

Ask a CSFM

Allen Johnson, CSFM, Fields Manager, Green Bay Packers

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?

Johnson: I did some reviewing of textbooks that I used when I went through Penn State's Advanced Turfgrass Management Certificate program; glanced over the highlights of each chapter and scanned the glossary. I also utilized the internet to learn more about other sports field dimensions/layouts. Additionally, I did a quick review of our state's commercial pesticide applicator's manual.

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

Johnson: Our organization had recently implemented a formal program of annual goal setting, so that was a natural fit to propose the certification status as an individual goal. They were completely supportive financially and I used rainy days to prepare for the exam.

Why did you decide to pursue certification?

Johnson: I wanted to show my employer how completely devoted I was at being the best sports turf manager that I could be. Taking the steps to earn that certification status was just another way at validating that to them.

How has certification helped your career?

Johnson: A few years ago, Wisconsin passed some legislation that required facilities like ours to write a nutrient management plan and the Certified Sports Field Manager status was one way of meeting the criteria to be qualified to write such a plan. Having already achieved the status, we didn't have to worry about bringing in someone else to write one for us. After educating those facts to my employer, I believe they were appreciative of the fact that I became certified. ■



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2010 Field of the Year Award winners

The STMA Field of the Year Award program began in 1992. There are five field types for which awards may be given: Baseball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Sporting Grounds. For each field type, awards may be given in three categories: Professional, College and University, and Schools and Parks. This year there were a total of nine awards presented.

A panel of six judges independently scored each entry based on the playability and appearance of the playing surfaces, innovative solutions employment, effective use of budget, and the development and implementation of a comprehensive, sound agronomic program. The STMA Awards Committee includes Chair Martin Kaufman, CSFM; Steve Bush, CSFM; Jeff Fowler; Andrew Gossel; Allen Johnson, CSFM; and Tim VanLoo, CSFM. These judges come from all segments of STMA membership and represent some of the finest facilities in all of America.

“As always, evaluating this year’s applicant pool was very difficult,” says Martin Kaufman, CSFM, STMA Awards Committee Chairman. “The quality of the applicants each year continues to improve and the winners this year were truly deserving.”

“The Field of the Year Award validates the intense dedication of our members,” says Kim Heck, CEO of the Sports Turf Managers Association, the sponsoring organization of the award. “Each year STMA awards no more than 14 Fields of the Year, so a very small percentage of our members are winners.”

2010 Field of the Year Award Winners:

Baseball

- Schools and Parks – Glen Allen Stadium; Glen Allen, VA; Vince Henderson
- College and University – Benedictine University; Lisle, IL; Kari Allen, CSFM
- Professional – Arvest Ballpark; Springdale, AR; Monty Sowell

Football

- Schools and Parks – North Scott Community Football Field; Eldridge, IA; John Netwal, CGCS

Soccer

- Schools and Parks – Atlee High School-Raider Stadium; Mechanicsville, VA; Marc Moran
- College and University – Cobb Stadium; Coral Gables, FL; Chris Denson
- Professional – Columbus Crew Stadium; Columbus, OH; Brett Tanner

Softball

- Schools and Parks – NKC District Softball Field; North Kansas City, MO; John Watt, CSFM

- College – Benedictine University; Lisle, IL; Kari Allen, CSFM

Recognition for winners includes registration to the annual STMA Conference and Exhibition, three nights lodging, and signature clothing for the award winners and their staff. The winning fields will also be featured in a 2011 article in *SportsTurf* magazine, the industry’s premier publication.

Award winners will be presented with their award during the Annual Awards Banquet on Fri., Jan. 14, 2011, which is held every year at the Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition. The 22nd Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition is January 11-15, 2011 at the Austin Convention Center and Hilton Austin in Austin, TX. ■

2010 SAFE Scholarship Winners

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields for Everyone (SAFE) was created to provide research, educational programs, and scholarships geared to sports field specific endeavors. It is the dream-child of the nation’s only association for the sports turf industry, the STMA. The level of scholarship funding has steadily increased since the scholarship programs inception in 1999 and in 2010 we awarded \$12,500 to nine recipients in two-year, four-year, and graduate level categories. Since the scholarship program’s beginning, SAFE has awarded more than \$175,000 in scholarship and travel to the STMA Conference and Exhibition.

Graduate Scholarships

Dr. James Watson Graduate Scholarship, \$2,500
Tom Serensits, Penn State

SAFE Graduate Scholarship, \$1,500
Matthew Williams, Ohio State

Four Year Scholarships

Dr. James Watson Undergraduate Scholarship, \$2,250
Chase Straw, Kentucky

SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship, \$1,250
George Peters, Penn State

SAFE Undergraduate Scholarships, \$1,000
Julie Adamski, Penn State, Jolynda Rolli, Penn State, Alexander Steinman, Penn State

Two Year Scholarships

Dr. Fred Grau Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000
Tyler Carter, Michigan State

SAFE Two Year Scholarship, \$1,000
Shaun Eberhart, Kirkwood Community College

A panel of seven judges independently scored each entry based on each student’s academic preparation, experience in the sports turf management industry, professional goals, extracurricular activities, and input from academic advisors and employers. Each student also wrote an essay describing his or her background and career aspirations.

The TORO Foundation provides generous support for the Dr. James Watson Scholarship winners. Jacobsen supports the SAFE Scholarship Program through the SAFE/Jacobsen Golf Tournament held at the STMA Conference each year. The program is also supported through individual and corporate donations made throughout the year and proceeds from the Live and Silent Auctions and raffle held each year on the STMA Trade Show Floor. These sponsors fund a stipend for each recipient to attend the STMA annual conference (including lodging) and a scholarship ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Scholarship recipients had their financial aid mailed directly to their university, with a check made out jointly to them and their schools financial aid office. The students will be recognized during the Annual STMA Awards Banquet January 14, 2011 at the 22nd Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition held in Austin, TX. ■

Strickland, Meredith, Ball & Tamaska win MiLB Turf Awards

Scott Strickland (Triple-A), Shaun Meredith (Double-A), Chris Ball (Class A) and Tommy Tamaska (Short-Season/Rookie) are this year's classification winners in the annual Sports Turf Manager of the Year Awards, sponsored by the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). Ball was also the Class A winner in 2007. He has won or shared the title of best sports turf manager in the Carolina League for the past four years for his work at the home of the Myrtle Beach Pelicans, BB&T Coastal Field.

Strickland has been in charge of Durham Bulls Athletic Park for the last six seasons. He has been with the Triple-A club since 2004.

Meredith displayed his talents at Merchantsauto.com Stadium, home of the New Hampshire Fisher Cats, to win the Double-A honor. He joined the Fisher Cats for last year, after working for State College in the New York-Penn League from 2006-08.

Tamaska works at the Carpenter Complex in Clearwater, FL home of the Gulf Coast League Phillies and where Philadelphia's spring training operations are based.

The STMA provides educational opportunities and support so that sports turf managers can provide the best sports surfaces for all levels of play. Sports turf managers are experts on the field and partners of the game.

The four classification winners, who were selected from among 16 league winners, will receive their award at the Baseball Winter Meetings™ Awards Luncheon at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort near Orlando on December 6.

The league winners:

LEAGUE	WINNER	CLUB
International League	Scott Strickland	Durham Bulls
Pacific Coast League	Chris Schlosser	Iowa Cubs
Mexican League	Ismael Cristobal Hernández	Sultanes de Monterrey
Eastern League	Shaun Meredith	New Hampshire Fisher Cats
Southern League	Ed Attalla	Jacksonville Suns
Texas League	David Bicknell	Frisco RoughRiders
California League	Justin Clarke	Stockton Ports
Carolina League	Chris Ball	Myrtle Beach Pelicans
Florida State League	Opie Cheek	Clearwater Threshers
Midwest League	Mitch McClary	Fort Wayne TinCaps
South Atlantic League	Greg Burgess	Greenville Drive
New York-Penn League	Matt Neri	State College Spikes
Northwest League	Adam Farrell	Spokane Indians
Appalachian League	Blake Anderson	Greeneville Astros
Pioneer League	John Barta	Billings Mustangs
Gulf Coast League	Tommy Tamaska	Phillies

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

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

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(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,
Randy Fisher, rfisher@kissimmee.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 Chapter STMA: www.mstma.com.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.mokanstma.com.
(See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

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: 503/953-9406

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.

Chapter Sponsors



Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:
866/897-8621.

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

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.wstma.org.
(See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

Forming Chapters:
Indiana Chapter:
Joey Stevenson, jstevenson@indyindians.com

STMA International Affiliate Organizations:
National Parks, Singapore: www.nparks.gov.sg

Sports Turf Association, ON, CANADA
www.sportsturfassociation.com

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Irish Institute of Sport Surfaces
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