

Spring great time to think SAFE

As the spring season is in full force across the nation, thinking "SAFE" is the top priority of sports turf managers. The Sports Turf Managers Association's positioning statement sets that goal with this statement, "Providing the best sports surfaces for all levels of play." Safe fields are the right of every athlete, young or old, amateur or professional.

How does the SAFE Foundation fit into this equation? The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) was created by the STMA to provide research, educational programs and scholarships geared to sports fields. SAFE's mission statement is: "To support sports field specific research, educational programs and environmental concerns to promote user safety."

The SAFE Foundation has much work to complete before it can supply the sports turf industry with the desired level of programs. Additional funding is needed to fulfill all three arms of our mission: the scholarship program, research and education. SAFE's major thrust for 2004 will be seeking greater funding for sports specific research, finalizing the research criteria, and beginning assessment of research projects for funding.

So - How about a Chapter Challenge - and some "thinking outside the box?"

The Ohio Chapter made a \$500 donation to SAFE at the STMA Annual Meeting.

The KAFMO/STMA Chapter presented a \$1,000 check, designated for SAFE

Foundation sports turf research, to STMA President Bob Campbell, CSFM, at the KAFMO/STMA 8th Annual Athletic Field Conference in February.

The past 2 years a group of KAFMO STMA members known as "Grass Stain Productions" has collected photos from sports turf managers across the country and has assembled them into short video clips set to music. These clips have been presented during the Awards Banquet for the STMA Annual Conference. The 2004 production, titled "Reflections," consisted of an 8-minute tour through the past, present, and future of the sports turf industry.

It is great for Chapters and other sports turf related groups to use as an opener to meetings or other events. It's a fun piece for individuals that would like to archive this history-capturing production. The great part is that KAFMO and Grass Stain Productions have agreed to donate all the proceeds, after production costs, to SAFE for the scholarship fund.

To secure your copy, please send your \$20 donation, made payable to KAFMO, to: Grass Stain Productions, Attn: Jeff Fowler, 867 Mercer Road, Franklin PA 16323. Please include the name and address to which you want your copy shipped. Working together, we can build the SAFE Foundation into a strong resource for sports turf managers around the world. Contact Steve Trusty (Steve@st.omhcoxmail.com) with your ideas and for more information on making contributions to the SAFE Foundation. **ST**

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