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Commercial members deserve your support

THE ECONOMY is keeping us always looking for opportunities to expand our resources just a little further. One great resource that STMA members have at their disposal is our commercial members. STMA commercial members are critical in the support of STMA events through sponsorship and advertising. They are also great resources for learning about the latest technology that is available for the sports turf manager, helping each of us increase our efficiency.

Our budgets are tight and stretched, but when you have the opportunity to make purchases of products, equipment and services for your spring, summer and fall field preparations, I would encourage you to conduct your research online with STMA's Industry Sourcebook, the world's largest sports turf specific buyer's guide. You can get to the link for the Sourcebook from STMA's homepage (www.STMA.org).

Once you are within the Industry Sourcebook, you have the ability to search for specific resources by the categories that are listed. You can refine your search to include STMA members and/or exhibitors, and association sponsors. You can get more specific, as well, to include certain key phrases along with designating a certain radius of miles specific to your location. It will return to you a list of options for you to further refine and research based on the information that you are seeking. The list will also allow you to compare features and benefits of the products. STMA members are designated with an STMA logo. Every STMA commercial member is represented with a listing.

Please consider buying from STMA commercial members. Our commercial members invest in our association through advertising in this magazine and elsewhere, exhibiting, sponsorship and committee service, which in turn allows STMA to enhance its programs and services to you. Purchasing from STMA commercial members is even more critical during these tough economic times. On behalf of the STMA Board of Directors, I offer a sincere "thank you" to all of our commercial members for your continued support of our association. We appreciate all that you do for us.

Regional Conference June 24-25 at Iowa State

Make plans now to attend the Midwest Regional Conference and Exhibition that will be held in Ames, IA, June 24-25, on the Iowa State University campus. Eight chapters are involved in the planning process: Gateway, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Mo-Kan, Nebraska, Ozarks, and Wisconsin. The 2-day event will feature equipment and cultural practices demonstrations, turf research plot tours, an outdoor exhibition, tours of the ISU sports facilities, a full day of indoor classroom education with two concurrent sessions, a golf outing, a softball competition and a barbeque.

You can find more information about the conference including registration, exhibiting, and hotel accommodations at www.STMA.org. STMA plans to expand its regional conferences next year, and the Chapter Relations Committee is developing a model that will define the criteria for other chapters that are interested in having STMA bring a regional conference to their area.

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