Calendar

Nov. 1 Look for your STMA dues renewal invoices.
Nov. 21 Delivery of the 2005-2006 STMA Membership Directory to all STMA members and ballots to voting members.
Dec. 4-6 National Association of Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Conference (STMA is an NIAAA education partner and will be presenting)
Dec. 5-7 Baseball Winter Meetings. (STMA sponsors the Sports Turf Manager of the Year Awards and presents the award during their Annual Awards luncheon)
Dec. 20 STMA Board of Directors Ballots due to Headquarters.

Jan. 18-22, 2006 STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition, Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center, Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Tuesday, January 17
2:00 - 7:00PM Registration
4:00 - 8:00PM Chapter Officers Training, Idea Forum & Networking Reception

Wednesday, January 18
6:30AM - 8:00PM Registration
6:45AM - 3:00PM Optional: SAFE Golf Tournament sponsored by Jacobsen, a Textron Company (additional fee and pre-registration required)
7:00AM - 3:00PM Optional: Seminar on Wheels (additional fee and pre-registration required)
4:00 - 6:00PM Sports Turf Networking Kick-Off
6:30 - 7:00PM First Time Attendees Reception
7:00 - 10:00PM Welcome Reception

Thursday, January 19
7:00AM - 7:00PM Registration & Merchandise/Bookstore Open
7:30 - 8:00AM Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 11:45AM Opening General Session
12:00 - 1:15PM Lunch and STMA Annual Meeting
1:30 - 4:00PM Technical Sessions
4:00 - 8:00PM Grand Opening of the Exhibition/Reception
8:00 - 9:00PM SAFE Live Auction

Friday, January 20
6:45 - 7:55AM CSFM Breakfast
7:00AM - 5:00PM Registration & Merchandise/Bookstore Open
7:30 - 8:00AM Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 10:00AM Educational Sessions
8:00AM - 4:00PM Optional: Offsite Seminar/Workshop conducted by MLB/NFL (additional fee and pre-registration required)
12:15 - 1:15PM Lunch
3:00 - 3:30PM Roundtable Discussions
3:30 - 4:30PM STMA Committee Meetings
4:30 - 5:30PM Conference Closing Reception

Saturday, January 21
7:00 - 8:00AM Past President’s Breakfast
7:00AM - 12:00PM Registration & Merchandise/Bookstore Open
7:30 - 8:00AM Continental Breakfast
8:00AM - 12:00PM Educational Sessions
8:00AM - 4:00PM Optional: Offsite Seminar/Workshop conducted by MLB/NFL (additional fee and pre-registration required)
12:15 - 1:15PM Lunch
1:30 - 3:00PM Roundtable Discussions
3:00 - 3:30PM STMA Committee Fair
3:30 - 4:30PM STMA Committee Meetings
4:30 - 5:30PM Conference Closing Reception

Sunday, January 22
8:00AM - 12:00PM Certification Exam (pre-qualification and pre-registration required)
Fundraising your way to the Student Challenge at Conference

The 2nd Annual Student Challenge competition is warming up and teams are forming. In addition to the actual challenge of the test, students are challenged to find ways to offset the cost of travel, hotel, and food. Here are some ideas to help student competitors ease the cost of the trip:

1) Conduct fundraisers. An auction is an easy fundraiser. The Iowa State University turf students are hosting an auction to raise money to send their team to the conference. They created a strong package of auction items including four tickets to the ISU vs. Kansas State football game, which they received no charge from the university by following the institution’s application process. Check with your college or university to see if it offers a similar opportunity. If it does not, ask alumni or a professor to donate a pair of their tickets, a practice that turf students from The Ohio State University have found successful for their auction.

2) Contact your college or universities Student Services to see if it has any mechanism to fund a trip for your student organization.

3) Contact your local STMA chapter. Present your need to the chapter. Explain the importance of sending a team to the annual STMA conference. Each STMA chapter has $500 in funding from STMA that can be used for funding a student challenge team if the chapter hasn’t earmarked it for other approved uses such as educational programs for its chapter members. Volunteer to help provide manpower for the chapter’s field day, charitable event, or other gathering in exchange for their financial support.

4) Be a SAFE (The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments) scholarship winner. SAFE is the charitable arm of STMA. Winning students receive a $500 stipend towards travel or hotel. Last year STMA awarded more than $18,000 in scholarship and education-related travel expenses.

5) Ask local businesses in the green industry to help support your team’s trip. Be sure to make a presentation in writing, citing the importance of sending a team to the STMA conference. Show the conference brochure to the business and point out that the team will share their learning experiences with their

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6) Ask Mom and Dad to contribute to your conference fund in lieu of a birthday or holiday gift!

All student competitors receive a full conference package absolutely free, which includes all educational sessions, the Welcome reception, Awards banquet, all breakfasts and lunches during the conference, through the generous sponsorship of this program by Hunter Industries. Students also have the benefit of the use of a Study Guide, new this year to help them prepare for the test. To download a copy, go to the student section of STMA's website at www.sportsturfmanager.org.