

# STMA, scholarships, Field of the Year Awards & more issued at annual meeting

**E**leven scholarships were issued at the Sports Turf Managers Association's (STMA) 13th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Las Vegas last January. The scholarships were presented during the STMA Awards Banquet.

The \$500 Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship, since 1997 designated for the students of 2-year technical programs or community colleges, was presented to Greg Elliott, a sophomore majoring in the Sports and Commercial Turf Management program of Michigan State University.

A \$500 SAFE Foundation Scholarship, designated for a student of a 2-year technical program or community college, was presented to Matthew McQuaid, a sophomore majoring in the Sports and Commercial Turf Management program of Michigan State University.

The SAFE Foundation awarded four \$750 scholarships for undergraduate students of 4-year college or university programs. A SAFE scholarship was presented to Timothy Vanloo, a sophomore majoring in the Crop & Soil Sciences—Turfgrass program of Michigan State University. A second SAFE scholarship was presented to Marcus Dean, a senior majoring in the Plant & Soil Science/Turfgrass Management program of the University of Kentucky. A third SAFE scholarship was awarded to Justin Peloquin, a junior majoring in the Plant/Soil Science/Turfgrass Management program of the University of Massachusetts. The fourth SAFE scholarship was presented to Todd Rinehart, a junior majoring in the Turfgrass/Sports Turf program of Ohio State University.

The first of two scholarships established by The Toro Company in the name of long-time green industry researcher and consultant, Dr. James R. Watson, a \$1,000 scholarship, was issued to undergraduate student Don Frantz, a junior majoring in Landscape Horticulture/Turf Management at Colorado State University.



Three SAFE Foundation \$1,000 scholarships for graduate students were presented at the Conference. The first of these was awarded to Lisa Lundberg, who is pursuing her post-graduate studies in the Crop & Soil Science/Turfgrass program of Michigan State University. The second graduate scholarship was awarded to William Casey Reynolds, who is pursuing his post-graduate studies in the Crop Science/Turfgrass Management program of North Carolina State University. The third SAFE graduate scholarship was awarded to Michelle DaCosta, who is pursuing her post-graduate studies in the Turfgrass Physiology program of Rutgers University.

The second Dr. James R. Watson Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 was issued to graduate student James Newberry, who is involved in the graduate program in Horticulture/Turf Management at Colorado State University.



The 2002 STMA Field of the Year Recipients: (front row l to r) Kurt McLerran, Dennis Klein, John Gaffney, Andy Babbitt, Kevin Vos, and Joe Collins; (back row l to r) Rick Newville, Jimmy Rodgers, Peter Petrov, and Keith Evans.

The SAFE Foundation recognizes that the future of the industry lies in the education, dedication, and commitment of outstanding students such as these.

Funding for the SAFE scholarships comes from STMA members through their participation in the Raffle, Silent and Live Auctions at the Association's annual Conference held each January, and through special contributions to SAFE earmarked for the Scholarship Fund. In addition to the monetary award, all of the SAFE, Fred Grau and Dr. James R. Watson Scholarship recipients are provided with full registration to the STMA Annual Conference and up to \$500 toward their expenses to attend the Conference.

For information on SAFE or the SAFE Scholarship program, please contact Steve Trusty by phone at 800/323-3875 or via email at SAFEFoundation@aol.com.

## Field of the Year Awards

The commitment to excellence by the individuals named below to overall field quality, safety, playability, and appearance earned their facilities the Field of the Year honors. The Awards are presented for top maintenance of natural playing surfaces and support facilities in four major sports areas: baseball, softball, football and soccer, and are the highest honor STMA bestows upon a facility.

The Dell Diamond of Round Rock, TX, home of the Round Rock Express, earned the 2001 STMA Baseball Field of the Year Award in the Professional division. Dennis Klein, head groundskeeper for The Dell Diamond, and his staff manage the Dell Diamond's maintenance program.



Patriot Field of the Putnam City Schools Putnam City West, Oklahoma City, OK, earned the 2001 STMA Baseball Field of the Year Award in the High School/Parks and Recreation division. Rick Newville, baseball coach, was in charge of this field maintenance program.

Samford Field of Samford University, Birmingham, AL, earned the 2001 STMA Softball Field of the Year Award in the College/University division. Joe Collins, sports turf manager for TruGreen Land Care/Samford University, manages this program with the support of his staff.

The McInnish Softball Complex of the City of Carrollton, TX, earned the 2001 STMA Softball Field of the Year Award in the High School/Parks and Recreation division. Andy Babbitt, athletic manager, and Mason Ward, athletic supervisor, and their staff are key to this facility's program.

The Soccer Stadium of Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA, earned the 2001 STMA Soccer Field of the Year Award in the College/University division. Kevin Yeiser, director of grounds and athletic facilities for the College, and staff members Keith Evans and Peter Petrov, are key the field maintenance program.

The Muscatine Soccer Complex of Muscatine, IA, earned the 2001 STMA Soccer Field of the Year Award in the Parks and Recreation division. This facility's program is managed by Kevin Vos, CSFM (Certified Sports Field Manager), supervisor of the athletic facility.

The University of Virginia's David A. Harrison III Field at Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, VA, earned the 2001 STMA Football Field of the Year Award in the College/University division. Jimmy Rodgers, sports field manager for the University, oversees and coordinates this facility's maintenance program.

The Rush/Henrietta Central School's Elmer Gordon Stadium football field in Henrietta, NY, earned the 2001 STMA Football Field of the Year Award in the High School/Parks and Recreation division. The maintenance program of this facility is managed by John Gaffney, head groundskeeper for the schools, and his staff.

Entrants must supply information on the design of the facility, the uses of the facility that impact the playing surface, the organization of the maintenance program and innovative solutions used to overcome playing surface problems. Photos of specific areas of the field must be provided to document the playability and appearance of the playing surface.

## Founders Awards

Dan Douglas, stadium grounds superintendent for the Reading Phillies Baseball Club in Reading, PA, received the 2001 Harry C. Gill Memorial Award, one of STMA's four Founders Awards, the highest awards issued by the association. Harry Gill was STMA's second president, serving from 1982-1983. His commit-



The Sports Turf Managers Association's SAFE Foundation awarded scholarships to these winners at the Annual Conference in January: (front row l to r) Lisa Lundberg, Tim Vanloo, William Casey Reynolds, Justin Peolquin, Michelle DaCosta, and Marcus Dean; (back row l to r) Todd Rinehart, Don Frantz, Greg Elliott, Matthew McQuaid, and James Newberry.

ment to the sports turf industry and his support of the goals and standards on which STMA is based are legendary. The Gill Award denotes an individual's long-time service and commitment to STMA and those same goals and standards.

Dan Douglas was not only recognized for his commitment to excellence in his sports turf management program's focus on the safety and playability of the Reading Phillies baseball field, but also for his outreach efforts within the sports turf industry. He has been instrumental in the formation and development of the KAFMO Chapter of STMA; serving as Chapter President and guiding its leadership team. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council and sits on several state Advisory Committees.

## Dick Ericson Award

The 2001 Dick Ericson Award was presented to Heather Nabozny, head groundskeeper for the Detroit Tigers Baseball Club. It was named for Ericson in honor of the significant contributions that he has made to STMA, including serving as its first President in 1981-1982, and his continuing impact in raising the level of professionalism within the industry. This Award is issued to someone who is planning and executing the sports turf management of their facility and represents the ideals established by Ericson. Nabozny has developed her leadership role in sports turf management, serving as head groundskeeper for the West Michigan Whitecaps in Comstock Park, MI, before moving to her current position as the first female head groundskeeper in Major League Baseball.

Nabozny actively promotes the networking aspect of sports turf management. She has been an active member of STMA for a number of years and supports both the national STMA and the Michigan Chapter. She has hosted events and individual visits at her facility to assist in the education and training of other sports turf managers.

## Daniel Award

Dr. Coleman Y. Ward, professor emeritus of Auburn University, was honored as recipient of the 2001 Dr. William H. Daniel Award. This Award was named for the late Dr. Daniel in behalf of his pioneering efforts and long-term support of STMA. The pattern he set for the partnership between the educators in this industry and the sports turf managers who incorporate the knowledge, training, and research advances in practical, on-the-field applications is key to the progress that has been made, and continues to be made, in providing better and safer sports turf areas.

Dr. Ward has been an educator, resource, and mentor in the turf industry, both during his pre-retirement years, and just as strongly in his post-retirement years. He has been a supporter of the sports turf industry recognizing the special needs of the profession and

working to coordinate and facilitate the spread of information among industry professionals and among those entering the industry. He also has worked to help gain recognition of the sports turf factor within the general turf industry and the entire green industry, with field user groups, facility owners and managers and the general public.

## George Toma Award

Terry Nance, horticulture instructor for Cape Fear High School near Fayetteville, NC, received the George Toma Golden Rake Award, named for one of STMA's Founders, George Toma, whose work with the National Football League on Super Bowl field preparation has made him one of the Association's most high profile members. Besides being one of STMA's Founders, Mr. Toma is also a long-time STMA supporter, who has served, and continues to serve, as a mentor for many of those in the sports turf industry.

The recipient of this Award is someone who is on that quest to reach their goals and is demonstrating the "and then some" spirit which is so much a part of Toma's approach to sports turf management. Nance has demonstrated the "and then some" factor in building the school's agriculture program from one that maintained approximately 70 students and one instructor, to one that presently contains over 200 students and two instructors. He continually looks outside the box to give his students the competitive edge they need for career training in the horticulture and sports turf industry. He is the only instructor in the 35-county Eastern Region of North Carolina that provides a Career Day for his students.

## Outstanding commercial affiliates

Awards of special recognition also were issued at the Conference. Recipient of the Outstanding Commercial

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# Field slopes

Can you comment on ideal grading of a full size soccer field? Information I've found so far indicates 1% or less grade across the width of the field. A landscape architect's design plan grading print for a new sports complex in our park has 1.5-% grade slope, sloping from center of the field toward the goals.

I know they should be as flat as possible and I think the slope should be from centerline of the field toward the sidelines. Any references you could suggest, or input from your experience would be very useful before they start moving dirt.

—Parks and Recreation Department  
Indiana

**Y**ou raise an interesting question, one that I had not heard before. I agree with your assessment but thought I should at least consider your architect's point of view. I did a quick search to see if I could find any athletic field construction reference that suggested a field be built with the slope toward the "narrow ends of the field" since I have never seen a field purposely designed to slope from the center toward the goals, without some slope to the sidelines. I could not find a recent reference suggesting a field layout as you described.

Everything that I found suggested that fields be sloped from the middle to the sidelines. This design is often called a "crowned" field. To provide a higher level of drainage, an additional crown may be installed starting about 20 to 30 yd. in from the endlines or endzone (e.g., turtle back or hipped-roof drainage designs). Sidelines may

or may not be level. These designs provide additional drainage without significantly altering the field's playing characteristics.

Most fields are crowned down the longitudinal axis of the field to promote drainage. If the soccer field is sand-based then a 1-% slope is more desirable than more. I would not want more than a 1.5% on a soccer field and then only if the soil is a heavier soil (poorer subsurface drainage). Soccer players prefer flat fields to minimize ball deflection as it rolls across the field surface. Most flat fields need an installed drain system within the field to prevent them from becoming too wet or to at least aid in water removal from the surface. Most flat fields are also built with a high percentage of sand in the profile to promote rapid movement of water through the profile.

## Potential problems

I see three potential problems to the design you mentioned. One, with most of the game played "down" the field, you would have a lot of "running up and down the hills" as players crossed sides and it would be harder for them to get a feel for ball speed.

Second, the water movement would be toward the goals which already has enough wear problems from play. Excessive wear in the goal mouths often leads to depressions that naturally hold excess water. The wetter the area, the more opportunity for increased damage. The goal mouth is no place for standing water.

Third, in the design you mentioned, the water would have a greater distance to move to be off the field. In addition, you would have a greater volume of water per given field surface area if the middle had to drain toward the goals rather than toward the sidelines.

The crown from center to goal is a poor idea unless the lay of the land dictates that to be the only option to minimize the amount of soil that needs to be moved and/or it is required for off-site water removal. Catch basins may alleviate that need if strategically placed to aid in water removal from a traditionally designed field with a longitudinal crown. This is the best time to address drainage, when the field is being designed and built.

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## Have Questions?

Send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email [glmi@ufl.edu](mailto:glmi@ufl.edu). Or, send them to Dave Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011, or email [dminner@iastate.edu](mailto:dminner@iastate.edu).

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Affiliate Award for 2001 was National Mower and Turfco Mfg. Inc. The Award was in recognition of the company's long-standing and continuing support of STMA. The company is a long-term advertising supporter of STMA's publications; helps support the annual Conference; and continues to promote professionalism within the sports turf industry.

## New Board members

STMA announced its 2002 officers and board of directors at the Conference. Moving from President Elect into the position of President was Murray Cook, SPORTSTurf Services, Columbia, MD. The following officers were elected to a 1-year term: President Elect—Bob Campbell, CSFM, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN; Vice President (Commercial)—Monty Montague, LASTEC, Liston, IN; Secretary—Mike Trigg, CSFM, Waukegan Park District, Waukegan, IL; and Treasurer—Tim Moore, CSFM, Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Silver Spring, MD.

Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, Sylvania Recreation

Corporation, Sylvania, OH, representing sports turf managers of Parks and Recreation facilities, was elected to a 2-year board position. Re-elected to 2-year board positions were: Mike Andresen, CSFM, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, representing sports turf managers of College & University facilities; and Dr. Tony Koski, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, representing those in Research, Extension and Teaching positions.

Continuing on the Board in the second year of their 2-year director positions are: Mark Razum, Colorado Rockies, Denver, CO, representing sports turf managers of facilities used by Professional teams; and Dave Rulli, Jeffco (Jefferson County) Stadium, Lakewood, CO, representing sports turf managers of other school facilities.

Vickie Wallace, Turf-Seed, Inc., Exeter, RI, was appointed by President Cook to fill the remaining year of the 2-year term as Board Representative of the Commercial membership vacated when Montague was elected as Vice President (Commercial).

Rich Moffitt, Moffitt and Associates and the St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis, MO, will serve in the Board position of Immediate Past President.

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**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information, contact: Chapter Vice President, Randy Buchanan, County of Henrico Recreation and Parks, via e-mail: [buc06@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:buc06@co.henrico.va.us) or at tel. 804-261-8213.

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:** For more information, call Richard Miller at 608-756-1150.

## Chapters On The Grow

**Las Vegas:** Plans for the formation of a Las Vegas Chapter also are moving forward. For more information, please contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: [rms@lvcva.com](mailto:rms@lvcva.com) or at tel. 702-386-7140.

**New York:** A chapter is forming in Central New York. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the National Soccer Hall of Fame. For more information, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: [Kevin@wpe.com](mailto:Kevin@wpe.com) or at tel. 607-432-2953.

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