

# STMA in action

## Invest in yourself without spending any money

**M**ake 2010 the year that you focus on your career and future success by really using your STMA benefits. STMA offers so much information that is available through its website. By committing 15 minutes each week, you will expand your technical knowledge and add to your value as a sports turf manager.

But where do you start? Your time is a valuable resource, and there is so much information available to help you with your management of sports fields. First, create a quick career development plan. Perhaps you are a cool season turfgrass manager, but know that you would benefit from knowing more about warm season grass management. Or, if you know you'll always be managing cool season grasses, have you kept up on the new varieties in trial or on the market? Perhaps you need to hone your communication skills? Or, begin planning for a field renovation? Pinpoint what you need to know to be a better sports turf manager, write it down, and set aside 15 minutes each week to pursue information on the topics you have noted.



Start with STMA's website, [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org). There are many different ways to find information.

These three ways allow you to see a broad list of resources available and

should be used when you want to find out what technical content is new or available on the STMA website.

Look at the STMA home page to see if any new resources have been added.

Click on the Resources Tab at the top of the STMA website, hover over the Technical Information or Related Topics to see what's there.

Log in to the STMA Members Only page, and click on Technical Resources. (To log in, put in your STMA ID number as your USER NAME, and use your last name as your password).

These three ways provide you with a search method to quickly find singular topics.

Use the Search Bar at the top of the STMA home page. Put in your topic and click. All related resources on the STMA website should be culled into a handy list for you. For example, if you are interested in project management, put that topic in the search bar, and all the information on the STMA website will appear in a list for easy browsing.

Click on the STMA magazine cover, and then on Advanced Search at the top of the SportsTurf page. Put in your topic and fill out the search criteria.

Log in to Members Only and from that home page, click on the TGIF link and put in your topic. TGIF is the industry's top resource for information, and access to it is included in your STMA membership. (TGIF is not available to Commercial members).

STMA continues to enhance the content on its website, so each week that you check back, you should find new information and resources

In addition to the technical resources on the STMA website described above and access to TGIF, following is a full list of membership benefits available to you:

- Annual subscription to SportsTurf Magazine, the industry's top publication dedicated to field management.
- STMA's News Online, a monthly electronic newsletter
- STMA Membership Directory

(Searchable directory is online, Members Only section)

- Employment Openings and Career information (online, Members Only section)
- Discounted registration/exhibition fees to attend STMA's Annual Conference & Exhibition, an event unmatched in the industry for sports field specific information and education, and all STMA Regional Conferences. In 2010, STMA is planning a summer regional conference in the Pacific Northwest area.
- Discounts to the University of Georgia's and the Ohio State University's distance-learning programs.

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- Opportunity to take a leadership role through national committee service.
- Ability to enter your sports field in the nationally recognized Field of the Year Awards Program.
- Ability to apply for a scholarship through The SAFE Foundation, STMA's charitable arm (student members).
- Recognition as a professional and access to further validate your abilities through certification.

Just a reminder, if you are unemployed anytime in 2010, please let STMA headquarters know and we will extend your membership benefits for six months, so that you will have access to resources to help you gain employment.

For those who are not members, to join STMA please use the membership application in this magazine, or go to [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org) and click JOIN STMA. ■