

from the sidelines

Golf for SAFE

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) was created by STMA to provide research, educational programs and scholarships dedicated to advancing the field of sports turf management. For the 6th straight year Jacobsen is sponsoring the SAFE/Jacobsen Golf Tournament to be held in conjunction with the Annual STMA Conference & Exhibition, January 18-22 in Orlando.

I've participated in and enjoyed this event the past 4 years. The atmosphere is casual and the courses have been spectacular. I say it is "****Highly recommended."

The Tournament will take place on Wednesday, January 18, at ChampionsGate Golf Club, about 15 minutes from the host hotel. A Greg Norman design, the International Course has the look and the feel of a British links-style course. Last year this event raised nearly \$16,000 for the SAFE Foundation to help support scholarship, education, and research funds. Registration fee includes greens fees, cart, and lunch. For more information visit www.sportsturfmanager.org, contact the STMA Show Office at STMA@newportevents.com, or call Andrea Dillinger at 866-847-8623.

Speaking of the STMA Conference, I asked some turf folks who have attended that event regularly over the years what was the best reason they knew for showing up:

"Attending the STMA Show is confirming your beliefs in your professional arena and a platform for unbelievable networking. There are many benefits to you as an individual as well as your employer." Chris from the Southwest

"I attend for all the educational opportunities it presents. Where else can you go and hear national experts speak on [information] that can be taken directly back to your operation and implemented? The networking is also an excellent opportunity to learn. You really find out that you are not the only one dealing with an issue when you attend one of the informal get-togethers in the bar!" Rob from the Midwest

"Networking is the #1 reason I attend. Re-living experiences or learning new technologies while sitting with old friends, or soon to be new friends, is the most rewarding aspect of conference. Each segment of our attendees [professional, academic, commercial] brings their experience and that helps me become a better professional." Mike from the Midwest

"To catch up with old friends, meet new friends, and get up-to-speed on new R&D in sports turf science." Pamela from the Midwest

Mandatory-PennSt-mention-dept.: Joseph M. Duich, Ph.D., professor emeritus of turfgrass science at Penn State, has been selected to receive the 2006 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. GCSAA's most prestigious honor, the award is for individuals who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

Duich has devoted a lifetime to breeding new turfgrasses and teaching hundreds of future golf course superintendents and turfgrass researchers. Congrats, Doc!



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