

**My crew is the most important asset to the success of maintaining a safe environment for players as well as being aesthetically pleasing to the fans, and a place the community can be proud of.**

**SportsTurf:** What if any changes do you expect in your maintenance practices at the AAA level?

**Reddehase:** I plan to keep my maintenance practices pretty much the same while in Round Rock. In Corpus Christi, we had to monitor the sodium level on a regular basis with the ballpark being located next to the bay, and constantly battled the soaring winds that came off the Gulf. Other than that, it's pretty much the same routine. If you can stick to that routine, it's going to work out for the most part.

**ST:** What's the most important piece of equipment or product in your program?

**Reddehase:** The most important piece of equipment in my program is not equipment at all. My crew is the most important asset to the success of maintaining a safe environment for players as well as being aesthetically pleasing to the fans, and a place the community can be proud of. I was very fortunate to have a great group of guys that I could trust and depend on, and the front office personnel as well. We rely on the staff as a whole to help with tarp pulls and other situations that came up, and their response is greatly appreciated.

**ST:** How do you communicate with the front office, managers, coaches and players?

**Reddehase:** The front office of the Corpus Christi Hooks and Ryan-Sanders Baseball are amazing. It's truly a group effort, from upper management pulling tarp in their slacks, to ticket guys helping us out with the infield drag when we are short on staff. Tina Athens, our stadium operations director, helped us in many ways; she always has the best interest of the field, and our crew in mind. Our President, Ken Schrom, is a very approachable guy. With his experience in the big leagues he understands the effort



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# Whataburger Field Annual Maintenance, 2009

## DECEMBER

400 lbs. of perennial ryegrass blend applied with an Accupro 2000 rotary spreader. Edges applied with rye using a Scott's drop spreader.

## JANUARY

A fungicide applied to help control various problematic diseases such as pythium and brown patch. Fertilization with 350 lbs. of Andersons 20-5-10. Mowed every other day in two directions as well as edged and cleaned up extra rye in skinned areas. Reconstructed the game mound and bullpen mounds, including changing out rubbers and building to MLB specifications. Automatic irrigation started at 2 AM, a practice that is continued through August.

## FEBRUARY

An estimated 75 tons of screen clay was delivered. The entire skinned area was tilled and clay brought in for laser-grading. Mowing was increased to a different direction every day except Sundays. The height of cut was 3/8 inch. After determining the rye was fully

established, a 350-lb. application of Andersons pre-emergent plus fertilizer was administered. High school games began at month's end. Hand watering the infield and sidelines began.

## MARCH

Height of cut raised to 1/2 inch to reduce wear and tear. Andersons 20-5-10 was administered at the beginning and end of the month (500 lbs.). Preventive fungicide was applied. Mowing in a different direction every day but Sunday continued. The field was aerified using 6-inch pencil tines and lightly topdressed after the annual Whataburger College Classic. Hand watering infield and sidelines continues. Walk mowing the infield in a star pattern begins.

## APRIL

A foliar application consisting of Floratine products and liquid iron was applied at the beginning of the month for an Astros exhibition game. Mowing in a different direction every day at 1/2 inch continued save Sundays. The field was verticut in two different directions and aerified at month's end. The cut height was lowered to 3/8 inch and mowed in four different directions. The field then was topdressed and fertilized with 600 lbs. of Andersons 25-5-15 containing Nutralene. Mowing resumed 2 days later. Hand watering infield and sidelines continues.

## MAY

Foliar applications were made every 10-14 days. Height of cut was resumed at 1/2 inch. Cutting continued in a different direction every day and field was double-cut every other day. Hand watering continues.

## JUNE

Foliar applications were applied every

10-14 days depending on schedule. A herbicide/fertilizer was applied at medium rate to the field as preventative for crabgrass. Field was verticut in two different directions and cores pulled with the aerifier. Topdressed at a medium rate and rolled the field with a 3-ton double-drum roller. Ammonium sulfate was applied at a high rate, watered in and now mowed for 2 days. A growth regulator was applied to help with scalping several days later. Mowing was resumed at 1/2 inch every day. Hand watering continued.

## JULY

Foliar applications were applied every 10-14 days depending on schedule. A surfactant was also applied to help with hydrophobic areas. Mowing continued every day, height moved to 9/16 inch because of drought-like conditions. Hand watering continued on infield and sidelines, as well as branching out to parts of the outfield.

## AUGUST

Foliar applications were made every 10-14 days depending on schedule. Hand watering continued on infield and sidelines and spots in the outfield became a regular practice. Field was aerified with solid tines and a surfactant sprayed to help with hydrophobic areas.

## SEPTEMBER

Foliar applications made every 10-14 days depending on schedule. Hand watering continues. At month's end verticut very aggressively and pulled cores with aerifier. Height of cut raised to 5/8 inch and every day mowing continued.

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

General maintenance. Mowing continues every other day. Verticut in November to prepare for overseeding. ■



that goes into maintaining the field. Our GM, Michael Wood, has provided constant support and trust which motivated me and my crew tremendously. I tried to have an open-door policy with the players and coaches. At the beginning of the year, we would introduce ourselves as a staff and I would let them know if something wasn't playing right, or if they wanted areas a different way to let me know so we could accommodate them the best we could. Before long, we had to check and see who was pitching that night because every pitcher wanted the mound a different way!

**ST:** What's the best piece of turf management advice you've ever received?

**Reddehase:** The best piece of turf management advice I have ever received was from former Hooks and Express field superintendent Brad Detmore. He would always tell me "the players and coaches notice how well the field plays, and the fans notice how green the grass is. How the field plays is the most important, and if you can please them all, you're on the right track."

**ST:** How do you balance work and personal life?

**Reddehase:** Balancing work and my personal life are very challenging. Fortunately I have a very understanding wife that knows my



career requires a lot of my time especially during the season, so I try to make up for that lost time when the season is over!

**ST:** What have been the most important reasons you have progressed so well in your career?

**Reddehase:** I think some of the reasons I have been fortunate to progress in my career are that I have a great work ethic, and have been blessed with a great crew. The Ryan-Sanders organization was willing to take a chance on me and provide us with the means to maintain a great field. I have had the privilege of working for and learning from Brad Detmore, and I have been able to build a great network of people of whom I can call and ask questions. A manager can never know enough in this career, so asking questions, and researching information is a huge part of our success. ■

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### LUKE YODER, San Diego Padres

For the diagonal checkerboard we mow two different directions during the homestand. When the homestand is over we take the pattern out by mowing against the grain. Sometimes we will turn the groomers on while mowing against the grain to get more aggressive taking it out. Also, sometimes we will verticut against the pattern/grain as

well to try and stand the turf up and go against the grain.

We have to be careful with our bermuda base developing more of a grain than bluegrass. We do not mow fancy patterns or burn anything in too much to avoid the grain developing and causing the ball to snake.

In addition to changing the pattern, mowing against the pattern and verticutting we also top-dress regularly to keep the grain from getting to bad. When we are pushing bermuda during warmer weather we will mow against the pattern and scalp down to 3/8 inch to encourage the bermuda and discourage the rye and also to take the grain out. Our field is Bull's-Eye Bermuda overseeded with perennial rye.

For another slanted or diagonal checkerboard, foul territory is mowed differently. We use two John Deere 260C's to walk mow the infield and foul at 3/4 - 5/8 inch and two John Deere Triplex's 2500B's to mow the outfield at 5/8 - 1/2 inch. We mow every game day for consistency and to clean it up for appearance.



We do not mow fancy patterns or burn anything in too much to avoid the grain developing and causing the ball to snake.

### CHAD LAURIE, Dayton Dragons

I usually like to mow anything that incorporates straight lines. For one, I don't like the fact that when your mowing in circles, most of the weight of the mower will be on the outside tire. Secondly, I think it takes a lot more skill to mow in a straight line than in rounded passes. I switch up the pattern every homestand, and usually mow in two directions. I alternate everyday which direction I'm going. For instance, if I am mowing parallel to the foul lines, the first day I will mow the first base foul line, and the second day I will mow the third base foul line. This prevents the grass from laying over too much. I always switch the pattern every homestand to prevent the same thing.

In between homestands, I will usually mow along the back arc of the clay. This pattern will usually go across most patterns and is a way to stand the grass back up. As for equipment, I use a Toro Reelmaster 3100-D for both the infield and outfield.



I switch up the pattern every homestand, and usually mow in two directions.

**CHERYL MILLER,  
Little League  
International**

I try to stick to the basics when it comes to putting down a pattern. Since I'm dealing with a field much smaller than others, I think the more complicated patterns look busy and cluttered. So, I prefer to use the more common diamonds, checkers, etc. I'll start from the inside of the field and work out, going over any lines that are not perfect in my eyes. For my first line I'll pick something in the outfield and focus on that. Once I get that down I can usually keep everything straight from that point on. Having professional mowers really makes a difference as well. Here at Little League International, I use a Toro Groundsmaster 3505-D in the outfield and Hayter Harrier 56 for the infield and wing areas. These mowers make my job so much easier. I can sit back, enjoy mowing and have fun doing it.



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## JOEY STEVENSON, Indianapolis Indians

When we decide on a mowing pattern we want something that looks pleasing but also will perform well and not damage the turf. We have four people working here during the day, so we can't spend hours and hours on mowing patterns; we'd prefer to spend most of our time on getting the skin ready and the field in good shape

rather than mowing unnecessary patterns. The less mower abrasiveness and compaction, I feel our wear areas and edges will perform better.

The pattern that took us the longest to "lay out" was the sunrise pattern. In that case we brought out a laser and shot every 10 degrees off the foul line and stretched a string line out and mowed along the line and then basically filled in the lines to correspond the light/dark pattern look.

The other patterns were just done by getting out there and mowing. Between me and my assistant we have 20 years experience in mowing fields and straight lines. We pick a spot on the outfield wall and drive toward it. It usually takes us about 3 days to get a pattern burned for the upcoming homestand. In most cases our interns our mowing while my assistant and I are working on mounds, plates, and skinned area, so our patterns usually aren't complex but they are precise and look sharp.

We use a Toro Sidewinder reel mower.



The pattern that took us the longest to "lay out" was the sunrise pattern.

## MATT NERI, State College (PA) Spikes

As far as deciding on what pattern to mow, we usually consider two factors. First how long will it take to mow? Unfortunately we only have one mower and a limited staff so we really can't afford to spend all morning mowing when there are so many other things that need to be addressed.

Secondly, how will the pattern affect the play of the ball? Occasionally I'll go out during batting practice to shag balls in the outfield. I've witnessed first hand how certain patterns can send a ball snaking through the outfield. We try to stick with straight lines and avoid any circles or turns when mowing a pattern.

We usually will lay string lines the first time we mow a new pattern to ensure that we are mowing in a straight line. We also used string lines to create the giant star pattern. Once we had the star outlined with the strings we painted small marks along the line with turf paint. This allowed us to pull the string lines up and still have a template to follow.

As far as equipment goes, we use a Jacobsen Tri-King 1900D. ■



We also used string lines to create the giant star pattern.

# Membership Application

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Chapter name) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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\*There must already be a national sports turf manager from your facility or commercial member from your company before you may sign up in the Associate category.

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— Bob Campbell, CSFM  
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## Synthetic grooming tips

**A** routine maintenance program for synthetic turf is critical to maintaining field performance, safety, appearance and longevity of the surface. This includes grooming. For example, regular light grooming stands up the fibers of synthetic turf and improves playability and the overall appearance of the field. In addition, as the synthetic surface becomes compacted over time, you will need to loosen, redistribute and level the infill

on the synthetic field. This becomes increasingly important on high traffic areas such as the middle of the field, goalie boxes and sidelines where the turf can be compacted and the crumb rubber becomes dispersed over time. Both of these grooming techniques are important for maintaining a high level of playability and performance on synthetic turf fields. —Chris Hannan, marketing manager, The Toro Company ■



### Groomer wireless remote control

Heying Company has introduced the industry's first wireless remote control for their PR72 Pro Groomer in-field maintenance machine. The groomer has a powered electric lift that raises and lowers the implements to the in-field surface. The new wireless remote sends a signal to a receiver on the machine that's connected to the electric lift. It can also be added to existing corded remote machines. The system requires no

wiring to the towing machine providing real operator convenience.

[www.Infield-Drag.com](http://www.Infield-Drag.com)

### New paint, striping machine from Pioneer

Pioneer Athletics unveiled StarLine Ultra Friendly paint and the Brite Striper 3000 SP, a self-propelled airless striping machine, at January's STMA Conference. StarLine Ultra Friendly is a no-VOC, EPA-certified "Design for the Environment" bag-in-a-box paint and the world's second EPA-certified field marking paint.

The Brite Striper 3000 SP brings self-propelled power, versatility, and affordability to their already popular airless sprayer. This new model features a breakthrough belt-and-chain drive system. Driven by a 5.5-hp Honda engine, users will be able to drive the unit smoothly over rough fields due to the large pneumatic tires and floating spray box.

[www.PioneerAthletics.com](http://www.PioneerAthletics.com)



### New Jacobsen Eclipse 322 riding greens mower

Jacobsen's new Eclipse 322, available in battery, gasoline-hybrid or diesel-hybrid models, is the industry's only hydraulic-free riding greens mower. No chance of costly turf damage from hydraulic leaks. No valves or hoses to worry about.

Features such as programmable frequency of clip, and individual reel control can be customized to meet the unique requirements of your course. Environmentally smart, the battery version eliminates fuel usage, and up to a 50% fuel reduction with hybrid models. Its Greens Management System includes the Jacobsen Classic XP Reels, and multiple attachments increase versatility. This mower was designed to reduce your operating costs by up to 86%. Use the Cost Calculator at [www.Eclipse322.com](http://www.Eclipse322.com).



### Cub Cadet Commercial XP spreader/sprayer

The 3-in-1 XP Stand-on Spreader/Sprayer features liquid, granular and spot-spray capabilities designed for commercial users. Its hopper can hold 125 pounds while two, separate 5-gallon tanks can be used together or independently through a spot spray wand or by using the boomless sprayer nozzle.

Priced at under \$4,000, the XP Spreader/Spray also includes a premium electric start, 6-hp Kawasaki engine, hydrostatic transmission, variable speed drive and 1-year commercial warranty. For those who own a Lesco HP or Cub Cadet Commercial XP, a retro kit is available.

[www.CubCadetCommercial.com](http://www.CubCadetCommercial.com)

### New High Temperature Liquid Composting

Converted Organics Inc. has introduced its proprietary High Temperature Liquid Composting (HTLC) technology and unique organic granular and liquid fertilizer products. Converted Organics, based in Boston, MA, is dedicated to producing high-quality, all-natural, organic soil amendment and fertilizer products through food waste recycling. The Company uses its HTLC system, a proven, state-of-the-art microbial digestion technology, to process various biodegradable food wastes into dry pellet and liquid concentrate organic fertilizers that help grow healthier food and improve environmental quality. Converted Organics' products have been tested in numerous field trials for more than a dozen crops with the result that, on average, the net value of the farmer's crop increased 11-16%, depending on the particular crop and product application. This is due, in part, to the disease suppression characteristics of the product, which reduce or eliminate the need for other costly, often toxic, crop protection applications.

[www.convertedorganics.com](http://www.convertedorganics.com)



### LitterKat

The LitterKat synthetic turf sweeper from GreensGroomer WorldWide is a commercially built, ground driven sweeper designed to remove debris from the turf surface without displacing infill material. With dual 12 volt vibrators in the collection baskets, any infill material that is collected is quickly returned to the field. All aluminum construction with a durable powder coat finish allows the LitterKat to be towed by even the smallest of utility vehicles. The LitterKat is also equipped with a 6-foot tow behind magnet that pulls unwanted ferrous material from deep within the infill.

[www.greengroomer.com](http://www.greengroomer.com)





## New STMA Board members take office

The membership of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) elected via ballot five officers and four directors, who took office during the association's Annual Meeting in January. Newly elected President Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, appointed two more directors during that meeting, which brings the total to 13 members on the STMA Board of Directors.

The 2010 Officers:

- President Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, City of Peoria Sports Complex, Peoria, AZ
- Immediate Past President Abby McNeal, CSFM, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC
- President-Elect Troy Smith, CSFM, Denver Broncos Football Club, Denver, CO
- Vice President Commercial Chad Price, CSFM, Carolina Green Corp., Indian Trail, NC
- Secretary-Treasurer James Michael Goatley, Jr., Ph.D., Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

The 2010 Directors:

- Professional Facilities, Larry DiVito, Minnesota Twins, Minneapolis, MN
- Schools K-12, Martin Kaufman, CSFM, Ensworth Schools, Nashville, TN
- Commercial (Appointed), Rene Aspiron, Diamond Pro/TXI, Dallas, TX
- At-Large, Kevin Meredith, CSFM, National Soccer Hall of Fame, Oneonta, NY
- At-Large (Appointed), Jody Gill, CSFM, Blue Valley School District, Overland Park, KS
- Higher Education, Ron Hostick, CSFM, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
- Parks and Recreation, David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, Town of Lexington, Lexington, MA
- Academic, Pamela Sherratt, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH ■

## Recruit a member, get merchandise!

**MEMBERSHIP GROWTH IS KEY** to STMA's sustainability. Studies show that the most effective way to grow an organization's membership is to involve the current membership in these efforts. So, we would like to enlist you! We promise that you will reap great rewards, even if you refer just one new member. (STMA defines a new member as someone who has not been an STMA national member since 2004. All categories of membership are eligible to recruit; new student memberships do not qualify for this program.)

The process is simple:

- Any member who recruits a new member receives a STMA hat.
  - If you recruit 3 members, you will receive an STMA shirt (in addition to the hat)!
  - If you recruit 5 members, you will receive the hat, shirt and will be entered into a drawing to win a Travel Voucher for \$1,000. And each time you recruit 5 members, your name will again be entered into the drawing, so your odds of winning increase.
  - The program runs through April 15.
  - STMA membership forms will have a spot for the new member to list your name, so you'll get credit.
  - The top recruiter will be awarded a \$400 Visa gift card.
- All merchandise will be sent at the conclusion of the program. Remind those who you recruit to fill out the space on the online membership form at [www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org). ■

## Burns receives 2009 Harry C. Gill Memorial Founders Award

STMA bestowed its most prestigious honors, the Founders Awards, to four industry greats at its Annual Banquet in January. The awards are named after the four founders of STMA: Dick Ericson, Dr. William H. Daniel, George Toma, and Harry Gill, and each award has separate and distinct judging criteria. Those nominated are evaluated confidentially and independently by the STMA Board of Directors, and winners are not notified until their name is announced during the banquet.

The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was presented to Tom Burns from Diamond Pro/TXI. The Gill Award recognizes an individual for their hard work in the sports turf industry and acknowledges their dedication and service to the STMA. Burns was honored for his extraordinary commitment to the profession. He has served this industry for many years as a sports turf manager, a chapter leader, a national

board leader, a commercial supporter and a committee volunteer. He has been an ambassador for STMA and is credited for getting his peers to join and become involved in the STMA.

David Rulli, from Jeffco Stadium in Lakewood, CO received the Dick Ericson award, which is given to a sports turf manager who positively impacts the sports turf industry and exhibits effective team leadership. His nomination referenced his contributions to his chapter, a strong work ethic, and his contributions to STMA through board service.

Dr. Anthony Koski, Colorado State University, was presented the Dr. William Daniel Award; Dr. Daniel set the standard for educator and researcher involvement in the STMA, and created a partnership between sports turf managers and educators and researchers. This award recognizes an individual who has made

significant contributions to the sports turf industry through his or her research, teaching or extension outreach. Dr. Koski was presented this honor in recognition for his substantial research on turfgrass water usage and irrigation management. He was also cited for his profound influence on the creation and continuing advancement of STMA's certification program, and the many sports turf managers he educated.

The George Toma Golden Rake Award, which acknowledges an individual's strong work ethic and job performance, was presented to Craig Potts from Texas A&M, College Station, TX. He is described as an active chapter member, a frequent speaker and presenter, and a mentor to many crew members and students. He is highly respected for his nationally recognized fields, but even more so for his professionalism and humility. ■

## 2010 STMA Conference well-attended despite economy

The Sports Turf Managers Association's (STMA) 21st Annual Conference and Exhibition was held January 12-16, 2010 and was an outstanding event according to both attendees and exhibitors. Nearly 900 Sports Turf Managers from all over the world came to Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center in Lake Buena Vista, FL for the green industry's largest sports turf specific event. Including exhibit personnel, more than 1,400 people were on site.

While individual attendance figures paralleled the 2009 event in San Jose, CA the Orlando conference was heralded as the best yet by many in attendance. Exhibitors described foot traffic in the Exhibit Hall as and were pleased to see a full hall of more than 150 exhibiting companies. The event would not be possible without the participation of these companies.

Those attending the conference were able to take advantage more than 90 hours of sports turf specific education, including the addition of an entire day to the schedule with the new Pre-Conference Workshops on Wednesday. Highly regarded industry professionals and academics gave presentations, and peer networking events such as the Industry Segment Networking Sessions, Welcome Reception and Awards Banquet Reception took place throughout the four day event.

The keynote address was given by *Sports Illustrated's* Joe Posnanski and was very well received by the members. Posnanski, known for his ability to impart emotion in his stories and exceptional wit, regaled the crowd with stories of Cleveland's Municipal Stadium, baseball legends Buck O'Neill and Satchel Paige, and drew upon attendees' memories of their first experience with a lush, green athletic field.

The Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition is supported through the generous sponsorship of the following companies: Barenbrug USA; Covermaster, Inc.; Cygnet Turf Equipment; Diamond Pro/TXI; Ewing Irrigation; Hunter Industries; Jacobsen, a Textron Co.; Landscapes Unlimited; Pro's Choice/Oil-Dri. Corp.; Rainbird Corp.; The Toro Company; and World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

The 2011 STMA Conference and Exhibition, which will be the association's 22nd annual event, will be January 11-15, 2011 in Austin, TX. The Exhibition will be at the Austin Convention Center and the official hotel of the event is the Hilton Austin. ■

## STMA STUDENT CHALLENGE AND OTHER EVENTS DRAW RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO CONFERENCE

## Penn State wins both Student Challenge competitions for 2nd time in 3 years

More than 160 students attended the Sports Turf Managers Association's Annual in January. Students were able to take advantage of many activities specifically geared to them including a student networking session, student lunch and educational track, and the STMA Student Challenge presented in partnership with the Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) and Platinum Sponsor Hunter Industries.

Of the students in attendance, more than seventy-five percent competed in the Sixth Annual STMA Student Challenge. Through a generous donation from the SAFE Foundation, the winning 2-year team and the winning 4-year team in the STMA Student Challenge each receive a \$4,000 grant to fund a practical learning lab at their college or university. An event record 129 students, representing 22 colleges, universities, and technical schools, entered a total of 33 teams. Teams of up to four students participated in a multiple choice exam on athletic turf and sports field management topics and identified plants, insects, diseases and weeds, as well as performing a written case study.

For the third straight year, the winning team from the 4-Year Competition came from The Pennsylvania State University. Penn State Blue Team 409 team members were Nicholas Gialloretto, Kyle Hivner, Chuck Roman, and Dan Sidle. Gialloretto was on last year's winning team as well. Purdue University made a very strong showing, taking second, third and fourth, respectively, out of 21 total teams in the 4-Year Competition.

Twelve teams competed in the 2-Year Competition, with Penn State Team 207 taking top honors. Teammates Niels Dokkuma, Sean Kearney, Erik Tolzman, and Adrien Van Dyk studied intensely leading up to the exam. Second place Virginia Tech Team 206 and taking third place was Kirkwood Community College Team 205, whose school was competing in the event for the first time.

Hunter Industries' continued sponsorship helped to defray some of the Student Challenge competitors' conference costs. For the first time, the results of the Student Challenge were announced out of the Hunter booth in the exhibition, drawing more than 150 people onto the floor in the waning hours of the show.

In addition to their \$4,000 grant, the two first place teams' will also have their team name etched in the traveling Student Challenge Cup. At the Annual STMA Awards Banquet, they received replicas of the Cup and individual medals and will provide an article to be presented in an official STMA publication sometime in 2010. Second and Third place winners received plaques and medals and the Awards Banquet. ■

## New STMA Chapters installed

Two new STMA affiliated chapters were officially presented their chapter gavels by Chapter Relations Chairman Amy Fouty, CSFM, during the Chapter Officers' Training Session (COTS) held during STMA's national conference. The Oregon chapter was formed last spring and the gavel was presented to its president, Debra Kneeshaw, with chapter member Mike Hebrard in attendance. The Central Florida Chapter completed the required paperwork, this winter and its chapter president Randy Fisher and board members Scott Grace and George Lawson received the gavel. ■