



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.

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