Meet Andrew Hoiberg, a 2009 Scholarship Recipient

“Winning the Dr. James Watson Graduate Scholarship was a huge honor for me,” says Hoiberg. He received the 2009 STMA Watson Scholarship, which is awarded to the top candidate who is pursuing an advanced degree in turfgrass research. The award is sponsored by Toro’s foundation and is named in honor of Dr. James Watson, a long-time green industry researcher and consultant. “The Watson Scholarship helped immensely with some of the costs associated with graduate school in our current economic climate and was a reminder that we all work together in the Sports Turf community,” adds Hoiberg.

Hoiberg believes that being in the industry for several years before attending graduate school at Iowa State University was beneficial. “Being a member of STMA for many years as an industry professional prior to attending graduate school, I was aware of the hard work that graduate students put forth to make ends meet and to further scientific knowledge in our community,” he says.

His goals are to make an impact on the profession in several ways. “When I finish my Ph.D. at Iowa State, I hope to secure a faculty position where I can further and renew my research objectives, provide extension services for local and national Sports Turf managers, and help shape the future for undergraduate and graduate turf students,” Hoiberg says.

He is already has a great start on achieving his goal of advancing the profession. He is presenting twice at this year’s national conference. On Friday, January 14, he will be presenting “Research You Can Use: Seedbanking, Seeding Rates, and Increased Nitrogen Fertility.” The presentation will focus on his research at ISU, and he’ll report findings about seedling once versus seeding multiple times through the season and how these schedules affect turf cover. At a roundtable, later that afternoon, he and David Minner, Ph.D., will be available for questions regarding this research.

Please help SAFE continue to award scholarships to deserving students like Hoiberg. Send a donation for our raffles and auctions to SAFE/STMA Headquarters, 805 New Hampshire, Ste. E. Lawrence, KS 66044, or bring them with you to the conference.
Donate Your Time - Volunteer for a Committee

AS A NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION, STMA relies on dues, sponsorship and advertising dollars to fund the services it provides back to the membership. The gift of time through volunteering is regarded equally as significant and important to STMA as these monetary contributions. Volunteering on a committee provides the association with vital insight and perspective from the membership on its programs and services.

Most committees meet via conference calls, and depending upon the committee’s charges for the year, they may meet via phone as few as twice during the year, or as frequently as twice a month for several months. These calls offer a great opportunity to meet and learn from others, offer your viewpoint and help to advance the work of STMA. Appointments are for one year beginning on March 1, with each committee comprised of generally 10-12 members.

At the annual conference in Austin, all current committee members are invited to a short meeting Wednesday, January 12, 6:30 p.m. Each current committee member will receive an invitation and agenda before the conference. It is a future goal of the association to carve out more significant time during the annual conference for all committees to meet.

Please sign up using the form below or via www.STMA.org even if you are currently serving on a committee.

The other standing committees include:

Awards: To judge the association’s awards program applicants selecting the Field of the Year winners and the Minor League Baseball Sports Turf Manager of the Year; to develop strategies to enhance the programs. (This Committee meets physically in November in Kansas City, MO)

Bylaws: To develop association bylaws, which are fair and enforceable, and clearly define the expectations for membership, governance processes and board of directors’ service.

Certification: To develop strategies to grow the number of certified members; to consistently monitor the program and recommend enhancements to ensure that the program is the top achievement for sports turf managers.

Chapter Relations: To create a chapter structure that is beneficial locally and nationally; to financially assist chapters with their administrative, operations and educational efforts; to facilitate the sharing of best practices.

Conference: (Conference Education, Exhibition, and Tours subcommittees) To develop all content, sessions, workshops and off-site venues, and select speakers and moderators for the next year’s conference that will make it a “must attend” event for members and nonmembers; to recommend strategies that will drive attendance to the exhibition and will add value to exhibitors.

Editorial: To insure that the STMA magazine contains information relevant to the sports turf manager; to provide ideas and contacts for articles for publication.

Ethics: To provide a fair and unbiased council to investigate claims of ethics violations, determine if the claim has merit, and shepherd the appeals process. (This Committee is called into operation only if there is an ethics violation claim).

Finance & Audit: To provide oversight of the STMA’s financial resources by reporting information to the Board of Directors.

Historical: To preserve the history of the association and the profession.

Information Outreach: To develop educational and informational opportunities for members to enhance their personal and professional development.

Membership: To develop initiatives to drive membership growth and retention; to recommend programs that add value for each member.

Past President’s Advisory Council: Purpose: To advise the STMA Board on issues pertaining to the past, present and future of STMA. (Limited to STMA Past Presidents)

Scholarship: To judge the recipients of the SAFE Scholarships and the Terry Mellor Grant; to develop strategies to enhance the programs.

Technical Standards: To help determine standards and best management practices needed in the profession and to guide the work of the ASTM on developing sports field and facility standards.

Website: To ensure that the STMA website contains information relevant to members, prospects and the green industry in an easily accessible and consumable format.

STMA ALSO HAS A NOMINATING COMMITTEE that is appointed directly by the Nominating Committee Chair. The chair is always the Immediate Past President, as defined by the Bylaws. Thus, Chris Calceterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP will assume that role for 2011.

STMA Committee Volunteer Form
Committee appointments are for a one-year term of service beginning in March. Please fill out a new form annually.

Name______________________________________________
Facility________________________________________________________________________________________
Chapter_______________________________________________________________________________________
E-Mail__________________________________________________________________________________________
Telephone______________________________________________________________________________________

Facility/Industry Representation (check one) Facilities used by Professional Athletes
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Name of Committee on which you are interested in serving:

________________________________________________________________________________________

Return this form to STMA Headquarters, 805 New Hampshire, Ste. E, Lawrence, KS 66044
Fax: 785-843-2977 or via email STMAinfo@STMA.org
DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2010
Take the Conference Education Home with You

STMA is committed to providing current, relevant education to every member. This year at the 2011 STMA Conference and Exhibition, IntelliQuest Media (IQ Media) is partnering with STMA to provide recorded educational sessions. IQ Media digitally audio records presentations and synchronizes them with approved speaker PowerPoints and handouts. These recordings will benefit attendees unable to make it to concurrent sessions and sports turf managers unable to make it to the conference. The recordings are also valuable as a refresher throughout the year for sports turf managers to stay current and educated in the industry.

The 2011 Conference has an exciting line up of speakers and topics. The broad range of information covered in presentations includes sustainability, field and facility construction, water conservation, agronomic issues and research, professional development, new developments in the industry, money saving techniques, and synthetic sports field issues. Speakers include sports turf managers, academics, and commercial members at the forefront of the sports turf industry.

Members and nonmembers have the option of purchasing individual education sessions on audio CD for $17. The complete set of recorded sessions is available on MultiMedia DVD-ROM at $159 for members and $199 for nonmembers. These prices are available onsite and two weeks following the conference on the STMA website. January 31 prices increase to $199 for members and $259 for nonmembers. Make sure to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to enhance your education and stay current with industry trends and research!

STMA Playing Conditions Index (PCI)

STMA rolled out the Playing Conditions Index (PCI) package at its annual conference in 2009. Developed to assess the playability of your fields, the PCI is used to provide a snapshot of your fields’ playability at a specific point in time. The continued use of the assessment tool provides invaluable information to the sports turf manager and can help guide field management practices, assist with communication to user groups, can help to substantiate the need for more resources, and as needed provides a way to provide information to the media relations department. The package contains a Media Advisory Bulletin with instructions to help convey information on field conditions and its effect on athlete performance to sports information professionals on game days.

The STMA PCI is currently in a worksheet form that allows the Sports Turf Manager to allot points for each question and then total the points, giving the STMA PCI for that field at that time. There are detailed instructions on the cover sheet of the STMA PCI to help guide you through the process. If you have any questions while filling out the STMA PCI, please contact STMA at 800-323-3875 or PCI@STMA.org.

Ask a CSFM Lawrence Berry, CSFM, Director of Physical Plant, Lee University, Cleveland, TN

Benefits of certification verified

Editor’s note: This is another installment on how becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) can benefit turf managers professionally as well as improve their facilities.

How did you prepare for the CSFM Exam?
Berry: I prepared by referencing the study resource list and utilizing libraries and other avenues (internet, etc.) to acquire and read. I knew areas that I was weaker in and focused on those disciplines more.

How did you approach your employer to support your certification, both financially and in the time needed to prepare for the exam?
Berry: I put together a formal proposal that outlined the benefits of being a CSFM. This was centered on how it would make me more valuable to my employer but also highlighted other benefits that would help draw positive attention to my employer.

Why did you decide to pursue certification?
Berry: To be totally honest I just wanted to see where I stood among my peers with my knowledge in the industry. I also enjoyed working with other groups, schools, etc and knew this would help legitimize me as a knowledgeable reference for them.

How has certification helped your career?
Berry: Certification has helped in several ways. The combination of being a CSFM and the involvement in the turf industry has brought positive publicity to my employer. Our institution realizes that having their name in print with various outlets helps to draw attention to us and can be a way of introducing our great school to someone who otherwise may not have thought or known about us. My employer realizes the benefits and supports by allocating the resources for me to stay involved. I also have been referenced quite often for consulting, speaking engagements, and career advice. Obviously the more you can do these things the more stock you invest into yourself and the more valuable you become.
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**STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information**

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: Chris Walsh cwalsh@scottsdaleaz.gov
Florida #1 Chapter (South): 305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran CTomSell@aol.com
Florida #2 Chapter (North): 850/580-4026, John Mascaro, john@turf-tec.com
Florida #3 Chapter (Central): 407-518-2347, Randy Fisher, rfisher@kissimmee.org

Mid Atlantic Sports Turf Managers Association (MAST-MA) (formerly the Chesapeake Chapter STMA) Ph. 410-704-2197 www.mastma.org
MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mokanstma.com. (See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)
Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: 402/441-4425.
Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: 866/897-8621.
Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: www.wstma.org. (See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

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F  ☑ Sports Complex  G  ☑ Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer
T  ☑ School, College or University  P  ☑ Park
H  ☑ Other (please specify)  _____________________________

2  Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)
A  ☑ EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR — President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director
B  ☑ MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor
C  ☑ GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
D  ☑ SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
E  ☑ COACH  F  ☑ Other (please specify)__________________________

3  Do you have the authority to buy, specify or recommend products and/or services for your business or organization?
Y  ☑ Yes  N  ☑ No

4  Yearly operating expenditures (excluding salaries)
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Not happy!

The athletic director was not happy with the football field at the end of the season and he wants to replace it with synthetic turf, but they just can’t afford it. I’ve been able to reseed and get a reasonable stand of grass back before football season each year but it quickly wears down to dirt by the middle of the next season. He wants a plan and some assurance that the plan will grow better grass before he spends the money. He’s not happy, can you help?

I frequently get this type of call throughout the north central region of the US and here is how the conversation goes. Always ask specifically what they don’t like about the field and, just as importantly, what field meets expectations for their level of play. Go to that field manager with the better field and find out what they are doing differently than you. The answer almost always involves controlled traffic, better drainage, or more inputs.

Once you identify some targets then you can develop a plan to meet everyone’s expectations. Jeff Salmond, CSFM at the University of Oklahoma gave a lecture to my class this week about several of his field upgrade projects. He thinks about field construction projects as being from the bottom up (aimed at solving drainage issues), while renovation projects are from the top down (fast establishment for dense grass).

Below are some of the construction, renovation, and management costs that I have used to improve high school football fields in Iowa; costs may be different in your location.

For $200,000-$300,000, a 4-6 inch sand pad system with drainage and irrigation can be seeded in the spring and ready for football by September. The drainage is comparable to a USGA-style field but doesn’t carry the $600K to $800K price tag. It is a great choice for high school fields. It should be able to handle at least 30 activities a year and games can be played during rainy conditions. Because it is sand-based, this field should not be used where traffic levels are sufficiently high enough to break through the grass surface and expose the unstable sand.

For $70,000-$100,000 there are various types of sand slit systems where narrow 1-inch bands of sand are trenched on 1-foot centers into existing native soil fields to collect water once it begins to puddle on the field. It is important to achieve a 1-inch layer of sand topdressing over the entire field to prevent the sand trenches from closing during soggy conditions. Expect some puddles during heavy rain events but anticipate cutting your rain out time in half.

If they are not looking for a construction project that directly removes water from the field then I go through the following checklist to be sure they are covering all the necessary inputs to maximize turf cover in the high traffic areas of the field (field center and sidelines, 20,000 sq. ft.):

- Automatic irrigation system. Traveling guns ($3,000-$6,000) are useful for fields that never wear out, but to force grass growth and re-establishment from seed frequent watering is necessary. If you are putting in a new irrigation system ($18,000-$25,000) arrange blocks and heads to complement separate watering of the high traffic areas. If you can’t afford an entire system then put a row of heads down the center ($3,000-$5,000 not the best choice because heads are in high traffic areas) of the field and you can add the rest of the system when funds become available. If you are installing an entire irrigation system then don’t place heads in the center of the field, that’s where most of the traffic is; start with heads near the hash marks and then design the rest of the system from there.
  - Aerify at least six times a year with at least three from hollow coring. Seed in conjunction with at least three of the aerifiyings to incorporate seed.
  - Most of the field will require 2 to 4 lbs N/1000 sq. ft./yr, but you should be applying 4 to 6 lbs N/1000 sq. ft./yr in the high traffic areas to force growth and maturity of turf.
  - Seed at least six times per year in high traffic areas to maximize turf cover. If you are a fan of ryegrass then budget for 600 lbs seed per year ($750) and if you like Kentucky bluegrass plan on 150 lbs seed per year ($500). Most likely you will be using a combination of perennial rye and Kentucky bluegrass. The point is to seed heavy and seed often to minimize persistence of bare areas on the field.
  - Topdress with sand and in some situations with compost. I suggest you buy into sand topdressing for at least 3 years with the goal of adding 1.5 tons sand/1000 sq. ft./yr to the entire 65,000 square foot field (approximately 100 tons of sand, $2,000). Incorporate sand with deep aeration ($1,300) and with your own conventional aeration. If you can’t do the entire field then just do the 20,000 sq. ft. high traffic area.

So if they’re not happy with the field then ask yourself and your boss if you have been honestly doing all you can to grow grass. If the numbers above don’t suit you then just use your own interpretation to this strategy; bury it with sand, bury it with seed, add some fertilizer, poke enough holes often enough to replant anything bare, and keep it wet enough to make everything grow. Most of the fields I visit are using the right practices; they’re just not putting enough resources into the important worn out area of the field that exists within the whole field. If your budget has been cut then learn to concentrate your resources by managing the “field within a field”.

Questions?
Send them to David Minner at dminner@iastate.edu.
Or send your question to Grady Miller at grady_miller@ncsu.edu.
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