

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-

cates, 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! ■

