

Leverage the STMA Awards Program for Career Enhancement

By STMA Editorial Staff

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) offers a rich awards program that can enhance members' credibility and reputation with their staff, peers and employers.

The annual STMA Field of the Year program recognizes the work of sports turf managers on five field types: baseball, football, soccer, softball and complex. For each field type, awards may be given in three categories: professional, collegiate, and schools/parks. The program is designed to ensure that applicants' fields are judged against similar fields and facility types with equitable opportunities to win an award.

This award program receives national and local media attention, which further validates the sports turf managers' individual abilities, and highlights the profession within the sports world. Winning a Field of the Year Award can be a stepping stone to greater influence and respect at your facility, making budgetary requests for manpower and equipment easier to justify.

The STMA Field of the Year Award program began in 1992, and has presented more than 100 awards to deserving sports field managers. In 2002, the Complex of the Year was added to recognize those facilities that have a minimum of four fields and host a minimum of three different sports.

A panel of judges from the STMA Awards Committee independently scores 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 made possible by the support of 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 are featured in an article in *SportsTurf* Magazine and award winners are presented with their award during the STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition.

Pictures are very important to include with the application, and summer is an ideal time to visually document your work. To see the application and the submittal requirements, go to www.sportsturfmanager.org, "professionalism" tab.

Do not miss this opportunity to showcase your professionalism. Begin planning today to submit your application for a Field of the Year Award.