

Gearing up for the 2006 Conference & Exhibition

The January 18-22, 2006, Annual Conference and Exhibition at the Coronado Springs Resort and Conference Center in Orlando is just around the corner. All indications are that it will surpass the size and scope of last year's event in Phoenix. Conference Chairman Mike Andresen, CSFM, reports that all subcommittees are working to finalize their programs in preparation for the conference.

The Conference Subcommittees consist of the following:

- * Conference Education, chaired by Dr. Dave Minner, develops education topics and recommends speakers.
- * Conference Exhibition, co-chaired by Vickie Wallace and Tra DuBois, addresses all aspects of the trade show.
- * Seminar-on-Wheels Tours, chaired by Darian Daily, conducts the off-site educational tour of sports venues.
- * Conference MLB/NFL Program, co-chaired by Bob Christofferson and Darian Daily, creates the hands-on workshop presented by the MLB/NFL
- * Conference Student Challenge, chaired by Steve Cockerham, organizes the student challenge test and study guide.

Our overall theme for the 2006 Conference is professionalism. The annual conference can be a catalyst for any STMA member to increase one's professionalism. STMA recognizes the importance of fostering and improving professionalism within the sports turf industry. Past President Bob Campbell, CSFM, is a proponent and has written about its importance in his May 2004 President's Message, "Professionalism ... it's about you."

Campbell says, "It should go without saying that sports turf managers cannot rely entirely on their professional organization to make this happen. We all must be involved individually to make our profession respected for what it is . . . and what we want it to be. We are on the front lines of the way people see us and have it within our power to build a positive image for what we do. Our individual actions must speak louder than any words from our association."

The annual conference enables you to keep on top of the latest issues and trends in the profession. It encourages networking with fellow professional sports field managers and provides access to resources to improve your performance and advance in your organization.

Also, check out the article that ran in the June Electronic Newsletter, "How to convince your employer to send you to the STMA Conference," at www.sportsturfmanager.org. At the end of the article is a 1-page document you can present to your employer that outlines the cost and benefits of your attendance.

Continuing education and industry connections can be crucial to your success and the success of your sports facility. So begin planning your trip now to the 2006 STMA Conference.

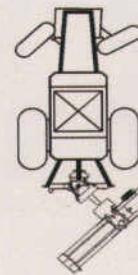


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