

STMA introduces Innovative Awards Program for Commercial members

STMA recognizes that new technology and advancements in science, equipment, products and services continue to improve the sports turf management profession. To acknowledge those companies that are leading the evolution of the industry, STMA has created the Innovative Awards Program.

Any STMA Commercial member who is exhibiting at the upcoming Annual Conference and Exhibition is eligible. The company must display the product, service or technology at the STMA Exhibition. One submittal per company is allowed annually.

To qualify the product, equipment, service or technology must have been introduced for sale between the close of the current year's STMA show and the close of next year's STMA show. To be considered for the STMA Innovative

Awards the product, equipment, service or technology must *substantially enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Sports Turf Manager while making playing surfaces safer and more playable for athletes.*

Applications are due October 1, 2010. All submittals must be made electronically. Please follow the directions noted on the form that can be found at www.STMA.org, Awards page. Videos, photos and other media may be linked to the form for a comprehensive submittal.

The selection process consists of a panel of STMA non-commercial members representing all categories of membership to judge the entries. In any given year, there may be one or more winners. The panel of judges will make an award to those companies whose service, product, technology or equipment thoroughly meets

the definition of innovative described above.

The winner(s) will be kept confidential until announced during the first day of the trade show at the Annual Conference (Austin, TX January 13, 2011). STMA will recognize the winner(s) with:

- a special announcement during the trade show
- a special logo that the company can use in the promotion of the winning product, service, technology or equipment
- publicity via STMA communication vehicles and conference press releases
- special signage at the winner(s) booth(s) in the STMA Exhibition.
- verbal and visual recognition during the Annual STMA Awards Banquet. ■

Ask a CSFM Brian Winka, CSFM, City of Chesterfield, MO

Benefits of certification verified

Editor's note: For the next six issues we will present how becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) can benefit turf managers professionally as well as improve their facilities.

HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR THE CERTIFIED SPORTS FIELD MANAGER EXAM?

*Winka: I pulled out old text books and notes I had from my time at Missouri State. It's not a time to try and relearn everything, but a refresher course never hurts. I also read the book *Sports Fields: A Manual for Design Construction and Maintenance* from cover to cover, a couple times. If there was one book I would recommend that would be the one.*

HOW DID YOU APPROACH YOUR EMPLOYER TO SUPPORT YOUR CERTIFICATION, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND IN THE TIME NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM?

Winka: My employer was very supportive of the certification process, financially and initially in allowing me the time to study. I was able to discuss the benefits of having a CSFM on staff and my department head was very receptive. Preparing for the exam greatly expanded my knowledge base, and I was able to apply this knowledge directly to my job responsibilities. My certification helped me add to the continued improvement of our facilities.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO PURSUE CERTIFICATION?

Winka: For me becoming certified was a personal and professional goal that I had set for myself since becoming a STMA member. Professionally I wanted to be seen as a knowledgeable professional and personally I wanted to challenge myself and my abilities as a sports field manager. I wanted to validate my years of experience as an agronomist, sports field manager, accountant, HR person, referee and everything else that we as STMA members deal with daily.

HOW HAS CERTIFICATION HELPED YOUR CAREER?

Winka: Since becoming a CSFM I have been elected to the board of my local STMA chapter and currently serve as the President of the Gateway Chapter. ■



Updated Field of the Year Award application now available online

Now is the perfect time to begin preparing your STMA Field of the Year Application. The deadline for materials to be received at STMA headquarters is October 15, 2010. Go to www.stma.org/professionalism/fieldyr to download the application.

STMA's prestigious Field of the Year program is in its 19th year and is getting stronger every year. With record numbers of applicants the past 2 years, competition is stiff! But with hard work and diligence, each and every STMA member has a field that could become Field of the Year. STMA presents awards in baseball, softball, football, soccer, and sporting grounds categories at the Schools and Parks, College and University, and Professional levels.

Each Field of the Year Award winner is presented with a special plaque at the STMA Awards Banquet, held each year at the STMA Conference and Exhibition. This coming year the Awards Banquet will be the evening of Friday, January 14, 2011 in Austin, TX. In addition to the plaque, each STMA Field of the Year winner will receive free conference registration, up to \$500 towards lodging at the conference, STMA signature apparel, and a feature article (and most likely a cover photo!) in this magazine.

Take pride in your profession and submit your application for STMA Field of the Year and get recognition for your field and respect from your peers. Remember the deadline for materials to be received is October 15, 2010.

Feel free to contact Patrick Allen, Manager, Sales and Marketing, at pallen@stma.org if you have questions about the STMA Field of the Year program. ■

STMA Founders Award open to head sports turf managers, assistants alike

The George Toma Golden Rake Award, one of STMA's four highly prestigious Founders Awards, is open to head sports turf managers and assistants. In fact, last year's winner Craig Potts, is the Assistant Manager of Athletic Fields at Texas A&M. STMA strongly encourages head sports turf managers to nominate their assistants for this award, and vice versa.

For more information, logon to www.stma.org/professionalism/founder and click 'STMA Founders Awards' on the left hand side of the screen or send inquiries to pallen@stma.org. ■



All 26 volumes of *SportsTurf* now available digitally

A three-way partnership between STMA, Michigan State University and *SportsTurf* publisher M2MEDIA360, has resulted in the digitization of all the issues of *SportsTurf* magazine. Starting with our very first issue, which was published in September/October 1985, Michigan State has created a digital version of each magazine. The digital set will always be current, minus two issues as it keeps pace with our monthly publication dates.

The link to the archive is on STMA's home page www.STMA.org underneath the magazine's front cover. In addition to the historical significance of having each volume and its issues available to the industry, the "Browse" and "Search" functions make it very user friendly and an excellent technical resource. When you use the Browse function, you will have links to all 26 volumes by year. Click on the year and all the front covers of the magazines issues from that year will appear. Click on the magazine cover and all of the articles and page numbers become visible as hot links to the articles. The Search function allows you to query the entire set with word or words specific searches. A search using the word "aerification" yielded 106 articles. You can also limit the search by age of the article. A search for articles older than 20 years using the word "aerification" brought up 23 records.

STMA and *SportsTurf* thank Michigan State University for its dedication to the industry in providing this service. ■

2010 SAFE Scholarship Application is Online!

SAFE encourages all STMA student members to submit applications for the 2010 SAFE Scholarships. Each year the SAFE Foundation awards minimum \$1,000 scholarships to student members from across the country. Since the scholarship program's inception in 2000, SAFE has awarded more than \$225,000 in scholarships and travel. Awarded on a basis of merit, former winners have gone on to be head groundskeepers in Major League Baseball, the NFL, Major League Soccer, STMA Board Members, and even President of STMA!

For more information on the SAFE Scholarship Program, go to www.stma.org/professionalism and click on 'Scholarship Program' on the left hand side of the page or send questions to STMAInfo@STMA.org. ■

Registration opens for Northwest Regional Conference in Seattle July 21-22

The final schedule for STMA's Northwest Regional Conference and Exhibition, July 21-22, 2010 in Seattle has been set. The event is highlighted by more than 14 hours of education, dedicated trade show hours, hands-on demos, facility tours, and a Mariners game with all the attendees, courtesy of STMA!

For more information on what is sure to be a great event go to www.stma.org or contact STMA at 800.323.3875 or send questions to pallen@stma.org. ■

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: www.azstma.com.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: www.cstma.org.

Florida #1 Chapter (South): 305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates)

Florida #2 Chapter (North): 850/580-4026.

Florida #3 Chapter (Central): 863-665-5800

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gstma.org.

Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: 847/263-7603.

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.imstma.org.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: www.kystma.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA): www.kafmo.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): www.mistma.org.

Mid Atlantic Sports Turf Managers Association (MASTMA) (formerly the Chesapeake Chapter STMA)
Ph. 410-704-2197 www.mastma.org

Minnesota Chapter STMA: www.mstma.com.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mokanstma.com.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: 402/441-4425.

New England STMA (NESTMA): www.nestma.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: www.sfmanj.org.

Sports Turf Managers of New York: www.stmony.org.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.ncsportsturf.org.

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): www.ostma.org.

Oregon STMA Chapter: 503/953-9406

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter: www.socialstma.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.scstma.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: 866/897-8621.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: www.wstma.org.

Forming Chapters:

Gulf Coast Chapter: 225/757-9136.

Nevada STMA Chapter: 702/884-2987.

STMA International Affiliate

Organizations National Parks, Singapore: www.nparks.gov.sg

Sports Turf Association, ON, CANADA www.sportsturfassociation.com

Forming International Affiliate Organizations

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