

SAFE seeks donations for Live & Silent Auctions

After a resoundingly successful series of auctions at the last several STMA Conferences, the Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) is running out of donations to put in the live and silent auctions in Austin. Some years ago, STMA members made significant donations of memorabilia for use until the auctions gained traction ... and boy have they ever! Headed up by SAFE Chairman Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, CSE and Auction Chairman Tom Curran, the events at the Conference each year have helped raise more than \$50,000 so far for SAFE. Last year, the SAFE and the STMA Board instituted an exciting new way to help SAFE raise money by selling lottery style pull-tab

tickets that generated more than \$1,900 in sales. They will be selling tickets again down in Austin, so be ready ... there were some \$500 winners last year!

As the 501(c)3 arm of STMA, SAFE's current mission is to provide research, educational programs, and scholarships geared to sports field specific endeavors. Since its inception in the year 2000, SAFE has awarded more than \$150,000 in scholarships and travel, funded several research studies and provided funds for the 2-year and 4-year teams winning the STMA Student Challenge.

Now, we need you and/or your company to donate memorabilia, product, team gear, equipment, services, travel, wine, gift certi-

ficates, golf outings or anything else that can help SAFE surpass its fundraising goals. Items previously donated have included tickets to NASCAR races, expensive equipment and pallets of product, Garmin GPS units, Nintendo Wii's, autographed memorabilia, and much more. Donations may be tax deductible, but each donor should consult their tax advisor regarding the deductibility of a given donation.

To make a donation, simply contact STMA Manager of Sales and Marketing, Patrick Allen at 800.323.3875 or pallen@stma.org. Thank you in advance for your generous support of this wonderful foundation and we look forward to seeing you in Austin. ■

Ask a CSFM ▶ Kevin Vos, CSFM, superintendent, Bos Landen GC, Pella, IA

Benefits of certification verified

Editor's note: This is the third of six installments on 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 CSFM Exam?

Vos: I read as many sports turf industry books, old college class books and related information as possible. Whatever I had been keeping in my turf files, I reviewed.

How did you approach your employer to support your certification, both financially and in the time needed to prepare for the exam?

Vos: My employer and superiors were always supportive of belonging to STMA. So when the discussions about CSFM took place, they were very receptive of the CSFM program. My employer provided the funding for the exam and recertification also. They understood about the importance of becoming the best you can be.

I prepared for the exam on my own time, during evenings and weekends

whenever possible. This took a little longer but it was in environment where I could stay focused and still be close to family when needed.

Why did you decide to pursue certification?

Vos: I believe a person should try each day to become educated to the highest degree possible in your own situation. Becoming a CSFM helped me achieve a level of professionalism within the sports turf industry. I had great encouragement and support from fellow CSFM and friend, Mike Andresen.

How has certification helped your career?

Vos: Becoming CSFM helped me achieve personal satisfaction. On the employment side, it helped future employers see me as more of a professional. The certification not only helped

a lot with recognition by my employer but also the community as a "go to" person for knowledge and information regarding sports turf and related turf areas. It has been a blessing to be a CSFM! ■



Chapters Highlights

North Carolina, South Carolina Chapters again team up for conference and trade show

The North and South Carolina chapters of the Sports Turf Managers Association will host the second annual NC/SC STMA conference and trade show, an education, networking, community service and golf event, from November 15-17, 2010 in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Registration is open to all sports field managers and crew members. Registration fees, a calendar of events, information about speakers, and details on accommodations can be found online at www.SCSTMA.org or www.NCSPORTSTURF.org. Lodging information on the conference hotel, the Caravelle Resort, 6900 North Ocean Boulevard, is available at www.thecaravelle.com or (800) 796-8238.

The 3-day event will offer on the field maintenance training including soil sampling and spreader/sprayer calibration, the Carolinas GCSA trade show and STMA educational sessions featuring a panel discussion on field traffic tolerance plus presentations by Dr. Bert McCarty from Clemson, Dr. Grady Miller from NC State University, and Bob Campbell from the Univ. of Tennessee at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. A golf outing at the Man O' War is optional, with a separate fee. The Certified Sports Field Manager exam is offered for those prequalified through the STMA.

For further information contact Bruce Suddeth, director of Landscape Services at the University of South Carolina Upstate and past-president of the SCSTMA at 864-503-5514, bsuddeth@uscupstate.edu or Tommy Walston, Sports Turf Manager at East Carolina University and current President of NCSTMA, 252-737-2262 or walstont@ecu.edu.

Chapter Profile: Illinois STMA

Founded in 1990, the Illinois chapter of STMA was one of the first official chapters affiliated with STMA. It operated for many years as the Midwest Chapter. The chapter has a seven-member Board of Directors and an Executive Director. The current president, Mike Schiller, CSFM, is also a Past President of STMA, having served in that role in 1996-1997. The chapter typically holds a spring, summer and fall event. The summer's event was held at Northwestern University and the fall event was September 22, in conjunction with the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, where the chapter heard about the latest turfgrass research from the University of Wisconsin, Penn State, and Purdue University.

The newest update from the chapter is its website. The chapter has developed a highly functioning website for its members and others in the industry. A key feature is an on-line membership renewal and sign-up feature, and on-line applications for scholarships and awards. Its new website can be found at www.ILSTMA.org. ■

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:

Chris Walsh cwalsh@scottsdaleaz.gov or
Johnathan Knight, CSFM
johnathan.knight@peoriaaz.gov.

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.
(See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

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:

www.ILSTMA.org.

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. (See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

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.socalstma.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. (See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

STMA International Affiliate Organizations:

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

Sports Turf Association, ON, CANADA

www.sportsturfassociation.com

Forming International Affiliate Organizations:

Irish Institute of Sport Surfaces
Institute of Groundsmanship

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