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STMA announces Field of the Year Award winners

STMA announces 14 Field of the Year Award winners for 2005. The awards will be presented at the annual STMA Conference and Exhibition awards banquet on Friday, January 20. The STMA Conference and Exhibition is January 18-22 in Orlando, FL.

The winners are:

BASEBALL

(Schools/Parks): Hillcrest Booster Field, Greenville, SC; David Brooks, Sports Turf Manager

(Collegiate): Charlie Smith Field at Tony Gwynn Stadium, San Diego, CA; Ron Hostick, CSFM, Sports Turf Manager

(Professional): Roger Dean Stadium, Jupiter, FL; Marshall Jennings, Sports Turf Manager

FOOTBALL

(Schools/Parks): Viking Field at Bryan High School, Bryan, TX; David Hanus, Athletic Fields and Grounds Supervisor

(Collegiate): Michigan State University, Spartan Stadium, East Lansing, MI; Amy Fouty, CSFM, Athletic Turf Manager

(Professional): INVESCO Field at Mile High, Denver, CO; Ross Kurcab, CSFM, Turf Manager

SOCCER

(Schools/Parks): Sportscore II Soccer Complex, Rockford, IL; Steve Roser, Sports Field Superintendent

(Collegiate): Olivet Nazarene University, Soccer Field, Bourbonnais, IL; Larry Berry, Assistant Director of Physical Plant

(Professional): INVESCO Field at Mile High, Denver, CO; Ross Kurcab, CSFM, Turf Manager

SOFTBALL

(Schools/Parks): Lady Viking Field at Bryan High School, Bryan, TX; David Hanus, Athletic Fields and Grounds Supervisor

(Collegiate): ASA Don E. Porter Hall of Fame Stadium, Oklahoma City, OK; Rick Neville, Sports Turf Superintendent

COMPLEX


(Schools/Parks): North Scott Community School District, Eldridge, IA; John Netwal, CGCS, Director of Operations

(Collegiate): Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA; Kevin Yeiser, Director of Grounds and Athletic Facilities

(Professional): Surprise Recreation Campus, Surprise, AZ; Joe Kennedy III, Baseball Maintenance Manager

The Field of the Year awards program began in 1992. There are five field types for which awards may be given: baseball, football, soccer, softball, and complex. For each field type, awards may be given in three categories: professional, collegiate, and schools/parks. To be considered for the Complex of the Year Award, the facility must have a minimum of four fields and host a minimum of three different sports.


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JOHN MOHR PHOTOGRAPHY



STMA member wins IPM award

Kevin Trotta, head groundskeeper for the North Rockland Central School District in Rockland County, NY, recently received the New York State Excellence in IPM Award, according to Dr. Michael Hoffmann, director of the New York State IPM Program. He is the first athletic field manager and STMA member to receive this award. Each year the Program awards individuals or organizations whose work supports integrated pest management in New York State.

Trotta's efforts in IPM education and the promotion of more environmentally friendly athletic field management and lawn care have gained wide recognition. He was a speaker at the STMA conference in Phoenix this past year and regularly teaches these methods in classes at the New York Botanical Garden, the Institute of Ecosystem Studies, for Cooperative Extension and at seminars around the country. Congratulations, Kevin!

A panel of five judges independently scored each entry based on the playability and appearance of the playing surfaces, innovative solutions employed, effective use of budget, and the development and implementation of a comprehensive, sound agronomic program.

The program is sponsored by Bayer Environmental Sciences; Carolina Green Corp.; Covermaster, Inc; Hunter Industries; Jacobsen, A Textron Company; Nu-Gro Technologies, Inc.; Turface; Turf-Seed, Inc.; West Coast Turf; and World Class Athletic Surfaces. These sponsors fund a registration to the annual STMA Conference and Exhibition for each award winner, hotel costs up to \$500, and signature clothing for the award winners and their staff. The winning fields will also be featured separately in an article in this magazine during 2006. ■

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Association of Arizona: For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Chris Calcaterra, CSFM at e-mail: chrisc@peoriaaz.com or call 623/412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdaleaz.gov or 480/312-7956.

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly called Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization - MAFMO Chapter STMA): For information on the Chesapeake Chapter, contact Graham Davis at gdavis@american.can.edu or call 301/495-5522.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: CSTMA will be hosting their annual Spring Irrigation Workshop at the end of February or in early March. Please check the CSTMA web-

site for more details. Also, the new Infomercial is on the website, check it out. For more information about CSTMA visit our website at www.cstma.org or call the Chapter Hotline at 303/346-8954 or President Ken Norkosky at 720/427-4174, knorkosk@auroragov.org.

Florida #1 Chapter: The Florida Turfgrass Association will be hosting two 1-day seminars, January 17, 2006 in Lake Worth, Florida and January 18, 2006 in Weston, Florida. For more information on these 1-day seminars, go to www.ftga.org or call 800/882-6721. CEUs will be awarded. For information on the Florida #1 Chapter or upcoming events, visit the Florida #1 Chapter page on STMA's website or contact John Mascaro at 954/341-3115 or STMA@turf-tec.com.

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Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on upcoming events or on the Gateway Chapter, contact Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College at 314/392-2328 or e-mail krone@mobap.edu.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Skip Kirby at 770/928-

1580 or by e-mail at skip@sportsturfmanagement.com.

The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For more information on the Chapter or upcoming events call Emilio Avalos at 949/824-8243 or e-mail ecavalos@uci.edu.

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STMA Chapter News

information on the Illinois Chapter or upcoming events call chapter secretary Libby Baker at 847/263-7603 or e-mail Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: The 72nd annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show is January 30 through February 1, 2006 at Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines, IA. For information on the Chapter or upcoming activities visit www.iowaturfgrass.org or contact Jeff Wendel, CGCS of The Turf Office at 515/232-8222 or fax 515/232-8228 or e-mail Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): KAFMO will be participating in the Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference and Trade Show, January 10-12, 2006. Check out www.paturf.org for program and registration information. February 17, 2006, KAFMO will be holding the 10th Annual KAFMO/PRPS Athletic Field Conference at the Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn. Topics will include: Irrigation; Turf Maintenance Calendar; Logo Painting; Student-Athlete Involvement; and a PDA IPM update. A trade show and the annual awards program will also be featured. For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club at 610/375-8469, ext. 212 or by e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, go to www.kystma.org or contact Donnie Mefford at dbmeff00@email.uky.edu or call 859/257-1451.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MISTMA): The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation's Annual Meeting will be held at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan, January 9-11, 2006. For information on the Michigan Chapter, visit their website at www.mistma.org or contact Chad Follis at 269/377-3340 or 269/381-0596 or by email at chadfollis@farmngarden.com.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: For information on the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, visit the Chapter website at www.mstma.org or contact chapter President Greg Hoag at 651/486-8295 or by e-mail at greg.hoag@metro-inet.us.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the MO-KAN Chapter or upcoming events, contact Paul Hecker at 913/971-9717 or by e-mail at phecker@olatheks.org.

New England STMA (NESTMA): For information on the New England chapter or upcoming events, contact David Pinsonneault at 781/861-2757 or e-mail dpinson@ci.lexington.ma.us or Nick Caggiano at 603/589-3370 or e-mail caggianon@ci.nashua.nh.us.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nebraska Chapter or upcoming events, contact Loren Humphrey at 402/461-2324 or by e-mail at lhumphrey@city-ofhastings.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: For information on the New Jersey Chapter or upcoming events call SFMANJ at 908/730-7770, e-mail HQ@sfmanj.org or visit the

Chapter website at www.sfmanj.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): For information on the Ohio Chapter, contact OSTMA headquarters at 614/354-1196 or Ostma@aol.com. You can also visit our new website at www.ostma.org. The new OSTMA address is PO Box 3426 Dublin, OH 43016.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Matt Johns at 253/445-4538 or mjohns@puyalup.wsu.edu.

Southern California Chapter: For information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, call the Chapter Hotline at 888/578-STMA (578-7862) toll free in Southern California or 760/226-8873 or Michael Tarantino at 858/679-2526 or by e-mail at MTarantino@powayusd.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: For information on the South Carolina Chapter or upcoming events contact Trent Hale, Ph.D. at 843/662-3526 ext. 206 or by e-mail at tchale@clemsun.edu for more information or visit our website at www.scstma.org.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Texas Chapter contact T. J. Thompson, President-Elect at txturfmanager@1scom.net or 972/670-2138 (m).

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, call Chapter President, Chris Pearl at 615/242-4371.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: The VSTMA will participate in and support the Virginia Turfgrass Council (VTC) Annual Conference, January 10-12, 2006 in Richmond, Virginia. The VSTMA will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on January 11, 2006 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm in Richmond, Virginia. For information on the Virginia Chapter or upcoming events, please contact VSTMA President Bob Studholme of the Fairfax County Park Authority at 703/324-8590 or robert.studholme@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Wisconsin Chapter or other pending events, contact Chris Brindley at 715/346-3622 or cbrindle@uwsp.edu.

FORMING CHAPTERS:

North Florida STMA Chapter: For information on the newly forming North Florida Chapter, contact Mark Clay at 904/633-6116 or Jay McCord at 904/448-2583.

New York Sports Turf Managers Association: Contact - Mike Albino by phone at 315/468-6225 or (c) 315/427-1214 or email him at mikealbino@earthlink.net.

Idaho STMA: For information, contact Greg Liggett, at 208/496-2421 or email him at liggett@byu.i.edu.

Nevada STMA Chapter: For information, contact Corey Angelo at 702/433-3113 or by e-mail at sls654ASCM@lesco.com.

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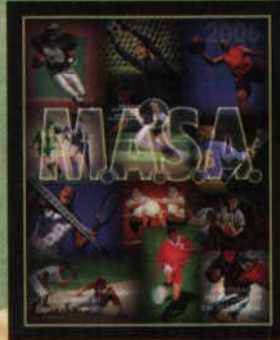
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TURF NEWS

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Associate Professor,
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The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2006 and so I decided to reflect upon the most important lesson that I learned each year. But that noble thought faded as I realized how many times I've made the same mistake before finally getting it right. As I write this, it is the season to reflect upon what we have learned and where we are going. In no particular order, here are a few of my 25 lessons learned that you will be reading about as we commemorate the 25th anniversary of STMA. Sometimes you are the teacher and sometimes you are the student; see if you can find yourself in these lessons.

Lesson #1: The greatest field-related quote I ever heard, "**Speed is in the player not the field**", came from a football strength training coach while he was giving his opinion to a field design company during a debate on the anticipated mowing height for his field. The conversation ended immediately and over the years the turf manager and the coach together made the mowing height decisions based on what was needed to make the best playing surface. In this case their mowing height ranged from 1.25 to 1.5 inches. I have used the quote many times to dispel the debate concerning field speed.

Lesson #2: The greatest move I ever saw on a field was made by a sports turf manager on a high school administrator who had cut the subsurface drainage out of his field construction plans to save some money.

The price of the lesson was a new pair of shoes.

It had just rained and like most administrators he was in a hurry so we bolted straight for the center of the field with him at my side as we again discussed the price of subsurface drain lines. By the time we made it to the 50-yard line I could feel him lagging back. The cost of grading and sand was \$45,000, the cost of the missing drain lines was \$5,000, and the cost of a new pair of shiny black shoes \$125; watching the administrator finally getting the point as he tiptoed through the mud with his pants hiked up, priceless.

What was even more priceless was the sheepish grin sported by the sports turf manager while he cleaned those ruined shoes back in the shop and listened to the administrator's suggestion that he get some pricing to install drains in the field.

Lesson #3: I'm often asked if a certain product actually works or not. **My best advice is to become your own researcher.** Simply placing a 4 x 8-foot tarp or sheet of plywood on the ground before treating the field with the product in question will give you a realistic control for comparison.

Lesson #4: Big roll sod has been the most impressive development that I have experienced in athletic field construction and renovation. It allows for fewer seams, faster grow-in, reduced cost, and thick cut ready-to-play sod when needed. How did we ever survive without it? Please contact me if you know whom to credit for this invention and its historical use in the sports turf industry.

Lesson # 5: For years I listened to many specialists discourage the use of sand to improve athletic fields because **mixing sand and soil will make concrete.** The reality is that many fields have been improved by incorporating medium to coarse sand into the field through topdressing/aerification or tillage. The porosity benefits from sand incorporation are not realized until the final soil mixture contains at least 75% sand on a weight basis. Do you know the size and amount of sand in your field? Addition of coarse compost can also greatly improve fields by reducing compaction and improving moisture conditions.

Give freely of the things you learn because that is what STMA is all about. Borrow as many good ideas as you can from others because it is the greatest form of flattery, especially when you give them credit.

Don't be afraid to share your mistakes in front of others because we learn mostly by trial and error and success is just a series of mistakes that have been tweaked along the way.

In this season of reflections and resolutions I am most thankful for those professional and personal lessons that you have gifted me in 25 years with STMA. Whether you are just getting started in the sports turf business or have been involved in it for a while, try this exercise. In your long or short career, think about five people who are important to your profession. Ask those five people if they are STMA members or if their list would include an STMA member. You will be surprised how important STMA members are to each other and to potential members. STMA is headed in the right direction and you should be a member of the organization that already serves you in many ways. ■

