

New STMA Board members take office

The membership of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) elected via ballot five officers and four directors, who took office during the association's Annual Meeting in January. Newly elected President Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, appointed two more directors during that meeting, which brings the total to 13 members on the STMA Board of Directors.

The 2010 Officers:

- President Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, City of Peoria Sports Complex, Peoria, AZ
- Immediate Past President Abby McNeal, CSFM, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC
- President-Elect Troy Smith, CSFM, Denver Broncos Football Club, Denver, CO
- Vice President Commercial Chad Price, CSFM, Carolina Green Corp., Indian Trail, NC
- Secretary-Treasurer James Michael Goatley, Jr., Ph.D., Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

The 2010 Directors:

- Professional Facilities, Larry DiVito, Minnesota Twins, Minneapolis, MN
- Schools K-12, Martin Kaufman, CSFM, Ensworth Schools, Nashville, TN
- Commercial (Appointed), Rene Aspiron, Diamond Pro/TXI, Dallas, TX
- At-Large, Kevin Meredith, CSFM, National Soccer Hall of Fame, Oneonta, NY
- At-Large (Appointed), Jody Gill, CSFM, Blue Valley School District, Overland Park, KS
- Higher Education, Ron Hostick, CSFM, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
- Parks and Recreation, David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, Town of Lexington, Lexington, MA
- Academic, Pamela Sherratt, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH ■

Recruit a member, get merchandise!

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH IS KEY to STMA's sustainability. Studies show that the most effective way to grow an organization's membership is to involve the current membership in these efforts. So, we would like to enlist you! We promise that you will reap great rewards, even if you refer just one new member. (STMA defines a new member as someone who has not been an STMA national member since 2004. All categories of membership are eligible to recruit; new student memberships do not qualify for this program.)

The process is simple:

- Any member who recruits a new member receives a STMA hat.
 - If you recruit 3 members, you will receive an STMA shirt (in addition to the hat)!
 - If you recruit 5 members, you will receive the hat, shirt and will be entered into a drawing to win a Travel Voucher for \$1,000. And each time you recruit 5 members, your name will again be entered into the drawing, so your odds of winning increase.
 - The program runs through April 15.
 - STMA membership forms will have a spot for the new member to list your name, so you'll get credit.
 - The top recruiter will be awarded a \$400 Visa gift card.
- All merchandise will be sent at the conclusion of the program. Remind those who you recruit to fill out the space on the online membership form at www.stma.org. ■

Burns receives 2009 Harry C. Gill Memorial Founders Award

STMA bestowed its most prestigious honors, the Founders Awards, to four industry greats at its Annual Banquet in January. The awards are named after the four founders of STMA: Dick Ericson, Dr. William H. Daniel, George Toma, and Harry Gill, and each award has separate and distinct judging criteria. Those nominated are evaluated confidentially and independently by the STMA Board of Directors, and winners are not notified until their name is announced during the banquet.

The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was presented to Tom Burns from Diamond Pro/TXI. The Gill Award recognizes an individual for their hard work in the sports turf industry and acknowledges their dedication and service to the STMA. Burns was honored for his extraordinary commitment to the profession. He has served this industry for many years as a sports turf manager, a chapter leader, a national

board leader, a commercial supporter and a committee volunteer. He has been an ambassador for STMA and is credited for getting his peers to join and become involved in the STMA.

David Rulli, from Jeffco Stadium in Lakewood, CO received the Dick Ericson award, which is given to a sports turf manager who positively impacts the sports turf industry and exhibits effective team leadership. His nomination referenced his contributions to his chapter, a strong work ethic, and his contributions to STMA through board service.

Dr. Anthony Koski, Colorado State University, was presented the Dr. William Daniel Award; Dr. Daniel set the standard for educator and researcher involvement in the STMA, and created a partnership between sports turf managers and educators and researchers. This award recognizes an individual who has made

significant contributions to the sports turf industry through his or her research, teaching or extension outreach. Dr. Koski was presented this honor in recognition for his substantial research on turfgrass water usage and irrigation management. He was also cited for his profound influence on the creation and continuing advancement of STMA's certification program, and the many sports turf managers he educated.

The George Toma Golden Rake Award, which acknowledges an individual's strong work ethic and job performance, was presented to Craig Potts from Texas A&M, College Station, TX. He is described as an active chapter member, a frequent speaker and presenter, and a mentor to many crew members and students. He is highly respected for his nationally recognized fields, but even more so for his professionalism and humility. ■

2010 STMA Conference well-attended despite economy

The Sports Turf Managers Association's (STMA) 21st Annual Conference and Exhibition was held January 12-16, 2010 and was an outstanding event according to both attendees and exhibitors. Nearly 900 Sports Turf Managers from all over the world came to Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center in Lake Buena Vista, FL for the green industry's largest sports turf specific event. Including exhibit personnel, more than 1,400 people were on site.

While individual attendance figures paralleled the 2009 event in San Jose, CA the Orlando conference was heralded as the best yet by many in attendance. Exhibitors described foot traffic in the Exhibit Hall as and were pleased to see a full hall of more than 150 exhibiting companies. The event would not be possible without the participation of these companies.

Those attending the conference were able to take advantage more than 90 hours of sports turf specific education, including the addition of an entire day to the schedule with the new Pre-Conference Workshops on Wednesday. Highly regarded industry professionals and academics gave presentations, and peer networking events such as the Industry Segment Networking Sessions, Welcome Reception and Awards Banquet Reception took place throughout the four day event.

The keynote address was given by *Sports Illustrated's* Joe Posnanski and was very well received by the members. Posnanski, known for his ability to impart emotion in his stories and exceptional wit, regaled the crowd with stories of Cleveland's Municipal Stadium, baseball legends Buck O'Neill and Satchel Paige, and drew upon attendees' memories of their first experience with a lush, green athletic field.

The Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition is supported through the generous sponsorship of the following companies: Barenbrug USA; Covermaster, Inc.; Cygnet Turf Equipment; Diamond Pro/TXI; Ewing Irrigation; Hunter Industries; Jacobsen, a Textron Co.; Landscapes Unlimited; Pro's Choice/Oil-Dri. Corp.; Rainbird Corp.; The Toro Company; and World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

The 2011 STMA Conference and Exhibition, which will be the association's 22nd annual event, will be January 11-15, 2011 in Austin, TX. The Exhibition will be at the Austin Convention Center and the official hotel of the event is the Hilton Austin. ■

STMA STUDENT CHALLENGE AND OTHER EVENTS DRAW RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO CONFERENCE

Penn State wins both Student Challenge competitions for 2nd time in 3 years

More than 160 students attended the Sports Turf Managers Association's Annual in January. Students were able to take advantage of many activities specifically geared to them including a student networking session, student lunch and educational track, and the STMA Student Challenge presented in partnership with the Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) and Platinum Sponsor Hunter Industries.

Of the students in attendance, more than seventy-five percent competed in the Sixth Annual STMA Student Challenge. Through a generous donation from the SAFE Foundation, the winning 2-year team and the winning 4-year team in the STMA Student Challenge each receive a \$4,000 grant to fund a practical learning lab at their college or university. An event record 129 students, representing 22 colleges, universities, and technical schools, entered a total of 33 teams. Teams of up to four students participated in a multiple choice exam on athletic turf and sports field management topics and identified plants, insects, diseases and weeds, as well as performing a written case study.

For the third straight year, the winning team from the 4-Year Competition came from The Pennsylvania State University. Penn State Blue Team 409 team members were Nicholas Gialloretto, Kyle Hivner, Chuck Roman, and Dan Sidle. Gialloretto was on last year's winning team as well. Purdue University made a very strong showing, taking second, third and fourth, respectively, out of 21 total teams in the 4-Year Competition.

Twelve teams competed in the 2-Year Competition, with Penn State Team 207 taking top honors. Teammates Niels Dokkuma, Sean Kearney, Erik Tolzman, and Adrien Van Dyk studied intensely leading up to the exam. Second place Virginia Tech Team 206 and taking third place was Kirkwood Community College Team 205, whose school was competing in the event for the first time.

Hunter Industries' continued sponsorship helped to defray some of the Student Challenge competitors' conference costs. For the first time, the results of the Student Challenge were announced out of the Hunter booth in the exhibition, drawing more than 150 people onto the floor in the waning hours of the show.

In addition to their \$4,000 grant, the two first place teams' will also have their team name etched in the traveling Student Challenge Cup. At the Annual STMA Awards Banquet, they received replicas of the Cup and individual medals and will provide an article to be presented in an official STMA publication sometime in 2010. Second and Third place winners received plaques and medals and the Awards Banquet. ■

New STMA Chapters installed

Two new STMA affiliated chapters were officially presented their chapter gavels by Chapter Relations Chairman Amy Fouty, CSFM, during the Chapter Officers' Training Session (COTS) held during STMA's national conference. The Oregon chapter was formed last spring and the gavel was presented to its president, Debra Kneeshaw, with chapter member Mike Hebrard in attendance. The Central Florida Chapter completed the required paperwork, this winter and its chapter president Randy Fisher and board members Scott Grace and George Lawson received the gavel. ■