

SAFE Scholarships Offer Free Money

WITH THE NUMBER OF FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS ON THE RISE (for 2010-11, quarter 1, saw a 17.5% increase over the same period in 2009-10, about 1.2 million students applying), students in turfgrass management have the opportunity to apply for and receive free scholarship dollars.

STMA's charity, The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields for Everyone (SAFE), awards at a minimum each year \$12,500 in pure scholarship dollars to qualifying student members of STMA. These awards, unlike financial aid, do not need to be paid back. Scholarships start at \$1,000 and each winner receives a complimentary conference registration and three nights lodging at the conference.

As part of the program, SAFE awards three named scholarships: the Dr. James Watson Graduate Scholarship, the Dr. James Watson Undergraduate Scholarship, and the Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship. The Watson Scholarships, named in honor of long-time green industry researcher and consultant Dr. James Watson, are funded by the Toro Giving Program, and are presented to the top graduate and undergraduate scholarship recipients. The top recipient from a two-year program receives the Dr. Fred Grau scholarship, which is named in honor of the first turfgrass extension specialist in the United States. There is not a separate application for these named scholarships; they are awarded to the top graduate and undergraduate applicants.

The scholarship application packet must be received at the SAFE/STMA Headquarters by Oct. 15, with all materials included in one packet. Fax and emails components will not be accepted. The process is being redeveloped into an on-line process for 2013.

In addition to scholarships, SAFE also awards two grants: one for practitioners and one for interns.

The Terry Mellor Continuing Education Grant is funded by Turface Athletics, and is awarded to a sports turf manager who is a member of an STMA local affiliated chapter. The chapter member must be nominated by a national STMA member. The grant funds that persons travel and on-site costs associated with the STMA national conference. In addition, STMA provides a complimentary conference registration. This grant is named in honor of Terry Mellor, brother of long time professional groundskeeper David R. Mellor, to recognize the brothers' commitment to professional development through continuing education.

The Gary Vanden Berg Grant is awarded in late fall each year for an internship completed during the spring or summer of that year. This grant honors Gary Vanden Berg, CSFM, for his contributions to the industry in promoting internships. Gary was the Director of Grounds for the Milwaukee Brewers until his death in October 10 last year. His commitment to creating an excellent learning experience for interns was legendary throughout the MLB and the entire sports turf industry. The grant is intended to offset the costs a student may have incurred while interning including, but not limited to, transportation, lodging, and food, or as a subsidy to wages. In addition to receiving the grant, the winner will also receive a full conference registration and three nights lodging at the next STMA National Conference and Exhibition.

The deadline to submit for the grants or scholarships is October 15. For a copy of the application and required materials to apply for a grant or scholarship, go to STMA.org, and click on Scholarship Program under the Professionalism tab.

The SAFE Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) charity that funds scholarship, research and education. It focuses on educational outreach and its mission is "To enrich communities through championing safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes." ■

New Timing for Several Conference Events

AT ITS JULY BOARD MEETING, the STMA Board approved the recommendations of the Conference Education Committee, chaired by Jeff Fowler; the Commercial Exhibition/Membership Committees, co-chaired by Rene Asprion and James Graff; and the Seminar on Wheels Committee, chaired by Jeff Salmond, CSFM.

The education program is very robust, offering 60 educational sessions that form 11 tracks: Industry Development, Water, Synthetics, Agronomic, Pest Control, Baseball, Research, Construction, Professional Development, Facility Management and Sustainability. CEUs from peer organizations and Florida Pesticide Credits will be available.

The conference and exhibition has much to offer and incorporates many of the suggestions from members in our post-conference survey.

Here are the main timing and program changes:

TUESDAY (JAN. 15)

- The SAFE Golf Tournament at LPGA International (was typically on Wed.)
- Full Day Seminar on Wheels to Jacksonville Jaguars & Suns, and Daytona International Speedway (typically one full day was held on Tues. and one on Wed.)
- ½ Day Seminar on Wheels - NEW - Jackie Robinson Ballpark & Daytona International Speedway (both tours will meet up and tour the Speedway)
- STMA Academy - NEW

WEDNESDAY (JAN. 16)

- Conference officially begins with a full day of educational opportunities
- First Timers Reception - will be a dessert reception following lunch
- Keynote Address - will be just prior to the Welcome Reception & Casino Night (typically was Thursday a.m.) Features Ian Hill, internationally known speaker who inspires change

THURSDAY (JAN. 17)

- Exhibition starts at 1:30 p.m. (typically started at 4:15 pm)
- Committee meetings will be held on the trade show floor
- No change to the Annual Meeting & Lunch

FRIDAY (JAN. 18)

- Trade show opens at 10 and closes at 1 (typically started at 10:45 and closed at 2:45)
- Trade show floor will have Lunch, Innovative Sessions, Race Car Driver Autographs & Sports and Race Simulators
- Closing Session - NEW 1:15 pm - Features Dr. Michael Mann, climatologist - winner of the Nobel Peace Prize
- STMA Academy - NEW
- No change to the STMA Awards Reception and Banquet ■

Be in the First STMA Academy Class!

STMA IS OFFERING A NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITY at the national conference: an Academy. The STMA Academy brings in-depth educational workshops that build on knowledge in core areas each year. This year a 400 series is offered; in 2013 a 500 series will be presented, etc. The workshops will be conducted Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

There is no additional fee to attend these workshops; they are included in the full conference registration package, which is unchanged from last year at \$375. However, pre-registration for an Academy class is required. A certificate of completion will be provided for the successful completion of each class. This is separate from the conference certificate of completion and is intended to confirm your commitment to a higher level of learning. Attendees who participate on Tuesday and on Friday will receive two certificates.

This education is structured to enhance your career and substantiate to your employer the value that he or she receives by you attending the STMA national conference. Watch for your conference brochure and the opening of on-line registration; both will be ready in early October.

TUES., JAN. 15, 2:30 - 5 p.m. (choose one)

STMA 400 - Hire the Best... But Know How to Fire Them Just in Case

Speaker: Patrick D. McGuiness

This workshop will cover how to hire the best employees for your facility as well as how to handle problem employees. From job postings to on-boarding, learn how to effectively and legally set up a hiring process that will bring the best and brightest job applicants to your operation. In addition, learn how to use employee handbooks for documentation purposes. This seminar will feature audience interaction and participation to cover a wide range of topics, including: job postings, applications, interviews, Form I-9, Form W-4, pre-employment physicals, drug testing, training, trial periods, employee discipline and motivation, and termination techniques.

STMA 401 - Performance Quality Standards - How good is your playing surface?

Speaker: Ian Lacy

This presentation will allow the sports field manager to be able to measure the quality of the playing surface using a set of objective criteria. The assessment evaluates structural, playing, and presentation standards using the following criteria: soil type, particle size distribution, pH, grass type, infiltration rate, hardness of surface, traction, ball bounce or roll

where applicable. The sports field manager can utilize PQS to identify the current quality of the playing surface, allowing a more dedicated approach to maintenance, and more efficient and effective use of resources and budgets.

STMA 402 - Meteorology: Understanding Weather and Climate

Speaker: Brad Jakubowski

Weather is a critical component of a turf manager's daily responsibilities. Turf managers can make better management decisions and provide consistent field conditions by better understanding weather patterns and concepts. This interactive seminar introduces fundamental weather concepts and provides turf managers with the tools to interpret daily weather reports, maps, and forecasts. Trends in weather and our changing climate will also be addressed.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18, 2:45 - 5 p.m. (choose one)

STMA 403 - Breeding, Development, and Production of Cool-Season Turfgrasses

Speaker: Leah A. Brilman, Ph.D.

Development of cultivars is a long term process. This presentation will discuss the process of breeding different species and specific development strategies for varieties adapted to athletic surfaces. The session will also cover how to understand trial data, selection of cultivars that will meet specific needs, and how to read seed tags to ensure you are getting the desired product.

STMA 404 - Common Diseases of Sports Turf

Speaker: Mike Fidanza, Ph.D.

The presentation will cover guidelines and methods to identify common diseases of sports turf, as well as current strategies to manage turfgrass diseases. Attendees will be able to identify the symptoms and signs of common diseases of sports turf; understand the relationship between weather/environment and turf disease severity and develop cultural practices and strategies to manage turfgrass diseases in sports turf.

STMA 405 - Best Management Practices to Increase Tolerance to Pests and Stress

Speaker: Mary Owen

Sports field managers are challenged to provide safe, quality playing surfaces while dealing with limited budgets and restrictions on the use of pesticides, particularly on school and municipal properties. This presentation will address the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) as a means of preventing and targeting specific cool season turfgrass insect, weed, and disease pests as well as abiotic stressors such as

traffic, wear, and drought. In addition to reducing the need for pesticides, BMPs are intended to result in water conservation and environmental enhancement.

STMA 406 - Turf Equipment Care and Maintenance

Speaker: Carl Osterhaus, CSM

This presentation will cover the many important aspects of Turf Equipment Care and Maintenance, which technicians can use to ensure that their equipment provides them with the longest and most productive service life. Information covered will include the importance of maintenance, general maintenance guidelines, and information to make maintaining equipment quick and efficient. Machine systems covered include, engines, hydraulics, electrical systems, and cutting units.

STMA 407 - Strengths-Based Leadership and Followership

Speakers: Eric K. Kaufman Ph.D., Richard J. Rateau, Ph.D.

Research reports that the most effective leaders are always investing in their strengths, surround themselves with the right people and then maximize their team, and understand their followers' needs. This interactive workshop will help participants identify their personal areas of talent and develop a plan for transforming those talents into strengths. In addition, participants will explore the four domains of leadership strength (executing, influencing, relationship building, and strategic thinking) as well as the four basic needs of followers (trust, compassion, stability, and hope). Participants will leave the workshop with specific ideas for promoting strengths-based leadership and followership in the workplace and other professional settings to help increase productivity.

STMA 408 - Managing Turfgrass Soil Physical Properties

Speaker: Andrew S. McNitt, Ph.D.

This presentation will explore the difference in management practices and approaches when managing a native soil sports field versus a high-sand sports field rootzone. Practices for both rootzones will be discussed. Often, the biggest mistakes are made when a sports field manager takes a practice designed for one type of rootzone and applies it to the other. A review of common misapplication of techniques will be discussed in detail. This workshop should be attended by any sports turf manager who is working to improve the air/water relationship in their rootzone. Common misapplication of drainage concepts as it relates to soil physical properties will also be covered. ■

Field of the Year and other STMA Award applications due next month

NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME to begin preparing your STMA Field of the Year Application. The deadline for materials to be received at STMA headquarters is October 15, 2012. The STMA Field of the Year program requires photos from throughout the year, completion of the STMA PCI, and several other items that you can get started on early.

After a successful first year in 2011, the entire application process remains electronic. While not a true "online process," applicants are required to fill out the forms and submit their materials (forms and photos) via email, the internet or a flash drive or CD. It is the intent of the Awards Committee that this process allow for remote judging of applications, provide a level playing field (sorry for the pun) for all applicants regardless of budget spent on "the presentation" of the facts regarding the field, and really help the "story" of the field and crew shine through. Go to www.stma.org/awards-program, make sure to read the instructions carefully, and submit your field today.

Each Field of the Year Award winner is pre-

sented with a special plaque at the STMA Awards Banquet, held each year at the STMA Conference and Exhibition. This year, the Awards Banquet will be the evening of Friday, January 18, 2013 in Daytona Beach, FL. In addition to the plaque, each STMA Field of the Year winner will receive free conference registration, three nights of lodging at the conference hotel, STMA signature apparel, and a feature article in the official publication of STMA, *SportsTurf Magazine*. The STMA Awards Program is generously supported by STMA's official awards sponsors Carolina Green Corp., Ewing Irrigation, Hunter Industries and World Class Athletic Surfaces.

Innovative Award

STMA's Award for Commercial Innovation recognizes those companies that evolve the professional capacity of the sports turf manager. If you are an STMA Commercial Member and exhibiting at the upcoming 2013 Conference and Exhibition, any product, service, equipment or technology you have introduced since the 2012 show is eligible to receive the

STMA Innovative Award. A panel of non-commercial STMA members representing all segments of membership will judge the entries and may give the award to multiple companies that meet the criteria. Winner(s) will be able to use a special logo in their promotion of the winning innovation and STMA will publicize the winners through its communication vehicles, including *SportsTurf Magazine*! Go to www.stma.org/awards-program to download the entry form, submit it to stmainfo@stma.org, and good luck!

STMA Founder Awards

Nominate a peer who has impacted the sports turf profession for one of STMA's most prestigious awards. Each of the four Founders awards recognizes someone who has made a difference in the industry. To nominate someone for these highly respected awards, download the nomination form at www.stma.org/stma-founders-awards. The winners will be announced at the Annual STMA Awards Banquet, which is Jan. 18, 2013 in Daytona Beach, FL. ■

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

NOTE: The currently defunct Indiana Chapter is interested in reorganizing. If you have an interest in helping, contact Clayton Dame at Claytondame@hotmail.com or Brian Bornino, bornino@purdue.edu

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.

Indiana (FORMING - See Above)

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.

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

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

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:
sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu

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.

Oklahoma Chapter STMA:

405-744-5729; Contact: Dr. Justin Moss

Oregon STMA Chapter: www.oregonsportsturf-managers.org oregonstma@gmail.com

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarkstma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter:
www.socialstma.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.

Chapter Sponsors

