SAFE Board Chair Montgomery steps down

BOYD MONTGOMERY, CSFM, CSE, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields for Everyone (SAFE), has resigned his position effective Jan. 20, 2013.

Montgomery has chaired STMA’s charity, SAFE, since 2006, replacing Michael Schiller, CSFM whose term ended that year. Under Montgomery’s leadership, SAFE launched several initiatives beginning with changing its mission, its name (formerly The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments), and its bylaws. These changes paved the way for the creation of an industry-wide initiative: Sports and Recreation Fields – Safety First.

Its core purpose is to fund education, outreach, research and scholarship to advance the safety and sustainability of playing surfaces and reduce sports field injuries.

This initiative is in its second year of fundraising with a goal of $1 million by 2016.

Montgomery is stepping down due to work and family commitments. “Our Board of Trustees has worked very hard to move SAFE forward. With my work and family schedule it has become increasingly difficult to give SAFE the time it deserves”, said Montgomery. “I am confident that its new leader can keep the momentum going forward.”

SAFE has engaged its Nominating Committee and the new chairman is expected to be in place as Montgomery steps down.

The SAFE Board of Trustees includes Cathy Bradley, Ken Curry, Gil Landry, PhD, David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, Chard Price, CSFM, CFB, Doug Schattinger, Jay Warnick, CSFM, and Steve Wightman. The Foundation’s mission is “To enrich communities through championing safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes.”

GrasStains needs your photos & video clips

PRODUCTION IS STARTING on the annual GrasStains video, which is a fun and integral part of the STMA Awards Banquet. As always your photos and video clips of your year, crew, and other memorable moments are desired. Two areas are specifically requested:

1) 7th inning stretch videos of your grounds crew’s work.
2) Photos of your “younger” days in sports turf management. Every single member has old photos of himself/herself, so start looking, scanning and sending! GrasStains Productions is unable to receive large files. Please open a free Dropbox.com account, upload your photos and videos, and send the link to Production Director Steve Legros at Steve@turfandirt.com. Or, burn your photos to a CD or DVD and send to Steve Legros, 91B Partridge Circle, Carlisle, PA 17013.

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The firm of Kohart, Accounting, PA conducted the annual review of STMA’s finances and accounting practices in May. STMA’s Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, Secretary/Treasurer David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP met in-person with the auditing firm in June to receive the results. The results were subsequently reviewed with the full Finance and Audit Committee who endorsed the audit and recommended the audit figures to the STMA Board at its July Board Meeting. The Board approved the Audit and per its Finance and Audit policies, moved 75 percent of the excess income over expenses to the Restricted Fund.

**INCOME**

Dues, Fees & Investments
$303,319  
(2010 $422,994)

Magazine & Sponsorship
$153,596  
(2010 $166,413)

Annual Conference, Expo
$605,197  
(2010 $567,098)

**TOTAL INCOME**
$1,062,112  
(2010 $1,156,505)

**EXPENSES**

Administrative & HQ Expenses
$444,596  
(2010 $427,630)

Marketing, Chapter & Member Services
$155,315  
(2010 $195,330)

Annual Conf & Expo
$441,330  
(2010 $403,173)

**TOTAL EXPENSES**
$1,041,241  
(2010 $1,026,133)
STMA 2013 Election Information

THE STMA NOMINATING COMMITTEE presented the 2013 Board of Directors Slate of Candidates to the STMA Board at its recent Fall Board meeting. STMA voting members will have received their ballots in late November; ballots are due December 15.

Due to the resignation of Martin Kaufman, CSFM, who was the President Elect, the current President, James Michael Goatley, Jr., Ph.D., will serve a second term, per the STMA Officer Vacancy Ascension SOP. (Kaufman resigned due to a change in employment, which made him ineligible to hold the office of President). David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, the current Secretary/Treasurer, will ascend to the President Elect position. Troy Smith, CSFM, will remain Immediate Past President.

Directors serve 2-year terms as does the Commercial Vice President. Serving the second year of their term and not up for election are Rene Asprion, Commercial Vice President, Diamond Pro/TXI, Dallas, TX; Jeff Salmond, CSFM, Higher Education Director, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK; Jeffrey Fowler, Academic Director, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Franklin, PA; and Debra Kneeshaw, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland, OR.

Officers:
For President - James Michael Goatley, Jr., Ph.D.
For Immediate Past President - Troy Smith, CSFM
For President Elect - David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP
For Commercial Vice President - Rene Asprion
For Secretary/Treasurer - Allen Johnson, CSFM or Mike Tarantino, CSFM

Directors
For the Director Representing Professional Facilities: Tom Jones or Phil McQuade

TOM JONES, FC Dallas, Frisco, TX
Tom is the Vice President of Complex Management and has managed the Complex fields at FC Dallas Stadium & Complex for seven years where he oversaw the design and construction of the fields. Tom started in the grounds business with Texas Rangers Baseball working tarp crew during college.

Vision for STMA: My vision for STMA would involve education and camaraderie. I believe in the philosophy that if you are not learning and growing you are regressing. So, continual education of the latest techniques or shared ideas from your peers is vitally important to growth.

PHIL MCQUADE, Dicks Sporting Goods Park, Commerce City, CO
Phil has worked as Assistant Turf Manager at Dick’s Sporting Goods Park since 2006 (while under construction). This complex is home to the Colorado Rapids MLS soccer club. DSG Park has 25 fields. There are 2 sand based fields, 2 synthetic fields and 21 native soil fields.

Vision for STMA: My vision for the STMA is to see the continued growth of membership and a continued push to educate non-members on turf. I would also like to see turf managers become more eco-friendly. I would also like to see the STMA expand worldwide.

For the Director Representing Schools K-12: Andrew Gossel or Rich Watson

ANDREW GOSSEL, Covenant Christian High School, Indianapolis, IN
Andy Gossel is the Director Athletics at Covenant Christian HS in Indianapolis, IN and oversees all of the athletic field maintenance for the school’s soccer field and baseball field.

Vision for STMA: I see STMA as a great tool for sports turf managers to learn, network, and grow. I want to help continue and even improve the means by which sports turf managers at all levels are able to work together and not improve their own fields and grow personally, but help others around them do the same.

RICH WATSON, Pine Hill Public Schools, Pine Hill, NJ
Rich has been involved in the turf industry since 1988. His career started as a groundskeeper and since then he has worked hard to achieve his current position as Grounds Supervisor for Pine Hill Public Schools. The areas under his management include about 30 acres of sports turf, four building sites and the management of two municipal parks in Pine Hill.

Vision for STMA: I think the STMA is a great organization and has done a lot of great work. My vision is pretty simple. I would love to see us give back to the organizations that need us the most. These would include youth organizations, schools and park and rec. I know we do a lot of good things currently, but I think we still have a long way to go.

For the Director Representing the Commercial sector: James Graff or Eric Simmons, PLA

JAMES GRAFF, Graff’s Turf Farms, Inc., Ft. Morgan, CO
James Graff is the co-owner of Graff’s Turf Farms, with long time production manager Marty Thiel. The business is highly automated using the most select turfgrass
inputs and the most advanced processes in the turfgrass industry. Vision for STMA: This past year serving on the board has been a great learning process. I am excited for the opportunity of a two year term after completing my one year appointment by President Goatley. I believe my contributions as a business owner have been beneficial to the membership.

ERIC SIMMONS, PLA, Hunter Industries, Great Lakes Region, Oswego, IL Eric is the Specification Sales Manager for Hunter Industries, where he has worked for 6 years. In this role, he works closely with landscape architects, engineers and professional irrigation consultants to develop system designs throughout the great lakes region.

Vision for STMA: To continue providing the growing membership with outstanding support and educational opportunities at all levels of the profession. STMA does a fantastic job of supporting everyone from students to those managing the premier professional venues across the country- and all those in between!

For the Elected At-Large Director: Tim Van Loo, CSFM or Brian Winka, CSFM

TIM VAN LOO, CSFM, Iowa State University, Ames, IA Tim Van Loo, CSFM, is Manager of Athletic Turf and Grounds at Iowa State University. Tim came to the Athletic Department in March 2010. He oversees Jack Trice Stadium, Johnny Majors Practice Facility, Cyclone Sports Complex (soccer/track/softball), Bergstrom Multi-purpose Indoor Facility and all other athletic department grounds. Previous to Iowa State University he was the Associate Director of Facilities/Agronomist at Northwestern University from 2007-2010.

BRIAN WINKA, CSFM, City of Chesterfield, Chesterfield, MO Brian Winka, CSFM is the Sports Turf Manager for the City of Chesterfield Missouri, a position he has held since 2005. He holds a B.S. in Agronomy from Missouri State University and attained certification as a Certified Sports Field Manager through STMA in 2008. Vision for STMA: Today’s sports turf manager jobs are about more than just growing grass. Today you have to be an agronomist, botanist, chemist, the HR rep, the motivational speaker and the teacher all wrapped in one. We, as members of the STMA, have an opportunity to increase awareness of all the great accomplishments that we do on a daily basis. ■

Vision for STMA: My vision for the STMA is to continue to be a world leader in information, networking, and education for the Sports Turf Manager. I would also like to see our organization continue to include and fund the participation of our student members.