

STMA in action

STMA expands to Singapore, England and Canada

In the span of 4 weeks, STMA's outreach efforts culminated in official relationships in Singapore, England and Canada.

In a formal presentation in front of nearly 200 conference attendees, STMA President Abby McNeal, CSFM, officially installed the Singapore Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association October 30, in Singapore. This is STMA's first international chapter.

McNeal was invited to speak at the International Turfgrass Seminar, sponsored by the Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE). CUGE is managed by the National Parks Board of Singapore and is the leading national training and research institution for the Singapore landscape industry. Her presentation, "Environmental Practices on US Sports Fields," was well-received and complimented the focus of the seminar, which was sustainable management of turf grasses in parks, gardens and community.



STMA President Abby McNeal, CSFM officially installs the association's Singapore Chapter last October 30 in Singapore.

Before her presentation, McNeal presented a chapter gavel to Dr. Leong Chee Chiew, Chief Operating Officer & Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, officially recognizing the Singapore Chapter of the STMA. All attendees at the conference received automatic membership in the new chapter. In addition to presenting and installing the Singapore chapter, McNeal shared the STMA mission and key programs with the audience. Outreach efforts will continue in Singapore, with a commitment by STMA and CUGE to share ideas and resources with similarly focused organizations in Australia, which were also in attendance.

STMA is also very pleased to announce that it is recognizing its first International Affiliate Organization, The Sports Turf Association (STA). Headquartered in Guelph, ON, Canada, the STA was formed in 1987 to promote better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs. STA and STMA will collaborate and share information and educational resources. To be an International Affiliate, the organization must be recognized as a business entity in their country and provide proof to STMA annually; develop bylaws or other governing documents; and have a governing Board of Directors. The STA meets these requirements and officially accepted STMA's offer to be an affiliate organization November 5. In addition to sharing information and resources, STMA will list the STA on our website as an International Affiliate Organization, provide one membership to the President of the STA, Mr. Gord Dol, and will offer to the membership of the STA conference registration and education and training resources at STMA member rates.

After months of work, the STMA Membership Committee recommended to the STMA Board of Directors that it create the designation of International Affiliate Organization. The Board approved the recommendation at its summer board meeting. ■

Heck presents at London conference

CEO Kim Heck attended and presented at the Institute of Groundsmanship's (IOG) 75th Anniversary conference and celebration October 15, in London. She spoke about the STMA's outreach efforts and image enhancement programs, areas that the IOG is focused on further developing for its membership. Established in 1934, the IOG's purpose is to provide information and support to all grounds manager in the United Kingdom, to raise the profile of the profession, and to give a voice to the membership on important industry issues.

The conference was held at Emirates Stadium, home to the Arsenal FC. In addition to seeing Emirates, Heck had the privilege of meeting and touring the facilities of Darren Baldwin, groundskeeper at Tottenham Stadium, home to the Tottenham Hotspur, and Eddie Seward, head grounds manager at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon. Representatives from the IOG will be attending the STMA annual conference in January to continue dialogue and seek areas of collaboration.

These three efforts support an Objective in the STMA strategic plan: To develop relationships internationally that will benefit the STMA membership and the Action Item in the plan, which states: To reach out to international allied organizations that currently exist and develop mutually beneficial relationships.

STMA has a small, but very loyal, number of international members. It is a goal of the association to help these members reach out to other sports turf managers in their country and create International Affiliate Organizations. A group in Israel is pursuing this affiliation. ■

Support Student Challenge competitors

Send a Student Challenge Team to the annual Conference to compete. The STMA Student Challenge, which is supported by Gold Level Sponsor Hunter Industries and The SAFE Foundation, continues to mature. The number of competitors has grown from 60 the first year to its record high of 108 students, representing 22 colleges, universities and technical schools that competed in 2009. Get your chapter, local commercial suppliers, and your peers to consider helping these teams defray their travel expenses to the conference.

STMA provides each competitor complimentary registration, but hotel and airfare are expensive. STMA encourages these teams to seek sponsorship locally, so look for possible requests this fall from nearby schools. If you do not have a college or university close by, and would like to help these students, contact STMA, STMAinfo@STMA.org. The SAFE Foundation, STMA's charity, awards \$4,000 to two winning teams, one from a 4-year and one from a 2-year school, to develop a hands-on learning lab at their institutions. At the Orlando conference, the 2009 winners, Penn State University Blue Team 009 (4-year) and Mt. San Antonio College Team 102 (2-year) will have poster displays explaining how they used their funds. ■

Celebrating 8 years of membership!

Thank you to these members who joined STMA in 2001. We appreciate your continued support of STMA, and look forward to your continued membership with us!

Rick Acuna
Yavuz Selim Alpay
Daniel Andrus
Bret Baird
Carol Baker, CSFM
Kenneth Baldi
Larry Ballenger
Dave Birth
David Boggan
Bob Bordeau
Jeffrey Borger
Mike Bowers
Bill Brunner
Darin Budak, CSFM, CPRP
Gene Buonomo
Jake Burnside
John Cabori
Matt Carl, CSFM
Ray Cason
Danny Cazzelle
Clifton Clarno
James Cleveland
James Coens
Christopher Collier
Andrew Collins
Stephen Crawford
Paul Curtis
Marcus Dean, CSFM
Brian Desrochers
Jon DeWitt, CSFM
Michael DuBois
Steve Dutra
Sharon DeWolfe
David Dzwilewski
Eric Fasbender, CSFM
Chris Fay
Nicholas Fedewa
Sam Ferro
Trevor Fink
John Fox
Mark Frever, CSFM
F. Jeff Fuller
Jeff Gabor
Michael Galligan
Dale Getz, CSFM, CSE
Darren Gill
Ronald GriffinEd Guardamondo
Leif Hamrick
Jeff Hintz
Jim Hobbs
Jonathan Holland, CSFM
Douglas Horn, CSFM
Bradley Jakubowski
Eric Johnson
Tara Jordan

David Kelterborn
Tommy Korver
Mark Kresovich
Brian Kusler
Jose Lopez
William Lawrence, CSFM
James Lunetta
Kevin Malone, CSFM
Bob Maloney
Paul Manubay
Bob Marcotte
Darren McCormack
Mike McGraw
Andrew McNitt, Ph.D.
Arthur Milberger
Alan Morrison
Vincent Murphy
Terry Nance
Chad Olsen
Jerry McKean
Joshua McPherson
Ezra Paddock
Billy Petoskey
Ronn Ponath
Tom Prekert
Kim Quick
William Ratliff
Robert Reed
Chuck Reinert
David Reiss
Edmund Restivo
Mark Rohleder
Michael Ryan
Jim Sanders, CSFM
Chris Schlosser
Don Scholl
Brian Scott
Carey See, CSFM
Tad Smith
Monty Sowell
Travis Stephen
David Stokka
Robert Trevino
George Tucker
Kevin Thompson
Wayne Treadway
Tom Vaughan
Ken Vonderscher
H. Douglas Walker
Roger Weinbrenner
Paul Wiese
Michael Wild
Michael Wilson
Will Wolverton ■

STMA President McNeal accepts position at Wake Forest

Abby McNeal, CSFM, is now the sports turf manager of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC. McNeal will manage approximately 66 acres of athletic grounds, including three acres of synthetic turf. McNeal had been sports turf manager at the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO since early last year. ■

SAFE scholarship winners named

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) was created to provide research, educational programs, and scholarships geared to sports field specific endeavors. The level of scholarship funding has steadily increased since the scholarship programs inception in 1999 and in 2009 STMA awarded \$12,500 to eight recipients in 2-year, 4-year, and graduate level categories. Since the scholarship program's beginning, SAFE has awarded more than \$150,000 in scholarship and travel to the STMA Conference and Exhibition.

Graduate Scholarships

Dr. James Watson Graduate Scholarship - \$2,500
Andrew Hoiberg, Iowa State

Four Year Scholarships

Dr. James Watson Undergraduate Scholarship - \$2,500
Brian McDougal, Michigan State

SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship - \$2,000
Kyley Dickson, Tennessee

SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship - \$1,000
Kent Dickerson, Georgia, Eric Haub, Purdue, & Zack Severns, Washington State

Two Year Scholarships

Dr. Fred Grau Memorial Scholarship - \$1,500
Ryan McGillivray, Massachusetts

SAFE Two Year Scholarship - \$1,000
Patrick Escalera, Mt. San Antonio College

Judging criteria: A panel of eight judges independently scored each entry based on each students academic preparation, experience in the sports turf management industry, professional goals, extracurricular activities, and input from academic advisors and employers. Each student also wrote an essay describing his or her background and career aspirations.

Scholarship Program Supporters: The TORO Foundation provides generous support for the Dr. James Watson Scholarship winners. Jacobsen supports the SAFE Scholarship Program through the SAFE/Jacobsen Golf Tournament held at the STMA Conference each year. The program is also supported through individual and corporate donations made throughout the year and proceeds from the Live and Silent Auctions and raffle held each year on the STMA Trade Show Floor. These sponsors fund a stipend for each recipient to attend the STMA annual conference (including lodging) and a scholarship ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Recognition: Scholarship recipients had their financial aid mailed directly to their university, with a check made out jointly to them and their schools financial aid office. The students will be recognized during the Annual STMA Awards Banquet on Fri., Jan. 15, 2010 at the 21st Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. ■