

## Two NEW membership categories offer lower dues

In January, STMA members voted to offer two new membership categories: Sports Turf Manager Associate and an Affiliate category.

The Sports Turf Manager Associate category offers a discounted member price for additional professional members from the same facility. The first member pays \$110 and all other sports turf managers from that facility pay \$75 each. The Associate member will have the same voting rights and privileges as a full dues-paying member. This will help the budgets of those facilities that support the association with multiple members.

The Affiliate membership category is for the person who is indirectly or on a part-time basis involved in the maintenance or manage-

ment of one or more sports field. The Affiliate pays \$50 and receives all the benefits of membership except for voting privileges. The goal of this category is to help educate and provide resources to those who have some responsibility for sports fields.

To join STMA, see the application in this issue or go to [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org).


All STMA members receive the following benefits:

- Hard copy of the Membership Directory, STMA Membership Certificate and Membership Card.
- Access to the Members' Only section of [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org), which has a searchable membership directory, technical resources, employment openings and résumés of potential staff and interns for easy recruitment.
- Discounted registration to attend STMA's Annual Conference and Exhibition where you will find dozens of educational sessions and workshops not available anywhere else.
- A monthly electronic newsletter that communicates association, industry and career development information.
- Recognition as a professional Sports Turf Manager and access to further validate your abilities through certification as a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM)
- Discounts to the University of Georgia's distance-learning programs, including Principles of Turfgrass Management, which results in the credential Certified Turfgrass Professional.

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- Opportunity to take a leadership role in guiding the profession through National Committee service.
- A subscription to SportsTurf, the industry's leading publication.
- Ability to enter your sports field or complex in the nationally recognized Field of the Year Awards Program.
- Voting privileges (Students and Affiliates are not eligible to vote)

In addition to the above, Sports Turf Managers, Academics, Students and Affiliate Members receive access to Michigan State's Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), the green industry's greatest resource for up-to-date technical information, which would cost

\$100 if purchased separately.

STMA also has the generous support of Commercial members who further the industry through continuous advancements in technology. STMA's commercial members receive all the benefits above except for TGIF, and the additional benefits listed below.

#### Commercial Member benefits:

- A one-time use per year of the STMA mailing list, in an Excel format that includes member mailing information (e-mail is not available).
- One Free listing in PowerLinks, STMA's comprehensive on-line resource to sports field specific products and services - one of the most highly utilized resource on the STMA website available to members and non-members.

- A Free listing of the company in the annual STMA Membership Directory.
- Discounted booth space at STMA's Annual Conference and Exhibition that offers face-to-face meeting opportunities with the key purchaser and decision-maker: the sports turf manager.
- Sponsorship opportunities at the annual conference, with high profile programs and activities for maximum recognition.
- Use of the STMA logo.
- Lower cost for other commercial members to join from the same company (\$75) ■

*For information on how to take advantage of these benefits and services, contact STMA Headquarters at 1-800-323-3875.*

## Ten Tips on Career Advancement

By AllBusiness.com

**M**any career experts agree that the best time to look for a new job is while you are still comfortably in your old one. If you're starting to feel unchallenged in your present position, you may be ready for a promotion to the next level. If there aren't many career advancement opportunities where you work, the best next job may be waiting for you elsewhere.

Nowadays, it's up to you to take control of your professional future and make sure that you are progressing wisely down the right career path. Here are 10 proven strategies to help you get started:

**1. Talk to your boss.** Sit down and have a very direct and pointed conversation with your boss about your future in the company. Stress that you want your job performance to meet the company's goals. Share your own career goals with him or her. Your boss will respect this display of confidence and maturity.

**2. Ask for more.** Volunteering to help out other departments or teams - or simply

