

# STMA IN ACTION

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### GILL AWARD PRESENTED TO JIM WATSON

Dr. James Watson, who retired recently as vice president and chief agronomist of The Toro Company, was presented with the Harry C. Gill Award during the annual banquet in San Diego, CA. The honor is named for Gill, the founder of STMA and former head groundskeeper for the Milwaukee Brewers. It was previously known as the Lawn Ranger Award.

Watson's spectacular career spans 40 years, beginning with the first United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section fellowship at Pennsylvania State University. He has authored more than 400 articles on turfgrass management, spoken at hundreds of conferences around the world, and served as a consultant to the National Football League.

In addition to the STMA, Watson has served the American Society of Agronomy, the National Golf Foundation, the USGA, the International Turfgrass Research Conference, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and numerous state and national organizations.

Steve Wightman, head groundskeeper at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium and former recipient of the Lawn Ranger Award, presented the award to Watson. "I can think of no other person who exemplifies what the award represents better than Jim Watson," Wightman said. "He has contributed more to the sports turf industry and the association in terms of dedication, passion, and spirit than anyone I know. He is indeed a person Harry would be honored to share his award with.

"The unique trophy depicts a groundskeeper armed with the tools of the his trade: a rake of hope; a hose of determination; a shovel of passion; a hoe of dedication; and a smile of spirited uncertainty as he rides off into the unknown atop a horse named desire."

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dr. Gil Landry, Jr.*

Our game plan was set with a very productive annual meeting in San Diego last December. Our new officers and board members have gotten their feet wet and realize the tremendous challenge we face. As with any business, our objectives must match our limited resources. Those board members present in San Diego worked long and hard evaluating needs and prioritizing our goals.

The Gulf War and slow economy resulted in a budget deficit for 1991. Therefore, we begin the year under an austerity program which we are confident will bring about a financially sound organization soon. The net result is that our desires for association activities are restricted by our financial circumstances.

In September, 1991, the board identified the following needs:

1. To reestablish the newsletter to 1990 standards,
2. To concentrate on four or five successful institutes,
3. To focus on developing a successful annual conference, and
4. To establish a budget based on these goals. By the San Diego meeting in December, it also became clear that concerns about chapter development needed to be addressed. These evolved into five general priorities to which most of our resources are presently directed.

Part of our first priority is being realized today with the publishing of sportsTURF magazine. Beginning with this issue, STMA once again has an official national magazine. SportsTURF and Adams Publishing



Corporation will help us deliver our message to members, potential members, and supporters. Part of every advertising dollar will come back to STMA to help strengthen and expand our programs. This agreement will significantly improve our visibility and budget. In addition, we will also have a bimonthly newsletter.

In addition to providing an excellent educational opportunity, the annual conference and trade show also provided members a chance to discuss issues with the board of directors. What came through loud and clear during an informal meeting with members was the tremendous interest and desire for membership services and professional development. Our challenge is to meet these needs with limited resources while also planning for our future.

Although there were many honors bestowed on members in San Diego, added recognition in this message is due to the recipient of our association's highest honor, the Harry C. Gill Memorial Award. That individual is every bit as unique, both professionally and personally, as Harry. Dr. Jim Watson has served STMA and the entire turf industry so well and long that his recognition for service and contribution was well deserved. In fact, the board awarded Dr. Watson a lifetime membership and appointed him special advisor to the president.

Let me close by encouraging your involvement in your association because it is nothing without you. With the support of our board, our chapters, and our members, there is no reason 1992 can't be our best year.

## BOBCAT STADIUM WINS FIRST FOOTBALL AWARD

Bobcat Stadium at Southwest Texas State University was recognized as the first recipient of the STMA Football Field of the Year Award during the annual conference in San Diego, CA. Randy Porter, manager of grounds and horticulture, accepted the award on behalf of the Grounds Maintenance Department at the university.

The Football Field of the Year Award, along with the Beam Clay Baseball Diamond of the Year Award and the planned Soccer Field of the Year Award, recognize sports turf managers who make exceptional professional contributions to the industry. When all award programs are fully implemented, winners will be selected in three categories, professional, college, and schools/parks.

Southwest Texas State University is located in San Marcos, 30 miles from Austin and 60 miles from San Antonio. The campus is composed of more than 300 maintained acres and has a student population of 21,000. Five of the university's 40-person grounds maintenance department work in the Athletics

and Intramural Maintenance Section.

Bobcat Stadium was completed in 1981 with no provision for subsurface drainage. Over the next several years, the grounds crew installed drainage in sections as time and budget permitted and instituted a program of aeration, sand topdressing, frequent mowing, complete fertilization, and weed control. The Tifway bermuda field is overseeded in the

fall with perennial ryegrass. Game preparation and field painting must be handled on a tight schedule because the field is used by high schools and professional football teams in addition to the school's Bobcats. The National Football League Houston Oilers and the San Antonio Riders of the World Football League have used the field for practices and scrimmages.

### COMING STMA EVENTS

Midwest Chapter STMA Annual Meeting and Luncheon, March 5, Avalon Banquets, Elk Grove Village, IL. Contact: Mike Trigg, Waukegan Park District, (708) 360-4751.

Chesapeake Chapter Quarterly Meeting, March 5, Annapolis, MD. Contact: Ray Flood, (301) 808-3966

Florida Chapter STMA Bi-Monthly Meeting, week of March 23, Florida International University, Miami, FL. Contact: John Mascaro, (305) 938-7477.

Florida Chapter Workshop, May 11-12, Tallahassee, FL. Contact: Ed Birch, (305) 928-0217.

Chesapeake Chapter Quarterly Meeting, June 3, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Contact: (301) 808-3966

California Sports Turf Institute, June 1992, Santa Anita Race Track, Arcadia, CA.

Contact: Stephen Guise, (818) 574-6378.

Colorado Sports Turf Institute, June 17, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO. Contact: Bill Whirly, City of Fort Collins, (303) 221-6660.

Midwest Sports Turf Institute, June 24, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. Contact: Greg Petry, Waukegan Park District, (708) 244-7275.

South Carolina Sports Turf Institute, June 26, Greenville, SC. Contact: Bucky Trotter, (803) 862-3071.

Colorado Chapter STMA Annual Golf Tournament, July 1992. Contact: Tom Lujan, Mile High Stadium, (303) 458-4851.

Northwest Sports Turf Institute, July 9, University of Portland, Portland, OR. Contact: STMA, (702) 739-8052.

# Sports Turf Managers Association

## SCORE BIG! Join the Sports Turf Managers Association.

Are you ready to make the move up to the big leagues? If you are, then it's time to become a member of the Sports Turf Managers Association. We're an organization of professionals representing all segments of the sports turf industry. Our members are responsible for the safety of both natural and synthetic athletic fields. We help you-the sports turf manager-understand how to do your job better. We seek to instill professionalism into our industry and strive to improve the scientific and practical knowledge of our members. We have national awards, scholarship and research programs which recognize leaders in our industry. So, if you are ready to play with the big-leaguers and score big professionally, join the Sports Turf Managers Association!

### Membership Categories

Please check one

#### CATEGORY

- |  |       |                          |
|--|-------|--------------------------|
| 1. Professional sports turf facility managers                                      | \$75  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Additional members from same facility  | \$45  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Four-year colleges /universities  | \$75  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Additional members from same facility  | \$45  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Other schools, parks, ext. agents, municipal                                    | \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Additional members from same facility  | \$30  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Students  | \$20  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Commercial Affiliates (U.S. & foreign)  | \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Additional members from same company   | \$30  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Persons outside U.S. other than commercial affiliates (must be in U.S. dollars) | \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please send check or money order (U.S. dollars only) to  
**SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 98056, Las Vegas, NV 89193-8056.**

For more information, telephone, (702) 739-8052.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Type Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_