

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

THE NEW STANDARD IN NATURAL INFIELD CONDITIONERS! **RED DIAMOND CONDITIONERS**

- Promotes Safety
- Professionally Sized Conditioners
- Provides Superior Moisture Management
 - Enhances Surface Coloration
 - Assist in Proper Field Drainage
- Reduces Rain Delays and Eliminates Rainouts
- 100% Natural Earth Product.

**A QUANTUM LEAP
TO A SUPERIOR
ATHLETIC FIELD**

QUANTUM
TURF TECHNOLOGIES



Toll Free (800) 264-5826 • www.moltan.com



STMA provides resources and challenges for students

Students are invited and encouraged to attend the upcoming Sports Turf Managers Conference and Exhibition, which will provide them with educational information and essential tools and resources. Don't miss the Student Sports Turf Networking Kick-Off that takes place on Wednesday, January 18. Students can meet other professionals as well as students in the field.

As part of this year's conference, STMA is hosting the 2nd Annual Student Collegiate Challenge, sponsored by Hunter Industries. Teams of 2 to 4 students collaborate and compete on a written exam covering sports turf specific topics such as turfgrass ID, soils, pest management, water management, turf math, and sports field areas, both turf and non-turf. They are also required to identify live plant and weed samples. Prizes are awarded to the winning team. Last year, 15 teams from various colleges and universities participated in this challenge. Shawn Mahonski, Kristen Althouse, Kyle Slaton, and Shawn Meredith from The Pennsylvania State University won first place and received a \$25 STMA gift certificate and the team took home a plaque honoring their achievement.

STMA is also proud to announce a new workshop designed especially for students on Friday, January 20, from 3 to 5:15pm. It will focus on the important transition from being a student to a professional in the industry. This workshop reveals what the students need and should know as they start their first position. Students are the future of the sports turf industry. Learn how to become an expert on the field and partner in the game.

peers at school.

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.

Southern Athletic Fields
DIRT
 YOU GOTTA LOVE IT

**Athletic Field
 Materials
 & Supplies**

SportsTurf
 MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
 Experts on the Field Partners in the Game

**1309 Mainsail Drive
 Columbia, TN 38401
 1.800.837.8062
 e-mail: saf@mulemix.com
 website: www.mulemix.com
 fax: 931.380.0145**

Circle 147 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/5066-147

When Your Game is on the Line.®



- Factory Direct Personalized Service
- Custom Colors
- Premium Turf Colorants
- Line Painters

(800) 333-1104 www.gamedaypaints.com

Circle 148 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/5066-148