

**ST:** How did you get started in turf management?

**Novinska:** I started in turf management without really realizing it. I was the district delivery/mail driver at the time. During the summer months, there would be a few slow days, so I asked if I could fix up some fields. This also helped the custodians, who at the time were taking care of the fields along with the interior of the building. So I started to fix up the high school's two baseball fields by removing lips as well as edging. The district soon recognized that this was important and created the groundskeeper's position in the fall of 2003. My only prior experience in turf management was working at my uncle's golf course for a couple of summers. I learned landscaping, weed trimming and topdressing the greens from him and the rest I taught myself by reading as much as I could, attending turf seminars and field days and completing two online certificate courses through the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Georgia.

**ST:** How do you balance your work and personal time?

**Novinska:** Balancing work and personal time has been good, and being in the K-12 level, isn't as big an issue because I only work 40 hours a week, a bit more during peak seasons. My family is very supportive.

**ST:** What changes are you planning to make or have you made to your maintenance plan for 2013, if any?

**Novinska:** I haven't made any major changes in 2013. I have been researching topdressing the stadium field with compost. There may be a small window of opportunity to do this yet this fall, but if not, I will try next year.

**ST:** Are you yet involved in sustainable management practices? If so, what are you doing?

**Novinska:** I'm becoming a little more involved in sustainable management. I soil test every year and have adjusted my fertilizer program because of the high rate of P and K, so over the past few years, I have only applied nitrogen. I'm looking into compost, and organic fertilizers. Installation of an irrigation system has helped me to manage water use. An irrigation system will be installed this fall on the practice football fields. This will help with water conservation by not having to occasionally water during the day.

**ST:** How do you see your job changing in the future?

**Novinska:** I see my job changing by the use of technology. Technology is playing a bigger part in the turf industry, with seed genetics to grow lights to even moisture testers, and it is constantly changing. Being the only groundskeeper, I need to find all the tools I can to help me get the job done. ■

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# STMA announces its Conference Schedule

**THE STMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE** has been set. It includes several new events and officially starts on Wednesday, January 22. The printed conference brochure and the online version will be available October 1.

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

### TUES., JAN. 21

6:30 – 9:00 am Continental Breakfast  
6:30 am – 6:30 pm Registration Open  
7 am – 5 pm Full Day Seminar on Wheels  
9:00 am – 4 pm SAFE Golf Tournament  
2:30 – 5 pm STMA Academy: 400+ level education included in full conference price  
3:30 – 7:30 pm STMA Certification Exam  
6 – 9 pm Chapter Officer Training (includes dinner)

### WED., JAN. 22

7 – 8 am Continental Breakfast  
7 am – 6:30 pm Registration Open at Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center  
8 – 9:15 am General Session (New Time!): STMA Past, Present and Future. Keynote Address: “Skills to Survive in the Future” – Dr. Rick Rigsby, Educator & Former Broadcaster  
9:30 am – 12 pm Conference Education  
12 – 2 pm Break  
12 – 2 pm Women’s Forum Lunch: New Time & Format!  
2 – 5 pm Conference Education  
5:15 – 6:15 pm Conference Networking Sessions  
6:30 – 7:00 pm First-Timers Reception  
7 – 10 pm Welcome Reception & Casino Night

### THURS., JAN. 23

6:45 – 7:45 am Certification Breakfast

7 – 8 am Continental Breakfast  
7 am – 6:30 pm Registration Open  
8 am – 12 pm Conference Education & Student Track  
12 – 1:15 pm Annual Meeting & Lunch  
1:30 – 6:30 pm SAFE Silent Auction on the trade show floor  
1:30 – 7 pm STMA Exhibition - Dessert and Reception  
2 – 6 pm Committee meetings on the trade show floor

### FRI., JAN. 24

7 – 8 am Continental Breakfast  
7 – 8 am Past President’s Breakfast  
7 am – 1 pm Registration Open  
8:30 – 10:00 am Conference Education  
8 – 10:30 am Student Challenge  
9 – 10 am Commercial Member Meeting  
10 am – 12:30 pm Silent Auction on the trade show floor  
10 am – 1 pm Exhibition Open with Lunch, Innovative Sessions  
12 – 1 pm Student Luncheon New Event!  
1 – 5 pm Half Day Seminar on Wheels New Time!  
1:15 – 3 pm Conference Education  
2 – 3 pm Riverwalk Horticultural Tour via barge (1st departure) New Event!  
2:30 – 3:30 pm Riverwalk Horticultural Tour via barge (2nd departure) New Event!  
3 pm – 5 pm SAFE 5K Run/Walk New Event!  
6:30 – 10 pm STMA Reception, Live Auction and Awards Banquet

### SAT., JAN. 25

8 am – 12 pm STMA Certification Exam  
8 am – 1 pm ASBA Certification Exam

## Important STMA Deadline: October 15

**OCTOBER 15 MARKS** the deadline to submit applications for several of STMA’s programs. To access the applications, go on line at [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org)

### Field of the Year

This highly competitive program recognizes the work of sports turf managers for five field types: Baseball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Sporting Grounds. For each field type, awards may be given in three categories: Professional, College and University, and Schools and Parks.

### Founders Awards

STMA’s Founders’ Awards are named after its four founders. These awards are STMA’s most prestigious and recognize those members who have made significant contributions to STMA or to the profession.

### Innovative Awards

Open to commercial members whose companies are exhibiting at the annual conference, these awards highlight significant advancements in technology, products and services that improve the sports turf management profession.

### Student Scholarships

Funded through The SAFE Foundation, undergraduate and graduate scholarships are awarded to high achieving students pursuing degrees in sports turf management or turfgrass research.

### Educational Grants

Also funded through The SAFE Foundation, two grants are available: one for a turfgrass student who has completed an internship, and one for a practitioner to fund travel expenses to the annual STMA Conference.

# STMA introduces new Membership Incentives, Referral Rewards

**STMA IS NOW OFFERING** a number of incentives to new members and a referral bonus program, both designed to help the association build on its continued growth.

## New Member Benefits

New members—those individuals who have not been an STMA national member since 2000—are now eligible to receive a **free conference registration** (valued at \$375, to be used within 3 years) when they purchase an STMA membership. This new member offer is valid for the association's sports turf manager and commercial categories, including individuals at the associate level (sports turf manager and commercial associates). Unfortunately, new affiliate and student members are not eligible for the free conference registration benefit.

Those members who joined in 2013, especially those individuals who signed up during the association's recent prorated

dues promotion, are eligible for the free conference registration promotion if they renew for 2014.

To see if you qualify for the free conference promotion, please visit [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org) or call the STMA office at 800.323.3875.

## STMA Referral Rewards

All STMA members are eligible for the association's new referral rewards program. Any current member who refers a new qualifying individual that signs up for a membership will receive a \$100 voucher that can be used on a variety of items, including STMA merchandise, conference registration fees or membership dues. There is no limit to the number of new recruits a member can refer; he/she will receive the \$100 voucher incentive for each new person they refer who signs up.

Stay tuned for more details at [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org). ■



## STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Welcome to the newly formed Indiana Chapter! The chapter is now re-established after closing in 2005. Its officers are President Joey Stevenson, Indianapolis Indians; Vice-President Clayton Dame, Goebel Soccer Complex; Secretary Andy Gossel, Covenant Christian High School; and Treasurer Evan Buckley.

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:**  
[www.azstma.org](http://www.azstma.org)

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.cstma.org](http://www.cstma.org)

**Florida #1 Chapter (South):** 305-235-5101  
(Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran [CTomSell@aol.com](mailto:CTomSell@aol.com)

**Florida #2 Chapter (North):** 850-580-4026,  
John Mascaro, [john@turf-tec.com](mailto:john@turf-tec.com)

**Florida #3 Chapter (Central):** 407-518-2347,  
Scott Grace, [scott@sundome.org](mailto:scott@sundome.org)

**Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.gatewaystma.org](http://www.gatewaystma.org).

**Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.gstma.org](http://www.gstma.org).

**Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.stmalabasin.com](http://www.stmalabasin.com).

**Illinois Chapter STMA:** [www.ILSTMA.org](http://www.ILSTMA.org).

**Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** <http://imstma.blogspot.com/>  
Indiana - [indianastma@gmail.com](mailto:indianastma@gmail.com)

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org).

**Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.kystma.org](http://www.kystma.org).

**Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA):** [www.kafmo.org](http://www.kafmo.org).

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org).

**Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.mpstma.org](http://www.mpstma.org)

**MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.mokanstma.com](http://www.mokanstma.com).

**Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu)

**New England STMA (NESTMA):**  
[www.nestma.org](http://www.nestma.org).

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org).

**Sports Turf Managers of New York:**  
[www.stmony.org](http://www.stmony.org).

**North Carolina Chapter of STMA:**  
[www.ncsportsturf.org](http://www.ncsportsturf.org).

**Northern California STMA:** [www.norcalstma.org](http://www.norcalstma.org).

**Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):** [www.ostma.org](http://www.ostma.org).

**Oklahoma Chapter STMA:** 405-744-5729; Contact: Dr. Justin Moss [okstma@gmail.com](mailto:okstma@gmail.com)

**Oregon STMA Chapter:** [www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org](http://www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org) [oregonstma@gmail.com](mailto:oregonstma@gmail.com)

**Ozarks STMA:** [www.ozarksstma.org](http://www.ozarksstma.org).

**Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.pnwstma.org](http://www.pnwstma.org).

**Southern California Chapter:**  
[www.socialstma.com](http://www.socialstma.com).

**South Carolina Chapter of STMA:**  
[www.scstma.org](http://www.scstma.org).

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** [www.tvstma.com](http://www.tvstma.com).

**Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.txstma.org](http://www.txstma.org)

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org).

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.wstma.org](http://www.wstma.org).

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Continued from page 15

Also, remember it is one thing to germinate the overseeded grass; it is a whole other process to get it to establish enough to actually tolerate traffic and persist. You can always add a bit more seed to touch up worn/thin areas but you can never go back and regain the warmer days and longer period of sunlight that might be lost due to a late start. Some managers have used germination blankets and field covers to help later in the season but those are not ideal solutions compared to the natural growing conditions Mother Nature provides in September and early October.

Lastly, if you plan for only one seeding date, then it is advisable to make sure you seed in two directions, seeding the borders with a drop spreader (if you want a nice crisp edge) and the interior can be planted with a drop or broadcast spreader.

**TO CULTIVATE OR NOT?**

This is a highly debatable question when it comes to overseeding preparations. The research in this area is inconclusive but almost never negative in terms of overseeding success or bermudagrass survival. Remem-

ber, seed soil contact is a critical factor for success. Where excess thatch is not an issue, many turf managers have had good success with broadcasting seed and then following with moderate sand topdressing and dragging the seed/sand into the canopy with a drag implement (flexible drag, brush, etc.). Otherwise, a cultivation/coring about 2-3 weeks before the intended initial overseeding event is advisable.

**GOING BACK TO BERMUDA?**

Managers of bermudagrass fields work hard to get back to nearly 100% bermudagrass, at least for part of the summer. This will help ensure a good bermudagrass base and better overall long-term field performance. Thus, a grass species that transitions easily or the use of chemical transitioning herbicides is recommended. This topic, however, is a whole article in itself. ■

*Cale Bigelow, PhD, is an associate professor of agronomy for the Purdue University Turf Science program.*



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# Team Play



BY DR. GRADY MILLER

Professor, North Carolina State University

## Questions?

Send them to  
Grady Miller at

North Carolina State University,  
Box 7620, Raleigh, NC 27695-  
7620, or email  
grady\_miller@ncsu.edu

Or, send your  
question to

David Minner at  
Iowa State University, 106 Horti-  
culture Hall, Ames, IA 50011  
or email  
dminner@iastate.edu.

**T**HIS Q&A requires a prologue to introduce a great story about teamwork. It starts with Dr. Dave Minner at Iowa State getting a question (with related images) from a diagnostic lab on unusual symptoms that were seen on a bermudagrass field. He had a couple of theories but since he does not encounter bermudagrass turf as much as I do, he passed the question on to me. I had a couple of ideas as to the cause but I decided the symptoms were not the best match for validating my theories.

So I decided to share the question with Dr. Dennis Martin, professor & turfgrass extension specialist at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Martin immediately had two causal hypotheses but wanted additional information from the turf managers before coming to a single conclusion. Once the cultural conditions were reported back to him, his first hypothesis seemed to be the most appropriate, so he offered his diagnosis and treatment based on his experiences. Five professionals later (and just a few days in-between), the mystery seemed solved and a course of action recommended. That is networking and teamwork at its best.

The Question:

The attached images illustrate an issue on a bermudagrass soccer field in northeast Missouri. The grass is producing aerial growth that is tufted and showing multiple tillers. I did not find any bermudagrass mites and no evidence of disease. The field is soil based, established about 10 years ago with Quickstand bermudagrass, but has since been overseeded with some of the newer seeded varieties. Any idea at all what would cause the grass to do this?

Dr. Barb Corwin, Turfgrass Diagnostics LLC

Well, my first thought, which was also similar to Dr. Corwin's, was bermudagrass mites. I have seen my share of mite symptoms, but when I see mite activity it is normally on green, growing shoots. From the pictures it looks like the symptoms were associated only with brown tissue. So, two turf professionals thought perhaps mites, but in the back of my mind it did not seem to be the correct diagnosis.

This is when I decided to get another opinion and sent the question/images to Dr. Martin. He provided the following comments:

"Was this stand overseeded with ryegrass in fall? The reason I ask is that this unusual growth pattern on bermudagrass is often exhibited when the early season shoot growth of bermudagrass elongates above the shading canopy of the ryegrass. As such a 'palm tree like effect' can often be produced in the bermudagrass stand which eventually disappears as those early season shoots senesce or mowing height is lowered and they are cut off and removed.

"The second item to explore is mite injury. I agree with Grady's comment about often seeing a profusion of green tissue associated with mite injury. I just don't see the extreme internode stacking and shoot stunting that I generally associate with mite injury in bermudagrass. We have had a great deal of mite injury in bermudagrass this year. When drought stress strikes many of the shoots die due to disruption of the vascular system and one can see a lot of brown tufts of dead grass. In the case of the grass in these images there is just not the extreme internode stacking that I am used to seeing with mite injury so I believe we are perhaps looking more at the

former case or something else that produces symptoms consistent with those of bermudagrass competing with an overseeded ryegrass."

Dr. Martin's question about overseeding seemed important and I did not know the answer. So, I asked Dr. Corwin, who asked the field manager, and verified that the field was overseeded with perennial ryegrass in the previous fall. The ryegrass was subsequently sprayed out with Revolver herbicide in early June. The field manager also added that the area experienced a wet April and May.


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**When drought stress strikes many of the shoots die due to disruption of the vascular system and one can see a lot of brown tufts of dead grass.**

---

The conclusion was that the case history concerning the ryegrass overseeding was very telling. While we cannot be 100% certain, the fact that ryegrass overseeding was used on that site and that the growth habit alterations were somewhat consistent with that seen at many other bermudagrass fields that were overseeded lent support to Dr. Martin's first hypothesis. Dr. Martin suggested that the sports field manager just proceed with the normal complement of management practices and continue to scout and monitor. If the theory proves to be true, no change in management practices would be necessary. ■





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