

President's Message

What do 3, 12, 66, 140, 1,200 have in common?

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They are significant ingredients in the STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition. The 18th STMA gathering in San Antonio is where you will want to be January 17-20, 2007.

3. STMA members tell us the three reasons the conference is a must-attend event is the excellent education, the ability to network with peers, and to see the products, equipment, and new technology at the trade show.

12. During STMA's annual meeting January 18, you will meet the new STMA board members who you elected to serve as your leadership in 2007.

66. This is the number of educational sessions, workshops or training sessions included in the conference package, which is the same low price as last year, \$350. And, it includes almost all meals, all breaks, receptions, and the banquet. In addition, pre-conference there is a Seminar-on-Wheels and a golf tournament fundraiser for the SAFE Foundation.

140. There will be at least 140 exhibitors for you to talk with about new products and technology that will help you with field management. The Exhibition also hosts the SAFE Silent and Live Auctions. STMA would like to thank all the exhibitors and SAFE contributors and bidders for their support. We also would like to recognize the Tournament and Conference sponsors. A huge thank-you goes to Barenbrug, Beacon Athletics, Covermaster, Cygnet Turf Equipment, Ewing, Hunter, Jacobsen, Kubota, Midwest Rake, Pro's Choice, The Toro Company, Turface Athletics, West Coast Turf, and World Class Athletic Surfaces. Their sponsorships have enhanced our event tremendously.

1,200. STMA is expecting more than 1,200 sports turf managers to attend this year, which will provide to you an excellent opportunity to network and problem solve.

Another highlight of the Conference is the Sports Turf Networking Kickoff, which brings together your peers from facilities similar to your own on Wednesday, January 17. These interactive sessions offer a place for each segment of our membership to discuss issues specific to them.

New this year is a special networking breakfast for women in the industry on Thursday the 18th. Also new this year is a format change for the conference. Thursday morning will offer six concurrent educational tracks followed by the STMA Annual Meeting and lunch. Then STMA hosts two consecutive general sessions: International Development in Sports Turf Management, and keynote presenter Roy Firestone.

I hope you will join us in San Antonio in January and make 2007 our best conference ever.

Mike Trigg