

# The *Sideline* Report

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

December 2013

*And the Award Goes to.....*



Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show  
January 28-30, 2014

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

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We would like to say thank you to all the companies that have placed an ad in this month's issue of the Sideline Report. Your support for the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association is very much appreciated.

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# A Letter from the President

Jeff Bosworth, CSFM, Drake University



Now that we have all survived the 2013 season hopefully you can step back and unwind from the grueling and somewhat monotonous days of mowing, fertilizing, mowing, chemical applications, watering, and mowing and either reflect or forget about the season we just endured. I for one do a little of both, there are some things we just want to forget, but other things that could make us a better turf manager. I'm sure each one of you could think of something you would have done differently that could be applied the next year.

The one thing I love about Iowa and having distinct seasons is the winter months and being able to remove myself from the monotonous days as I described. The only downfall is the part of my job description that includes snow removal. And speaking of seasons, how about the fall color this year!! The picture below shows a shot of campus the first week in November, while I was winterizing the irrigation system.



The 80th Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show is January 28-30, 2014 at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott. Go to <http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/iticonference2014schedule.htm> to check out all the specifics of this year's Conference and Trade Show. The ISTMA has another great line-up of speakers for our all day Tuesday workshop that will offer a variety of topics to enhance your knowledge. That evening please join your fellow ISTMA members for the ISTMA

Membership Social at the "Cub Club" located at Principal Park in downtown Des Moines. Come and enjoy this evening of networking and meeting up with your fellow ISTMA members. Wednesday will be another full day of education workshops, Keynote Speaker Aaron Thomas, and the opening of the 2014 Trade Show. Please make your way around to talk to all the vendors, exhibitors and sponsors of this great conference and trade show. Without their continued support throughout the year we wouldn't be able to sustain this great association.

Make sure you stop by the ISTMA booth for a chance to bid on silent auction items. Proceeds made on the Silent Auction go toward funding the ISTMA scholarship fund. Wednesday evening is the Turfgrass Industry Reception at the Des Moines Marriott, come out and enjoy an evening reuniting with friends from all sectors of our industry. The week concludes on Thursday with additional educational workshops, one last chance of visiting the Trade Show and Pesticide Applicator Recertification. Please be sure to fill out the evaluation forms at the end of each training workshop, this helps determine what types of speakers are invited to speak in the future.

Each year the Sports Turf Managers Association gives each chapter a complimentary registration to attend the National STMA annual conference and exhibition. The complimentary registration must be used by someone that has never attended the National conference. This year's conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas January 21-25, 2014. If you are thinking about going and have never attended before, please contact myself or Jeff at the Iowa Turfgrass Office.

Lastly, thank you for allowing me to serve as President of the ISTMA, it has been an honor to serve in this position and look forward continuing to serve as a board member. Thank you to the board members for their outstanding work and volunteering their time, Jeff and Sarah for their hard work at the Turfgrass Office, the Sideline Report advertisers and sponsors, and all the 2013 workshop hosts, speakers and sponsors. And finally, thank you for being a member of this great professional association.

# Iowa Turfgrass Office Update

## Jeff Wendel, CGCS, Iowa Turfgrass Insititute

### Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

The 2014 'Show' runs January 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> and the Trade Show is once again sold out. The Sports Turf Workshop includes Casey Scheidel, CSFM from I-Cubs Sports Turf Management. Zac Reicher from the University of Nebraska will speak about 'Practical Turfgrass Physiology' and Jay Warnick, CSFM will talk about his work as Head Groundskeeper for the Kansas City Chiefs. The Sports Turf Workshop also features Erik Christiansen on Sports Field Irrigation Design Application, Tim VanLoo, CSFM & Joel Rieker from Iowa State and Luke Mudd from Truman State University. Brian Horgan from the University of Minnesota and Lynda Wightman of Hunter Industries will speak on Wednesday prior to the ISTMA Annual Meeting. [Click here for the Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show brochure.](#)

The 2014 Keynote is Aaron Thomas from Parkersburg; don't miss his compelling story, "Courage, Passion & Overcoming the Odds"

The Thursday Sports Turf Session features the 8 to 8:45 Round Table discussions and an extended session on Seed and Seeding equipment following the Trade Show break.

Complete conference information is available at: <http://iowaturfgrass.org/iticonference2014.htm>

**Reminder:** When you register for a Conference Workshop and choose a specific track, for example, Sports Turf Workshop, you are NOT required to stay in that session. If a talk in another session appeals to you please feel free to change sessions. We use the registration information as a guideline for setting the number of seats in the rooms, but try to leave some extra room for those that want to take in specific speakers or topics. It is your show; maximize the value you gain from attendance.

### ISTMA Member Discount

Members who register for full conference registration by December 20th receive more than a 10% discount from the regular preregistration rate and nearly 20%

off the onsite rate. The discount form is available on the ISTMA Secure pages or at: <http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/pdfformat/2014%20Conference/2014%20Registration%20Form%20-%20Early%20Bird.pdf>

### ISTMA Annual Meeting

The ISTMA Annual Meeting is Wednesday, January 29th at 3 PM in the Downtown Des Moines Marriott. You do not need a conference registration to attend the annual meeting. If you wish to attend education sessions, Trade Show or the Wednesday night reception you will need a conference registration. All ISTMA members are encouraged to attend the ISTMA Annual Meeting. If you are unable to attend, an absentee ballot is available in this newsletter.



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# Political Short Takes

## Mona Bond, Iowa Alliance of Environmental Concerns

### On the State Level:

#### Water:

There is growing concern over water issues in the state. While no legislation is available for review – we are nearing the 2014 legislative session.

My prediction: without IaAEC there to fight for the turf industry – the rural-urban split will become more pronounced. Denny Watters called me recently and shared that a well known Iowa farmer was on the radio talking about how the urban applications are key problems to water quality issues in Iowa.

I will continue to monitor these issues for the industry and be at the meetings to help keep the record straight. If you hear of anything like this in your area please call me as soon as possible. A rural-urban split on fertilizer/pesticide and water issues benefits no one.

#### Fuel vs. Food vs. Iowa Economy

A recent AP article in the DSM Register (11/12/13) talks about the impacts of increased crop production on the land and conservation. This promises to continue to be a hot topic during the 2014 session related to water quality.

### On the Federal Level:

#### Immigration:

Even the House Republicans are saying there will be immigration reform but not until 2014. (And specifically not what was passed in the Senate)

“California Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R), the House majority whip, said in a meeting with immigration proponents that there weren’t enough days left for the House to act and he was committed to addressing overhaul of the nation’s immigration system next year.

#### Farm Bill:

According to a Reuters report - The chances of the U.S. Congress passing a five-year farm bill by year’s end are a little better than 50/50 given the gridlock over food stamps for the poor. The farm bill, already a year behind schedule, is the master legislation that directs government

supports for farmers and food aid programs. A big sticking point is: the Senate wants \$4 billion cut from food stamps while the House wants to reduce the program by \$40 billion. Most all other issues in the bill can be resolved but this one is holding the bill hostage.

Some experts are proposing they cut food stamps \$6-\$8 billion and then we put in all these caveats the far right wants to put in the food stamp program, like work requirements and drug tests. The government extended the expired 2008 farm bill last year. If Congress fails to pass a new bill, a second extension is likely. Without a new law, U.S. farm policy will be dictated by an underlying 1938 permanent law that would bring back the concept of “price parity” which could lead to sharply higher guaranteed crop prices. Consumers are the biggest losers without a farm bill according to experts.

*Continued on page 6...*



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## Political Short Takes Continued...

Why do we care in Iowa? There are 400 urban districts in the U.S. House of Representatives and 35 rural

districts. When you're a minority like farmers (granted they are a potent minority because they produce food) and you remove nutrition and food stamp programs from the farm bill, the leverage is over. Given the impasse on this farm bill - which traditionally has had bipartisan support - some farm analysts are suggesting this could be the last farm bill, ending 80 years of U.S. farm policy designed to protect farm price and income.

One last thought on this, experts also indicate that taking food stamps and nutrition programs out of the farm bill and you remove about 85% of the USDA's budget.

### Economy:

Farming's best days may soon be behind it, the American Farm Bureau Federation's top economist Bob Young recently stated. He shared that market growth for U.S. agriculture has been unprecedented, with farm income value rising from \$275 billion in 2003 to \$425 billion the last three years. Conditions are now right for

that growth to decline. Keep in mind this is coming from a Farm Bureau economist... typically a very conservative organization so definitely worth looking at.

“**Darrel Good**, professor emeritus in the University of Illinois Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, said corn prices could dip well below \$4.50 a bushel in 2014.”



The advertisement features the Floratine logo at the top, which consists of a stylized orange and green swoosh with the word "FLORATINE" in green and "CENTRAL TURF PRODUCTS" in smaller black text below it. Below the logo, contact information for Brent Smith (563-210-1616) and Jason Allen (402-250-2609) is provided. The website [www.floratinecentralturf.com](http://www.floratinecentralturf.com) is listed. At the bottom, the Astron Root Driver logo is shown, featuring the word "ASTRON" in large, bold, black letters with "ROOT DRIVER" in smaller red letters below it, and the phrase "Patented Biostimulant" in a cursive font underneath. A graphic of a root driver tool is also visible.

## ISTMA Silent Auction

The ISTMA hosts a Silent Auction during the Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show. This has been a very successful event and will continue in 2014.

The Silent Auction donations fund the ISTMA Gary Peterson Scholarships. In 2013, ISTMA was able to hand out two \$250 Scholarship to deserving students in Iowa. The ISTMA Board is working to endow the scholarship fund so more ISTMA Gary Peterson Scholarships could be presented to students in need of financial assistance.

Please consider donating a gift to the ISTMA Silent Auction January 29 & 30th, 2014 at the Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show in the Downtown Des Moines Marriott. You may bring your gift to the conference or send it to the Iowa Turfgrass Office before January 1, 2014.

Iowa Turfgrass Office  
1605 N Ankeny Blvd Suite 210  
Ankeny, IA 50023-4163

For questions please call the Iowa Turfgrass Office at 515-635-0306.

# *And the Award Goes to.....*

## **Dennis St. Germain - ISTMA Golden Cleat Award**

*By: Troy McQuillen*



This year's ISTMA Golden Cleat Award was given to the late Dennis St. Germain.(1947-2009)

Dennis St. Germain was a loving husband, father, son, brother and friend to many. He was born July 17, 1947 graduated from Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School and went onto attend Upper Iowa University. Upon graduation he married Patricia and had 2 children, Matt and Dana.

He started Pace Asphalt Systems in 1980 and grew it into the Pace Supply we know today. He was active in his children's lives, coaching their teams, attending their performances and providing a role model of what hard work looks like.

Denny was active in his community serving as a member of Calvary Baptist Church, ISTMA, Golf Course Superintendents Association, Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association, Iowa Nursery Association, and The Iowa Home Builders Association.

Denny died on July 5, 2009. His family has continued to keep his memory alive with the Dennis St. Germain Foundation. The Foundation gives out scholarships to deserving young people who want to give back to the

community, express an interest in entrepreneurship, and have a love for the "green" industry... all traits that Dennis himself possessed.

Denny's daughter, Dana St. Germain had this to say about the ISTMA Golden Cleat award, "It meant a lot to me and my family to have ISTMA honor my dad with the Golden Cleat Award this past January. He always believed in the ISTMA organization and the people in it. I think of my father often, it is nice to know that he has left a lasting impression on the ISTMA and the people that make it go. I have enjoyed being around the ISTMA and the stories they share with me about my father and Pace Supply. This was his second family and everyone within the organization cared for my father."

Personally, I knew Denny for just a short time when I started teaching at Kirkwood. The times that we interacted I was always impressed with his professionalism, industry knowledge and the unique ability to crack jokes at your expenses. Denny and the Pace Supply family have always been promoters of the ISTMA organization. I was honored to be the board member to recognize the Denny St. Germain family. A well deserved award for a great person.



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# Dormant Seeding

## Eric Van Ginkel, Iowa Cubs Sports Turf

At the end of November each year, Iowa high school football playoffs wind down at the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls. With the football season extending late into the year, forecasted temperatures continue to decrease halting turfgrass growth. Although it may not be the ideal time, it may be the first time turf managers are able to complete any type of fall maintenance on game or practice fields. As a maintenance provider for some central Iowa high school athletic fields, we (Iowa Cubs Sports Turf) take advantage of this short time period before the ground freezes. The ideal seed window of mid-August to mid-September is long past; therefore, this is the next best time for dormant seeding thin or bare athletic fields.

According to Iowa State University's agronomy extension website, soil temperatures throughout most of Iowa were around 40 degrees throughout most of the state on November 21, 2013. Knowing soil temps are unlikely to warm back up that late in the year, it is the ideal time to dormant seed before the soil freezes. The low soil temps ensure seed will not germinate until the spring but are still high enough to allow cultivation of unfrozen soil. As with any seeding, it is important to incorporate the seed into the soil to ensure successful germination and minimize the loss of seed throughout the winter. Slit seeding or broadcasting seed following a heavy core aeration are two ways that may be considered. Dormant seeding can be done at anytime throughout the winter or a number of different ways, but it is complicated when the ground freezes.

The following spring after dormant seeding, seedlings should receive the same fertility maintenance as a spring or fall seeding. Due to the immobility of Phosphorus within the soil, it is important to apply a starter fertilizer with high Phosphorus levels at the time of germination. Increasing the fertility program may be required depending on the condition of the field. It is important to push the lateral growth of the existing turf and promoting the maturity of new seedlings before play resumes.

At most high schools throughout Iowa, the same athletic fields host all freshmen through varsity football and soccer games, as well as band practice, gym classes, and other events. Continual use results in minimal recovery time.

Following the football season, it is important proper maintenance is provided to allow for favorable playing conditions when spring soccer begins. Dormant seeding of multi-use fields will allow seed to begin germinating promptly with the increasing soil temperatures in the spring.

Our fall maintenance practices typically include deep core aeration and slit seeding of thin or bare areas. We apply topdressing to all game fields and to some practice fields where budgets allow. The past two springs we have had great success from dormant seeding Kentucky Bluegrass and Tall Fescue. Early emergence has provided excellent cover prior to soccer events beginning. Multi-use fields may be aesthetically appealing at the beginning of the season but without recovery time or increased maintenance, condition with quickly deteriorate. Following the spring soccer season we will

*Continued on page 10...*



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## Dormant Seeding Continued...

deeptine and overseed wear areas in preparation for fall football season. As the year progresses and temps rise throughout the summer, we closely monitor the irrigation requirements of the immature turf plants to avoid heat stress.

Last fall we began overseeding three heavily used practice fields with a 90/10 Rhizomatous Tall Fescue/Kentucky Bluegrass mix. After analyzing results following a year of practice, we are able to see nearly every Tall Fescue plant that germinated within a core aeration hole. Field conditions seem to have withstood the intense traffic in comparison to previous years. We have overseeded the same fields with RTF for the second year to observe conditions following year two.

For tips on improving the success of dormant seeding, I suggest referring to a blog post on October 28 from Zac Reicher, a professor of turfgrass science at University of Nebraska – Lincoln. It can be found at [turf.unl.edu](http://turf.unl.edu). It includes numerous weed control options for dormant and spring seedings. I would also suggest signing up for turf iNfo updates by emailing

[turf@unl.edu](mailto:turf@unl.edu) with your first name, last name, and email address with “ADD” in the subject line. Frequent updates are made pertaining to the North Central US.

### Dormant seeding Tall Fescue and Kentucky Bluegrass emerging in the spring of 2013



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# Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show

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## *Aaron Thomas*

A man whose family—and community—were shattered by a profound personal loss, Aaron Thomas is an inspiring example of courage, resilience and the very best of the human spirit.

Aaron Thomas' father Ed was a beloved high school football coach who not only trained generations of players on the importance of discipline, hard work and commitment but personally put these values into practice as a community leader who inspired his town to rebuild in the wake of a deadly tornado. Not long after the community withstood the disaster of the storm, the small town of Parkersburg, Iowa, endured a far worse tragedy: the fatal shooting of Ed Thomas by a mentally ill former player. Rather than shun the family of their father's murderer and perpetuate the tragedy that Parkersburg faced, Aaron and his family called for understanding and compassion—because that's what Ed Thomas would have wanted them to do. In this incredible story of ordinary people thrust into an extraordinary situation, Aaron Thomas shares his family's journey of showing uncommon strength during the darkest of times. Having made it through tremendous adversity, Thomas shares the importance of living a life of passion and meaning while challenging audiences to set the goals necessary to stand out in both life and business. Picking up the mantle of his father as the Athletic Director of Aplington-Parkersburg High School shortly after his death, he and his family are the recipients of the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage presented at the 2010 ESPY Awards.



Learn more about Aaron & his family : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukodLTOTens>

**Mark Your Calendars NOW for the 80th Annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show!**

**More information and Online Registration is available at**  
[www.iowaturfgrass.org/iticonference2014.htm](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/iticonference2014.htm)

## Tuesday January 28, 2014

### Sports Turf Workshop

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00	Construction	Casey Scheidel, I-Cubs Sports Field Management
10:00	Red Bull Stadium	Joel Rieker, Iowa State University
11:00	Practical Turfgrass Physiology	Zac Reicher, UNL
11:45	Lunch	-----
12:45	Arrowhead Stadium	Jay Warnick, CSFM, Kansas City Chiefs
1:45	Sports Field Irrigation Design Application	Erik Christiansen, EC Design
2:45	Physiology - Inputs vs. # of games	Tim VanLoo, CSFM
3:45	A Year of Renovation	Luke Mudd, Truman State

## Wednesday January 29, 2014

### General Session / Keynote

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:30	Awards	Troy McQuillen, Kirkwood Community College
8:45	Scholarships	Troy McQuillen, Kirkwood Community College
9:15	Sustainable Turfgrass Systems	Brian Horgan, PhD, University of Minnesota
9:45	New Products	Exhibitors
10:00	My Family's Story: Courage, Passion and Overcoming the Odds	Aaron Thomas, Aplington-Parkersburg Schhols <i>Keynote</i>
11:00	Trade Show Grand Opening	-----

### Sports Turf Session

Time	Topic	Speaker
1:30	Efficient Sports Field Irrigation	Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries
2:00	Turfgrass Fertility	Brian Horgan, PhD, University of Minnesota
3:00	ISTMA Annual Meeting	Jeff Bosworth, CSFM, ISTMA President

## Thursday January 30, 2014

### Sports Turf Session

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:00	Round Table Discussion	Troy McQuillen
9:00	Break Trade Show Open	-----
10:00	Seed and Seeding Exploring the Options	Tim Gioffredi & Bryan Wood
11:30	Trade Show Open	-----

Pesticide Applicator Training - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

ISTMA Member Social  
Cub Club at Principal Park  
5:30 PM - Tuesday January 28, 2014  
Send your pictures to [sarah@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:sarah@iowaturfgrass.org)

# 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL IOWA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

## MEMBER ONLY REGISTRATION FORM

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sports Turf Workshop (120 limit)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration for ISTMA Membership Social – Cub Club – Principal Park 5:30 PM		ISTMA Members	No Charge	\$0
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_____ Student Registration (3-Day Pass. Does NOT include PAT) Call for One or Two day rates.		\$ 55	\$ 60	\$
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_____ Trade Show Only (per day) <input type="checkbox"/> Wed. <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs. (Includes Lunch / Does NOT include PAT) (NON-MEMBERS)		\$ 75	\$ 80	\$
_____ Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) ONLY (Thursday PM, does not include Trade Show)		\$ 50	\$ 55	\$
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Tuesday January 28th, 2014  
Cub Club at Principal Park  
1 Line Drive Des Moines, IA  
5:30 - 9:30 PM



Please RSVP on your conference registration or email to Sarah at [sarah@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:sarah@iowaturfgrass.org)

Send your pictures from the 2013 season to be featured at the Social! Send pictures to Jason Koester, CGCS at [jkkoster@yahoo.com](mailto:jkkoster@yahoo.com) or Jeff Bosworth, CSFM at [jeff.bosworth@drake.edu](mailto:jeff.bosworth@drake.edu)

ISTMA will host an exciting opportunity to socialize with your peers and vendors during the 2014 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show. On Tuesday evening following the Sports Turf Workshop, ISTMA will be having a Social at Principal Park's Cub Club. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available. A shuttle will be available from the Downtown Marriott Hotel to Principal Park's Cub Club for transportation to and from.

Join the ISTMA for a great night of remembering the 2013 season with a short program and great networking!



# 2014 ISTMA Election

## Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Board of Directors Candidates for Southeast Director

### TJ Brewer, CSFM

Burlington Bees - Sports Turf Manager  
ISTMA Member – 12 years  
STMA Member - 11 years

#### Employment History:

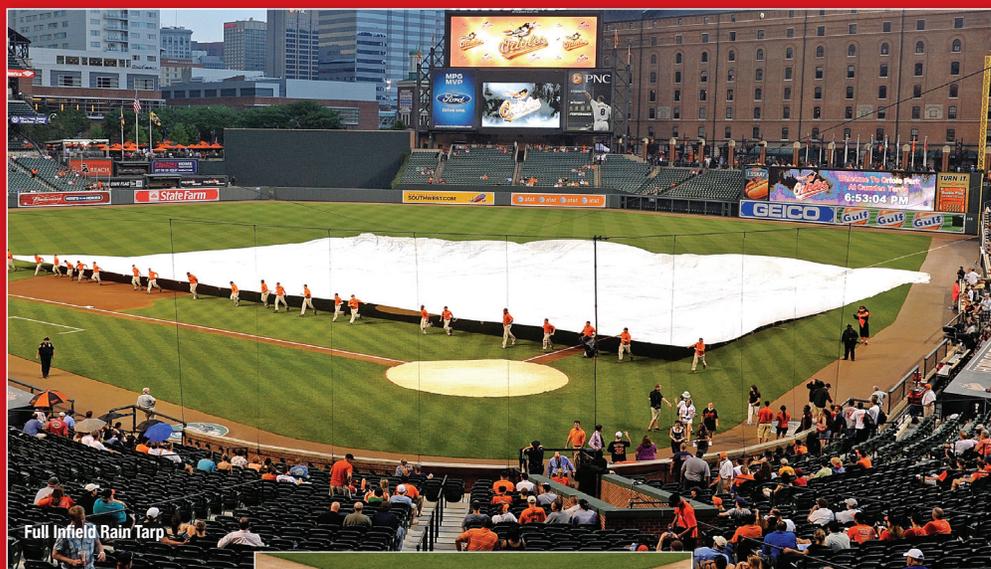
Burlington Bees 2006 - Present

Personal Information: In my free time I enjoy spending time on or near water with a fishing pole and a friend. That is of course when I am not able to spend the time with my beautiful wife Kacey. If you have ever spent too much time with me you also know that I don't go too far without my trusty dog Bindi.

#### Education:

Iowa State University - Horticulture

Goals as a Board Member: My goal is to make sure the members of this organization have the opportunity to benefit from their membership. I believe the only reason the ISTMA exists to serve its members. I feel very strongly that the ISTMA is headed in the right direction and I am excited to continue serving on the board.



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# 2014 ISTMA Election

## Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Board of Directors Candidates for Vendor Director

### **Bryan Wood**

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Commercial Turf & Tractor, Owner  
ISTMA Member – 24 years

#### Employment History:

Commercial Turf & Tractor: 1988 - Present  
Smith Turf and Irrigation: 1985-1988  
Litchfield Country Club: Jan - Dec 1984  
Spring Valley Country Club: 1982-1983



Personal Information/ Family/Hobbies: I have two sons ages 22 and 24. I enjoy boating, flying, auto racing, custom painting and eating good barbeque! Recently I started art lessons with my wife which added a new level of patients. I am also involved in church choir and other church activities at the Calvary Baptist Church.

#### Education:

Horry - Georgetown College/ Coastal Carolina College Degree in Turfgrass Science / Turf Management

Goals as a Board Member: As a board member of the ISTMA, I would like to be instrumental in growing our association and promoting the professionalism of sports turf managers. I have served several terms on this board through various economic times and chapter projects and would love to serve our association again. I will try my best to do what it takes for our chapter to remain the shining example of what STMA is about.

### **Brent Smith**

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Floratine Central Turf Products, Owner / Sales Consultant  
ISTMA Member – 10 Years

#### Employment History:

Floratine Central Turf Products - 2003 - Present  
Springbrook CC - 1993 - 2000



Personal Information/ Family/Hobbies: I enjoy spending time with my wife Terri and our two children Isaac, 4, and Finnley, 1. I love to golf and going to Iowa Hawkeye games (nothing against the Clones :))

#### Education:

MBA - St. Ambrose University 2001  
BS Biology - St. Ambrose University 1996 - 2000

Goals as a Board Member: I have served on the Iowa GCSA board in the Vendor Representative Position for the past three years and helped to implement improved Partner Recognition Programs to give more value to the Members and Vendors that support Iowa GCSA. I would like to do the same for the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association, among assisting in attaining any and all goals the current Board has for ISTMA.

**2014 Absentee Ballot**  
**ISTMA Board of Directors**

**Southeast Director – vote for one**

\_\_\_ **TJ Brewer, CSFM**

**Write in:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vendor Director – vote for one**

\_\_\_ **Bryan Wood**

\_\_\_ **Brent Smith**

**Write In:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you cannot make the ISTMA Annual Meeting to vote, please fill out this form and send it back to the Iowa Turfgrass Office by January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

Return by fax to 515-635-0307 or e-mail to [sarah@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:sarah@iowaturfgrass.org) or mail to Iowa Turfgrass Office, 1605 N Ankeny Blvd Suite 210 Ankeny, IA 50023-4163

**ISTMA Annual Meeting Notice**

**The ISTMA Annual Meeting will be held on January 29, 2014 at 3:00 PM at the Downtwon Des Moines Marriott.**

# Southeast Director Update

## TJ Brewer, CSFM, Burlington Bees

It is finally here, the end of my season. I am not talking about the last game or the completion of my final project; I am talking about my turf. It is a sad fall day when you look at your field and realize it has checked out for the winter. You know what I mean, the color is off just a bit and the life just doesn't seem to be there anymore. To be honest with you I am not sure if this is a day that I look forward to or not. After months of tending to its every need: mowing, watering, fertilizing, nurturing it is almost nice to be able to relax and know that part of the year is over. With that being said, I just realized this a couple of minutes ago and already looking forward to the day life returns to my turf.

It is the holiday time of year. The season of giving! Or should we call it the season of selling or the season of buying? For many years Thanksgiving has been my favorite holiday. For the most part it has been the most non-commercial holiday on the calendar. The only companies that ever really turn a profit off of Thanksgiving are the turkey and cranberry companies. Black Friday has loomed over the integrity of Thanksgiving for years, but only recently has it broken into the holiday itself. I grew up with Thanksgiving as really the only day of the year the whole family gets to do nothing,

but importantly gets to do it together. I am sad for the future of this holiday, now black Friday starts on Thursday. When does it stop? Thanksgiving has always been the "official" start of the Christmas season... now there is nothing, maybe all the hoopla will start the day after Halloween now... maybe that would be a good thing, it would help bring some of the integrity back to Thanksgiving.

I love Christmas and the holiday seasons... hang on a minute I love the idea of Christmas and the holiday season. To me the idea is: giving, caring, loving and enjoying. Unfortunately people get so hung up in the rush and expectations more people are taking, angry and mean. I mean seriously walk through a store, grocery or department, and people have grimaces on their faces, pushing you out of the way and giving you the bird in the parking lot... not really the holiday spirit!! So here is my request: stop what you are doing a couple of times a day, think about the meaning of the holidays and ask yourself if you are portraying that image. Just think if more people did this how much better a place the supermarket would be at this time of the year. Happy Holidays – I look forward to seeing you all at the Iowa Turfgrass Conference!

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