

## Seattle will host Northwest Regional Conference and Exhibition in July

**S**TMA, in partnership with four chapters from the Northwest, will be bringing national level education and an outdoor exhibition to Seattle July 21-22, 2010. The Intermountain, Northern California, Oregon, and Pacific Northwest chapters will be participating in this highly anticipated event. While focusing on Sports Turf Managers, STMA encourages attendance by members and crew alike, and will be providing education for all levels of sports turf experience. As a special treat, attendees will get a night at the ballpark, where the Seattle Mariners take on the Chicago White Sox July 21.

More than 14 hours of education is highlighted by nationally recognized sports turf authorities Drs. Andy McNitt, Dave Minner, Rob Golembiewski, and Ali Harivandi, who will be lending their expertise to presentations and/or panel discussions on natural turfgrass and synthetic turf. Behind the scenes tours of the facilities of the Seattle Seahawks (NFL), Seattle Mariners (MLB), and Seattle Sounders FC (MLS), and hands-on demonstrations on logo painting, synthetic paint removal, and repairing high traffic areas make up the interactive components of the event. Other education will be provided by local professional sports turf managers, builders, and architects with significant sports field experience.

According to Pam Sherratt, STMA Conference Education Chairman, "You will not find a better sports turf specific educational experience outside of the STMA Conference and Exposition held every January."

Registration costs for the 2-day event will be \$95 for a member of STMA National or one of the four participating chapters and \$125 for a non-member. This price will include 2 days of education, entrance to the exhibition, most meals, and the ticket to the game Wednesday evening. Online registration will be available, so keep checking back at [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org) for the most up-to-date information regarding the event.

STMA has also negotiated reduced rates at two Seattle area hotels. The Sixth Avenue Inn is located in downtown Seattle and has a rate of \$89 per night plus tax, and is near Safeco Field and Qwest Field, where the majority of the event will be taking place. The Holiday Inn Seattle-Renton has a rate of \$94 per night plus tax, and is closer to Starfire Sports, where the exhibition will be held July 21. Please call the Sixth Avenue Inn at (206) 441-8300 or the Holiday Inn Seattle-Renton at (425) 226-7700 and tell either you are

with the Sports Turf Managers Association to receive these special rates.

Put July 21-22 on your schedule and start talking to your employer about making sure that you are able to attend this incredible educational opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact STMA at 800.323.3875 or [STMAInfo@STMA.org](mailto:STMAInfo@STMA.org).

Interested in exhibiting or sponsoring this event? Please contact Patrick Allen, STMA Manager of Sales and Marketing at 800.323.3875 or [pallen@stma.org](mailto:pallen@stma.org).

### ABOUT THE FACILITIES

**Qwest Field and Event Center** is the home of the NFL's Seattle Seahawks and the Seattle Sounders Football Club of Major League Soccer. The facility also hosts major concerts, international soccer matches, and other events throughout the year. With more than 70% of the seats covered and amazing views of the surrounding Cascade Mountains and downtown Seattle, Qwest is one of the premier event facilities in the US.

**Safeco Field** is home to the Seattle Mariners and has a capacity of 47,116. Opened in 1999, Safeco features a one-of-a-kind retractable roof, which covers the field but doesn't enclose the stadium, preserving the open air environment. The grass is a custom blend of four strains of Kentucky bluegrass and two strains of perennial ryegrass, which is spider-webbed with 20-30 miles of heating pipe to bring the turf out of dormancy in time for the home opener each year.

**Starfire Sports** is the official administrative and training home of the Seattle Sounders FC. Located about 15 minutes from downtown Seattle in Tukwila, Starfire is a state-of-the-art sports complex featuring eight, lighted, all-weather, synthetic fields, including a 3,000 seat grandstand stadium field, four natural grass fields, and an 80,000 square foot Athletic Center.

**The Virginia Mason Athletic Center (VMAC)** is the training and practice home of the Seattle Seahawks. Located in Renton and completed in 2008, VMAC has three natural grass outdoor football fields and one indoor synthetic field. At more than 200,000 gross square feet, including more than 50,000 dedicated to training, the facility is the second largest training facility in the NFL. The land was formerly home to a coal tar refinery and creosote plant, since remediated, and enhances the environmental climate of Renton and its wetlands by civilizing and redeveloping the site. ■

## Got stuff? SAFE needs stuff!



**T**he SAFE Foundation (Foundation for Safer Athletic Environments)

shelves are bare! As the Foundation gears up for its annual auctions and raffles that it holds at the annual STMA conference, it is seeking your donations to help make it a success.

Please consider donating:

- Team gear: hats, shirts, jackets, any item that displays your team's logo
- Products and equipment
- Tickets to sporting events
- Electronics
- Gift cards
- Whatever you wish to donate!

Attendees love to bid on your stuff and the proceeds go directly to the Foundation, which funds scholarships and education. The Foundation raised nearly \$10,000 from the auction and raffles held during the conference in Orlando earlier this year. SAFE also awarded \$8,000 in January to the Student Challenge team winners from the conference and \$12,500 in scholarships during the fourth quarter of 2009.

As STMA's charity, SAFE strives to raise money from grants, donations, the SAFE/Jacobsen annual golf tournament and the auctions and raffles so it can turn around and make awards to deserving students and fund educational initiatives. Send all donations to STMA headquarters, 805 New Hampshire, Ste. E, Lawrence KS 66044. SAFE is in the midst of developing a far-reaching strategic plan and vision to guide it into its next decade of service. ■