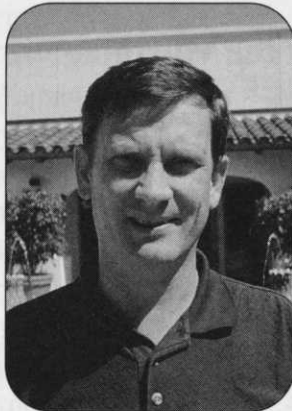


# Meet Your New Board Member

**Dr. Tony Koski, Associate Professor of Turfgrass Management at Colorado State University is your newly elected Board Member, Category III.** Tony has been involved with turfgrass teaching, research and extension since 1980, when he began working on his M.S. degree at the Ohio State University. After finishing his Ph.D. in 1987, he became assistant professor at the Colorado State University, where he currently advises approximately 80 undergraduate students, teaches a turfgrass management class, and provides extension education for all facets of the Rocky Mountain turfgrass industry. Tony has been a member of STMA since 1990. He is currently a member of the STMA Certification Committee, has been a Board Member of the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association since 1988 and serves on the boards of numerous other state and national associations. Tony is an Honorary Member of the Colorado Chapter: STMA and lists his hobbies as: "whatever my three boys do, gardening and golf."

## Why did you decide to become a member of the STMA?

As an educator, I obviously believe that education is of paramount importance to the formation and continued development of the sports turf manager. This includes study in the formal classroom setting, but also through internships, workshops and conference attendance, and everyday work experiences. The STMA should be the vehicle by which those learning/work opportunities are made known to educators and their students.



What do you feel are major issues facing the sports turf industry today?

I believe that a major issue facing the industry today is recognition of the important role that the sports turf manager plays in the production and management of safe playing surfaces. We recognize the importance among ourselves, but administrators, coaches, players and fans often do not.

## What would you do to resolve some of these issues?

The successful development and implementation of the Certification Program will help others to understand the knowledge and expertise levels required to produce a high-quality sports field.

## Do you have any words of wisdom for your peers in the STMA?

I would encourage all members to CONTINUE the learning process once they have left the formal classroom setting. Attend as many meetings at the national and chapter levels, as well as other turf conferences and field days. One of the best ways to increase the level of professionalism in sports turf management is to encourage and educate your peers in the industry.

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