that sports turf managers need to worry about. A glyphosate resistant grass would allow us to seed sports fields, golf fairways, tee boxes, and driving ranges while not having to worry about the residual effects of expensive pre-emergent herbicides.

Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in the U.S.

with between 90 and 100 millions pounds applied annually. This helps keep chemical costs relatively low for non-selective weed control. Generic glyphosate will sell for around \$0.40 per oz. The recommended application rate is about 1.5 oz per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup>. This means for about \$0.60 per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> or \$26.14 per acre you can control all of your turf weeds for the season. This is simply the chemical savings; imagine what you can do with the amount of time saved skipping pre-emergence herbicides and not needing to spray specialty chemicals for individual weed control!

With the benefits of glyphosate resistant grass in mind Jacklin Seed (United Seeds, Inc.) has patented two new cultivars of glyphosate resistant perennial ryegrass (JR-502 and JR-501). These cultivars are being evaluated at a Des Moines area golf course, even though perennial ryegrass isn't currently on the glyphosate label. In these tests we are looking at the best way to introduce the new species into mature turf stands and evaluating the disease and insect resistance of our new cultivars.

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## President's Report

— *Mike Andresen, CSFM*

As we enter the fall competition season, I hope your energy is high and you are ready for the practices and games that are quickly approaching. Our membership represents many different disciplines of this profession. From those who manage professional or park-and-recreation sports complexes to others that manage surfaces for the many colleges, universities and high schools - we all have the same mission - to provide the safest and most aesthetically pleasing fields for athletes of all ages.

The work you do is critical for the athletes playing on your fields. Appearance and safety are important issues to the parents, fans and guests of your facilities. The bottom line is that our facilities need to be safe. Weather is a very important variable on the type of field conditions teams can expect when they step on our fields to compete. A, truly, healthy field surface and root zone will provide a season's worth of wear under even poor weather conditions. Hopefully you're able to answer the need and have been allowed to get your fields in the shape they need to be in, to survive the demands that the fall season will dish out. Through your membership in ISTMA, we hope you've learned a couple things this year to make your membership worthwhile and valuable. It's not enough to simply be a member. The real value in membership comes when you're actively attending ISTMA work-

shops and the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. Discounts to these events more than pay for your membership. There is one more workshop left in this year's series. A can't-miss event will be held in Iowa City on September 14th. Please see the registration form in another part of this newsletter.

Your ISTMA Board met in late June and made some dramatic investments that will benefit all of us for the long and short term. Our first responsibility is to ensure the financial health of the chapter and I'd like to affirm to you that chapter finances are strong. In areas; we've tightened-the-belt and streamlined some expenditures, out of necessity. In other areas; we've collectively decided to invest more in membership benefits. I'll assure you the mission to educate members, and to help you become a better professional, is paramount to this Board. If at any time you have an idea to help ISTMA become more valuable to you, let one of us know! If you have questions about how your membership dollars are being used, don't be afraid to ask. This is your association and we want to continue to build it into the association you are proud to be a member of! Have a great fall sports season.

You may go through your entire Turfgrass Management career without ever being disturbed by critters of fur, feather, hoof or claw. In the urban landscape we coexist with a diverse assortment of animals that seldom cause a nuisance. In fact, with the popularity of the current “green movement” there are many successful programs like the Audubon Sanctuary Program that encourage animal habitat on golf courses, parks, and athletic field facilities. Occasionally we get in the way of each other and one of us becomes a nuisance. Since we have a bigger brain, and the internet, we scheme to remove the beast from our turf so to speak. Here are a few of the critter problems you may encounter at your facility and a source for plotting your own course of action. There is a little Bill Murry and Elmer Fudd that resides in us all, so plan your strategy carefully or the joke may be on you. A good place to find information is the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management; they provide research-based wildlife control technology and management information from experts who care <http://www.icwdm.org/handbook/index.aspx#om>. The information is detailed and provides damage prevention and control methods on exclusion, cultural methods and habitat modification, frightening, repellents, toxicants, live capture, and shooting.

**Moles** are more of a nuisance than a major sports turf pest, but spring soccer and ruts in the field constitutes a safety hazard and you should be making an effort to get rid of the culprit and improve the playing surface. Rake or drag the mounds of dirt to smooth the surface and use the wheel of a riding mower or utility vehicle to flatten the tunnels. Plant the bare areas with seed or divot mix. Forget about all the gimmicks you might hear about, such as, gum, poison peanuts, wind mills or other lawn ornaments that vibrate, castor beans, drain cleaners, car exhaust, etc. Regardless of the claim they are not an effective means of getting rid of moles. Talpirid is bromethalin bait that looks like a candy worm and can be placed subsurface in the runs to kill moles. If you can't assure that field users and pets will not come in contact with the pesticide then don't use it. Follow all label directions. I have used Talpirid on golf courses and home lawns with some success. You never really know if the moles just left or if they were killed by the pesticide. My preferred method of mole control is trapping, call me if you are not having success, I always get my mole. First, consult these guides to help you develop a plan <http://www.themoleman.com> and <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/publications/pm1302b.pdf>. The harpoon and scissor trap are the

only effective way to get rid of problem moles. I used the harpoon trap for several years with good success but switched to the scissor trap and had even better success. The keys to both are tending your traps on a daily basis, selecting an active and straight section of the run, and making sure the trap is set properly. I prefer the scissor trap because it is a sturdier device and is seldom set off without catching the mole. The harpoon trap can sometimes push itself out of the ground or miss if the spears do not reach deep into the tunnel. Experiment with placing the harpoon or scissor trap in the mole run. Dig out a small section of the run to expose the actual mole tunnel. You should be able to see and feel the tunnel that is about two fingers wide. Notice the depth of the tunnel and realize that the harpoons or the scissors will need to be placed deep enough to impact the moles run. It takes practice to properly set both types of traps. Follow the directions for setting the traps. With the harpoon trap, work the spring mechanism up and down several times so that the harpoons make a clear channel to enter the ground when the mole sets off the trigger paddle, otherwise the spears only go into the ground an inch and then force the trap out of the ground without catching the mole. After arming either trap use a stick or long screw driver to trigger the trap and see if it would catch the mole. You'll get the hang of it after a while. Remember, catch the mole not your hand. A five gallon bucket loaded with a cinder block will keep small children out of the trap but others just want to know what's under the bucket. Remove traps when the field is in use. Use caution. I've caught over a hundred moles and only went to the emergency room once and that was before I learned to use a stick to practice setting off the traps. Here are some other facts and words of encouragement in your quest against the mole.

Sites near wooded areas are more prone to moles because they thrive under the forest floor. Getting rid of grubs will not get rid of moles because they eat many other soil creatures, especially worms. Moles do not usually feed on plants.

Moles are solitary except when mating in the spring so it is usually only one or two moles causing damage in an area with distinct runs. When the ground gets too hard and dry for moles to dig they go deeper where there is better food and moisture. Set traps on a straight section of the run and avoid sharp curves or mounds of pure soil where they clean the tunnel. Check your traps daily and plan on catching a mole on the same day that you set a trap in an active run. Traps set by 9am can catch moles by 3pm.

*Continued on page 5*

I have watched very patient cats sit by a run and delicately extract moles while their brainless canine counterpart digs up the entire lawn for the same reward. If you are ever faced with a live mole do not pick it up with bare hands since they have sharp teeth and know how to use them. Over time you will begin to think like the mole and on occasion you will see one actually working the surface in a tunnel.

Tim Vanloo, CSFM Iowa State University, showed me how he used the SportsTurf Magazine to capture his only mole on the Jack Trice stadium field this spring. After walking across the field and seeing no disturbance, he walked up to the press box and returned 10 minutes later to see that a new mole run was present. He returned to the location of the crime with a 5 gallon bucket, a shovel, and the current issue of SportsTurf Magazine. The bucket was for sitting, the magazine was for patience and efficient use of time, and the shovel was for burying the mole after he made it stop digging up the field. The take home message is that active runs are a key component of catching or trapping moles. [http://icwdm.org/handbook/mammals/mam\\_d51.pdf](http://icwdm.org/handbook/mammals/mam_d51.pdf)

**Voles** - Voles sometimes use runs made by moles, but voles are not soil moving diggers. Meadow voles make runways just above the soil surface and within the thatch and lower parts of tall grass. They are normally confined to non-mowed grass areas keeping them hidden from avian predators. Under the protection of last year’s prolonged snow cover vole damage was extensive in mowed turf areas. When snow leaves voles retreat to protected areas and there is no need to try and control them. Mouse sized snap traps are effective if you feel the need for trapping in the spring. Most damaged areas recover when the grass begins to grow in the spring but some of the extensively damage areas last winter required drill seeding in the spring. [http://icwdm.org/handbook/rodents/ro\\_b177.pdf](http://icwdm.org/handbook/rodents/ro_b177.pdf)

**Thirteen lined ground squirrel** – Mounds of dirt that are one to two feet in diameter and six inches high can seemingly form over night. They are bigger than mole mounds and often are impossible to mow over. The thirteen-lined ground squirrel is a slender rat-sized rodent weighing about 8 ounces with a length of about 10 inches including a tail of 3 inches. But don’t be fooled these little guys can really move a lot of dirt. I have also heard them called “squinties” by some of the local farmers.

This is the same little critter that burrows in rural Iowa ditch banks and can be seen darting across the road. Wooden-based rat-sized snap traps, glue boards, or live traps can be successfully used to con-

trol ground squirrels. The large wooden snap traps are simple and inexpensive. Peanut butter is great bait that really sticks to the trigger mechanism. A common mistake when trapping nuisance animals is not using enough traps. Set traps in areas where damage is occurring, next to active burrows, or in active runways. Joe Wagner, Iowa City Parks and Recreation has a more natural approach to control ground squirrels.

He promotes a good hunting opportunity by making sure that red tailed hawks have a perch to view open fields for unwanted varmints. Baseball back stops and soccer goals can be a good perch, but he also erects 35 ft poles in key areas to give the hawks from the Hawkeye state a better advantage.

He also noticed less activity in mowed turf areas after he started developing more no mow prairie areas. Given a choice, ground squirrels prefer taller grassy vegetation.

<http://www.crittercontrol.es/animal-facts-thirteen-linedgroundsquirrels.php>

*Continued on page 6*

The advertisement features a black and white wavy background at the top with the 'FLORATINE CENTRAL TURF PRODUCTS' logo. Below this, the text 'Your TURF STRENGTH Provider' is written in a mix of green and black fonts. A vibrant image of green grass is positioned below the text. At the bottom, there are three logos: 'FLORATINE FOR THE STRONGEST TURF', 'Phoenix ENVIRONMENTAL CARE', and 'GRO POWER'. Contact information is provided for two sales consultants: Jason Allen (402-250-2609, floratineomaha@cox.net) and Brant Smith (563-210-1616, thestrongestturf@hotmail.com). A handwritten-style note says 'For your nearest Sales Consultant'.

**Critter Control** *Continued from page 5*  
 —Dr. David Minner, PhD

*Continued from page 5*

I picked up a few good tips from the site for my yard and garden critter control; use peanut butter on an electric fence for deer control, raccoons can't tear through a few strips of tape placed on ear corn. I'll use my bigger brain on a few ears just to get back at the corn eating coons in my garden. Here are a few links to other critters that may be causing you some problems.

- Skunks <http://icwdm.org/handbook/carnivor/skunks.asp>
- Deer [http://icwdm.org/handbook/mammals/mam\\_d25.pdf](http://icwdm.org/handbook/mammals/mam_d25.pdf)
- Pigeons <http://icwdm.org/handbook/birds/Pigeons/Pigeons.pdf>
- Crows <http://icwdm.org/handbook/birds/AmericanCrows/AmericanCrows.pdf>
- Geese <http://icwdm.org/handbook/birds/CanadaGeese/Landscapes.aspx>

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No matter how big or small the event, volunteers make all the difference. Last month Drake University hosted the USA Track and Field Championships, the most prestigious track event Des Moines has ever hosted. Drake and the City of Des Moines were under the microscope to see if we are capable of hosting the Olympic trials in 2016. From everything I have heard the Drake and Des Moines Community performed flawlessly, this was solely made possible by the efforts of the many volunteers that donated their time.

With Drake Stadium being a multi-use field the stadium was booked with camps up until the Saturday before the event with camps resuming the Tuesday following the meet. My staff was faced with the challenge of having to set-up and tear down the track equipment in one day-not to mention the maintenance on the fields. Realizing this process usually takes a week or better with my staff, I reached out to volunteers to help make it happen. Coaches, Drake athletes, and athletic support staff all volunteered.



Events such as this are rewarding to be a part of, and sometimes you have to know when to ask for help. In this situation, I had to call for help, many people came to my rescue and for that I was very thankful. In the end it was a great event due to the TEAM effort from my staff and all the volunteers.

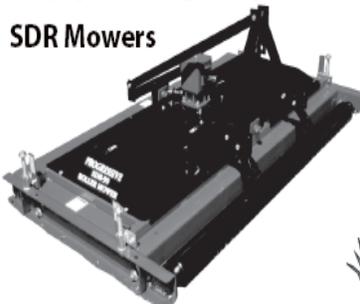


Setting up for any track meet is a lot of work, but add on to that a nationally televised event and officials from around the country having their own opinion on matters, and it became a very complex task. Leading up to the event we were virtually set-up for football with goal posts up and very little track equipment out. In a matter of 24 hours we had to remove the goal posts, set up all the High Jump and Pole Vault pits (2 each), banner off and paint all the throw event areas. Protective netting had to be erected and all the miscellaneous accessories that go along with track and field had to be in place. This is not to mention all the TV, tent, and timing crews all trying to get their work accomplished as well. When it was all said and done, the facility had to be completely transformed within 24 hours to be ready for football and soccer.

Progressive's three point hitch roller mowers employ the same deck design as the Tri-Deck Roller mowers. These mowers can be used for maintenance mowing, municipal grounds, estates, sports fields and many other lawn and turf applications where a quality cut is desired.

The mowers cut as low as 1/2" and provide an even cut without scalping. Like all Progressive products, the mowers are a heavy duty design for superior strength and durability. The SDR mowers are available in 65" and 90" cutting widths, and can be either rear or front mounted.

**SDR Mowers**



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### Turfgrass Office Changes

The demanding economy, coupled with software changes and the difficult weather in 2010 have led to some changes in the Iowa Turfgrass Office. Patti Woo left the office on May 1<sup>st</sup>, we wish Patti the very best in her future endeavors. ITI will not replace the administrative position in the immediate future but will reevaluate as financial considerations improve.

The biggest challenge of this change is the Iowa Turfgrass Office phone, and I apologize if you call and get the voicemail. The office number ‘rolls over’ to the voicemail if both lines are busy, so please leave a message and I will try very hard to call back by the end of the day. In the last six weeks I have asked many callers to ‘hold’ while I answer the other line, my apologies for that also. Please call my cell phone if you need to (515-231-2890) or email to [jeff@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:jeff@iowaturfgrass.org).

### Avecetra

On June 15<sup>th</sup> ITI entered into an agreement with Avecetra for our AMS. AMS is the commonly used acronym for association management software. The number one thing an AMS does is ‘house’ our member database – keeping track of our members, their contact information, preferences, history and more in one central, comprehensive system.

The learning curve is a little steep for a ‘one-person’ office, but I think the long term effect will be worth the growing pains. The new ‘system’ will allow members to update their contact information online, automate the membership renewal process and register for events with ‘real time’ confirmations. One of the great benefits will be a ‘searchable online directory’ for members of all the ITI affiliates.

If you have further interest in the application, visit the Avecetra website at: <http://www.avecetra.com/> I am excited to get the system up and running, our current projected ‘launch date’ is September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

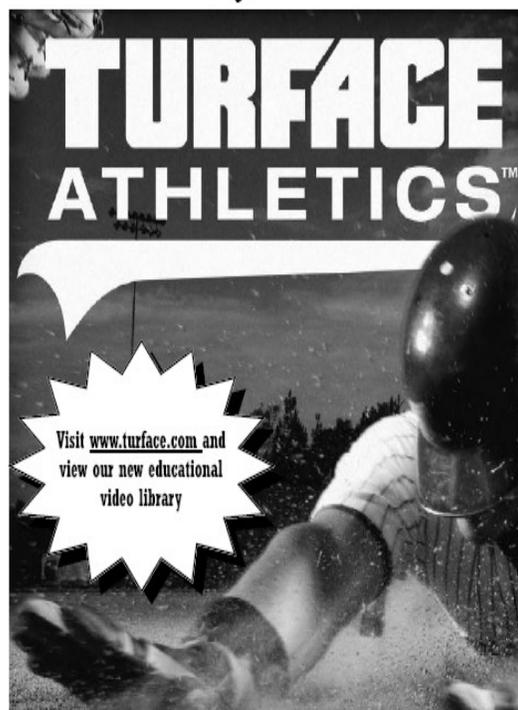
Planning for the 2011 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show is going well. We have not settled on a keynote as of this date but that announcement is close. We have Dr. Brian Horgan of the University of Minnesota confirmed and are working with a number of other speakers. Thanks to Dr. Minner for

the huge number of phone calls he makes to get the program together. With the challenges presented by the ‘interesting’ winter of 2009-2010, unbelievable rains & flooding and the heat and humidity of the summer season we are trying to put together a number of topics on stress physiology and related plant responses.

Please let us know if you have a topic idea or have an interesting speaker to suggest. Also, call the Iowa Turfgrass Office or Dr. Minner if you have any kind of turfgrass problem. Information about diseases, insects or other problems really helps us alert people about the current problems facing Iowa Turfgrass managers.

Plan now to attend the 2011 Conference & Trade Show; in addition to education, networking and the tremendous support of our Industry partners at the Trade Show, the conference income is critical to Turfgrass Research, Turfgrass Extension and the operation of the Iowa Turfgrass Office.

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I try to refrain from having weather be the focal point when writing my district report. But the weather, and more specifically, the excessive amount of rains we have been experiencing lately in the region, is hard to ignore. I always enjoy reading little factoids or bits of information whether they be about Hawkeye football, how many hotdogs the current Coney Island champion ate this year or weather data.

Here are a few weather items I have either heard or gathered this past month:

- I have poured out between ten and eleven inches of rain from my gauge during the month of June. That is nearly three times the average amount for that time period.
- Since the beginning of 2007, we are nearly three feet over the normal amount of precipitation according to Terry Swails with WQAD weather out of the Quad Cities. Look down at your feet and imagine that much water.
- From the last weekend in March thru the last weekend in June, 14 weekends total, we had significant enough rains to hinder 10 of those weekends at some point between Friday and Sunday. One of those weeks without weekend rain, we had 6.5 inches between Wednesday and Thursday.

What does that all add up to? A lot of late nights, early mornings and mid tournament days of slinging turf and tining up wet spots. A lot of drowning turf and wet socks. But through it all, we didn't lose any weekend events completely and that is critical when it comes to the bottom dollar. That can sometimes be unfortunate when it comes to the way you make management decisions with regard to the operation and use of your facilities.

We were surviving pretty well until that last weekend in June, and then our luck ran out. That weekend, we had a forty team high school soccer tournament being played from Friday morning until Sunday afternoon. Between fifteen and twenty games per field on seven fields. Now we truly only have five "game fields" at our facility and three "practice fields" meaning they used two of the extra fields for the tournament. Use of the practice fields would have typically been ok, but the fact that they are constructed out of heavy clay soils and poorly drained along with the excessive rains caused if not irreparable damage, at least extensive long term damage, all in the course of barely more than 48 hours.

What would have the best decision been for the long term condition of the fields? Not to play on them that weekend. What decision gets made when the city council says your facility is not making enough money and you have one of your bigger tournaments of the year taking place? It's obvious to see. I can understand the economics of it, but it is still hard to see all of your hard work being obliterated.

I'm really not feeling sorry for myself. I know most of you have been going thru the same ordeal this year and in the past. And I really have tremendous respect and sympathy for you guys taking care of high school football fields who deal with situations like this probably every year! And I really feel for the farmers whose livelihood is much more impacted by this crazy weather than us turf managers. It just feels good to vent a little. Let's all hope the second half of our season is a bit more normal than the first half. Good luck to you all!

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If you haven't made it to an ISTMA workshop yet this year you've missed out. Don't make that mistake again because the workshop that is going to be held at the University of Iowa on September 14, 2010 is going to be truly unique.

The day will begin at the University's softball complex where we will talk about the Flood of 2008 and how it affected the area. We will then show the new infield mix on Pearl Field that is waterproof and explain the installation and maintenance of it.

Next, we will travel to the Field Hockey Pitch to demonstrate an irrigation system that you have to see to believe. Following that we will go to Historic Kinnick Stadium for lunch. The afternoon session will start in the new press box with a presentation about why and how the renovation of the stadium took place. There will then be an on-field demonstration of Field Turf maintenance followed by tours of the locker rooms and press box.

The day will conclude with a social hour during which attendees will be able to demo equipment,

chat with vendors and take additional tours of the University grounds if desired.

Many great speakers are lined up including Ted Thorn, Tony Senio and Andy Eiffert - University of Iowa, Jon Fitch – Shive Hattery, Bill Paprocki – Stabilizer Solutions and others. Most excitedly however, Lavar Woods – former Hawkeye player and now coach – is scheduled to speak to the group about how synthetic fields affect players and recruiting. We're still keeping our fingers crossed the head man himself might find time to visit us.

This workshop promises to be filled with new experiences and new ideas and it will be talked about for years to come. Advanced registration is highly recommended!

### **University of Iowa Workshop September 14, 2010**

8:00 – 8:30	Registration/ Vendor Time/Equipment Demos
8:30 – 8:35	Welcome – Tony Senio, University of Iowa
8:35 – 10:00	Pearl Field Renovation, “Flood-Proof Infield Mix” – Jim and Bev Seelman, MBA Inc.; Bill Paprocki, Stabilizer Solutions; U of I Staff
10:00 – 10:30	Break/ Vendor Time
10:30 – 11:30	Grant Field Irrigation, “Big Guns and Two-Wire Systems” – Steve Bush, CSFM, Bush Sports Turf
11:30 – 12:15	Lunch at Kinnick Stadium
12:15 – 1:15	Stadium Renovation, Field Turf Installation – Jon Fitch, Shive Hattery
1:15 – 1:45	Synthetic Field Maintenance – U of I Staff
1:45 – 2:00	Break/ Vendor Time
2:00 – 3:00	Stadium Tours - including Press Box and Pink Locker Room
3:00 – 4:00	Social Hour/ Equipment Demos /Additional Grounds Tours upon request

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Hey everyone! We are looking for a few things this year. There are three needs that we have: We need students to apply for scholarships; fields to be submitted for field of the year and-last but not least-we need nominees for Sports Turf Manager of the Year.

sign from the ISTMA to display at their facility. This category is open to all ISTMA members and their facilities. So if you have someone in mind, by all means nominate them. Leave the deciding up to the awards committee.

Each year the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association awards the Gary Petersen Scholarships to students in a 2 or 4 year college in the state of Iowa working towards a degree in the turfgrass industry. All that is required is for the applicant to be a member of the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association. Complete the application form and submit it before the October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Doesn't seem like a whole lot of trouble for money to help with college expenses!

We offer an award for the Sports Turf Manager of the Year. These people can be nominated by co-workers, bosses, and fellow Sports Turf Managers. Go to the ISTMA website to view past winners of the awards and find the paperwork online.

All the awards will be handed out at the ISTMA annual meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>, at the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. All the awards nominations have an October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Next are the Fields of the Year Awards that are given every year for softball, football, baseball and soccer fields. Nominate your own facility or someone in your area that you feel is deserving. The winner in each category receives a plaque and a field

Thanks and we look forward to all of your nominations.



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## **ISTMA Board of Director's Meeting Report —Mike Andresen, CSFM**

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Board of Directors met on June 24<sup>th</sup> in Grinnell. Much great committee work was done between the spring and summer board meetings! Having healthy and high-functioning committees is so critical to our chapter progression. When committees are working on ideas and challenges, it becomes easy for the board to not micro-manage the subtleties of their proposals. It's our real desire to have members be part of developing ideas – through the committee process - and not rely on elected leaders do all the leg work. Serving actively on a committee is also a very good way to prepare for a future leadership role in this association! The board's responsibility is to take the ideas presented and weave the best ones into the fabric of our chapter. The board needs to provide vision and resources to make the chapter more valuable next year than it is this year. With the decisions made at this meeting, I'm confident our chapter is moving forward in your best interests.

A few specific items from the June Board Meeting: The Membership Committee is working hard to prepare for a 2011 membership drive. In a nutshell; if we want to do more and offer more - we need to BE more. More members will allow us a bigger voice and also more budget dollars to invest in education or resources to help you be a better professional. Now is the time to help find new members for this chapter. If you find membership valuable – tell someone! If you find membership is not valuable – tell us! This committee is also discussing the avenues in which we communicate to membership. Our world is becoming more electronic with each passing day. Be prepared to continue seeing changes in the way we communicate with you!

The Bylaws Committee is revising and updating the present bylaws that govern this chapter. There are some glaring changes needed and there are many small changes needed. In the end, our bylaws need to be the guide we depend on to help us govern effectively and transparently. You'll be proud of the Bylaws committee work and will hear more about this work in future articles!

The Newsletter Committee continues to do great work. This committee is discussing a major delivery change – possibly to electronic – and the pros and cons with this opportunity. As you can see, this issue is very much a part of the Membership Committee discussions! Our job is to have each committee look at the same problem from their separate angles

– and come to consensus on how we should move forward. When making difficult choices, it's very reassuring to know the issue has had many eyes looking at it from different viewpoints. In this way, big decisions become easy to make!

The Awards and Education Committees are working well-ahead of schedule. Education for the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show is all but set! Work is proceeding on the 2011 workshop series – with the goal of having enough planning time to ensure each workshop is the best it can be! The Awards Committee is using this summer to examine our awards program and make recommendations to make it richer. Expect to hear more from this committee during fall and don't forget to enter your fields in one of the Field-of-the-Year categories for this year!

Remember that there are Board seats up for election in January! Voting will take place at the ISTMA Annual Meeting - in conjunction with the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. Absentee ballots will be offered to members that prefer to vote prior to the meeting. The October newsletter will detail the voting process and how you can be considered for an elected seat - but the time to consider running is now! Do you have a desire to play a bigger role in governing this chapter? Do you want to give back to this profession in a tangible and rewarding way? Are you committed to chairing a committee and being a leader in working with fellow professionals? Consider the opportunity and discuss it with your family and employer. Maybe now is the time to step up and help ISTMA become more valuable to colleagues and to the public! Ask one of the present board members how you can get more involved.

To wrap up; the Board voted to update the chapter logo! Financially, we cannot make the switch immediately but know that we're embracing a more professional logo which will conform to the national STMA logo and most other STMA chapter logos. As we use up the present printed materials we will be replacing them with new and updated materials! Our next Board Meeting will be on October 19. If you have any business you'd like the board to address, please let a board member know well in advance of the meeting. Thank you for being a member of the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association!

**Turf and Technology Workshop \* June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010\* North Scott Community School**  
*Troy McQuillen—Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

On June 9<sup>th</sup> the second workshop of year was held at North Scott Community Schools with host facilities director John Netwal, CGCS. The workshop was hosted on the North Scott High Schools football field and sponsored by Bush Sports Turf, Dakota Peat, Hunter Irrigation, and Spectrum Technologies, Inc. The day was action packed with valuable information, hands-on experiences and top turf managers from around the nation. Each session had overwhelming amounts of information for turf managers to use and take back to their facilities.



The day started with a quick welcome from the North Scott Superintendent telling us the impact the new sand capped football field had on the community and the school. Next Steve Bush CSFM continued the morning discussion with an in-depth look at the construction of a sand capped football field. Steve shared their company's methods of building cost affective sports fields for all areas of athletics. Steve highlighted the importance of well designed drainage systems, choosing the correct materials for each step in the construction, and ensuring that the correct sub grade and final grade contours are in perfect transit.

The next presenter was John Netwal CGCS discussing the exact cost associated with maintaining high quality turf. John handed out a detailed maintenance spreadsheet that identified all of the maintenance efforts that go into each one of his athletic fields and what they cost. John was able to document and calculate all of his maintenance cost per sq. ft. of turf on his facility. John's perspective shed light on what the actual costs associated with high maintenance athletic fields and what can be used in defense to

synthetic turf options for athletic fields.

After a quick break Steve Christian from Dakota Peat presented information about choosing the right amendments for high quality root zones. Steve told the participants that careful selections of amendments for your sand, and adequate testing, will ensure a quality make-up for healthy root growth.

The next presenter was the featured NFL head groundkeeper of the San Diego Qualcomm Stadium, Steve Wightman. Steve drew a full tent discussing his wealth of knowledge and years of experiences managing professional sports fields. Wightman identified primary cultural practices that he focuses on with daily professional field operations. Steve also shared his yearly events that are on the field and how he prepares for each of the events. Wightman struck a note with all the participants when he discussed how performing some of the more simple maintenance practices correctly we do on any every-day basis will have an impact on the success of our turf.

After lunch the newest member of the Iowa sports turf industry Tim VanLoo, CSFM from Iowa State University discussed the critical tools of topdressing for high quality turf surfaces. Tim explained his methods of topdressing and what he finds effective for maintaining high quality playing surface for every sport. After Tim's presentation we walked out to the field where everyone saw a hands-on demonstration of the two topdressing methods used most commonly on athletic field surfaces. Tim shared with the group the importance of each method and how than can be effective for your facility.

Eric Simmons for Hunter Industries was next on the agenda, talking about the use of decoders and the two-wire revolution for athletic field irrigation systems.

The North Scott football field's irrigation system was installed with the latest in Hunter two-wire decoder technology. Having this technology the participants were able to get a first look of how they are used affectively in the sports fields. Eric educated us on the set-up of decoder and where the proper, most cost effective use of these technologies can be used in our industries. Eric also answered any irrigation questions, or misconceptions people had about sports field irrigation systems.

*Continued on page 15*

The next presenter was Doug Kieffer from Spectrum Technologies. Doug had tools and gadgets that most of the participants had never seen before in the sport turf industry. Doug shared examples of where the tools and gadgets could be used in our industry to help people understand that the new technologies are here to assist us in our jobs and daily maintenance tasks.

The last topic of the workshop was a, “Research Results You Can Use”, from Dr. Minner of Iowa State University. For this topic we travelled over to North Scotts USGA spec soccer field where John and his crew had trial experiments with Tenacity. Dr. Minner discussed the positive effects he has witnessed with Tenacity and the effects it was having on poa annua (annual bluegrass). John Netwall commented on the trial stating that this was one way of testing the product and was happy with the results. John indicated that he was ready to move forward with his Tenacity efforts on the rest of his athletic fields. Dr. Minner continued his session discussing some common problem seen during this season on athletic field and what sports turf managers should be considering during the summer growing months.

At the end of the day all participants enjoyed an ice

cream social to have one last chance to talk with the many speakers of the day’s activities-and to talk with vendor representatives that were featured at the workshop. This gave them a chance use some of the devices that were introduced during the Spectrum Technologies talk. During the ice cream social I had the chance to talk with Steve Bush about his thoughts on the day’s events. “It nice to have an opportunity where all turf managers alike can come gain more education and build on industry skills they can take back to their own facilities” “Thank you to all vendors, speakers, sponsors, and participants for making the workshop a great success”

The next ISTMA workshop will be September 14<sup>th</sup> at the University of Iowa. Tony Senio will host the workshop. Subjects will include the three generations of artificial turf, native and sand based soccer field maintenance, and the installation and upkeep of a new waterproof softball field mix called Hilltopper. The workshop will conclude at Kinnick Stadium including a walkthrough of the famous “pink locker rooms” The workshop will include speakers like Ted Thorne, Tony Senio-U of I, Dr. Dave Minner-ISU, and Jay Warnick-World Class Athletic Surfaces.

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Doctors have them, rock groups sing about it and some people say it is a virtue. I've worked at the City of Iowa City for about 22 years and in that time I've experienced 2 floods, 1 tornado, straight line winds and numerous ice storms. Despite these occurrences there is one thing that always happens; the weather stops and everything returns to close to normal. So after over 16 inches of rain in Iowa City in June we are good for moisture.

At City Park, a baseball facility we maintain in town, I have helped repair this facility twice in my time here. In 1993 the 100 year flood came into the park. We didn't have a turfgrass specialist on staff. When it came time to replace the turf, we disked and harrowed the ground and then rolls of sod were bought-in-enough for 8 fields.

In the flood of 2008 the 500 year flood came to visit. The City had a turfgrass specialist on staff this time. When the waters receded we were ready to go with a plan and equipment in place. This time, one field was sodded and seven were seeded. The season was washed out so we were afforded some grow in time. All the infields were stripped of the top 2 to 3 inches of aglime and new was brought in and all were laser leveled. We installed all new anchors and bases also.

My whole point is this; if you have time take it. Don't spend money just for the appearance of grass, but if you have the time take it and use it to the best of your ability. I think in 1993 we just did it to get it done and in 2008 we did it the right way in my mind because we had a game plan and a coach to implement that plan in an effective manner.

The word from the first paragraph is patience. Just sit back, relax, do it right, don't rush. Until Joe Wagner joined the City of Iowa City as a turfgrass specialist I would have deemed the sodding of the fields as a good thing. However, in 2008 we were afforded a small but ample amount of time to thoroughly plan and effectively carry out the project in a patient yet efficient manner and have the turf and the facility almost back to normal.



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## Upcoming Events

### ISTMA's Fall Workshop

September 14, 2010

Preparations for the ISTMA's Fall Workshop are well underway. On Tuesday September 14th, Tony Senio will host this workshop at The University of Iowa. Subjects will include the three generations of artificial field infill systems, native and sand-based soccer field maintenance, and the installation and upkeep of a new waterproof softball infield mix called Hilltopper. The workshop will also showcase a must-see irrigation system at the field hockey pitch that is extremely rare for the Mid-West, if not the nation. The tour will conclude with time at historic Kinnick Stadium including a walk-through of the famous "pink locker room." Speakers will include Ted Thorn and Tony Senio – U of I, Dave Minner – ISU, and Jay Warnick – World Class Athletic Surfaces.

### 2011 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

January 18-20, 2011

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### It's time for a Contact Check-Up

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

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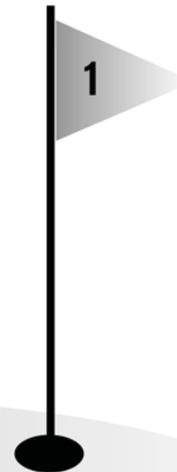
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