

Southeast Regional Conference draws good crowd

NEARLY 200 PEOPLE attended the 2011 STMA Southeast Regional Conference in Knoxville, TN June 15-16. The event kicked off with tours of the softball and soccer complex at the University of Tennessee, followed by a 3-hour outdoor trade show on site at the University's new Center for Athletic Field Safety (CAFS), where attendees got up close and personal with products of 31 exhibitors, including some equipment test drives.

After lunch the skies darkened and STMA staffers Patrick Allen and Kristen Althouse hustled the crowd inside a building at the Center for that day's educational workshops. The Tennessee Valley, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia Chapters sent members and attendees came from as far away as Delaware and south Florida.

Dr. John Sorochoan, associate professor of turfgrass science at Tennessee and Director

of the CAFS, and doctoral student Adam Thoms introduced attendees to the Center, which includes 60 30 x 15-foot "mini-football" plots that include every type of synthetic field in use today as well as natural turf species on native soil, sand build-up and sand-cap bases. Sorochoan said they will be testing in field conditions, looking not only at traffic issues but also injuries, specifically studying the interactions between turf and cleats (and other shoe types), and also will be monitoring environmental conditions under the surfaces. The Center officially opened July 13.

Dr. Sorochoan was joined by Drs. Tom Samples, Mike Goatley, Jim Brosnan, Grady Miller, and Brandon Horvath of the University turf program, and Eric Fasbender, CSFM and Jesse

Driver, CSFM, to discuss topics ranging from field painting, athletic covers, new bermudagrasses and pest management, to the new Center for Athletic Field Safety (CAFS) at the

University of Tennessee. A group outing to watch the Tennessee Smokies take on the Chattanooga Lookouts was rained out that night, so attendees spent a night on their own in Knoxville.

Thursday attendees chose either a baseball and football track; each hosted at the University's respective facility for the sport. These 2-hour sessions were followed up by "walk-the-field" tours of 102,455-seat Neyland Stadium and Lindsey Nelson Stadium, where the Volunteer baseball team takes the diamond in SEC play. The locker rooms, workout facilities and recruiting centers' for both facilities were included in the tours.

According to the STMA post-conference survey, attendees came for the networking, education topics and speakers, and the exhibition. One hundred percent of the respondents reported that they benefited professionally from attending, and 89% rated the event above-average or excellent. One attendee commented, "This was an excellent conference! I have spoken highly about it to many people since returning home. Thanks to the University of Tennessee for hosting this event, and especially for opening up their facilities to us so we could view them and learn from them."

Next year's summer regional event will be hosted by the Ohio Chapter. Keep an eye on the STMA website and future eNews for more information on what is sure to be another great educational opportunity in 2012. ■



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STMA program deadlines approaching

SEVERAL STMA PROGRAMS, including Innovative Awards, Field of the Year Awards, SAFE Scholarship and Founders Awards, have application deadlines this fall.

The deadline for STMA Commercial Members to apply for the STMA Innovative Awards is October 1. To submit for this award, the product, service, or equipment being submitted must have been introduced for sale after the close of the 2011 STMA Conference & Exhibition but before the close of next year's STMA show in Long Beach. Submissions should "Substantially enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Sports Turf Manager and/or make the playing surfaces safer and/or more playable for athletes."

The STMA Field of the Year program deadline is October 15. All materials must be submitted electronically by this date. Be sure

to read the application carefully, as the entire process is now done electronically. The process requires that applicants fill out no less than four STMA Playing Conditions Index (PCI) worksheets to apply for Field of the Year. The STMA PCI is available online.

SAFE Scholarship applications are due October 15. All materials must be submitted in one packet and faxed applications will not be accepted.

STMA Founders Award nominations are due October 15. These are STMA's most prestigious awards and are presented in honor of the founders of STMA: Dr. William Daniel, Dick Ericson, George Toma and Harry Gill. More information is available online.

For applications, nomination forms, to get the STMA PCI or for more information, please log on to www.STMA.org. ■

Electronic version of STMA PCI now available

STMA HAS RECENTLY completed an electronic version of the STMA Playing Conditions Index (PCI). The PCI is a very useful tool for you to evaluate the current conditions of your athletic fields at a given point in time. Keeping a log of your scores can provide you with the documentation you need to justify new resources or reallocate current resources to new areas. Log on to www.STMA.org for more information on the STMA PCI and how it can help you in your daily job. ■

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?

Andresen: My main preparation was to thoroughly review various books on Sports Turf Management, most notably "Sports Fields" by Puhalla, Krans, Goatley. I also reviewed notes of presentations and workshops (administrative content) that I'd attended in the past. The best preparation was having been in the profession for a period of years!



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

Andresen: I work for a university athletics department and we live in a culture that recognizes certifications in many different disciplines. It was an easy sell to get administration to understand the need for this level of professionalism in our department. I studied outside of work but they supported paying for the testing. The tide has turned a bit as I am now responsible for renewal fees. I, philosophically, think this is fair as the certification remains with me and is my responsibility.

Why did you decide to pursue certification?

Andresen: I felt responsible to achieve the highest level possible in our profession. I managed a student-based crew at the time and felt it important to continue my growth and education in every way possible (role model).

How has certification helped your career?

Andresen: In many different ways! The need for ISP's has helped push me to be active within our STMA chapter and nationally. It has pushed me to participate within the chapter by writing articles, serving on committees and boards, helping with community service projects and to host events at our facility—all in the name of securing Industry Service Points. Needing Continuing Education Units to remain certified has become a great reason (excuse?) to attend workshops, conferences and seminars. I personally received a pay increase when I became certified but that might be rare. ■

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:
Chris Walsh cwalsh@scottsdaleaz.gov

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.cstma.org.

Florida #1 Chapter (South): 305-235-5101
(Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran CTomSell@aol.com

Florida #2 Chapter (North): 850/580-4026,
John Mascaro, john@turf-tec.com

Florida #3 Chapter (Central): 407-518-2347,
Scott Grace, scott@sundome.org

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

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 Park and Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mpstma.org

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.mokanstma.com.

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:
www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org
oregonstma@gmail.com

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:
www.txstma.org

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.wstma.org.

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2012 Conference offers pre-Conference workshops

THE 2012 STMA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION in Long Beach, CA will feature eight pre-conference workshops Wednesday, January 11. These workshops are included in your conference registration, so be sure to take advantage of a valuable educational opportunity!

Two separate workshops will take place in the morning from 8:00 am–12:15 pm. The first is a synthetic turf workshop, “Synthetic Turf: Concept, Design, Construction, Completion, Maintenance, and Lifecycle Planning” presented by Mark Nichols. The presentation focuses on an in-depth analysis of synthetic turf. Discussion will center on design elements, specification considerations, vendor selection, project management, care and maintenance requirements, and lifecycle planning. Attendees will learn how to professionally identify, select, and procure a synthetic turf system to meet specific facility needs. Attendees will also learn best practices for the professional care and maintenance of a synthetic turf surface to extend the useful life and enhance return on investment.

The second workshop taking place from 8:00 am–12:15 pm. features three separate presentations on environmental issues. “Perceived and Real Environmental Impacts of Phosphorus” will be presented by Dr. Gwen Stahnke, Dr. Elizabeth Guertal, and Dr. Brian Horgan. This presentation will focus on recent research conducted at Washington State University – Puyallup that indicates danger in having excess phosphorus present in soil in late fall. Data on release rates of organic and synthetic forms of fertilizer, as well as total phosphorus and ortho phosphorus present in test plots will be discussed. Attendees will learn proper timing and use of organic fertilizers and differences between phosphorus amounts in synthetic and organic fertilizers.

The second presentation in the morning environmental track is “A New Era in Sports Turf Management” presented by Kevin Mercer and Jim Sluiter. This presentation will demonstrate steps that can be taken to have a sustainable grounds maintenance program at sports facilities. Sustainable practices that will be discussed include recycling programs, rain gardens, buffers, reducing your carbon footprint, maintenance of both turf and non-turf areas, incorporating wildlife habitat, etc. Attendees will learn basic steps to become Audubon-certified, sustainable techniques that can be applied to various facility levels, and cost and labor savings due to adding sustainable practices.

The third presentation in the morning en-

vironmental track is “Weed Control without Synthetic Herbicides” presented by Dr. Douglas Linde. Due to the increase in public pressure to further restrict or ban synthetic pesticides on turfgrass, research on alternatives to synthetic pesticides has increased. This presentation will investigate the effectiveness of 12 alternatives to synthetic herbicides for weed control in turfgrass. Field managers educated in this area will be better prepared to reduce reliance on synthetic herbicides either voluntarily or if forced by legislation. Attendees will learn about the various alternatives to synthetic herbicides for turfgrass, advantages and disadvantages, and how to incorporate alternatives into a sports field weed control program.

Attendees will have the choice of attending 4 afternoon workshops on Wednesday that take place concurrently from 2:00–4:00 pm. “Turfgrass Physiology for the Sports Turf Manager” will be presented by Dr. Tony Koski. This presentation will focus on providing sports turf managers a basic understanding of turfgrass growth and development, as well as the effects of management practices on turfgrass plants. Attendees will understand cool and warm season turf species response to cultural practices, turf performance under stress, and how to analyze and respond to turf problems based off of physiological responses.

“Sports Field Drainage – What Are Your Options?” will be presented by Ian Lacy. Sports field drainage is essential for a successful sports field. This presentation will explore in detail the importance of drainage, types of drainage options, advantages, disadvantages, and costs of each drainage option, function of drainage options, installation processes, and effect of maintenance programs on drainage. Attendees will learn about the importance of drainage, how to identify the right drainage option dependent on facility, and how a maintenance program could be affecting sports field drainage.

“The Science of Skin Infields” will be presented by Clayton Hubbs, Barney Lopas, and Grant Trenbeath. This presentation will focus on understanding regional, use, and parent material issues that must be considered when constructing, amending, or maintaining a baseball infield. Attendees will learn how to identify a poorly performing infield skin and understand its performance through particle size analysis and parent material of the infield mix. Attendees will also understand how to effectively select a proper infield mix and the daily and long term maintenance practices

needed to properly maintain an infield.

“Back to Basics: Maintaining Natural Grass on Native Soil” will be presented by Brad Jakubowski. This presentation will address the challenges of managing natural grass on native soil. Emphasis will be placed on water management, compaction, wear, drainage, fundamental agronomy, and differences between sand based and native soil fields. Attendees will obtain a better understanding of native soils, the importance of water management on native soils, and how to provide a safe, playable native soil field.

The conference brochure will be available in August with a complete list of the educational program. Check the STMA website and conference brochure for additional information on times, speakers, and session information. The STMA website will also have speaker presentations and handouts available as a resource for all presentations. Don't miss this opportunity to jump start your conference experience and increase your professional knowledge! ■

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