

## COTS - SECOND EDITION!

The second edition of COTS (Chapter Officers Training Session) will be held on January 11, from 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM. That's the Tuesday before the start of the STMA Annual Conference (January 12 - 16, 2000). And, it's at the same facility, the Regal Riverfront Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri.

If you are an officer or committee chair of an STMA affiliated or forming chapter - or - if you are assisting in the development of a new chapter in your area - you are invited to attend.

There is no charge to participate in this COTS gathering thanks to the continuing support of your Chapter Sponsors. Gold Level Sponsors are John Deere and Novartis. Silver Level Sponsors are Hunter and Alpine Services, Inc. Their funding covers the

break, lunch, and all materials.

The COTS program was introduced in 1999 to give Chapter leaders the opportunity to meet, share ideas and address key issues. It combines presentations, round-table discussions and some "show and tell," with informal networking.

Abby McNeal, Chapter Relations Chair, has worked with Headquarters to develop a preliminary packet on the COTS program. If you are interested in attending, but have not yet received the preliminary packet, please contact STMA Headquarters.

Each participating Chapter will be asked to supply information prior to the session to be included in the COTS notebook. The Chapter representatives also will be asked to bring samples of materials they use to promote the Chapter, share information with Chapter members, or otherwise enhance the Chapter experience. These materials might include copies of your newsletter; your flyers notifying Chapter members of an upcoming event; an informational handout one of your meeting hosts developed; the sign you used to attract potential Chapter members to your display at a regional turfgrass show or field day; a copy of your scholarship or field of the year application; or...anything else that works for you.

The whole point of COTS is helping Chapters, and much of it is Chapters helping Chapters. That means sharing the great things your Chapter is accomplishing and the tips you've developed on how to make them work - and sharing those mistakes - large and small - that your Chapter has made that have been a learning experience.

Chapters are about raising the standards; growing as professionals and making an impact on the industry. It takes time, effort, dedication and lots of volunteers to get a Chapter going and keep it going. Every attendee of COTS is one of those dedicated people. You'll have a great time meeting each other and strengthening that network of people you can count on to listen, understand and share - not just at the COTS gathering, but throughout the year.



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