

From the Sidelines



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Scenes from STMA Conference

LONG BEACH is a convenient venue for a conference and trade show so a pat on the back to STMA Board for selecting it.

Some folks who normally golf in the SAFE Foundation fundraiser missed a beautiful and challenging course at Industry Hills, built on a landfill up in the hills 40 minutes west of Los Angeles. But they had a good excuse: the Seminar on Wheels tour that day included the Rose Bowl and Dodger Stadium. Tough call.

Mike McDonald, CSFM, from the University of Minnesota didn't miss at Industry Hills, canning his tee shot on the par 3, 130-yard 9th hole and winning a vacation for two while he was at it. Rick Peruzzi, CSFM, Mike DiDonato, CSFM, Kevin Meredith, CSFM, and Matt Tobin won the net-scrabble format tournament. Special shout out to my partners Dale Getz, CSFM, Brant Williams, and Mike Jefferson for carrying me to our 2nd place low-net finish.

What is it with Certified Sports Field Managers' golf games? Lots of letters in that last paragraph. Maybe Leah Craig from STMA HQ should begin marketing certification as a way to improve your golf game.

"For the first time in 25 years people are willing to sacrifice environmental quality for economic reasons."-Frank Rossi, PhD, during his keynote address.

"You only get better when you take chances."-Eric Boles, keynote speaker.

Dr. Mike Goatley's address upon becoming STMA President included video and was well-received. Interesting how the teacher is often motivated by, of course, his teachers. Mike has always gone out of his way to be gracious to me when our paths cross.

I spotted Nicole Sherry of the Baltimore Orioles, asking questions in an educational session. The second woman head groundskeeper in MLB following Heather Nabozny in Detroit, Sherry also was featured on a videoboard promo in the lobby.

Happy to report Debra Kneeshaw of Portland (OR) Parks & Rec was elected to the STMA Board of Directors. She is a friend of the magazine and dedicated to her craft and our industry. Congratulations, Debra, and the other new Board members, James Graff and Jay Warnick, CSFM.

Love the continental breakfast spread STMA provides, one of many elements of the Conference made possible through the conference sponsors: Barenbrug USA, Carolina Green, Covermaster, Diamond Pro, DuPont, GreenONE, Hunter Industries, Rain Bird, Toro and World Class Athletic Surfaces.

Great scene at Student Challenge winner announcements. Lynda Wightman from Hunter named the 3rd place winner for 2-year colleges, Mt. San Antonio College Team #211, and tears were flowing among the all-woman team as they stepped up for their ribbons. You know Lynda was digging it! Kirkwood CC was first for the 2-years, and Purdue Team #402 made sure Boilermakers went back-to-back in the 4-year competition.

I was gratified to hear Mike Andresen, CSFM, had been named Harry C. Gill Memorial Award winner at the Friday night festivities. Another great friend of the magazine, Mike continues to set the standard for professionalism in his current role at Iowa State. Congratulations, Mike!

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