

President's Message

Warming up for Conference



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San Antonio is definitely very hot and very cool. The STMA Board of Directors met in July at the 2007 Conference site for our summer meeting. As you would expect, the temperature was in the 90s. (However the average temperature is 62 degrees in January!)

San Antonio is the 8th largest city in the U.S. and one of the top conference cities in America. The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center is conveniently located across the street from the Marriott Rivercenter, our host hotel. The Center will accommodate all of our educational sessions and our trade show. The layout of the center is straightforward and will be easy to navigate as you move from session to session. The meeting rooms have all the conference amenities and the hallways and pre-convention areas are spacious, which will create excellent networking opportunities.

I am happy to report that there will be no price increase for the conference package in 2007. For those registering before December 15, the cost of the conference to members is \$350. That cost covers education, more than eight hours of trade show viewing, 16 hours of networking, breakfasts, and lunches, receptions, and the awards banquet.

The educational program is shaping up to be our best yet. After careful review of our previous conferences, we will officially end the conference on Friday night, but offer to you five post-conference workshops on Saturday. These concurrent workshops include lunch and are the MLB/MLS/NFL hosted off-site seminar; Athletic Field Soils; New Technologies in Sports Turf Management; Fertilizers for Sports Fields; and Spanish for the Sports Turf Manager. Wednesday evening is still the beginning of the conference with our Welcome Reception. On Thursday, we have restructured the day so that you will start with concurrent sessions and then hear keynote speakers in the afternoon. One session will focus on global issues in sports turf and one will offer leadership strategies in a fun and entertaining presentation. Then, you'll go directly into the Trade Show for its Grand Opening Reception with the live auction later on that evening.

I am very pleased to inform you that the Board has studied the conference locations in California that are available and suitable for our 2009 conference and has selected San Jose. The board is very impressed with its high tech focus, its accessibility and amenities, and believes it will be an excellent site for us in 2009.

Keep reading *SportsTurf* and your electronic newsletter for more details on the 2007 Conference in San Antonio. It's going to be impressive!

Mike Trigg

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