

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

RECOGNITION LEADS TO INSPIRATION



We start off each year at Golf & sportsTURF by recognizing individuals who have raised standards of safety and quality in the turf industry. In January, we feature our Man of the Year. Then, in March, we begin a three-part series on the winners of the Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards. This year we encourage you to participate in both award programs.

The purpose of the Man of the Year Award is to honor one exceptional person who has had the vision and the dedication to make a major contribution to your profession. Think about those people who have

impacted your life's work. Select one individual who stands out in your mind and write, call, or fax his or her name to me before the end of this month. Your opinions are very important in the selection of the winner.

If you manage baseball fields, you may qualify for one of the three Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards. The condition of a baseball field is a major factor in the pride and performance of teams playing on it. Too often, the person responsible for field conditions is overlooked. That's where the Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards come in.

Golf & sportsTURF, Partac Peat Corporation, and the Sports Turf Managers Association jointly sponsor the contest. Head groundskeepers from each division of Major League Baseball select the winners. They choose one winner for each of three categories: park and municipal, college and university, and professional (major or minor league).

There is no particular set of standards you need to meet. The judges base their selections on the type of diamond you provide under your particular circumstances. They take into consideration your effort, resources, and field use, in addition to the impact your field has had on the community, school, or team.

Photographs and a well-written description of your facility, maintenance program, and accomplishments are important to the judges. You will find the entry information on page 11 of this issue. You have until the end of November to send in your completed entry.

The greatest pleasure in winning the Baseball Diamond of the Year Award is not the attention it brings to you and your facility. Instead, it is the inspiration you give others. I strongly urge you to share your success with others by entering the contest.

Finally, on a sad note, I am sorry to report that the sports turf industry lost a great leader this past month. Harry "Dad" Gill, our 1990 Man of the Year, lost a battle with heart disease just weeks before retirement. The way I received the news about Harry's death was a reflection of his contributions.

David Mellor, one of Gill's assistant groundskeepers at Milwaukee County Stadium, called me within hours of Harry's passing. Mellor is part of Gill's extended family. From an early age, he had the desire to be a professional groundskeeper. As a student at Ohio State University, Mellor sought specialized training in sports turf management. OSU's Dr. John Street contacted Gill for his recommendations on how to mold Mellor into an effective candidate for a position as a stadium groundskeeper.

Harry took David under his wing, placed him on the Brewers' grounds crew during summer breaks, and created what I consider to be the perfectly-trained aspiring head groundskeeper. He has a precise combination of education and on-the-job experience. Mellor is a model for all individuals hoping to manage fields in the big leagues.

The ideals set forth by Harry Gill live on in David Mellor and thousands of others in the sports turf industry who now follow in his footsteps. Not many people accomplish so much in a lifetime. He will be missed.

Bruce F. Shank

EVENTS

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

3-6 New Jersey Turfgrass Expo '90, Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ. Contact: Dr. Henry Indyk, Crop Science Dept., P.O. Box 231, Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, (201) 932-9453.

4-5 Southern Grounds & Turf Maintenance Exhibition, Myrtle Beach Convention Center, Myrtle Beach, SC. Contact: South Carolina State Board for Technical Education, 111 Executive Center Dr., Columbia, SC 29210, (803) 737-9356.

4-6 North Central Turfgrass Exposition, Ramada Renaissance Hotel and Prairie Convention Center, Springfield, IL. Contact: Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, (312) 644-0828.

4-5 Rocky Mountain Turf Conference, Holiday Inn Denver I-70 East, Denver, CO. Contact: Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association, P.O. Box 903, Parker, CO 80134, (303) 688-2268.

10-13 Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show, Cincinnati Convention Center, Cincinnati, OH. Contact: John R. Street, Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, 2021 Coffey Rd., Columbus, OH 43210, (614) 292-2601.

12-14 Pacific Coast Turf & Landscape Conference, Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA. Contact: Jones and Assoc., (509) 327-5904.

13-16 Georgia Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, Hyatt Airport Hotel, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Karen Lavender, (912) 681-5189.

JANUARY

7-9 Maryland Turfgrass '91, Baltimore Convention Center and Festival Hall, Baltimore, MD. Contact: Stephen Potter, Woodholme Country Club, 300 Woodholme Ave., Pikesville, MD 21208, (301) 486-8280.

7-9 25th Annual Tennessee Turfgrass Association Conference, Holiday Inn World's Fair and Knoxville Convention Center, Knoxville, TN. Contact: Donnie Callis, 533 Hagan St., Nashville, TN 37203, (615) 242-4600.

7-11 Golf Course Maintenance Short Course, Columbus, OH. Contact: Dept. of Agron., Ohio State University, 2021 Coffey Rd., Columbus, OH 43216.

Send announcements on your events two months in advance to editor, Golf & SportsTURF, P.O. Box 8420, Van Nuys, CA 91409. Fax: (818) 781-8517.