

# The *Sideline* Report

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

April 2012

Spring Baseball Workshop : May 15th, 2012



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Sarah Hodgson, Sideline Report Editor

17017 US Highway 69, Ames, IA 50010-9294

Email: [sarah@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:sarah@iowaturfgrass.org)

Phone: 515-232-8222

Fax: 515-232-8228

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# A Letter from the President

Jason Koester, CGCS, Grinnell College



By the time this issue of The Sideline Report hits your inbox I hope that spring has sprung, tulips in bloom, the grass starting to green up and we are getting geared up in full swing for the 2012 Sports Turf Management season. As a Sports Turf manager that has spring baseball, softball and off season soccer and football workouts in April, I really hope we have an early kick start spring! Wishful thinking I know but with the winter we have had in 2011-2012 anything is possible.

The ISTMA would like to extend a huge Thank You to all of our advertisers! Without the awesome support the ISTMA receives from all of our sponsors, we would not be able to accomplish all of the exceptional educational opportunities, member benefits or pursue our organizations lofty goals for the future. THANK YOU to all of you who have donated any time or funds to ISTMA, your efforts are greatly appreciated! When putting together your facilities purchasing plans, please support the organizations the support the ISTMA. Show our vendors appreciation by using their products and services. Also tell them Thank You and that you appreciate the support their businesses provide to the ISTMA.

Another big thank you for your membership. We appreciate every single member of the ISTMA and this is your organization! With crunched budgets and limited resources any tool to make our facilities function at any highest level of efficiently is a must. I would also like to challenge our membership. Reach out to other Sports Turf Managers. We all know an individual or an organization that would benefit from the ISTMA. I know this can be difficult to get out of our comfort zone. I can almost guarantee we all know a complex, youth league, or school district that could benefit from the ISTMA. Our members will benefit from them also. With new memberships in mind, congratulations to Joe Wagner of Iowa City for winning the ISTMA's referral contest for the 2011 season. Joe will receive a free 2012 ISTMA membership and free registration to all the ISTMA workshops during the 2012 season. Recruit new team members to the ISTMA! Have our new teammate put your name in the 'referred by' section on the membership application. The ISTMA member with the most referrals in 2012 will win a free membership and

workshops for the 2013 season.

Our main goal as Sports Turf Managers is to provide a safe and attractive surface for athletes to perform, whether it is professional, high school, kid's league or the Sunday slow pitch group. They all deserve the best surface that is available. I love the quote that Steve Wightman made at The ISTMA workshop in North Scott, "If you have a knotweed field grow the best knotweed field you can." Doing the best with what you have is a great attitude to have. This attitude will provide you with satisfaction and the best product available with your resource pool.

Check the ISTMA web page. We have a new look and some new features at [www.iowaturfgrass.org/istma-home.htm](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/istma-home.htm) and clicking the Merchandise link. Please provide any of your Sports Turf Industry links or suggestions to help make the site more useful. Check out the Avectra link. This piece of software is a great resource- to search for all affiliate members, update your contact information, sign up for events, and many other helpful association tools.

The workshop schedule for 2012 is another top notch line up put together by the education committee! We will start out in May near Western Iowa at The Omaha Storm Chasers. In the summer we will travel to the Eastern side of Iowa to The Quad Cities at the home Quad Cities River Bandits [a minor league affiliate of the 2011 World Series Champion Cardinals]. In the fall we will conclude or workshop schedule down in Ottumwa at Indian Hills Community College on October 2. We are very excited about our workshop line up for 2012. Watch The Sideline Report, quick notes, and the ISTMA web site [www.iowaturfgrass.org/istmahome.htm](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/istmahome.htm) for a detailed schedule of all the workshops. If you would be interested in hosting a workshop in the future or have topic ideas please let us know.

I found this quote and love it for our everyday of our lives:

*"Live your life each day as you would climb a mountain. An occasional glance towards the summit keeps the goal in mind, but many beautiful scenes are to be observed from each new vantage point."* - Harold B Melchart

# Early Spring Green Up

Andrew Hoiberg, Iowa State University

With winter never really coming this year and spring green-up right around the corner, what can we do to ensure our grass will look its best when spring activities start? First off, you should have already applied a good chunk of your nitrogen during fall; this one practice has been proven to have more influence on spring green-up than anything else you do.

More specifically, one application of nitrogen at the end of the season when turf has stopped actively growing is known as “late fall/season fertilization.” The science behind this is based on temperatures best suited for growing cool-season grasses. They are favored with air temperatures between 65 and 75°F and soil temperatures between 58 and 65°F. By season’s end, when air temperature has dropped below ideal for shoot growth, soil temperatures are still within the range for root growth and development. Green tissue is still present for photosynthesis, but allocation of carbohydrates is directed toward root growth and storage since shoots are not actively growing. A flush of growth and “greening up” in the spring is possible due to carbohydrates stored in the bottom of the plant throughout winter. This practice is especially important with Kentucky bluegrass, as it has different nitrogen requirements than other grasses. It should still be practiced with perennial ryegrass and tall fescue fields, but spring green-up tends to be more noticeable in Kentucky bluegrass. The effects of late season nitrogen fertilization can be seen well into spring of the follow year.

Another important aspect of Kentucky bluegrass spring green-up is that of cultivar selection. It is genetically influenced and some cultivars simply exhibit greater spring green up when compared with others. Some cultivars such as Nudestiny, Rugby II, Midnight II, Tsunami, Everglade, and Northstar exhibit relatively low NTEP ratings for spring green-up, while Bedazzled, Blackstone, Kenblue, Washington, Cabernet, and Shamrock score among the best. More information on NTEP spring green-up data can be found via the Iowa State University ‘Turfgrass Central’ extension links at:

<http://www.hort.iastate.edu/research/turfgrass/extensionpub>

After navigating to this page, please click on the ‘Interactive NTEP Spreadsheet’ link to further investigate NTEP data. One warning: this spreadsheet shows up on versions of excel older than 2007, but the buttons will not work properly. If you run into this, please contact me for further information regarding how to sort the data in MS Excel.

If you forgot to put down a late season nitrogen application and if you have varieties of Kentucky bluegrass that green up sluggishly in spring, you haven’t lost all hope. Take a proactive approach and get out with the fertilizer spreader before athletes start using the field. However, be cautious not to overdo the nitrogen application. Excessive nitrogen in spring can bring unwanted disease pressure and cause excessive shoot growth, which can negatively affect wear tolerance. Target a quick release product like urea at 0.5-0.75 lbs N 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> approximately two weeks before activities begin on your fields. Lastly, you can lower your mowing height ¼ - ½ inch for the first mowing only (make sure your blades are sharp!) in an attempt to mow off some of the brown tissue and expose the new, greener tissue beginning to grow beneath. Just be very careful not to scalp your turf, which will start things off on the wrong foot.

If all else fails, you can always buy some green dye for your fields to get you through the first part of the year until your grass finally starts to come around.

Andrew Hoiberg can be reached via email: [android@iastate.edu](mailto:android@iastate.edu)



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# Membership Recruitment and Incentive Program

## Membership Committee

For the 2nd year, the ISTMA is offering an incentive program to the person who recruits the most new members. The ISTMA member with the most referrals in 2012 will win a free membership and workshops for the 2013 season.

Share the "Sideline Report with your co-workers, coaches and administrators so they can get a glimpse of what ISTMA is all about. Invite them to a workshop to see firsthand the networking and vast amount of knowledge that can be brought back to your facility.

The process is easy. Get your co-worker, coach or administrator signed up today. Applications can be found on the web at [www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org), click on the ISTMA tab and then membership applications. Make sure they put your name in the "Referred by" line on the application.

Congratulations to Joe Wagner of Iowa City for winning the ISTMA's incentive program last year.



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# Meet ISTMA's SW Director

## Rick House, Council Bluffs Sports Complex

I would like to start out this article with a toast as such. Here is to a New Year, new beginnings, new friends, new opportunities and new accomplishments. That is how I view the honor of being given the chance to serve as your ISTMA Southwest Director. ISTMA is an amazing organization that fosters excellent relationships and education from the beginning stages with our College students through completion with our seasoned Sports Turf Professionals. Over the years I have been associated with many organizations from Landscaping to Sports Turf and I have to say that I am the proudest to be part of the ISTMA organization.

Your ISTMA Board is comprised of the most knowledgeable, skilled, dedicated and gracious professionals that I have ever had the privilege of meeting and working with and I would like everyone to know that my dedication to you and ISTMA will match that of my fellow board members.

I am excited about this new opportunity as your Southwest Director. I would like everyone to know that I am always available to assist in any way I can. In the near future I will embark on priority number one which is

educating people about ISTMA, what we stand for, what we believe in and what we have to offer. With that in mind I would like to begin the process of building the ISTMA chapter in my area. I am always open to ideas, suggestions and observations. I am reaching out for everyone's input on how we can continue to grow this wonderful organization. Please feel free to contact me and share your ideas. We have an excellent Board of Directors but we can only be as good as our members.

To give you some background about myself, I am employed by the City of Council Bluffs Iowa. I manage the Council Bluffs Recreation Complex which is a 90 acre facility consisting of 10 ball diamonds, 10 full sized soccer fields and 4 football fields. I am also responsible for the Cities Urban Forestry Department and am the owner of a Landscape Company for over twenty years now. Horticulture, Landscaping and Sports Turf have always been my passion. My hope is that my diversified background can be a help to some of you.

In closing, I would like to say thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Southwest Director. Here is to a great season for all of us.



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# The Drake Relays : America's Athletic Classic

Jeff Bosworth, Drake University

ON YOUR MARKS.....GET SET.....GO!!! It is that time of year again when it seems like everything happens at once. The first round of fertilizer is going out, we are mowing for the first time, irrigation is being charged up, flower beds are cleaned with a fresh coat of mulch, and oh, it's track season. It seems like everything at Drake revolves around the Drake Relays, the one nice thing about it is we always know when it is, the last full weekend of April. The one thing we can't predict is the weather, and it never fails this week long event will always bring a little rain.

Preparation for the Drake Relays usually begins during spring break, at this time we are about 4 weeks out from our first track meet (Jim Duncan Invitational) this track meet is our warm-up track meet to make sure everything is in good working order for the Relays. This track meet benefits those working the timing gear more than anybody however it is nice for the grounds department because it forces us to have a good portion of the equipment and field set-up complete.

During spring break we will begin preparing the "North Field". The North Field has 5 different throw venues, 2 Hammer / Discus, 2 Shot Put, and the Javelin throw. The first thing we do in the spring is hang the hammer/discus nets around the cage. To hang the door nets requires a scissor lift, the main net that goes around the cage is on a rope and pulley system that can be done from the ground. Next, we line the 5 different venues, we have installed locating pins on the field to help this process. We use white paint for all our venues except the Javelin. Because the Javelin venue overlaps with one of the hammer/discus and shot put venues, a fluorescent yellow paint is used. The venue lines will be maintained leading up to the Relays and striped the day before, as well as during the event. A week out from the Drake Relays we paint a Drake Relays Stencil and an Asics stencil on the North Field banks and areas outside the stadium.

In the stadium, the first thing we do is sweep the track. We rent a ride on, poly brush, propane street sweeper (it's amazing how much dirt, sand and debris accumulates on the track over the winter months). Once the



*Continued on page 8...*

## *The Drake Relays Continued...*

track is swept, the aluminum track rail is installed. The track rail is removed each year after all the track meets are complete to help keep it from getting damaged and because it is a tripping hazard for football and soccer.

Setting up for field events is by far the most tedious job preparing for a track meet. Drake stadium is set up to be able to run dual pits for most field events; pole vault, high jump, and long jump. Two high jump pits are set-up in the South D-zone and two vault pits are set up on the East side of the football field. Because the Pole Vault is so wind sensitive, Drake Stadium is set-up so it can be run in 4 different directions depending on the direction of the wind. Long jump is similar in that it can be run in 4 directions as well, two pits on the West side of the track and four in the South D Zone. All the pits are tilled and leveled off in the spring, usually having to add a few bags of sand to top them off. On the infield (Synthetic Turf) we have 2 additional shot put venues, this shot put venue is typically only used for the college and elite athletes. We use aerosol athletic paint to line these two venues.

After the Stadium renovation in 2005, the Drake Relays went to a “Clean Infield”, which means the only people that are down on the infield are officials and athletes competing in field events. This gives the Stadium a cleaner look but it also allows for better viewing. Going

to a clean infield meant we had to create a warm-up area for the athletes. One week before the Relays we lay down rolls of Mondo (same surface as the track) and create a small warm-up area for athletes in a parking lot on the East side of the Stadium.

As Relay’s week approaches the big tasks are complete and it becomes miscellaneous items as well as supporting off and on campus Relays events. Before the Drake Relays students have a number of events leading up to the Relays; Street Painting, a carnival, and a parade. All these events Drake Grounds supports by helping set-up and clean-up. The past few years The Relays has gone off campus with two events, the “Pole Vault in the Mall” and “The Grand Blue Mile”. Pole Vault in the Mall is held at Jordan Creek Mall in West Des Moines, in the Center of the Mall we set-up a Portable Pole Vault runway and a Pole Vault Pit. Elite athletes compete, it’s pretty amazing to watch them Vault inside a mall. The Grand Blue Mile takes place down town where a 1 mile course is set-up. Everyone from the community is invited to compete in this event.

Once the Relays begin, we have certain tasks we have to do daily but our main focus becomes keeping the campus and stadium grounds clean by picking up litter and changing trash barrels. In the event of rain, we must be ready with blowers and squeegees to dry certain areas of





the track. Track and Field officials pretty much run the show once the event begins and we are there for support.

After the Relays is over, we spend a week cleaning everything up and repairing damage from the event, then right into preparing for the next large events on campus;

graduation, girls and boys state track meet, and new student orientations. The Drake Relays is a very important event to the University and I enjoy being part of it. While it seems everything at Drake revolves around the Relays, my staff have a 130 acre campus to maintain which is just as important as this event and the athletic facilities.



**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association**  
**Baseball Workshop – May 15, 2012**  
**Werner Park – Papillion, NE – Home of the Omaha Storm Chasers**  
**Featuring Tom Burns, Mitch McClary, Dan Blank,**  
**Zac Reicher, PhD, Josh Klute, T.J. Brewer, CSFM and Mark Razum**

The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association invites you to a Baseball Field Workshop at Werner Park in Papillion, NE - Home of the Omaha Storm Chasers on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be included with registration fees.

- 8:00 Registration w/coffee & donuts – Provided by G & S Solutions
- 8:20 Welcome & Overview- Mitch McClary
- 8:35 Organic Fertilizers: What is the Benefit – D & K Products
- 9:00 Reel Maintenance Do's and Don'ts – Van Wall Equipment
- 9:30 Break - Visit with Vendors
- 9:45 How Did This Spring Change Our Summer and Fall – Zac Reicher, PhD, University of Nebraska
- 10:30 Maintaining Edges On Your Infield and Warning Track – Josh Klute, Lincoln Saltlogs
- 11:00 Infield Material: What's Right for Me – G&S Solutions & Mark Razum, Colorado Rockies
- 12:00 Lunch - Visit with Vendors – Provided by Diamond Pro
- 12:45 Merlands Clays: The Right Clay for the Right Setting – Mark Razum, TJ Brewer, Josh Klute, Tom Burns
- 1:15 Infield Conditioners – Mark Razum, Tom Burns, Mitch McClary, Dan Blank
- 1:45 Break - Visit with Vendors
- 2:00 Tools to Get the Job Done Efficiently – Beacon Athletics
- 2:30 Adding Special Touches to Make You and Your Field Stand Out – Mitch McClary, Dan Blank
- 3:00 How does GPS Technology Work and What is its Practicality – Van Wall Equipment
- 3:45 Conclusion

Please mail back this registration form or sign up online at <http://www.iowaturfgrass.com/events.htm>

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**ISTMA Baseball Workshop at Werner Park – May 15, 2012**

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# Selecting the Right Wetting Agents for Sports Turf

Chris Quinlan and Mark Howieson, PhD.

Keeping sports turf healthy under stressful conditions is no easy task. Among the many challenges sports turf managers face, soil moisture management is a primary concern. Water repellent soils are common in sand-based athletic fields and can result in irregular patches of wilted and drought-stressed turfgrass, often referred to as localized dry spot (LDS).

Wetting agents can help alleviate soil water repellency and limit development of LDS in turf. Soil wetting agents reduce the surface tension of water, allowing it to penetrate and wet the soil more easily. Irrigation and infiltration surfactants are designed to help increase water infiltration and irrigation uniformity.

When it comes to wetting agents, no one product is best for every situation or sports turf management program. Consider a variety of factors when selecting a product, such as efficacy, management intensity, intended use, product longevity and price.

Before deciding on a wetting agent product, request university or reputable third-party trial data from the manufacturer to support product claims. Carefully consider the validity of any product claims not supported by independent research results.



## Long-Term Wetting Agents

Many turf managers prefer the convenience of making only one application in the spring without follow-up applications. Because long-term wetting agents generally persist for at least three months in the soil, this may be an ideal solution.

An important note to keep in mind is that long-term wetting agents have greater potential for development of phytotoxicity and discoloration if the applicator is not cautious. In addition, long-term wetting agents are more limited when it comes to tank-mix compatibility with other products (i.e. fertilizers, pesticides, plant growth regulators, etc.), in comparison to short-term wetting agents.

Long-term wetting agents are an excellent option for season-long prevention of LDS development on water repellent, sand-based greens in the Northern US. Using long-term products on golf course tees and fairways, as well as difficult-to-treat areas, will minimize the number of applications needed during the growing season.

## Short-Term Wetting Agents

Short-term wetting agents are typically applied at two- to four-week intervals and allow superintendents to make applications only when environmental conditions demand treatment. Moreover, there is potential to incorporate the monthly application into existing turf management programs. Short-term wetting agents have greater flexibility with tank-mix options when compared to long-term wetting agents.

Because short-term wetting agents generally persist for only 28-30 days in the soil, more frequent applications are necessary, requiring more time and labor investment. However, short-term wetting agents typically reduce the risk of leaf discoloration and phytotoxicity during hot, dry weather, especially when compared to long-term wetting agents.

Short-term wetting agents are best selected for water repellent sand-based greens, especially in transition and warm season zones, although they are becoming more popular in cool season zones. An additional use for

## Wetting Agents Continued...

### The "Sand\_Wetting\_Agent"

*Sample of hydrophobic sand-based soil typically found in sports turf settings*



short-term wetting agents includes late season “rescue treatments” to correct symptoms of LDS.

### **Irrigation and Infiltration Surfactants**

Irrigation surfactants may be a low-cost alternative to conventional wetting agents to treat difficult-to-wet areas caused by thatch or low soil surface hydrophobicity. The cost is further reduced when the agent is injected into the irrigation system.

In general, irrigation surfactants are not as effective as a stand-alone wetting agent product to manage LDS or alleviate moderate to severe soil hydrophobicity. However, these agents are useful in difficult-to-wet native soil areas, as well as tees and fairways.

### **Tips for Success**

Wetting agents cannot alleviate soil water repellency from the turf canopy, but need to be watered into the soil to be most effective. Water long-term wetting agents into the soil immediately following application. Most short-term wetting agents need to be watered in within 24 hours of application. Always check the label and follow directions.

It is proven that wetting agents can help increase the water infiltration rate into the soil profile in hydrophobic soils. However, in areas with excessive thatch (greater

than ½ inch) or soil organic matter (greater than 3.5%) the soil surface may retain moisture. Core-aerating and topdressing with sand to reduce thatch and organic matter content will help prevent moisture retention at the soil surface.

Moisture retention at the soil surface is exacerbated when wetting agents are not watered into the soil profile. If wetting agents are not watered in with a sufficient volume of water to penetrate the hydrophobic layer, a temporary “perched water table” may form above the hydrophobic layer that maintains excessive moisture at the surface.

If you know that you are dealing with hydrophobic soils or LDS, a wetting agent can help alleviate the symptoms and bring your turf back to a healthy-looking condition. Do some research to find out which products will work best for your situation.

*Mark Howieson, Ph.D., is a technical team leader at Becker Underwood. Chris Quinlan is Midwest and great plains territory manager at Becker Underwood. Becker Underwood produces a variety of turf management solutions, including colorants, wetting agents, iron chelates and nutrient blends.*

# To Play or Not to Play - Sports Turf Edition

## Rick House, Council Bluffs Sports Complex

It's a beautiful Monday morning. I get to work and the pavement is still wet from last night's rain. As I step out of my truck into the dark, I hear birds chirping and singing and there is the familiar smell of spring in the air.

I enter my office and greet my guys with the traditional, "Morning, how was your weekend"? It seems like a very pleasant Monday until I go to my computer and open up my email and there it is...the first email of the season. The first dreaded, "Can we play yet" email. It is now evident that daylight savings time not only makes us "Spring" ahead on the clock, but "Spring" ahead on the season. I can't help but notice as I read the email that the Parks Director, Mayor and various City Council Members have been cc'd on my email. The SQUEEZE has begun.

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groups and arm chair groundskeepers are a Sports Turf Managers worse enemies.

I lean back in my chair to reflect for a moment and ponder the politically correct response to the Soccer Organization. I think surely they can't be serious? The turf is still dormant, nothing is growing and just last fall I spent \$15,000 re-seeding fields. How could they possibly think they could start their season a full month early? It's idiotic. So I craft a response to the email that would have made the most seasoned Politicians smile and hit send. I give myself a mental pat on the back for my professionalism and explanations as to why the request to start early was denied and go about my way.

FAST FORWARD three hours and it has begun. My response to the email has created a surge of nervousness from my department and the Sports Turf Inquisition has begun. All important people are assembled and the pummeling beings. Why can't they play? Will it hurt the seed? Is the seed up? Can't we just re-seed? If we don't let them play early they will be upset. Can't we accommodate them? And the list goes on and on. Pressuring me to cave in and put the wants of the public over the needs of my facility. I know many of you are faced with this issue every spring and probably every fall. Let me share with you what I have learned after 4,000 baseball, 2000 soccer and 200 football games a year.

The first thing to remember is, believe in yourself. Believe in your staff and trust your gut instinct. No one knows your facility and your fields better than you. When severe amounts of pressure are applied to you and your staff, you may doubt yourself. Don't doubt yourself and stick with your beliefs. Once you fold to public pressure you will have a target on your back and you will be expected to give in more and more and your facility and your staff will suffer. Sometimes being right is the toughest and loneliest job of all. We are all under enough stress at the beginning of the season worrying about weather, field conditions, budget restraints, staff etc. We don't need the extra stress of the public, so try these helpful hints.

## To Play or Not to Play Continued...

In the fall, send out emails to your department, tournament directors, special interest groups etc. Detail out what maintenance and renovation and on what fields they have been done on. Include approximate cost of the work performed and detail out the things such as, "The football fields were re-seeded because of damages. Because of this the fields need to be rotated out until next fall."

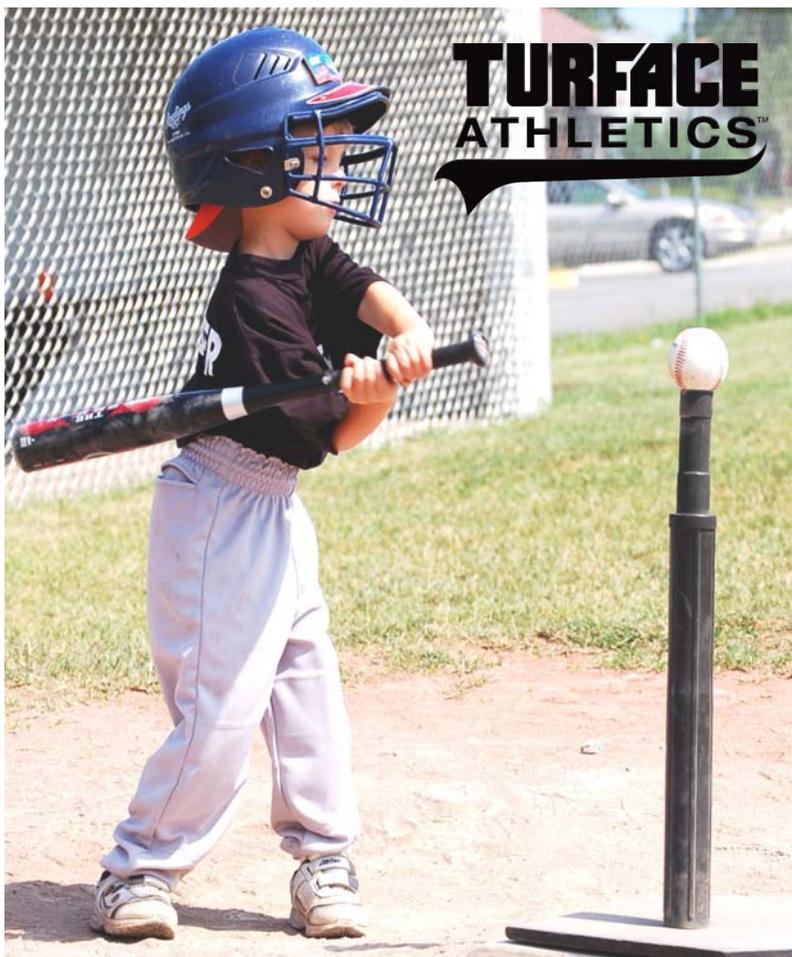
Around the first of February send out another email re-affirming the work that was done and let people know what is going on at your facility.

Sending out another email in March is a good idea as well. Again, mention the work that was done and if it has been a wet winter, bring to light that spring start times could be delayed. Communication is the key to everything when it comes to dealing with the public.

It takes less time to educate the public than it does to defend your reasoning.

In our department we have a staff meeting twice a month. If you have these then use these meetings to voice and explain what's going on at your facility so as to gain your departments support and understanding later down the road when you're faced with the question, "To Play or Not to Play."

Always remember – you have to believe in yourself before others can believe in you. Educating the public and communication are your biggest assets. We have a saying around here." Ignorance is a disease and knowledge is the only cure". I wish everyone the best on the upcoming season.



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# Certified Sports Turf Manager (CSFM)

Tim VanLoo, CSFM

The Iowa chapter of STMA is one of the strongest local chapters that the STMA is affiliated with. That is due to the amount of members we have, the member participation annually, our financial statements, and our annual education opportunities. I have only been a part of 3 different local chapters so I can't speak for all of them, but the attendance and participation that we get from all over the state is unlike anything I have ever seen. The state of Iowa is a big place, but many of you are willing to go long distances to educate yourselves on an annual basis. For that you should all be applauded.

Now, it's time to raise that bar a little. One way to raise that bar is to increase professionalism within our local chapter. The easiest way to show dedication and professionalism within our industry is the certification process through STMA. Becoming a CSFM shows employers and peers that you are dedicated to the Sports Turfgrass industry. If you are able to take the test through your years of experience and education please consider doing so.

I know many of you may be hesitant for many different reasons. Some might not like tests, some may feel that they are too old and some may already be at the height of their career with their dream job. The test is completely confidential and no one will know results unless

you tell them. If you think you are too old than do it for the younger generation. Show them that it is important to reach the pinnacle of your profession no matter how many years you have until retirement. For those that are already doing their dream job and don't see the need. I would argue that you don't know what the future holds and you should never be satisfied with the status quo.

If our industry stops moving towards professionalism and becomes content with existing we will cease to exist in the professional realm of business. I still run into people that have never heard of Sports Turf Management. If we don't continue to grow towards professionalism than we will never be known in our communities for what we do. I see the CSFM program as a very useful tool to get our industry noticed in the professional world.

Please consider becoming a CSFM in 2012. The STMA website has all the information you would need to begin the process. Why not have more CSFM's in Iowa than any other state? Why not set a bar for all other chapters/states to try and live up too? If you have any questions about the test, the application process, or anything else please don't hesitate to contact me.



**Brent Smith**  
563-210-1616

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# The Value of ISTMA Membership

Jeff Wendel, Iowa Turfgrass Institute

You pay your association dues. What do you get? In the case of ISTMA you get six issues of The Sideline Report, Educational Workshops on a variety of topics, networking opportunities and member only discounts for the Educational Workshops and the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. You also get the ISTMA Membership Social held each year in January.

The actual value of your membership doesn't stop there. What else do you get? You get the opportunity to help shape your association. You can choose to run for a seat on the ISTMA Board, you can contact the Iowa Turfgrass Office or an ISTMA Board Member to let others know what you feel is important and communicate the ideas you think are important for the association to address.

You can also invite others to join ISTMA. The number one reason I hear when I ask people why they have not joined an association is, "no one ever asked me." The

strength of ISTMA depends on its members, so invite someone to join. You can find the ISTMA membership application at: <http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/pdfformat/istmamemapp.pdf>. You can also contact the Iowa Turfgrass Office at 515-232-8222 or email [sarah@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:sarah@iowaturfgrass.org) and we will send out an application for ISTMA membership.

ISTMA's purpose is to collect and disseminate scientific, professional and practical knowledge through association with those persons engaged in or concerned with the research and maintenance of safe and improved sports turf areas. ISTMA promotes the design, development and use of related materials, supplies and equipment in the sports turf industry.

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# Free NW Iowa 1/2 Day Workshop

A free NW Iowa Sports Turf Workshop for baseball, softball and soccer fields will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 in Sioux Center, IA. This will be a simple half day workshop available for anyone who takes care of athletic fields for high school, colleges or little league fields. Check - In will be at the All Seasons Center at 770 7th St. NE. Travel into Sioux Center (from North or South) on Hwy 75 and turn East on 7th Street at the Casey's/ Hardees corner. The All Season Center is about 8 blocks from Hwy 75.

8:30 AM	Check - In at the All Seasons Center
9:00 AM	Welcome and Schedule Updates
9:15- 10:30 AM	Break - out Sessions Baseball/Softball with Brad Vermeer from Sioux Center at Open Space Park Soccer with Brad Thedens from Sioux Falls at the Dordt Soccer Complex
10:30 - 11:00 AM	Break (switch fields if you would like to)
11:00 - 12:00 AM	Continue break-out sessions

To Register please contact Brad Vermeer at 712-441-0748 or [bradv@siouxcenter.org](mailto:bradv@siouxcenter.org)

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# New ISTMA Merchandise Available in Online Store

At the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show ISTMA introduced their new merchandise. We have 2 different Hats. The first hat is an Premium Fitted Cap with Flexfit Technology. The cap is all white with a black bill. It has the ISTMA logo across the front. The second hat This is a FlexFit hat with a mesh black back and a black bill. The front of the hat is White with the ISTMA Logo. We also have a Russell Athletic Dri-Power T-shirt with Moisture wicking Technology. The Shirt comes in Grey with a solid black stripe down both sleeves. The ISTMA logo is across the front of the shirt. You can now purchase it on the ISTMA secure site! Please go to [www.iowaturfgrass.org/istmahome.htm](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/istmahome.htm). In the left side pane you will see a Merchandise link. Log-in to the secure site and view what we have available! Shipping will be included with online purchases and sent out on the next business day. Hats and Shirts will also be available to purchase at all ISTMA events. Please let Sarah know if you have any questions at 515-232-8222 or [sarah@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:sarah@iowaturfgrass.org).



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Grinnell, IA 50112  
319-231-9254 (cell)  
[jkkoster@yahoo.com](mailto:jkkoster@yahoo.com)

**Jeff Bosworth**  
Vice President & Northwest Director  
Drake University  
1422 27th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50311  
515-202-8847 (work)  
[jeff.bosworth@drake.edu](mailto:jeff.bosworth@drake.edu)

**Tim Van Loo, CSFM**  
Central Director  
ISU Athletics  
1800 S. 4th St. Jacobson Bldg  
Ames, IA 50011  
515-509-8035 (cell)  
[vanlooti@iastate.edu](mailto:vanlooti@iastate.edu)

**TJ Brewer, CSFM**  
Southeast Director  
Burlington Bees  
2712 Mt. Pleasant St.  
Burlington, IA 52601  
515-360-8979 (cell)  
[thusto1@hotmail.com](mailto:thusto1@hotmail.com)

**Rick House**  
Southwest Director  
Council Bluffs Sports Complex  
2900 Richard Downing Ave  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503  
402-690-0319 (work)  
[rhhouse@councilbluffs-ia.gov](mailto:rhhouse@councilbluffs-ia.gov)

**Tony Senio**  
At-Large Director  
University of Iowa  
3 S. Ridge Ct.  
Coralville, IA 52241  
319-430-5333 (work)  
[tonysenio@yahoo.com](mailto:tonysenio@yahoo.com)

**Troy McQuillen**  
At-Large Director  
Kirkwood Community College  
6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
319-398-5441 (work)  
[troy.mcquillen@kirkwood.cc.ia.us](mailto:troy.mcquillen@kirkwood.cc.ia.us)

**Josh Shull**  
Exhibitor Director  
TurfWerks  
5225 NW Beaver Dr.  
Johnston, IA 50131  
515-577-5642 (work)  
[joshshull@turfwerks.com](mailto:joshshull@turfwerks.com)

**Steve Bush, CSFM**  
Exhibitor Director  
Bush Sports Turf  
6800 78th Ave.  
W. Milan, IL 61264  
309-314-1000 (work)  
[steve@bushturf.com](mailto:steve@bushturf.com)

**Dr. Dave Minner**  
Ex-Officio Director  
Iowa State University  
141 Horticulture Hall  
Ames, IA 50011  
515-294-0046 (work)  
[dminner@iastate.edu](mailto:dminner@iastate.edu)

**Jeff Wendel**  
Executive Director  
Iowa Turfgrass Office  
17017 US Hwy 69  
Ames, IA 50010  
515-232-8222 (work) 515-232-8228 (fax)  
[jeff@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:jeff@iowaturfgrass.org)

**Sarah Hodgson**  
Newsletter Editor  
Iowa Turfgrass Office  
17017 US Hwy 69  
Ames, IA 50010  
515-232-8222 (work) 515-232-8228 (fax)  
[sarah@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:sarah@iowaturfgrass.org)