

Mentoring program introduced

BY STEVE WIGHTMAN,
STMA MENTORING SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The Mentoring Program may well become the most important initiative of the Membership Committee. It will be key to STMA at the national/international level in both growth and long-term involvement, and to the regional Chapters in getting more people actively involved. It's one more element of the synergistic relationship between these two major components of the Association.

The Mentoring Program will serve several purposes: provide a personal, member-to-member welcome to new members; inform them of the benefits of the national association and of the local/regional chapter as a vital first step in networking; become a resource for answering questions, providing information and helping establish other networking "links"; and getting more people actively involved in STMA at the national and chapter levels. The initial group of Mentors met with the STMA Membership Committee Chair, the Mentoring Program Subcommittee, the STMA Board, and Headquarters staff for a "welcome and official program kick-off session" on January 16, just before the First Time Attendee Reception at the 2002 STMA Conference in Las Vegas. They then joined with the first time attendees, exchanged introductions, and got a head start on networking.

The Mentoring Program was introduced to all other Conference attendees in the opening session of the educational program and during the STMA Annual Meeting. Though final details were being refined at that time, the basics of the program were in place. As a new member joins STMA, he/she will be assigned to a volunteer mentor. The mentor will personally welcome the new member and help acclimate him or her into the benefits and privileges of membership. The intent is to help the new member become comfortable with the Association and to encourage them to become involved and active immediately. Each member is a vital part of STMA and of the Sports

Turf industry and the Mentoring Program will help get that message across, one to one. This will prove beneficial to the new member, the mentor, STMA, chapters, and the profession. For further details on this program, contact STMA Headquarters or visit the STMA Website: www.sportsturfmanager.com.

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Under the STMA's new mentor program, each new association member will be assigned a current member to help him or her get the most of the experience.

STMA Chapter News

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): The Sixth Annual KAFMO/PRPS Athletic Field Conference will be held from 8:00 am to 3:45 pm on February 15 in Grantville, PA. Educational sessions include: "Professionalism and Certification for the Sports Turf Manager," presented by STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty; "Brownfield to Greenfield Sports Complex," by Greg Petry, Executive Director of the Waukegan Illinois Park District; "The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP)," by Kevin Morris, NTEP Executive Director; "Comprehensive Risk Management for Parks, Recreation and Sports Fields," by Greg Petry; and "Cultural Approaches to Disease Control," by Dr. Mike Fidanza, Penn State University.

KAFMO officers for 2002 are: President - Dan Douglas; Vice-President - Kevin Yeiser; Secretary - Nancy Bosold; and Treasurer - Jim Welshans.

Board Members for 2002 are: Public/Private Schools - Stan Weaver and Tim Spangler; Recreation and Parks - Neale Magill and Chris Lessig; Education/Extension - Jeff Fowler and Jim Welshan; College/University - Kevin Yeiser and Phillip Shirk; Professional Sports Facilities - Steve LeGros and Dan Douglas; Commercial - Rich Valentine and Ben Burns; At Large - Nancy Bosold and Mike Dickert.

For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers

Association: The Gateway Chapter will take part in the Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School and Trade Show to be held in Collinsville, IL, February 19-20.

Chapter officers elected for 2002 are: President - Scott Parker, St. Louis Rams; President Elect, Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College; Commercial Vice President - Jerry Meyer, Schaefer Meyer Laser, Logo and Leveling; Secretary - Donna Hauser, Florissant Sod Company, and Treasurer - Tom Norton, John Burroughs School. Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University will continue on the Board as Past President.

For information on the Gateway Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College, 314-392-2382.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: SFMANJ members will participate in the Rutgers 3-day short course on Athletic Field Construction and Maintenance to be held February 26-28. Contact the Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education at 732-932-9271 for details.

For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jim Gavigan, Lesco, at 732-248-8979; or call Eleanora Murfitt, at 908-236-9118; e-mail to SFMANJCHAPTER@netscape.net.

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter will take part in the IFAS field Day to be held in Davies, FL, in March. More details will be announced.

For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The Minnesota Chapter has elected the following officers for 2002: President – Mike McDonald, CSFM, University of Minnesota; President-elect – Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary; Secretary - Greg Brodd, North Star Turf; Treasurer - Randy Bastyr, Oakdale Public Works; Commercial Representative - Don Belkengren, Turf Supply Company; and MTGF Representative - Paul Griffin, City of Woodbury. Ron Unger, Kasson Parks & Rec, will remain on the Board as Past President. Connie Rudolph, CSFM, will serve as Newsletter Chair.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, at tel. 651-638-6075 or e-mail: j-hintz@bethel.edu.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): The Tennessee Valley Chapter has launched its new website: www.tvstma.org.

For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062.

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: The 2002 NTSMTA Officers are: President - Scott Piecha, Gail's Flags; Past President - Rene Asprion, Diamond Pro/Txi; President Elect - Greg Zimmerman, City of University Park; Commercial Vice President - Bruce Watson, Professional Turf Products/Toro; Treasurer - Kayla McAfee, Richardson ISD; and Executive Secretary – Dr. James McAfee, Texas A&M.

2002 Committee Chairs are: Communications - Randy Thompson, City of Allen; Programs - Shawn Ray, City of Cedar Hill; Events - T.J. Thompson, City of Colleyville; Special Projects - Mike Pender, Turfgrass America; Membership - Rob Anthony, Southern Methodist University; and Advertisement - Kathy Cassmeyer, Lockheed Martin.

For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, call Kayla McAfee at 972-234-6584 or Rene Asprion at 972-647-3393, or visit the website at www.ntstma.org.

South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: The South Texas Chapter has elected the following officers for 2002: President – Craig Potts, Texas A & M University; President-Elect - Tim Loesch, Texas A & M University; Secretary - Patrick Tate, Texas A & M University; Treasurer – Michael Pinan, Spring Athletic Complex; and Commercial Vice President – George Spillman, Professional Turf Products. Tom McAfee, Nelson Wolff Stadium, will remain on the Board as Past President. Larry Rider will serve as Program Chair and Pat Searight as Membership Chair.

For information on the South Texas Chapter, or upcoming events, call Craig Potts, Texas A & M University, at tel. 979-458-8841, or e-mail: CPotts@athletics.tamu.edu.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Iowa Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Lori@iowaturfgrass.org.



Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website, www.CSTMA.org, or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.

Indiana Chapter: For information on the Indiana Chapter, or pending activities, call Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at 219-356-8424.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): For information on the Chapter or other pending events, call Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at 616-738-6974, or go to www.mistma.org to visit the chapter's new website.

Midwest Chapter STMA: For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter's website, <http://mctma.org>, or call the Chapter Hotline at 847-622-3517.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at 308-385-5426.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Virginia Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Chapter Vice President, Randy Buchanan, County of Henrico Recreation and Parks, via e-mail: buc06@co.henrico.va.us or at tel. 804-261-8213.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter, or other pending events, call Richard Miller at 608-756-1150.

Chapters On The Grow

Las Vegas: With the STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition being held in Las Vegas last month, plans for the formation of a Las Vegas Chapter also are moving forward. For more information on the developing chapter, please contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: rms@lveva.com or at tel. 702-386-7140.

New York: A chapter is forming in Central New York. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the National Soccer Hall of Fame. For more information, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: Kevin@wpe.com or at tel. 607-432-2953.

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Tried Surfing Turf Lately?

TRY AGAIN! [WWW.SPORTSTURFMANAGER.COM](http://www.sportsturfmanager.com) TRY AGAIN!

STMA is pleased to invite you to the redesigned website. It's user-friendly, it's interactive, and it presents a wealth of new content. The website was designed with members in mind, but is a resource for all. Chapters can establish "home pages" within our website to broadcast events and contacts to the world, and chat rooms are accessible in the "Members Only" or "Ask the Experts" section. Here are some additional highlights:

Click on one of the menu headings for quick, easy navigation through the site.

STMA members log in here to access "members only" and update your information.

Be sure to add the STMA website to your favorites.

Click on STMA Top Five topics to stay updated.

Look for the "President's Welcome" for the latest from Murray Cook.

Click for site search engine.

"Members Only" is home to STMA's online directory, Career Center, Member Forum & member surveys.

