

Mercer wins Leadership Award for his environmental stewardship

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP presented the STMA President's Award for Leadership to **Kevin Mercer**, superintendent of grounds at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

land, St. Mary's City, during the STMA annual awards banquet

The award is given at the discretion of the president, and this year was awarded to Mercer for his leadership in environmental stewardship, specifically for leading the effort for St. Mary's College to be awarded certification in Environmental Planning from the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. The program is designed to help preserve and enhance the environmental quality of properties. Mercer is part of the sustainability efforts at his college to reduce, recycle and reuse. He has also been making rain gardens on his campus to capture storm and other run-off water to be used as sports turf irrigation (see January issue, p. 34).

"Kevin exemplifies environmental leadership," says Calcaterra on why he selected him to receive the award. "He proactively seeks ways he can make a positive impact on the environment at his college, and he is very open about sharing his ideas and practices with his peers."

As STMA continues to advance its focus on the environment through committee work, it is also seeking to highlight examples of its member's environmental stewardship and build on them to promote to the public the positive impact of sports turf management on the environment. ■

SAFE Jacobsen Golf Tournament, Auctions highlight fundraising efforts

THE FOUNDATION for Safer Athletic Fields for Everyone (SAFE), the charitable arm of STMA, raised more than \$25,000 for scholarships, grants, and the production of educational materials during the 2011 STMA Conference. These monies were raised through many events including a golf tournament, raffles, and auctions held throughout the conference.

Nearly 80 golfers competed (and survived the cold and wind!) in the 11th Annual SAFE Jacobsen Golf Tournament held at the Golf Club at Star Ranch. Those golfers and more than 25 pre-registered players who could not make it to Austin because of inclement weather around the country donated nearly \$14,000 to SAFE. The net-scrabble style tournament was won by the team of Russell Barksdale,

Randall Carpenter, Chris Price and Allen Reed. The SAFE Jacobsen Golf Tournament would not be possible without the generous contributions of Jacobsen, a Textron Company. Since it began sponsoring the tournament, Jacobsen has raised more than \$158,000 for SAFE. Carolina Green Corp. sponsored a Beverage Cart and drink tickets for the players, World Class Athletic Solutions sponsored a Hole In One Promotion, with \$10,000 up for grabs on one hole. Diamond Pro/TXI also sponsored a hole at the event.

Due to Texas state gaming laws, SAFE was not able to continue the Pull-Tab Lottery Style Game. These tickets were tremendously popular with attendees in 2010 in Disney. However, in typical STMA Member fashion, attendees stepped up

and ensured that the SAFE Auctions and Raffles conducted in the Exhibition Hall and at the Awards Banquet Reception on Friday brought in a record amount. Winners walked away with some amazing autographed memorabilia, apparel, a Toro Turf Guard System valued at \$7,800, electronics, hotel packages, golf gear, sports turf specific equipment, and an African photo safari valued at more than \$4,000. The Large Item Raffle held at the Awards Banquet Reception was a success as well, raising more than \$1,800. A Panasonic HD Camcorder, Amazon Kindle and Gift Package, Sony CyberShot Camera and an all-inclusive trip to next year's conference in Long Beach were all given away to lucky winners. ■

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