

Important deadlines approaching

October 1, Student Scholarship applications are due. The SAFE Foundation, the charitable arm of STMA, has allocated \$12,500 for scholarship awards for the 2007 school year. Each scholarship award is a minimum \$1,000 and each winner will receive a complimentary conference registration and a travel stipend.

Students who are eligible for the SAFE Scholarships:

- * Will be enrolled in a 2-year, 4-year, or graduate program in a major/field related to sports turf management
- * Must have at least one semester of study left
- * Must be planning a career in the sports turf management industry, either in the field or in research
- * Must be an STMA member
- * Previous undergraduate recipients may not reapply for SAFE Scholarships while still an undergraduate

To apply, fill out the short application form in the "Professionalism" tab at www.sportsturfmanager.org. Be sure to also include:

- * A Biographical essay
- * A completed Employer Reference Form
- * A completed Faculty Advisor Form
- * A copy of your transcript

The application must be received by October 1.

October 16, Field of the Year submittals & Founders Award nominations are due.

STMA awards its highest honors, the Founders Awards, and recognizes its Field of the Year winners during the Awards Banquet at the annual conference. Be a part of these prestigious awards by submitting your field and nominating a worthy candidate. Both are due October 16.

The Founders Awards are named after the four founders of STMA: Harry Gill, George Toma, Dick Ericson, and Dr. William H. Daniel. The awards recognize the unique contributions each Founder made to the sports turf industry. To nominate a candidate, go to the Founders Awards Application at www.sportsturfmanager.org. Click on the Professionalism tab, then on STMA Founders Awards. Or, fill out the application in the June issue (page 40) of *SportsTurf*.

A Field of the Year award will bring you recognition from your peers, your employers and the industry. This is an excellent way to showcase your hard work and professionalism. STMA awards the Field of Year for five field types: softball, baseball, football, soccer and Complex of the Year in the categories of Parks/Schools, Fields used by Professional Athletes, and Colleges and Universities. For more information, or to fill out the application, go to www.sportsturfmanager.org. Click on the "Professionalism" tab, then on Field of the Year Awards.

Trotta is 2006 TOCA Environmental Communicator of the Year

Today's turfgrass manager must always consider the environment when making management decisions, said STMA member and Turfgrass IPM Specialist Kevin J. Trotta, recipient of the 2006 Turf & Ornamental Communicator's Association (TOCA) Environmental Communicator of the Year award. If the turf industry wants to be perceived as stewards of the environment, "We must be stewards of the environment," said Trotta, who received the award sponsored by Advan LLC at the TOCA annual meeting in Napa, CA.

The award is given annually to an active green industry member for outstanding efforts in communicating the benefits of environmental stewardship to a particular audience within the turf and ornamental industry.

Trotta, a six-year member of STMA, is an educator, speaker and writer about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and is an expert in the practical application of those sustainable and environmentally friendly practices in turfgrass management. Trotta began his career in the Green Industry as a lawn and landscape contractor. He also served as an assistant golf course superintendent before becoming head groundskeeper for the North Rockland Central School District in Garnerville, NY in



Left to right: Frank Standfuss, Advan LLC, Kevin Trotta, TOCA Environmental Communicator of the Year, and Kim Heck, CEO of STMA.

1988. Trotta holds a BS degree in landscape horticulture from the State University of New York and a MA degree in environmental studies from City College of New York.

Martin Petrovic, professor of Turfgrass Science, Cornell University, said Trotta "Practices what he preaches on the North Rockland Schools site. He is extremely knowledgeable and up to date on all the IPM practices that can be used and uses them." Petrovic also said, "Having a good message is part of being a good communicator, but being able to deliver the goods is just as important. Kevin's talks are funny, entertaining, and full of useful information that one can and should use. He takes complex concepts and makes them easy to understand, while giving them practical easy-to-use information. . . In short, he is a superb communicator with environmental protection and action in the forefront."

Kim Heck, CEO of the Sports Turf Managers Association, nominated Trotta for the award, because he is an ambassador for environmental stewardship in the green industry. "His passion for protecting the environment and providing safe and beautiful sports fields for athletes and fans has gained him recognition as a leader in integrated pest management. It is his personal mission to share his knowledge, experience and research with others through presentations, articles and community outreach."

TOCA is a national association of editors, writers, publishers, public relations/advertising practitioners and others involved in Green Industry communications. ■



CEO Kim Heck spoke on behalf of Project Evergreen at a news conference last July in Lawrence, KS. Project Evergreen partnered with Lawrence Habitat for Humanity to provide the lawn and landscaping for two Habitat houses. Heck (left) and staff members Leah Craig and Nora Dunnaway-McIntire (far right) attended the event with Habitat Executive Director Jean Lilley (next to Heck). STMA is a supporting association of Project Evergreen. In addition to Habitat for Humanity, Project Evergreen has been orchestrating field renovations for youth. STMA has provided assistance in Philadelphia and Raleigh for these renovations.



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