

Kudos to Committees!

THE 2011 STMA COMMITTEES have been appointed and are beginning their work. Thank you to everyone who volunteered. STMA relies on committees to serve as the “pulse” of the membership and help to guide the development of programs and services to achieve the association’s strategic plan.

The STMA Strategic Plan is in its final year, all of our strategic platforms are well advanced, and its objectives are nearly complete or are ongoing. These accomplishments are truly amazing; and it is directly attributable to the outstanding work of STMA’s committees and task groups.

STMA made significant progress on all six of its strategic platforms. These platforms include:

1. Enhance Members’ Value to Employers;
2. Position Members as the Authority on Sports Field Management;
3. Use Chapters to Serve Members;
4. Leverage Synergistic Partnerships;
5. Make the Conference the “Must Attend” Event for the Industry; and
6. Become a Model for a Well-Governed Association.

The plan and its progress are more than 15 pages in length. Overall, the plan’s objectives focused on continuing education opportunities for our members, outreach to other organizations, groups and individuals that can help STMA and its members gain influence, and major governance changes.

In the area of education, STMA has brought dozens of educational bulletins and best management practices (BMPs) to the membership, a webcast, podcast, online courses and DVDs. The conference education program has been expanded and all are audio taped, and STMA now holds a regional conference each summer. One re-

sult: our certification program has more than doubled in numbers of members who have earned the CSFM designation.

Our outreach to other organizations, groups and individuals continues to grow. We established collaborative relationships with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA); USA Football, the Canadian Sports Turf Association (STA); the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) in the UK; Collegiate Event and Facility Managers Association (CEFMA); the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA); and many others. In addition, many other green industry organizations recognize STMA’s education programs and award CEUs to their members for attending our education programs.

STMA also became a co-sponsor of the ASBA certification program for field builders and a sponsor of the 2nd edition of *Sports Fields: Design, Construction and Maintenance*. The development and implementation of the Playing Conditions Index (PCI) [see p. 24] has allowed STMA members to validate the resources necessary to manage fields for safety and communicate specific information to employers on the playability of fields that are assessed using the PCI. The chapter network grew by seven chapters bringing it to a strong 33.

In the area of governance, STMA has structured a formal committee process and engaged hundreds of volunteers. The Governance Task Group spent nearly 2 years researching, developing and implementing a new governance system for STMA, which required major bylaws changes. This system defined the ascension process to the Presidency, combined the Secretary and Treasurer positions, added two new Director positions, and allowed the immediate past president to vote in board meetings. These changes were strongly supported by the member-

ship, who voted in favor of them in 2008 for implementation in 2009.

More than 20 committees and task groups have been focused on helping STMA achieve its strategic plan. Noted below is the list of the 2011 committee chairs who will take STMA through its final year of the plan. The STMA Board of Directors will be conducting a Strategic Planning session at its summer meeting with a professional facilitator to create a new plan for 2012 and beyond. ■

2011 STMA Committees and Chairs

Awards - Allen Johnson, CSFM

Bylaws - Mike Trigg, CSFM

Certification - Ron Hostick, CSFM

Chapter Relations - Co-Chairs Amy Fouty, CSFM and David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP

Conference - Mike Goatley, Ph.D.

Conference Education - Pam Sherratt

Conference Tours - Jeff Salmond, CSFM

Conference Exhibition - Co-Chairs Chad Price, CSFM and Rene Asprien

Editorial - Jay Warnick, CSFM

Environmental - Kevin Trotta, CSFM

Ethics - Ken Mrock

Finance & Audit - Martin Kaufman, CSFM

Historical - John Mascaro

Information Outreach - Darian Daily

International - Abby McNeal, CSFM

Membership - Jody Gill, CSFM

Commercial Membership - Rene Asprien

Nominating - Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP

Past President’s Advisory Council - Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP

Scholarship - Mike Tarantino

Student Challenge - Raechal Volkening, CSFM

Technical Standards - Beth Gertal, Ph.D.

Website - Jeff Fowler

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Regional Conference in Knoxville, TN—details

THE 2011 REGIONAL CONFERENCE, June 15-16 in Knoxville, TN hosted by STMA with the support of several chapters, including the Tennessee Valley (host), Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia Chapters, is a must attend educational event for anyone who deals with athletic turf regularly. While focusing on Sports Turf Managers, STMA encourages attendance by members, crew, coaches, parks and recreation professionals, athletic directors, school business officials, and others, and will be providing education for all levels of sports turf experience.

The more than 10 hours of education is highlighted by nationally recognized sports turf authorities. Dr.'s John Sorochan, Jim Brosnan, Tom Samples, Grady Miller and Mike Goatley will be lending their expertise to presentations and/or panel discussions on natural turfgrass, pest control, turf covers, field painting, and managing bermudagrass. There will also be behind the scenes tours of the University of Tennessee's football, baseball, softball and soccer facilities, as well as a tour of the University's new Center for Athletic Field Safety. There will be an exhibition held at the Center for Athletic Field Safety as well. Other education will be provided by local professional sports turf managers, builders, and architects with significant sports field experience.

Registration will include all education, entrance to the exhibition, most meals, and as a special treat, attendees will get a night at the ballpark, watching the Tennessee Smokies take on the Chattanooga Lookouts in exciting minor league baseball action. Registration costs for the event are \$95 for a member of STMA National or one of the participating chapters and \$125 for a non-member.

Online registration will be available for STMA National members, and STMA will also be negotiating reduced rates at Knoxville area hotels, so keep checking www.STMA.org and your email inbox for the most up to date information regarding the event.

Put June 15-16 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.

Is your company interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at this event? Please contact Patrick Allen, STMA Manager of Sales and Marketing at 800.323.3875 or pallen@stma.org.



➤ **SCOTT MACVICAR** of the University of Washington demonstrated how to paint a logo at last year's STMA Regional Conference in Seattle.

Ask a CSFM

Michael DiDonato, CSFM,
grounds coordinator, Windham
High School, Gorham, ME

Benefits of certification verified

Editor's note: This is another installment 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?

DiDonato: I took the University of Georgia course exam a couple of years ago and reviewed that book to prepare myself for the exam. I found it to be a very useful tool in preparing myself for the test. I also talked to a few people who have taken care of sand based athletic fields to learn more about what goes into preparing a field from the construction of the field to maintaining the field throughout the growing season. I also took the practice tests on the STMA website and tried to base some of my studying off the questions asked in the practice exams.

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

DiDonato: I was fortunate that my employer is very supportive continuing education courses. The time needed to prepare for the exam was during the winter months. I had a lot more time to study when the fields were not in use and snow covered.

Why did you decide to pursue certification?

DiDonato: I decided to pursue certification as a new challenge for myself. Not only was the certification exam a new challenge, but it was also a way to possibly further my career in the future.

How has certification helped your career?

DiDonato: Right now, certification has not yet helped my career, but I am hoping it will in the future when I have the opportunity to move onto a higher level of sports. I will say that having this certification has shown to others and me that I am willing to do what it takes to keep on educating myself in this field to in turn provide the safest, most playable and esthetically pleasing athletic fields I can. ■