



CSFM program nearly eclipses record

In 2013, the STMA Certified Sports Field Managers (CSFM) Program added 19 members to its rolls. This is the second highest number of members certified in one year. In 2010, there were 22 members who attained this designation, which is the highest in the program's history. The CSFM program began in 2000, and it currently has 169 certified members.

The program was established to validate the experience and qualifications of a sports turf manager. Those seeking certification must attain 40 points before being able to take the exam. Points are gained through a combination of formal education and work experience. The four-part exam covers agronomics, sports specific management, pest management and administration. Those testing may elect to take the test at the annual STMA conference or at a location and time convenient to them by using a proctor. Continuing education and service to the industry are also required to maintain the CSFM designation.

Consider adding value to your employer and to your personal marketability by becoming certified. CSFMs also are paid more. On average, a CSFM makes \$7,500 annually more than a non-certified member.

To find out more about the certification program and what it can do for you, go to www.STMA.org, and click on Certification under the Professionalism Tab.

Congratulations to the Class of 2013!

- Weston Appelfeller, CSFM**, Columbus Crew
- James Bergdoll, CSFM**, City of Elizabethtown
- Jeff Bosworth, CSFM**, Drake University
- Noel Brusius, CSFM**, Waukegan Park District
- Jason Demink, CSFM**, University of Michigan Athletic Department
- Michael Flowers, CSFM**, Championship Turf Services
- James Gish, CSFM**, Brigham Young University
- Shane Hohlbein, CSFM**, Precision Turf LLC
- Chris Hohnstrater, CSFM**, The Principia School
- Michael Hrivnak, CSFM**, Town of Cary
- David Iannicello, CSFM**, Sodexo Campus Services at Hobart & William Smith College
- Shane Johnson, CSFM**, City of Clinton Parks & Rec
- Ryan McCaughey, CSFM**, The Pennsylvania State University
- Kevin Mercer, CSFM**, Vassar College
- Allen Reed, CSFM**, FC Dallas
- Kyle Slaton, CSFM**, Georgia State University
- Robert Standing, CSFM**, Carolina Green Corp.
- Brett Tanner, CSFM**, DePauw University
- Scott Thompson, CSFM**, Duke University

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I will leave you with this story about a group of people who made a difference. I am fortunate to work in Lexington, where more than 200 years ago an unlikely collection of farmers, shopkeepers and tradesmen decided to make a difference and take a stand. Little did they know that it would lead to independence and a new country. Although what we do is not on the same scale, we do make a difference in the lives of the people using our facilities. By providing well-maintained, safe, aesthetically pleasing athletic fields we show our commitment for the betterment of others.

Let's work together to make a difference in the sports turf industry and make 2014 a great year. ■

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