From the Sidelines

STMA Conference one of a kind



ERIC SCHRODER Editor

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717-805-4197 P.O. Box 280, Dauphin, PA 17018 encourage you to attend next January's STMA Conference and Exhibition in San José, CA. The 20th annual event's theme is "Technology + Innovation," which fits nicely with the host city's location in the heart of Silicon Valley. At no other national or regional proceeding will you find more education on sports turf and facility management or see any newer related innovations than those on display at this Exhibition.

While exceptions make the rule, the attendees, presenters, educators, and vendors annually frequenting the STMA Conference are the industry's most recognized leaders, movers and shakers. I doubt if anything you do in the next 12 months that will have a more significant impact on your career than getting to San José.

Althouse to work for STMA HQ

Kristen Althouse, a Penn State graduate and former STMA scholarship winner, has been named STMA's assistant Education Manager. Althouse will concentrate on the educational needs of the STMA membership and developing resources to meet those needs. She will telecommute from Pennsylvania where she was most recently an assistant golf course superintendent at Centre Hills Country Club in State College. She also worked at Beaver Stadium on the Penn State grounds crew. Welcome, fellow Nittany Lion!

Horn tooting

Next time you're surfing the internet, please try www.sportsturfonline.com and sign up for our emailed newsletter. "SportsTurf Insider" links you to the latest headlines from the sports turf industry and provides the latest product information and links to maintenance articles.

"Green" synthetic infill is here

The International School of Boston is the first in the U.S. to feature synthetic turf with an all-natural infill material. The new surface, supplied by Geo Safe Play, was developed in Italy where it is used on professional soccer fields. The infill is derived from coconut shells and cork.

The manufacturer says this helps produce less rainwater runoff because it is natural and absorbs water as well as keep a lower surface temperature.

"The International School of Boston, in designing its new play area, made it clear they did not want to settle for a typical surface," said architect Jonathan Austin. "[They] pushed to find a natural infill material that would provide improved safety, including reduced incidence of burns, heat exhaustion, and injuries, and would comply with an environmental resolution passed by the school's board. We quickly concluded there was nothing currently being used in the U.S. that would meet that mandate."

Jungehunden



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