

The *Sideline* Report

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

June 2014



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

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A Letter from the President

TJ Brewer, CSFM, Burlington Bees



I don't mean to go all Dr. Phil on you, but it just so happens to be one of those days. "You never know when one kind act, or word of encouragement, can change a life forever." (Zig Ziglar) Although we almost embrace

the fact that we are a behind the scenes industry we still have plenty of opportunities to interact with the users of our facilities. I encourage you all to take a minute to step back and look at how many people you interact with in a day, week, or month. Realize how big of a footprint you really have in this world, then decide how you want to leave that footprint.

We have all had a rough spring, well Dr. Minner has maybe had it a little easier. We are all having our issues and I don't think anyone has it in cruise control. Looking back, there is nothing I would have or could have done differently last fall that would have my turf in better place now. I thought we went into winter in great shape for how hot and dry last summer was and I think we are in great shape considering the spring so far. My turf is pretty thin, my wear areas are struggling and so on. I am sure you are all in the same boat with me, questioning what you could have or should have done... well, stop kicking yourself and realize you have done the best you can given the weather and with the resources provided to you. Keep up the good work, keep your head up and realize that you are not alone.

Remember one of the great advantages of this industry is that your peers are always willing to help you out. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and commiserate or find some guidance, I know I have done my fair share.

We just had a great workshop in Waukee! Thanks to Casey Scheidel, CSFM for organizing a great program and keeping the rain away. I was unable to attend, but have heard nothing but good things, good work guys!

In order to host these events we need sponsors and Thank you to Agriland FS, D&K Products, Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management, Jackin Seed, MTI Distributing, and Van Wall Equipment for stepping up to the plate and helping with this successful event.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for July 9th with the workshop at Grinnell College hosted by Jason Koster, CGCS. There is some great education planned and you can never place a value on the networking that takes place at these events.

Once again keep your eyes open for surveys that we will be sending out to help shape this organization. Please take the time to fill these out, we are going to use your responses to help steer our Strategic Plan. Finally thanks for taking the time to read this and support your organization. Keep up the good work... it is appreciated!



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Iowa Turfgrass Office Update

Jeff Wendel, CGCS, Iowa Turfgrass Institute

Keep Your Workplace Safe

After spending time looking over the 'Globally Harmonized' system of Hazard Communication and working to convey the changes and requirements to managers and supervisors in the Turfgrass Industry, I realized that it is time to provide a list of responsibilities employers must be mindful of to keep their employees healthy and safe. Hazard Communication is a part of this, but the subject is much larger than just Safety Data Sheets and labels.

Some larger operations have safety officers and dedicated staff to address these concerns, other operations may have only one person with responsibility for everything from turf management to Human Resources to Safety. Regardless of your situation, make certain you do everything you can to keep employees safe and your operation in compliance with the law. Visit OSHA's Small Business pages for more help with compliance issues: <https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/index.html>.

The list below details the requirements from OSHA; please be aware that other dangers exist that fall outside the OSHA 'realm.' Most notably, make certain your workplace has a plan for severe weather and a plan for criminal activity or attack. It can happen in your workplace. A perpetrator can be someone you know or a complete stranger. Living in denial is the riskiest strategy of all. Post-tragedy interviews prove the point, you usually hear someone say, "I never thought this could happen here."

Employer Responsibilities

Under the OSH law, employers have a responsibility to provide a safe workplace. This is a short summary of key employer responsibilities:

- Provide a workplace free from serious recognized hazards and comply with standards, rules and regulations issued under the OSH Act.
- Examine workplace conditions to make sure they conform to applicable OSHA standards. (<https://www.osha.gov/law-regs.html>)
- Make sure employees have and use safe tools and equipment and properly maintain this equipment.

- Use color codes, posters, labels or signs to warn employees of potential hazards.
- Establish or update operating procedures and communicate them so that employees follow safety and health requirements.
- Employers must provide safety training in a language and vocabulary workers can understand.
- Employers with hazardous chemicals in the workplace must develop and implement a written hazard communication program and train employees on the hazards they are exposed to and proper precautions (and a copy of safety data sheets must be readily available). See the OSHA page on Hazard Communication. (<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>)
- Provide medical examinations and training when required by OSHA standards. (<https://www.osha.gov/law-regs.html>)
- Post, at a prominent location within the workplace, the OSHA poster (<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/poster.html>) (or the state-plan equivalent) informing employees of their rights and responsibilities.
- Report to the nearest OSHA office within 8 hours any fatal accident or one that results in the hospitalization of three or more employees. Call our toll-free number: 1-800-321-OSHA (6742); TTY 1-877-889-5627
- Keep records (<https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/index.html>) of work-related injuries and illnesses. (Note: Employers with 10 or fewer employees and employers in certain low-hazard industries are exempt from this requirement.)
- Provide employees, former employees and their representatives access to the Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (OSHA Form 300 - <https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/RKforms.html>). On February 1, and for three months, covered employers must post the summary of the OSHA log of injuries and illnesses (OSHA Form 300A - <https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/RKforms.html>).
- Provide access (https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10027) to employee medical records and exposure records to employees or their authorized representatives.
- Provide to the OSHA compliance officer the names of authorized employee representatives who may be

asked to accompany the compliance officer during an inspection. (https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/factsheet-inspections.pdf)

- Not discriminate against employees who exercise their rights under the Act. See our “Whistleblower Protection” webpage. (<http://www.whistleblowers.gov/>)
- Post OSHA citations at or near the work area involved. Each citation must remain posted until the violation has been corrected, or for three working days, whichever is longer. Post abatement verification documents or tags.
- Correct cited violations by the deadline set in the OSHA citation and submit required abatement verification documentation.
- OSHA encourages all employers to adopt an Injury and Illness Prevention Program. Injury and Illness Prevention Programs, known by a variety of names, are universal interventions that can substantially reduce the number and severity of workplace injuries and alleviate the associated financial burdens on U.S. workplaces. Many states have requirements or voluntary guidelines for workplace Injury and Illness Prevention Programs.

Also, numerous employers in the United States already manage safety using Injury and Illness Prevention Programs, and we believe that all employers can and should do the same. Most successful Injury and Illness Prevention Programs are based on a common set of key elements. These include: management leadership, worker participation, hazard identification, hazard prevention and control, education and training, and program evaluation and improvement. OSHA’s Injury and Illness Prevention Programs (<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/safetyhealth/index.html>) topics page contains more information including examples of programs and systems that have reduced workplace injuries and illnesses.

- For more information, refer to the following online publications and resources.

All About OSHA* (https://www.osha.gov/Publications/all_about_OSHA.pdf)

OSHA Inspections* (https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/factsheet-inspections.pdf)

Top Ten OSHA Standards Cited (https://www.osha.gov/Top_Ten_Standards.html)

- For more information, see OSHA’s enforcement page (<https://www.osha.gov/dep/index.html>)

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ISTMA Strategic Plan

Tim VanLoo, CSFM, Iowa State University

A year ago past President Jeff Bosworth lead a small group of past presidents and current board members to create a strategic plan. Jeff knew that direction for an organization like ours is crucial to the organization and more importantly for the members. The document that came from those meetings was a 5 Year Plan. The first 3 years were the bigger focus followed by some long term goals that fell into the 4-5 year goal area. Below you will find the strategic plan and our progress to date.

1 Year Goals

1. Contract with ITI (We have signed on for 3 more years)
 - a. Gather all job descriptions/duties/responsibilities of ITI support staff (We will be doing an annual review with ITI to identify strengths and weaknesses)
 - b. Define specific needs and prioritize goals of ISTMA's ITI representatives
 - i. Evaluate ITI board representation and determine personnel needs.
 - ii. Require ITI rep(s) to be ISTMA board members or recent past BOD?
2. Evaluate management needs for the future
 - a. Use researched and validated information to define value of ITI umbrella association (1-2 year goal)
 - b. Define a needs list for association management and how best to meet chapter needs. (Part of evaluation process)
3. Create a finance committee (Committee has been formed, other goals are being accomplished)
 - a. Board discuss and determine how financial oversight is best accomplished
 - b. Define role/authority/limits of Finance Committee/chair and develop SOP (years 1-2)
 - c. Find financial officer and develop committee (2nd year)
4. Change our purpose to a mission statement. Look at using STMA's mission statement. After we have created our initiatives/buckets develop vision.(Done)
5. Change by-laws to only require one board member to a committee.
6. Workshops
 - a. Discuss and set workshop philosophy
7. Inventory STMA bulletins/reference materials
 - a. Define delivery method to members and external parties (year 2 and beyond)
8. Survey what members need or value (1st year) (Working on first survey now)
 - a. Prioritize, budget for and deliver to members (years 2-3)
9. Develop SOP about chapter Budget Process. Have Board discuss at summer board meeting, use time between summer and fall board meetings to work on preliminary budget. Present and pass 2014 budget at fall board meeting
10. Iowa Turfgrass Tuesday Conference Program
 - a. Board evaluate and set philosophy of this conference day (1st year)(We continue this every year, we feel it keeps getting better)
 - b. Define ways ISTMA can have Tuesday be an ISTMA focused day (Continue to make this a can't miss)
 - i. Maximize ISTMA exposure (year 2 +)
 - ii. Budget and execute plans that compliment ISTMA philosophy
11. Professional Development (Surveys will be coming this year)
 - a. Survey and prioritize PD needs of our members (personal growth)
 - b. Develop ISTMA PD needs (Association image enhancement)
12. Transparency-Toot our own horn
 - a. Use newsletter (Presidents message/Membership chair) and Quicknotes as tools to update members on Board and Board meeting issues (1st year goal)
 - b. Publish article on chapter strategic planning goals (1-2 years) (This is the 1st)
 - c. Publish BOD meeting wrap-up notes and action plans in newsletter (1-2 year goal)
 - d. Publish upcoming Annual Meeting agenda, Financial Report and next year's budget in December)
 - e. Survey to members.
 - f. Take better care of new members. Board members should reach out to new members, make sure they are receiving all materials we offer.
 - g. Vendor members. Develop ways to show their value.

13. Membership Drive (What will it cost to obtain)
 - a. Survey and investigate what other STMA chapters do or have done and what works/doesn't work (1st half of 1st year) (We use national conference for ideas and info)
 - b. Discuss in summer board meeting. Set short term and long term goals.
 - c. Further discuss and define a membership drive initiative for the coming winter/year. Budget for it. (1st year).
 - d. Execute the membership drive (Year 2)
14. Marketing to members.
 - a. Develop better relationship with STMA. Find out how they can help us. What materials we can use of theirs for our membership.
 - b. Get our events posted nationally through STMA.
 - c. Website and quicknotes needs to be updated more often with more pictures.

2 Year Goals

1. Endow the Scholarship Fully (\$25,000) (This was accomplished; we moved money from the funds

ISTMA had and created an account worth almost \$30K. This is a huge accomplishment!) We will continue to grow the fund while giving bigger scholarships than in the past)

- i. No scholarship <\$1000 once fund is endowed
2. Develop Winter Conference for Iowa Sports Turf Managers (Still considering the benefits of this...)
 - a. Compare numbers for attendance from ITI conference Tuesday
 - b. Does it make more sense to put our efforts into our own conference
 - c. Board discussion, evaluation, set policy on future of this. Develop and give direction to Education chair
 - d. Define role of Commercial members/supporters
 - i. Budget, plan for and host one of these in winter as a trial (year 2-3)
 - ii. Evaluate after 2 year trial (year 4-5)
3. To better serve our current members and identify groups that are unreached/non member
 - a. Increase info in the touches that we do have

Continued on Page 8...

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4. To better serve our commercial members
5. Governance, increase stability and awareness of what is required of board members
 - a. Get ITI and ISTMA reps to be on same page
 - b. Committee Involvement
 - c. More rewarding to be a board member
 - i. Develop budget/create perks for board members.
 - ii. Plaque for outgoing president.
 - iii. New board packet.
6. Research/SAFE
 - a. Measure willingness to fund local and/or national (2nd year +)
7. Workshops
 - a. Plan, budget for and execute according to philosophy (year 2+)

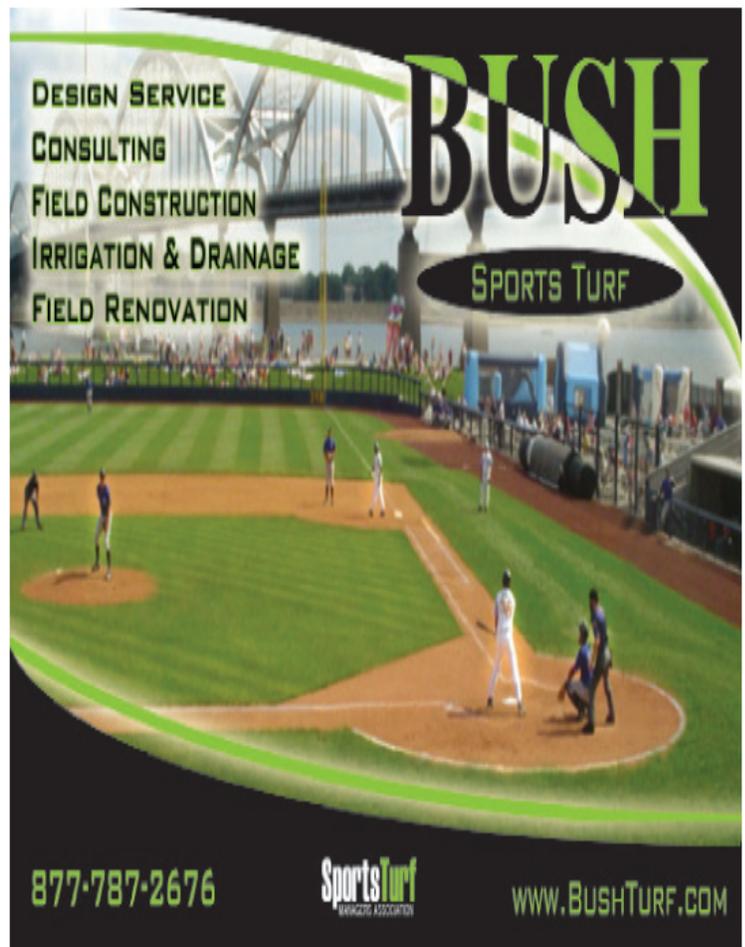
3 Year Goals

1. Professional Development
 - i. Board training and/or orientation set up, budgeted and executed (year 3-5)
 - ii. Make it rewarding to be on BOD. (Mileage? Meals? STMA expenses? Other??)
 1. Require STMA President and/or Executive Board members to be STMA members.
 - iii. Have PD presentation at every chapter event (year 2+)
 - iv. Review and update Strategic Plan at each board meeting.

4 to 5 Year Goals

1. Define, set criteria and offer Legacy Scholarship (5 year goal)
2. Organize giving back to our industry, SAFE and Research
 - a. Prioritize funding opportunities
 - i. Define at what financial point ISTMA will “jump in” to fund
 - ii. Maximize visibility and PR element of funding
3. Hardship Fund
 - a. Define and set criteria if board approved (3-5 year goal)

As you can see, the plan isn't the sexiest, but it's an outline/map for the future of our organization. We really want “You”, the member to share your opinions. Please participate in the surveys so we the Board of Directors can get a feel for how we are serving our members.





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Spring Workshop Recap

Jeff Bosworth, CSFM

The first of three 2014 ISTMA workshops was kicked off at Waukee High School's Athletic Field Complex. Casey Scheidel, CSFM with the Iowa Cubs Sports Turf and his staff put on a great full day workshop looking at Facilities they help maintain as well as large renovations that are in varying stages of work. The day's activities started with a welcome and overview of the complex's athletic fields and the day's activities from Casey Scheidel, CSFM.

The morning session was spent at Waukee High Schools Football Stadium, Softball and Baseball Fields. The first speaker of the day was Brian Launderville with Midwest Field Turf, Brian talked about the different types of Synthetic turf and the recommended maintenance practices you should be doing to maintain your synthetic field. Brian stressed the importance of following the manufacturer's recommendations when maintaining your fields, to not only lengthen the life of the field but not to damage it. Midwest field turf has different pieces of equipment that they recommend; some of these pieces perform multiple functions on one unit.

Next we listened to Ross Huff with D&K Products discuss the responsible use of extended nitrogen products and how they benefit the plant and the environment. Ross touched on the different types of nitrogen and how to intelligently make decisions when choosing an extended or slow release fertilizer. There are many factors that go into this decision and one that should be researched before just choosing a product and applying. He stressed the need for managers to do soil samples and apply what the plant needs. Ross talked about how the plant can only use so much nitrogen, over applying and applying nitrogen that is quick release will potentially just get leached into the soil. We must be stewards of the environment and do our part in protecting the environment.

Our next speaker was Mark Grundman with Jacklin Seed; Mark's talk was filled with great information and research on turfgrass seed. With the time available he could only scratch the surface of all the information and research being done to develop the kinds of seed

that we as turf managers want. Bottom line is, great strides are being taken in the seed industry, and it is worth your time as a Turf Manager to research what kind of seed is best suitable for your athletic fields. Whether it is a grow-in project or overseeding, there are seeds available now and in development that will and can make our lives easier.

Next we moved into Waukee High School's Softball and Baseball fields, Casey talked about their maintenance practices and the amount of nitrogen each field receives. Casey performed a demonstration using Turface Moundmaster bricks in front of one of the pitchers mounds in the bullpen. The installation of the bricks on the mound took less than 10 minutes, something each facility could do to improve their pitching mounds and batters boxes. The bricks were donated by Curt Myers with Agriland FS. Bags of bricks were being given to

Continued on Page 10...

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ISTMA Spring Workshop Continued....

wanted to take them back to their facility and give them a try.

After lunch everyone jumped on a bus to begin our traveling portion of the Workshop. Our first stop was West Central Valley High School in Stuart, Iowa to look at a new multi-million dollar athletic complex that was for the most part completed last fall. Matt Carlie with Confluence was the architect on the job and talked about the project from the beginning to the point it is now, which is almost complete. The new facility included a new football stadium with locker rooms new track and synthetic turf. The project also included a new softball and baseball field. Iowa Cubs Sports Turf was responsible for the building of the new Softball and Baseball Fields as well as all the seeding on the site.

Our next stop was Van Meter High School where we looked at a Grow-In project on the High Schools Baseball and Softball fields. Iowa Cubs Sports Turf is managing the grow-in on these two fields. Casey talked about the challenge of getting these two fields ready. The two fields were seeded with Bluegrass last fall but after a harsh winter they had to start from square one this spring. The fields are in the process of growing in, with deadline to be playable of May 30.

Our last stop on the Tour was Waukee Timberline School and Vision Soccer Complex where Iowa Cubs Sports Turf is installing 2 inch drain tile on 7 soccer fields. The drainage is being installed on 20 foot centers. After looking at this project we were able to see many

of the various stages of athletic field construction all in one day.

The ISTMA would like to thank Casey Scheidel, CSFM and his crew for putting on an excellent workshop to kick off the year. There was a lot of organization involved in getting all the speakers and host facilities lined up to be utilized for this workshop. Thank you to the host facilities: Waukee High School, West Central Valley High School, Van Meter High School, Waukee Timberline School and Vision Soccer Complex in Waukee. ISTMA would also like to thank the following vendors: Agriland FS, D&K Products, Iowa Cubs Sports Turf, Jacklin Seed, MTI, and the Van Wall Group for sponsoring this year's ISTMA spring workshop. Without the help of our sponsors these workshops could not be a success.

Please mark your calendars for the two remainder workshops for 2014.

July 9th: ISTMA Summer Workshop – Grinnell College
Host: Jason Koester, CGCS

September 16th: ISTMA Fall Workshop – Iowa City Kickers Soccer Complex
Host: Joe Wagner

Information for both workshops is available at www.iowaturfgrass.org/istmaevents.htm





Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association
Summer Workshop - July 9, 2014
Grinnell College - Grinnell, IA



The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association is excited to present the summer workshop of 2014 at Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA. Host Jason Koester, CGCS and staff have prepared a full-day of educational topics focused on Sports Field Management. The day will also feature talks that specialize in Sports Field Management ending the day with a variety of hands on demonstrations.

The Workshop education will give Turfgrass Managers insight on Fraise Mowing and Skin Management Practices on Baseball and Softball Fields. Brent Smith will give industry information about Humic Acids and how it can naturally help your soils. Ryan Adams will talk about how you can help your turfgrass recover from Winter Damage and how to prevent in the future. Jason Koester, CGCS and the Grinnell College Staff will then enlighten attendees on their State of the Art Rainwater Collection System and how they have enrolled the college in the Prairie/ Audubon Program. We will then end the day with a variety of hands of demonstrations. Thank you to our Workshop Sponsors Agrium Advanced Technologies, BUSH Sports Turf, Commercial Turf & Tractor, D & K Products, Floratine Central Turf Products, John Deere Landscapes, Miller & Sons Golf Cars, and Van Wall Equipment.

Join ISTMA for the 2014 Summer Workshop! Registration deadline is July 2, 2014.
Return this brochure or register online at www.iowaturfgrass.org/events.htm

Thank you to our Workshop Sponsors!



Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association

Summer Workshop – July 9th 2014

Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA

Host: Jason Koester, CGCS



- 8:00 **Registration w/coffee & donuts**
- 8:30 **Welcome & Overview of Day's Activities**
– *Mike Burt and Jason Koester, CGCS, Grinnell College*
- 8:45 **Granular Fertilizer Options**
– *Keith Woodruff, EC Grow*
- 9:30 **Fraise Mowing**
– *Bryan Wood, Commercial Turf & Tractor & Tim VanLoo, CSFM, ISU Athletics*
- 10:30 **Skin Management**
– *Kevin Hansen, Pro's Choice*
- 11:15 **Humic Acids**
– *Brent Smith, Floratine Central Turf Products*
- 12:00 **Lunch** – Visit with Vendors
- 12:45 **Winter Damage on Athletic Fields**
– *Ryan Adams*
- 1:15 **Rainwater Collection**
– *Jason Koester, CGCS*
- 2:00 **Prairie/Audubon Program**
– *Chris Bair, Mike Burt & Jason Koester, CGCS, Grinnell College*
- 2:30 **Demonstrations**

Thank You to our Workshop Sponsors Agrium Advanced Technologies, Bush Sports Turf, Commercial Turf & Tractor, D&K Products, Floratine Central Turf Products, John Deere Landscapes, Miller & Sons Golf Cars & Van Wall Equipment

Registration Form

ISTMA Summer Workshop – July 9th, 2014

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Pre-registration Deadline by July 2, 2014

- Members \$40
- Non - Members \$50
- Students \$20

STUDENTS MUST PRE-REGISTER

On-Site Registration

- Members \$50
- Non - Members \$60

PAYMENT METHODS:

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And the Award Goes To



Mike Poll 2013 Golden Cleat Award

This year's ISTMA Golden Cleat Award was given to the late Mike Poll (1984-2013).

Mike's life was cut short by Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) on October 25, 2013. Jeff Bosworth, CSFM, Mike Andresen, CSFM, Chris Schlosser and I were able to present Mike with the Award a week before his passing. This award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in the Sports Turf Profession. Mike was outstanding everyday working on the grounds of Iowa State University and Principal Park in Des Moines. Through his illness, Mike was able to keep smiling and see the positives in all aspects of life.

Mike was born on December 26, 1984 in Hamilton, Michigan to Randy and Tami Poll. He graduated from Hamilton High School and later from Iowa State University on December 15, 2007, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture. While a student at Iowa State, Mike worked at Jack Trice Stadium and assisted with the management and upkeep of other Sports Turf facilities on campus. In 2008, Mike married Kim DeJong and started with the grounds crew at the Iowa Cubs. Shortly after, he was diagnosed with ALS. Together they had a daughter Ruby Grace. Mike had a devoted love for his wife and daughter. He was a member of Meredith Drive Reformed Church. Those who knew Mike understood his unshakable love for Kim and Ruby and his relentless desire to be a witness to Christ.

Pre- ALS Mike enjoyed basketball, golf and until his final days watching University of Michigan sports. Mike made sure that his little girl knew how to yell, "Go Blue!" He also took great pride in his lawn and had a strong passion for his work with the Iowa cubs, on and off the field. "The Turf will be greener in heaven; the blades of grass at Principal Park and Jack Trice wave goodbye for now." - Barb Osborn. Mike fought the good fight, Mike finished the race and Mike kept the faith. Well done Mike.

I will also miss those truck conversations that only farm kids understand, those things you only tell the guys and hearing him gush about little Ruby. As managers, it's our duty to teach and help employees grow but I am pretty sure I didn't teach him anything he didn't already know. But what I did learn was to keep fighting, to trust what god has in store for us and to be thankful for all those small things we take for granted on a daily basis. Rest in Peace Mike.





ISTMA VS. Minnesota STMA



CHAPTER CHALLENGE! July 11 & 12 in Minneapolis, MN

The Agenda for the July 11th & 12th Chapter Clash will be as follows:
More Details to follow in Quicknotes and on the ISTMA Website.

Friday, July 11

Golf at 1 PM - Location TBA
Barbecue / Bocce Ball / Beverages to follow

Saturday, July 12

Softball 10 AM
Lunch served after the game

Call 515-635-0306 to Register. Please Register by July 1st, 2014.
For more information visit www.iowaturfgrass.org/events.htm

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Field Care: Dealing with Drainage

Joseph Potrikus, Greener World Landscape Maintenance



A footstep test on the surface of the skinned area shows it has reached the saturation point.

When the frost finally moved out of the ground, the rains had started, Sports fields with drainage problems had an even greater than usual impact on practice and game schedules, forcing many field managers to adopt short-term fixes.

The biggest issues in cancellations are baseball and softball infields. Those involved in soccer and lacrosse, like those in football, have a higher level of tolerance for less-than-ideal playing conditions. Use when the field is too wet will make a bad situation even worse. On the bright side, the poor conditions helped some of those in control of field management budgets realize that the problems need to be addressed, and they became more open to exploring long-term solutions.

Short-term fixes

With standing water in isolated areas, consider these quick fixes to make the surface playable. A field “sponge” or “puddle pillow” can soak up an impressive amount of water in a short time. Create a plywood pathway for the wheelbarrow or utility vehicle used to remove the saturated sponge to avoid rutting the field surface. Small pumps also do a great job of removing water quickly without disrupting the field surface. You can channel the water to a spot away from the field by using a hose or form a brigade of players with 5-gallon buckets to carry it to the dumping site.

If the area of puddling is in the turf, use some of the soil profile material to fill the depression temporarily. When time allows, lift that section of sod to fill in the material to the correct level and replace the sod. To finish off the quick fix in that spot, or for larger areas of lightly wet skinned material, apply calcined or vitrified clay, allow it to absorb the remaining moisture, and then rework the surface to level the area and match that section of the surface to the rest.



Much of the surface of this skinned infield is overly wet with a few areas of standing water. Absorbent infield material is staged for use.

We carry the sponges, pumps and extra infield material with us as we do field maintenance to be prepared for such situations. The big don't on the infield clay - all too often performed by a well-meaning coach or volunteer - is using a broom to sweep the excess water out of the puddle onto the adjacent grass. Along with the water, sweeping moves some of the infield material onto the grass, which creates a wider lip and traps even more water during the next rain event.

If conditions allow equipment access on the turf, core aeration, or a combination of core aeration and deep-tine aeration, along with sand topdressing will help open some channels to move water from the field surface and improve percolation to some degree.

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Long-term solutions

The first step toward a long-term solution for drainage problems is identifying the source. Work with qualified individuals who are experienced in sports field maintenance and construction to research existing conditions now so you can explore the options and be ready to act when the conditions are conducive for it. Look at all possible solutions, from the least to the most expensive, and consider the pros and cons of each. Effective drainage will save you money over time, not only in labor, but also in materials.

Check out the surroundings. Many fields, especially in parks and elementary or middle schools, were built in the only available flat space with areas of higher elevation around them. Excess water flows to the lowest level. If the field in that spot has reached the saturation point, the excess water will remain on the surface until enough percolation has occurred to allow the soil profile to absorb more water. You can't make water flow uphill without a system to move it, so channeling the runoff to another location is one of the first options to consider.

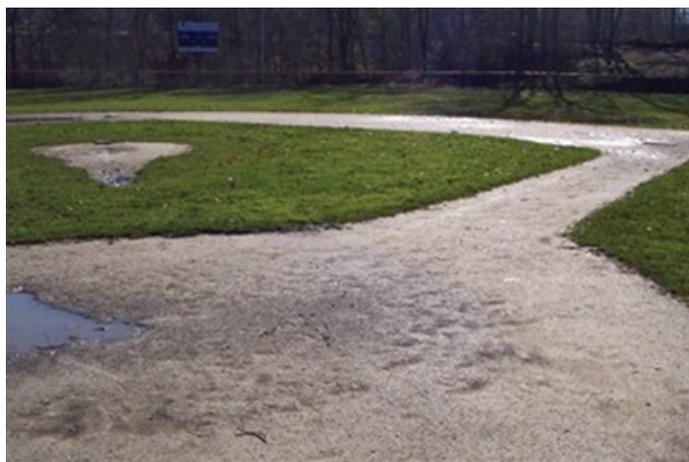


*Spreading of the absorbent material is handled manually to cause minimal impact to the playing surface.
(Photos Courtesy of Joseph Potrikus)*

Next, check the consistency of the field surface. If it is sloped for surface drainage, the percentage of slope dropping from the high point to the low point should be consistent as it extends across the field. If inconsistent, water will channel away from the high spots and puddle in the low spots. The pattern that develops from this checkup may indicate a need for regrading,

or it may point to a more serious problem, such as poorly installed subsurface drainage that is sunken in some areas, or a broken drainage pipe, requiring you to excavate to diagnose.

Correcting the surface drainage, with a specific percentage of slope, may be the only change needed for some fields. For soccer, lacrosse and football fields, a center crown, angling the water flow to both sidelines is the most-used choice. It is workable if that water can be quickly and effectively channeled to a drainage ditch or retention pond or, if no other option is available, to a sewer system. The percentage of slope will vary from .5 to 2, depending on the uses of the field and the amount of water to be moved.



Isolated areas of the skinned section of this baseball field show puddling, so check the consistency of that surface to identify high and low areas.

For baseball and softball fields, the percentage of slope is usually .5 percent from the infield to the outfield, and 1.5 to 2 percent from the infield dirt to the outfield fences. There needs to be a combination of enough positive surface drainage and water infiltration and penetration to create playable conditions.

Precise measurement is essential in any field leveling situation, from creating the subbase to developing the proper crown and percentage of slope. Laser leveling, done precisely by qualified operators, can make sure this is achieved.

In some cases, lip buildup causes a dam effect that traps water on the base paths. Remove the lip to

facilitate water flow. Plan to remeasure field dimensions and recut all the edges of the base paths and the arch in the fall. If a buildup of clay goes deeper into the surrounding grass, cut away strips of the existing sod, correct the soil level and install new sod.

Part of the research on drainage issues confined to the skinned areas of baseball and softball fields is testing of the infield mix by a qualified testing laboratory. You need a good balance of the silt-to-clay ratio and the correct sand sizing for the mix to function properly. Test results will reveal what changes might be required, from a minor tweaking to complete replacement.

If the problems are much more extensive, and field replacement is one of the options your facility wants to consider, consult with a qualified engineer who is knowledgeable and experienced in sports field construction. Too often, the engineer consulted is more familiar with highway and parking lot construction, especially at the municipal level, where that individual is on staff and the big construction equipment is already owned by the city. Putting a 10-ton roller on that field may be done with the best of intentions, but a misguided solution won't correct the problem long term. Whatever the replacement decision, the key to success is a field that is properly designed and constructed.

A synthetic turf system will be the most expensive option initially, though in some areas it may be the choice most likely to be funded because of the long season of playability. Assess the pros and cons as related to your anticipated increased level of field use with a synthetic surface and the impact that would make on your other existing fields to determine if that is the best fit for your program.

If the existing field is native soil, replacing it with a sand-based field would be the second most expensive option, and in many situations the best choice. The sand-based fields that have been well maintained through a consistent management program that includes aeration remained playable through this past spring. In many cases, the field surface was ready for use within a half-hour of a heavy rainstorm.

Either of these two options would include installation

of an effective subsurface drainage system. Check out and compare the costs and results of the traditional drain tiles embedded in gravel to the more recent options, including the vertical, flat-material systems such as the Multi-Flow and Hydraway or the American Wick Drain, as well as the self-contained collectors such as UltraBase systems, J-DRain Turfcore drainage mat, SportDrain and AirField systems. Ask for contact information for the sports field managers using these alternative systems and get their feedback before making your decision.

A less expensive option is the sand-capped field, which works well in some situations. Proper preparation of the surface, with laser leveling, is as critical in this method as it is in field replacement. The right choice of sand type and particle size is essential. The depth of the sand cap must be great enough to allow the water to percolate down through the sand and away from the playing surface.



Crew members create a plywood path for the truck and other heavy equipment to avoid rutting the field surface.

Research the Spartan sand cap system introduced by the turf research group at Michigan State University. It converts a native soil field to a type of sand-capped field through repeated aeration and heavy topdressing with sand. Again, talk with a few of the sports field managers that have made the applications and are working with the completed system.

Another less expensive alternative is installation of a

Continued on Page 20...

Field Drainage Continued....

slit-field system into an existing native soil or augmented native soil field. There are several choices of systems here as well. For baseball and softball fields, where infield drainage is the problem, installation of subsurface drain pipe embedded in gravel in the foul territory along the first and third base lines may be an adequate solution.

Start right

The take-home message on drainage and field-use cancellations is to start right. Tackle those major issues as soon as budgets and scheduling allow. Do as much of the field preparation work as you can in the fall. Weather conditions and heavy use schedules combine for a time crunch that makes it much more difficult to accomplish in the spring.

Joseph Potrikus, CSFM, is vice president of Greener World Athletic Turf Maintenance based in Cooperstown, N.Y.



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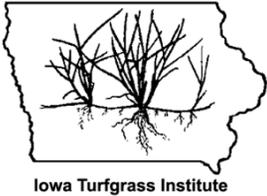
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Count on it.



Field Day Classic - Golf Registration Form

Wednesday, July 16, 2014 Ballard Golf & Country Club

Host Superintendent: Randy Robinson

Event Information

Registration Fee: \$50 per player – 18 holes, cart, education, lunch, dinner and prizes

Schedule:
 9:30 AM Registration
 10:30 AM Lunch
 11 AM—Shotgun- Modified Scramble

Entry Deadline: Wednesday, July 10, 2014

Refunds: Due to our financial commitments, there will be **no refunds**

Registration Information

Full Name: _____

Contact Information: **Email:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Team Preferences: If you have your own 4-person team, please enter the other group members' details below.

Player 1: _____ (payment enclosed)

Player 2: _____ (payment enclosed)

Player 3: _____ (payment enclosed)

Player 4: _____ (payment enclosed)

Payment Information

PAY BY CREDIT CARD

Card Type: Visa MasterCard Discover Purchase Order #: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: ____/____ (month/year) Total Payment (\$50 per player): _____

Signature: _____ I am unable to attend, but still wish to contribute (donation) : _____

PAY BY CHECK

Check No: _____ (please make checks payable to **Iowa Turfgrass Institute**)

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORMS ALONG WITH PAYMENT TO:

Post: Iowa Turfgrass Institute
 1605 N Ankeny Blvd Suite 210
 Ankeny, IA 50023-4163

Fax: 515-635-0306 (Credit card or OR Purchase Order ONLY)

Contact Information:
 515-635-0307
 jeff@iowaturfgrass.org
 sarah@iowaturfgrass.org

The last date for receipt of completed forms and payment is **WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2014**

Iowa Turfgrass Field Day Program

July 24, 2014

2014 Turfgrass Field Day will be held at the ISU Horticulture Research Station in Ames, Iowa. Coffee, donuts and Lunch included. PAT will be offered at an additional cost.

Field Day Registration \$30

Field Day Registration plus PAT \$50**

** PAT is not offered at a stand alone rate of \$20. Must be purchased with a Field Day Registration

Student Registration \$10 with PAT \$30

8:00 am Registration (coffee & donuts)
8:45 am Introductions - Registration Tent

GCSAA Certification
Application has been made for GCSAA
Education points.
Check www.iowaturfgrass.org for details.

Time	RED- PAT	BLUE	WHITE
9:00	Please attend either Blue or White Tour. PAT will begin promptly at 10:00 You must sign in for the Pesticide Training!	New Herbicides for Pre & Post Crabgrass Control - Nick Christians, PhD	Dwarf A4 Creeping Bentgrass and its potential in Iowa - Shui-Zhang Fei, PhD
9:15		Is there a Perennial Rye Seeding Window before Pre-emergence Herbicides - Ryan Adams	Increasing the Success of your Spring Seeding - Dan Strey
9:30		New and Improved Iowa Cultivars from the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program - Nick Christians, PhD	How Rhizomatous is RTF - Isaac Mertz & Dan Strey
9:45		Maintenance Practices and Control of Warm Season Grasses - Ryan Adams	Effect of Compost in Turfgrass Establishment -Dan Strey
10:00	Effects of Pesticides on Groundwater and other nontarget sites & Pesticide Persistence - Troy McQuillen	Dwarf A4 Creeping Bentgrass and its potential in Iowa - Shui-Zhang Fei, PhD	New Herbicides for Pre & Post Crabgrass Control - Nick Christians, PhD
10:15	Insect Update - Donald Lewis, PhD	Increasing the Success of your Spring Seeding - Dan Strey	Is there a Perennial Rye Seeding Window before Pre-emergence Herbicides - Ryan Adams
10:30	Right of Way - Robert Hartzler, PhD	How Rhizomatous is RTF - Isaac Mertz & Dan Strey	New and Improved Iowa Cultivars from the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program - Nick Christians, PhD
10:45	Pesticide Stewardship - Neric Smith	Effect of Compost in Turfgrass Establishment -Dan Strey	Maintenance Practices and Control of Warm Season Grasses - Ryan Adams
11:00	Turfgrass Insect, Weed & Disease ID Tour & Phototoxicity Demo		
12:00	LUNCH		

* Blue and White Tours repeat starting at 10:00am. Please feel free to switch from Blue to White at 10:00am or mix and match talks to fit your interest between 9 and 10 and join PAT at 10:00am. The Turfgrass Insect, Weed & Disease ID Tour will include Red, White and Blue Tours is required for PAT Credit

** **To receive PAT credit an extra fee of \$20 will be added to the \$30 registration fee for Field Day.** Please attend the Blue or White Tour talks from 9 to 10. You must attend the Red PAT program at 10 AM and the 11 AM Walking Tour to receive PAT Credit. For more information please visit www.iowaturfgrass.org or call 515-635-0306

Iowa Turfgrass Field Day

July 24, 2014 - Registration

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____

E-Mail _____

Field Day Registration Fee Includes lunch	\$30.00
Field Day Registratin with PAT** <small>** PAT credit WILL NOT be given unless the extra \$20 fee is paid</small>	\$50.00
Student Registration Fee Includes lunch	\$10.00
Student Registration Fee Includes PAT &lunch	\$30.00

Field Day Registration: Please list names of all attendees.

Name	PAT? - Add \$20	Name	PAT? - Add \$20
_____	Yes No	_____	Yes No
_____	Yes No	_____	Yes No
_____	Yes No	_____	Yes No
_____	Yes No	_____	Yes No
_____	Yes No	_____	Yes No

Register Online at: www.iowaturfgrass.org/events.htm

Number Attending _____

Donation to Turfgrass Research _____

Total Cost _____

Payment Methods

Please return this form along with payment.

Make checks payable to: Iowa Turfgrass Institute

Return form and check to: Iowa Turfgrass Office • 1605 N Ankeny Blvd Suite 210 • Ankeny, IA 50023-4163

FAX Credit Card or Purchase Order: 515-635-0307

Purchase Order: # _____ Check: # _____

Credit Card Type: Mastercard Visa

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Card Holder's Name _____ Signature _____

Contact Information Iowa Turfgrass Institute jeff@iowaturfgrass.org	515-635-0306 sarah@iowaturfgrass.org
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