

Changes for 2010 Field of the Year application—start the process early

During the “What Makes a Winning Field of the Year Application?” session at the STMA Conference this past January, one former STMA Field of the Year winner expressed his opinion when he said that he is “beyond certain that I got my current job because of winning STMA Field of the Year.” That’s a resounding endorsement for the prestige that this program can bring a sports turf manager, field, facility, organization, and community.

To keep up that level of prestige for the winning fields, the STMA Awards Committee has reviewed the Field of the Year Awards (FOY) application. They have refined some questions, expanded others, and instituted a couple of major changes for the 2010 STMA Field of the Year Program, while keeping the application simple and user-friendly.

Beginning this year, the FOY application will require the completion of the STMA PCI several times throughout the year and include the instrument and results with their application materials. While the language for the policy requiring the STMA PCI to apply for the FOY is still being finalized, you can rest assured that the requirement will be explained in detail in the 2010 STMA FOY application, which will be available in May. The STMA PCI can be down-

loaded by STMA members at www.STMA.org.

The Awards Committee also will be revising the questions in the application regarding budgeting at your facility. Similarly to the PCI requirement, the budgeting questions are still being finalized, but will be detailed in the final application available in May. The committee reminds you that this is a program for an individual Field of the Year, not the facility as a whole. Budgeting information requirements will reflect this, and you can start gathering numbers now for the field, or separate fields, you plan on entering.

Some of the requirements in the current application that will remain the same are:

- A description of the sports turf manager’s education and background
- A short narrative about specific challenges faced by the staff
- Agronomic information about the field
- An organizational chart for the facility
- An equipment list

The deadline to submit an application is October 15, 2010, but the Awards Committee strongly suggests that you get started by taking pictures of your field in the off-season or current season. That way you can show the transformation of the field throughout the year. This year, dates are required on all photos, and captions are highly encouraged. This is to

allow you opportunities to show your creativity and unique features of your field. Also, be sure to document unique challenges and solutions that arise during the year, so you will be able to “wow!” the committee with your expertise in the application when it becomes available.

STMA will award its Field of the Year in sporting grounds, football, soccer, baseball and softball categories at the professional, college and university, and schools and parks levels at the 22nd Annual Conference and Exhibition in Austin, TX January 11-15, 2011. Winners will receive recognition including a plaque, free registration to the Conference, \$500 toward lodging at the conference, and STMA Field of the Year Signature merchandise.

The fantastic package for each STMA FOY Winner would not be possible without the support of the STMA Awards Program sponsors: Carolina Green, Covermaster, Inc., Hunter Industries, and World Class Athletic Surfaces. Please support these sponsors and let them know that their contribution to the association is very much appreciated.

If you have any questions about the STMA Field of the Year Program, please contact Patrick Allen, Manager, Sales and Marketing at pallen@stma.org or 800-323-3875. ■

Trotta honored by Global Sports Alliance

Acknowledging the work of Global Sports Alliance Team worldwide, a special prize was awarded to STMA member Kevin Trotta, Captain of GSA New York, for the outstanding work he has carried out in that region.

“I am honored to be the recipient of the G10 Prize. The Global Sports Alliance is an extraordinary organization. I am proud to represent the GSA in the New York region and especially proud to be one of three STMA members now serving as GSA captains in the USA. (The others are Dan Schied of GSA Rochester and Carey Sager of GSA Boulder.) Through sports we have many opportunities to practice progressive environmental stewardship and to lead by example. The developing relationship between the GSA and STMA offers great promise for the future. We can work together and help shape a cleaner, smarter tomorrow for our children.”

NPO Global Sports Alliance (GSA) celebrated its 10th Anniversary on 11 November 2009. GSA Navigators, Team Captains, supporters and staff gathered at Roppongi Hills in Tokyo to look back at a decade of promoting environmental awareness and action through sport.

Executive Director, Tatsuo Okada welcomed guests that had come from as far as Cuba, Nigeria and the United States, and looked back at 10 years of progress in which this unique non-profit has developed links in all areas of sport.

Among the organizations achievements are:

1. Establishing the Ecoflag, a symbol for environmental action in sport that is flown at amateur and professional sporting events worldwide.
2. Establishing 181 GSA Teams in 56 countries.
3. Creating the G-ForSE website, the largest source for environmental action in sport available.
4. Co-organizing five Global Forums with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that brought together the representatives of all fields of sport to consolidate actions and develop future goals.
5. Creating a program to “reduce, reuse and recycle” sports equipment by sharing used (but highly usable) sporting equipment with children in developing countries.
6. Developing a tennis ball reuse program that has redistributed more than 3 million tennis balls to schools around Japan. Setting its sights on the next decade, the organization will work to develop regional centers in order to administer the ever-expanding number of GSA Teams. ■