

Sports Turf Managers Association Issues Awards of Special Recognition

The Sports Turf Managers Association issued awards of special recognition during its 9th Annual Conference and Exhibition held January 14-18, 1998, in Orlando.

The Harry C. Gill Award, STMA Groundskeeper of the Year, was presented to Eugene Mayer, technical training and support manager for the Scotts Company of Marysville, Ohio.

The Gill Award is one of the four Founders Awards, the most prestigious honors issued by STMA. It takes its name from one of the organization's original founders, a man legendary for his support of STMA's goals and standards. The award recognizes an individual's long-time service and commitment to STMA and to those same goals and standards.

Eugene Mayer has given extraordinary service to STMA. He has filled vital roles as a board member and as commercial vice-president, and he's just completing a two-year stint in the office of secretary. In addition, Mayer coordinated the annual conference as both committee member and exhibits chair. His commitment to STMA and his guidance of the association's growth and development have been outstanding.

The Dick Ericson Award, another of the Founders Awards, draws its name from the organization's first president (1981-1982). This award honors excellence in planning and execution of sports turf management.

The 1997 Dick Ericson Award recipient is Merton Johnson, California State University-Fullerton's sports turf manager. During his 30-year career in sports turf management, Johnson has made significant contributions to the facilities under his management and to the industry as a whole.

The George Toma Golden Rake Award takes its name from another STMA founder. Toma is a long-time STMA supporter who continues to serve as a mentor for many of those in the sports turf industry. The recipient of this award demonstrates the "and then some" spirit that is so much a part of Toma's approach to sports turf management. The recipient of the 1997 Golden Rake Award is Timothy Burke, director of parks and recreation in Bethel, Conn.

Burke started in the recreation department as a teen volunteer. He moved into a paid position, and eventually worked his way up to the directorship. He's held the position of director for 18 years. In that time, he has developed innovative programs that benefit the city's recreational facilities and outreach efforts. He also continues to be an active volunteer - always exhibiting the "and then some" spirit.

Burke's nomination for this Award was made on behalf of the Bethel Parks and Recreation Commission and the citizens of Bethel.

The Dr. William H. Daniel Award (formerly the Excellence in Research Award) is now included among the four Founders Awards. Its name honors the late Dr. Daniel for his pioneering efforts and long-term support of STMA, and for the pattern he set for educator involvement in the association. The Daniel Award for 1997 was presented to Dr. James Beard for his tremendous work in the fields of research and education in the sports turf industry.

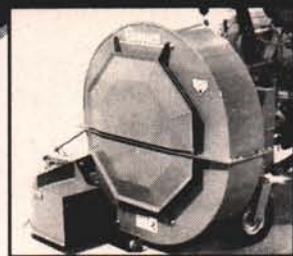
The STMA presented this year's **President's Award** to Mike Trigg, superintendent of parks for the Waukegan, Ill., Park District. The award acknowledges his outstanding efforts on behalf of STMA's raffle and auction held each year at the conference. Funds raised through these efforts have allowed STMA to greatly expand its scholarship program.

Finally, the winner of the **Outstanding Commercial Affiliate Award** for 1997 is the Toro Company of Minneapolis, Minn. The award extends appreciation for the company's long-standing and continuing support of STMA. Toro is a long-term advertising supporter of STMA's publications. The company's sponsorship reduces the production and mailing costs of the STMA newsletter, helps support the annual conference, and continues to promote professionalism within the sports turf industry.

Chapter News

MAFMO Chapter: The MAFMO Chapter will hold a "Specification Writing Seminar" April 16, from 8 a.m. to 3

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STMA IN ACTION

p.m., at the Holiday Inn in College Park, Md.

Plans are beginning for the chapter's first "Seminar on Wheels" event to be held June 9. The tour will start and end at the Bowie Baysox. Further details will be announced

soon, and to make communication even easier, MAFMO will soon be on the Internet!

For information on these events, the Internet connection, the MAFMO Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact the Hotline: (410) 290-5652.

Midwest Chapter: On Thursday, April 23, the Midwest Chapter will hold a day-long "Grounds Maintenance/Sports Turf Workshop" that will feature Floyd Perry. This workshop will be held at Adlai Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Ill., recipient of the chapter's 1997 Field and Facilities Award.

The workshop schedule includes the following topics: "101 Ways to Easy and Efficient Maintenance for the Spring Cleanup of Baseball/Softball Fields," "Care and Maintenance of Pitcher's Mound and Home Plate Area," and "New/Innovative Tools Made by Groundskeepers for Groundskeepers."

For information on the Midwest Chapter or pending activities, call the Chapter Hotline: (847) 622-3517.

Florida Chapter #1: The Florida Chapter #1 will meet on May 19, in conjunction with the Miami Shores Parks and Recreation Department. This meeting will focus on all-purpose sports field maintenance.

For more information on this event, the Florida Chapter or other pending activities, contact John Mascaro: (954) 938-7477.

Northern California Chapter: The Northern California Chapter announces its first "Summer Field Day", which will be held on Thursday, May 28. The day-long seminar will be conducted in and around the athletic facilities on the campus of Stanford University.

The university boasts some of the finest athletic training, competition and spectator facilities in the nation, including: Stanford Stadium, Sunken Diamond, Maples Pavilion, and the new Taube Family Tennis Center, to name just a few. Attendees will tour behind the scenes and hear about Stanford's entire sports turf and facilities management program.

In addition, an early bird technical session on sports turf will be offered, along with specific educational field demonstrations of the latest in tools, equipment and supplies the sports turf industry has to offer.

Q: What do all of these teams have in common?

Oakland A's
Arizona Diamondbacks
University of Texas Longhorns
San Diego Chargers
University of Southern California Trojans
California Angels
Arizona State University Sun Devils
San Francisco 49'ers
San Diego State University Aztecs
San Francisco Giants
San Diego Padres
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Category Blast Service

Use this new Category Blast Service to get FREE information on the products or service categories listed below which you are planning to purchase within the coming nine months. You will receive information, and possibly other follow up contact, from appropriate companies advertised not just in this issue, but throughout the year in *sportsTURF*. Just circle the number(s) on the reader service card (opposite) corresponding to the product or service categories below and drop the card in the mail!

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 9001 | Aeration equipment |
| 9002 | Baseball Field grooming equipment |
| 9003 | Drainage |
| 9004 | Fertilizer / soil amendments |
| 9005 | Field covers |
| 9006 | Field marking paint / equipment |
| 9007 | Infield mixes |
| 9008 | Irrigation supplies |
| 9009 | Mowers |
| 9010 | Seed |
| 9011 | Site amenities |
| 9012 | Sod |
| 9013 | Turf equipment |

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STMA IN ACTION

For information about the program, vendor exhibits, or to be added to the Nor-Cal Chapter mailing list, contact Janet Giff: (530) 758-4200, or fax (530) 758-1488.

For general information about the Nor-Cal Chapter, contact Gail Setka at the U.C. Davis Grounds Office: (916) 752-5035, or fax (916) 752-9631.

Iowa Chapter: The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will hold a "Wheels Tour" of Des Moines on June 18. Attendees will meet at Sec Taylor Stadium, tour various athletic sites and a golf course maintenance shop, and return to Sec Taylor Stadium for a tailgate party and the Iowa Cubs night game against the Tucson Toros.

For more information on this event, the Iowa Chapter or other upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum at The Turf Office: (515) 232-8222, or fax (515) 232-8228.

Colorado Chapter: The Colorado Chapter held a very successful irrigation seminar on March 3.

For information on the Colorado Chapter and upcoming activities, call the 24-hour CSTMA Chapter Hotline/Fax: (303) 438-9645.

Mid-South Chapter: STMA's newest affiliated chapter serves Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and parts of Louisiana, Missouri and Kentucky.

For more information on the chapter or pending activities, contact Chip Houmes: (901) 377-5081, or Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO Chapter): For information, contact Dan Douglas of the Reading Phillies Baseball Club: (610) 375-8469 ext. 212.

Minnesota Chapter: For information, contact Connie Rudolph: (612) 646-1679.

Southern California Chapter: For information, contact the Chapter Hotline: (888) 578-STMA (toll free in Southern California).

Chapters On The Grow

Arizona Chapter: The Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona will meet April 24, at the Chandler Boy's and Girl's Club. Dr. Gil Landry of the University of Georgia will address issues of sports turf management. Also, Grant Trenbeath of the Arizona Razorbacks will present background on the construction of Bank One Ballpark. The event will showcase the results of the community service project completed earlier this month: the renovation of the club's softball/multi-use field.

The next STMAZ regular monthly meeting will be held at 6 p.m., May 14, at A to Z Equipment Rental & Sales, 4050 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix. A summer seminar at Show Low is also in the works.

For information on meetings, STMAZ or upcoming events, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks and Recreation Department: (602) 994-7954, or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 786-2728.

Michigan Chapter: The new chapter is taking shape. Michigan STMA held its first chapter meeting March 20.

For information on this newly forming chapter, contact Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public School: (616) 395-2364.

Great Lakes Chapter: The chapter continues to move forward. For information on the newly forming chapter, contact Joe Zelinko of Athletic Field Services: (800) 897-9714, or Boyd Montgomery of the Sylvania Recreation Corporation: (419) 885-1982.

Great Plains Chapter: For information on the Great Plains Sports Turf Managers Association or upcoming activities, contact Mark Schimming, City of Wichita: (316) 337-9123.

Nevada Chapter: Plans are moving forward on the formation of a Nevada Chapter of STMA. For information on this developing chapter, contact Ibsen Dow: (702) 649-1551.