

THE EXTRA POINT

STMA NEWS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



If you will be attending the GCSAA Conference and Show in Anaheim in February, STMA has a treat for you. We are presenting a tour of four major Los Angeles area turf attractions on Monday, February 13, followed by a one-day seminar at Cal Poly University in Pomona on Tuesday.

The tour was put together as a favor to a 40-person delegation from the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) in England attending the GCSAA Show. We saw no reason why other interested turf managers couldn't tag along.

The IOG was extremely hospitable to me and my son Todd when we visited England this past fall for the Institute of Groundsmanship at Windsor Racecourse. They have a great deal to share with us.

On Tuesday, the IOG will present a one-day seminar at Cal Poly University at Pomona. There is plenty of room for anyone who would like to learn about sports turf in Great Britain. There is no charge for the seminar, but there is a small charge for lunch.

The seminar will include the following topics:

- The IOG and Its Functions
- The Parks of Great Britain
- Golf Courses in the UK
- The Groundsman and Journalism
- Public Relations
- Sports Played on Grass
- Environmental Landscapes in the UK

Join us in welcoming our associates from the UK and learn how they keep their sports turf in top condition.

Kent Kurtz

STMA AND THE LAWN RANGER AWARD

By Mike Schiller

The Sports Turf Managers Association was a dream of some real pioneers of the turfgrass industry. To keep that dream alive after the association was formed, and to recognize these pioneers, the STMA developed the Lawn Ranger Award in 1983. The next recipient of the award will be announced at the STMA Annual Meeting at Dodgertown this month.

To appreciate the significance of the Lawn Ranger Award you need to understand how the association was formed. Harry Gill, grounds superintendent for the Milwaukee Brewers, felt there was a real need for an organization through which groundskeepers could exchange ideas, successes and failures. Harry got together with Dick Ericson, superintendent of Metropolitan Stadium in Minneapolis, Dr. Bill Daniel, professor of agronomy at Purdue University, and George Toma, head groundskeeper for the Kansas City Royals and Chiefs, and the Sports Turf Managers Association was created.

In 1983, Gill had a unique trophy put together to be given to the most outstanding member of the organization: the Lawn Ranger Award. The trophy is constructed atop an old catcher's mask and consists of a horse and rider. On the rider's shoulders is a hose and he carries a rake, to signify our work on the fields.

Gill was shocked when he turned out to be the first recipient. His efforts in forming STMA, plus the great job he does in managing Milwaukee County Stadium, made him a fitting first recipient.

Our second recipient, Dr. Daniel, has been an innovator in the turf industry and was a generous host to STMA at Purdue University. For his hand in founding STMA, his development of the PAT system, and his dedication to natural turf and Purdue University, Daniel was given the second Lawn Ranger Award.

In 1985, the award was presented to the person who helped organize an accounting system for the association and handled the arrangements for it to become a corporation: Steve Wightman. The next year, Steve became president of STMA, while at the same time managing all the changeovers at Mile High Stadium.

The following year, the STMA board was so impressed with the condition of RFK Stadium in Washington, DC, that it gave the Lawn Ranger Award to groundskeeper Tony Burnett.

In 1987, for his dedication to education and STMA and for his contributions to the Rose Bowl as a consultant, Dr. Kent Kurtz was presented with the trophy. Last year the award was presented to Mark Hodnick, the STMA treasurer whose sharp pencil enabled the association to move into its own headquarters facility and establish its own national conference to be held this month at Dodgertown. He also computerized STMA's accounting and membership records. People who attend the Cal Poly institute are always impressed by his work as superintendent of grounds for the campus.

The next winner of the Lawn Ranger Award has been selected. The announcement will be made during the First International Sports Turf Conference and Show, January 13-15, at Dodgertown in Vero Beach, FL. Be there and find out who takes the Lawn Ranger Award home this year.

CATCH THE ACTION

Mark your calendar.

March 21 — Western Sports Turf Institute
California Polytechnic Institute and University, Pomona, CA.

June 21 — Midwest Sports Turf Institute
Harper College, Palatine, IL.



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