

STMA introduces Innovative Awards Program for Commercial members

STMA recognizes that new technology and advancements in science, equipment, products and services continue to improve the sports turf management profession. To acknowledge those companies that are leading the evolution of the industry, STMA has created the Innovative Awards Program.

Any STMA Commercial member who is exhibiting at the upcoming Annual Conference and Exhibition is eligible. The company must display the product, service or technology at the STMA Exhibition. One submittal per company is allowed annually.

To qualify the product, equipment, service or technology must have been introduced for sale between the close of the current year's STMA show and the close of next year's STMA show. To be considered for the STMA Innovative

Awards the product, equipment, service or technology must *substantially enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Sports Turf Manager while making playing surfaces safer and more playable for athletes.*

Applications are due October 1, 2010. All submittals must be made electronically. Please follow the directions noted on the form that can be found at www.STMA.org, Awards page. Videos, photos and other media may be linked to the form for a comprehensive submittal.

The selection process consists of a panel of STMA non-commercial members representing all categories of membership to judge the entries. In any given year, there may be one or more winners. The panel of judges will make an award to those companies whose service, product, technology or equipment thoroughly meets

the definition of innovative described above.

The winner(s) will be kept confidential until announced during the first day of the trade show at the Annual Conference (Austin, TX January 13, 2011). STMA will recognize the winner(s) with:

- a special announcement during the trade show
- a special logo that the company can use in the promotion of the winning product, service, technology or equipment
- publicity via STMA communication vehicles and conference press releases
- special signage at the winner(s) booth(s) in the STMA Exhibition.
- verbal and visual recognition during the Annual STMA Awards Banquet. ■

Ask a CSFM Brian Winka, CSFM, City of Chesterfield, MO

Benefits of certification verified

Editor's note: For the next six issues we will present 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 CERTIFIED SPORTS FIELD MANAGER EXAM?

*Winka: I pulled out old text books and notes I had from my time at Missouri State. It's not a time to try and relearn everything, but a refresher course never hurts. I also read the book *Sports Fields: A Manual for Design Construction and Maintenance* from cover to cover, a couple times. If there was one book I would recommend that would be the one.*

HOW DID YOU APPROACH YOUR EMPLOYER TO SUPPORT YOUR CERTIFICATION, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND IN THE TIME NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM?

Winka: My employer was very supportive of the certification process, financially and initially in allowing me the time to study. I was able to discuss the benefits of having a CSFM on staff and my department head was very receptive. Preparing for the exam greatly expanded my knowledge base, and I was able to apply this knowledge directly to my job responsibilities. My certification helped me add to the continued improvement of our facilities.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO PURSUE CERTIFICATION?

Winka: For me becoming certified was a personal and professional goal that I had set for myself since becoming a STMA member. Professionally I wanted to be seen as a knowledgeable professional and personally I wanted to challenge myself and my abilities as a sports field manager. I wanted to validate my years of experience as an agronomist, sports field manager, accountant, HR person, referee and everything else that we as STMA members deal with daily.

HOW HAS CERTIFICATION HELPED YOUR CAREER?

Winka: Since becoming a CSFM I have been elected to the board of my local STMA chapter and currently serve as the President of the Gateway Chapter. ■



Updated Field of the Year Award application now available online

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, 2010. Go to www.stma.org/professionalism/fieldyr to download the application.

STMA's prestigious Field of the Year program is in its 19th year and is getting stronger every year. With record numbers of applicants the past 2 years, competition is stiff! But with hard work and diligence, each and every STMA member has a field that could become Field of the Year. STMA presents awards in baseball, softball, football, soccer, and sporting grounds categories at the Schools and Parks, College and University, and Professional levels.

Each Field of the Year Award winner is presented with a special plaque at the STMA Awards Banquet, held each year at the STMA Conference and Exhibition. This coming year the Awards Banquet will be the evening of Friday, January 14, 2011 in Austin, TX. In addition to the plaque, each STMA Field of the Year winner will receive free conference registration, up to \$500 towards lodging at the conference, STMA signature apparel, and a feature article (and most likely a cover photo!) in this magazine.

Take pride in your profession and submit your application for STMA Field of the Year and get recognition for your field and respect from your peers. Remember the deadline for materials to be received is October 15, 2010.

Feel free to contact Patrick Allen, Manager, Sales and Marketing, at pallen@stma.org if you have questions about the STMA Field of the Year program. ■

STMA Founders Award open to head sports turf managers, assistants alike

The George Toma Golden Rake Award, one of STMA's four highly prestigious Founders Awards, is open to head sports turf managers and assistants. In fact, last year's winner Craig Potts, is the Assistant Manager of Athletic Fields at Texas A&M. STMA strongly encourages head sports turf managers to nominate their assistants for this award, and vice versa.

For more information, logon to www.stma.org/professionalism/founder and click 'STMA Founders Awards' on the left hand side of the screen or send inquiries to pallen@stma.org. ■



All 26 volumes of *SportsTurf* now available digitally

A three-way partnership between STMA, Michigan State University and *SportsTurf* publisher M2MEDIA360, has resulted in the digitization of all the issues of *SportsTurf* magazine. Starting with our very first issue, which was published in September/October 1985, Michigan State has created a digital version of each magazine. The digital set will always be current, minus two issues as it keeps pace with our monthly publication dates.

The link to the archive is on STMA's home page www.STMA.org underneath the magazine's front cover. In addition to the historical significance of having each volume and its issues available to the industry, the "Browse" and "Search" functions make it very user friendly and an excellent technical resource. When you use the Browse function, you will have links to all 26 volumes by year. Click on the year and all the front covers of the magazines issues from that year will appear. Click on the magazine cover and all of the articles and page numbers become visible as hot links to the articles. The Search function allows you to query the entire set with word or words specific searches. A search using the word "aerification" yielded 106 articles. You can also limit the search by age of the article. A search for articles older than 20 years using the word "aerification" brought up 23 records.

STMA and *SportsTurf* thank Michigan State University for its dedication to the industry in providing this service. ■

2010 SAFE Scholarship Application is Online!

SAFE encourages all STMA student members to submit applications for the 2010 SAFE Scholarships. Each year the SAFE Foundation awards minimum \$1,000 scholarships to student members from across the country. Since the scholarship program's inception in 2000, SAFE has awarded more than \$225,000 in scholarships and travel. Awarded on a basis of merit, former winners have gone on to be head groundskeepers in Major League Baseball, the NFL, Major League Soccer, STMA Board Members, and even President of STMA!

For more information on the SAFE Scholarship Program, go to www.stma.org/professionalism and click on 'Scholarship Program' on the left hand side of the page or send questions to STMAInfo@STMA.org. ■

Registration opens for Northwest Regional Conference in Seattle July 21-22

The final schedule for STMA's Northwest Regional Conference and Exhibition, July 21-22, 2010 in Seattle has been set. The event is highlighted by more than 14 hours of education, dedicated trade show hours, hands-on demos, facility tours, and a Mariners game with all the attendees, courtesy of STMA!

For more information on what is sure to be a great event go to www.stma.org or contact STMA at 800.323.3875 or send questions to pallen@stma.org. ■

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: www.azstma.com.

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

Florida #1 Chapter (South): 305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates)

Florida #2 Chapter (North): 850/580-4026.

Florida #3 Chapter (Central): 863-665-5800

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: 847/263-7603.

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.

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.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: 866/897-8621.

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

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: www.wstma.org.

Forming Chapters:

Gulf Coast Chapter: 225/757-9136.

Nevada STMA Chapter: 702/884-2987.

STMA International Affiliate

Organizations National Parks, Singapore: www.nparks.gov.sg

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

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1 What is your company's primary business? (check ONLY ONE)

- F Sports Complex G Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer
T School, College or University P Park
H Other (please specify) _____

2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)

- A EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR — President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director
B MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor
C GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
D SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
F COACH E Other (please specify) _____

3 Do you have the authority to buy, specify or recommend products and/or services for your business or organization?

Y Yes N No

4 Yearly operating expenditures (excluding salaries)

- F Over \$1 million C \$50,001 - \$100,000
E \$500,001 - \$1 million B \$25,001 - \$50,000
D \$100,001 - \$500,000 A \$25,000 and under

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Q&A



BY DR. DAVID MINNER

Professor, Iowa State University

Questions?

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or email
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Or, send your
question to
Grady Miller at
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grady_miller@ncsu.edu.

Happy graduation seeding

THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, an anxious high school athletic director or coach will call about readying their weed patch of a football field for the upcoming season that starts in about 60 days. I make them listen to my full 10-minute lecture about having a plan for aeration, seeding, fertility, irrigation, traffic control ... you know the routine because you have heard it from me before.

I always finish with “so what is the name of your sports turf manager” just to show the need to have a position dedicated to managing and caring specifically for athletic fields. If you are an athletic director, coach, booster club volunteer or custodian you should realize that there is a local association of Sports Turf Managers that you can join to help improve your athletic facility. Encourage those managing the field to assume the role of Sports Turf Manager and encourage their involvement with STMA.

Most fields can benefit from some type of field maintenance procedure every month that the ground is not frozen. Even a frantic call in the middle of the summer deserves something better than it's too late to do anything now. Summer is not the best time to work on the field but for most high schools it is the first opportunity to access the field with nobody on it. So, to go along with some of the other field management slogans you have helped me develop such as “field within a field” and “don't be bare,” here is another to consider: “happy graduation seeding.”

Early June is time for high school graduation but it also needs to be marked on your calendar for re-seeding the center of the football field. This strategy realizes that you should also be seeding in the spring and fall even when fields are being used. In fact, the “don't be bare” strategy says to seed anytime that

the ground is bare and seeding will result in at least some additional turf cover. If you don't cover it with grass as soon as possible then it just opens up another spot for weeds.

For summer seeding I like methods that minimally disturb the ground but still put the seed in direct contact with soil. Drilling or seeding in combination with solid tining is preferred. A TriWave or SEEDA-vator are good choices. Broadcasting seed combined with topdressing is also a good choice to keep from disturbing the soil and exposing more weed seeds. Make multiple applications of divot mix (seed plus soil) until every bare area on the field is covered with grass.

Here is how our local high school athletic director gets the job done each year on the football field that also has spring soccer and track: In May he drills the high traffic section of the field with 80% Kentucky bluegrass and 20% perennial ryegrass at 3 lbs/1000 sq. ft. When soccer ends and immediately after graduation he broadcasts another 3 lbs/1000 sq. ft. of Kentucky bluegrass and buries it with about one-quarter inch of topdressing. In the summer heat the Kentucky bluegrass germinates in less than 2 weeks.

When he is really in a hurry he pre-germinates the seed and this gets it up in about a week. We start with Kentucky bluegrass in the spring and early summer and go to straight perennial ryegrass later in the summer if we are not filling in as fast as desired. By the first of July he has a pretty good idea just how successful his seeding has been. If it is not what he wants then he calls out the bucket brigade to drop divot mix into every open spot on the field. In fact, before he had seeding equipment it was the hand weeding and seeding that started the field on the road to recovery.

With a limited staff you proba-

bly don't consider hand seeding very practical, but if you are smart you will partner with the coach or athletic director who has 10 to 15 able bodied players at their disposal. Your work force is in the gym lifting weights and getting ready for the upcoming football season. You just have to be smart enough to also let them get their field ready for next season.

Start by letting them know you need some help; about 20 man hours or 10 players for 2 hours. Done two or three times during the summer and you will have a field with complete turf cover. Make your schedule fit into their workout day. Have everything ready because a coach doesn't like wasted time and people standing around; seed, sand/soil/compost (1 to 2 cubic yards), shovels and a 5-gallon bucket for each player. Roll the seed and soil mix together and keep trucking it to the players on the field. Fill the buckets half full so they won't be too heavy. One hundred pounds of Kentucky bluegrass will usually get the job done. It doesn't need to be all work so have a little fun and maybe have some sports drink on hand for them. If the coach buys into the project and participates then the team does a great job and every one leaves with a little more school pride, and that's what it is all about. ■





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