

## Terry Mellor Grant to be presented by SAFE, Turface Again this Year

**A** GAIN THIS YEAR the SAFE Foundation, STMA's philanthropic arm, will award the Terry Mellor Continuing Education Grant, sponsored by Turface Athletics. This \$1,000 grant is intended to fund a portion of the winner's attendance at the STMA Conference in January. In addition to the \$1,000 grant, STMA will provide a complimentary conference registration to the winner, and the winner will be recognized at the Association's annual Awards Banquet.

The deadline to apply for the Terry Mellor

Continuing Education Grant is November 15. All members of an STMA affiliated chapter are eligible to win, and must be nominated through a letter of recommendation by a National STMA Member. Last year's winner, Eddie Atherton of the City of Owensboro, KY was selected from a highly qualified and very active pool of applicants for his "outstanding dedication, efficiency and attitude." Atherton was also featured in the February 2010 issue of this magazine.

The STMA Scholarship Committee, who

judges the SAFE Scholarship winners each year, will be involved in the selection of this grant's winner. Go to [www.stma.org/professionalism/schol](http://www.stma.org/professionalism/schol) to download the form. The form includes the criteria for eligibility and guidance for writing your nomination. If you have any questions about the SAFE Terry Mellor Continuing Education Grant, sponsored by Turface Athletics, please contact STMA headquarters at 800.323.3875 or [STMAinfo@stma.org](mailto:STMAinfo@stma.org). ■

## Ask a CSFM ► Jeff Salmond, CSFM, Athletic Turf Manager, University of Oklahoma

### 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?

**Salmond:** I got together all my turfgrass and soils books and notes from college and just began going through them as a refresher. I acquired a few pesticide books and studied from books in the library. I also used the CSFM exam guidelines, competencies and practice exam that are online on the STMA website. Discussing the exam with other CSFMs along with a seminar at the Annual Conference was very helpful.

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

**Salmond:** My employer understood the professional-

ism of the certification process and supportive in my advancement to pursue certification. A lot of the preparation for the exam took place in the evening hours away from work. Since I decided to take the exam at the STMA Annual Conference, there was a little more time to prepare for the exam over Christmas during a less hectic work schedule. My employer now is very supportive in maintaining certification and having a CSFM on staff.

#### Why did you decide to pursue certification?

**Salmond:** I received a graduate degree, but was not in my nature to pursue an academia career. Becoming a CSFM at the time was fairly new, but was a personal and professional goal of mine if I wanted to get to that next

step in the industry. Becoming certified was a great way for me to advance what I had learned in my schooling and use that education along with my past work experiences to help invoke professionalism across our industry and in the daily workplace.

#### How has certification helped your career?

**Salmond:** Attaining certification has helped get me to where I am today. Employers are now more familiarized with the CSFM and use certification as a preferred requirement when hiring. With having to maintain certification, it has allowed me to stay active in learning new things each and every day, staying current with the industry through CEUs and ISPs and helping me serve with the STMA. ■