

Calendar of Events 2000

April 5

NYSTA's Adirondack Regional Conference, Hilton Lake Placid Resort, Lake Placid, N.Y. Contact NYSTA: (800) 873-8873 or (518) 783-1229.

July 22-24

Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's (OPEI) 17th annual International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo (EXPO 2000), Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, Ky. Contact Sellers Expositions: 550 S. 4th Ave., Louisville, KY 40202; (800) 558-8767 or (502) 562-1962; fax (502) 562-1970. Web site <http://EXPO.mow.org>.

October 4-5

Southern California Turfgrass Council's (SCTC) Turfgrass Landscape and Equipment Expo, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, Calif. Contact SCTC: 7100 Sunnyslope Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405; (800) 500-SCTC (7282) or (818) 764-5016; fax (818) 764-3363; e-mail expo@turfccouncil.org. Web site www.turfccouncil.org.

November 4-7

Eleventh annual Green Industry Expo, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, Ind. Contact Sims Moore: (770) 973-2019.

November 14-16

Turf and Grounds Exposition, OnCenter, Syracuse, N.Y. Contact New York State Turfgrass Association: (800) 873-8873 or (518) 783-1229.

STMA MESSAGE



Sports
Turf
Managers Association

www.sportsturfmanager.com

Expanding Our Horizons

We're expanding the horizons in sports turf management, seeking better ways to accomplish our goals. This is evident in the increased levels of professionalism among sports turf managers and in the new technologies, products and services within the industry. It's reflected in such reports as Dr. Dave Minner's article in this issue on the break point between sand-based and soil fields for field function and economic issues.

We need more industry-specific research to address important issues. And we need to keep the information flowing through the fellowship, idea exchange and networking among sports turf managers. That will happen because STMA is expanding its horizons, too, with the development of exciting new programs.

First, there's certification. That program is up and running, and doing well. There were five Certified Sports Field Managers as of March 1. Congratulations go to: Ross Kurcab, CSFM; Dale Getz, CSFM; Eric Adkins, CSFM; Ted Baker, CSFM; and Mike Schiller, CSFM. Several more individuals are in various stages of the qualification or testing process as I write this column.

Those who have achieved the title of CSFM all have excellent backgrounds in sports turf management and excellent reputations within the industry, and have proven their abilities on the job. Yet each one of them will tell you the process made them put themselves to the test. They'll tell you the test itself is tough, and that's exactly the way it should be. The CSFM designation is a symbol of excellence, and the power of that designation will grow even stronger as we spread the word on its significance to the entire green industry and the general public. If you have questions about the CSFM program, please contact STMA Headquarters.

The second important program is in the developmental stages. It's the Sports Turf Foundation to focus on research and education specific to the sports turf industry. As a 501(c)(3) corporation, the Foundation will be separate from STMA, with its own board of directors, but will have synergism with STMA in achieving industry-wide objectives in research and education.

The third important new program for STMA is strategic planning. In the last five years the association has grown from around 500 national members to nearly 2,000; our affiliated chapters have grown from four to 18. We've improved communications with a toll-free 800 number that serves the United States and Canada, an association e-mail address (SportsTMgr@aol.com) and Web site (www.sportsturfmanager.com). We've expanded the newsletter, the annual conference and the awards and scholarships programs and we've developed the certification program. We're excited about what has been accomplished and want to keep that forward progress, so it's time to develop a more defined plan for the future with both immediate and long-range goals.

STMA is an important industry resource right now. My \$85 membership fee has allowed me to utilize the resources of STMA to save my facility thousands of dollars and elevate the quality of our fields. And even better things are on the horizon.

Rich Moffitt
STMA President
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