

STMA honors cream of the crop in San Diego

Ken Mrock

Ken Mrock, Head Groundskeeper for the Chicago Bears, was presented the 2003 Harry C. Gill Memorial Award, essentially the Sports Turf Managers Association's "Man of the Year" award. Mrock also serves as a consultant for the Chicago Park District on the field management of Soldier Field, and to Olivet Nazarene University, the preseason-training facility for the Bears.

This Award was named for Harry Gill, STMA's second president, who served in that capacity from 1982-1983. His commitment 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.

Mrock's relentless pursuit for safer and better sports turf has long been apparent in his work. Always seeking better techniques, he's searched the nation and the world to incorporate the most efficient, effective, and up-to-date practices and procedures into his turf management program. The results of this commitment are apparent at the Bears' training facility and at the newly renovated Soldier Field. Mrock is not only recognized for his commitment to excellence in his sports turf management program's focus on safety and playability, but also for his outreach efforts within the sports turf industry. He is a Past Board Member of both the National STMA and Midwest Chapter of STMA and was a founding member of the Midwest Chapter. He was a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and played a key role in developing the plan that STMA is now using as a guide to a higher level of professionalism. He Chaired the STMA Bylaws Review Committee in 2003 and is the Chair of the STMA Ethics Committee.

Pam Sherratt

The 2003 Dr. William H. Daniel Award recipient was Pam Sherratt, Sports Turf Extension Specialist for The Ohio State University, and a member of SPORTSTURF's Editorial Advisory Board.

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.

Sherratt has done an outstanding job of representing sports turf managers in the state of Ohio and across the US. She has produced many beneficial research papers on sports turf and has initiated many new research "sports turf specific" projects at OSU. She has served as a speaker at sports turf conferences on the national, regional and state levels, and for numerous Ohio STMA Chapter workshops and field days, sharing in-depth technical information in a format that facilitates its practical application in sports turf management. In addition, she has reached sports turf managers worldwide through the development and implementation of the internet-based Sports Notes. She has worked with OSU facility to develop sports turf specific classes within the curriculum.

Jim Crawford

Jim Crawford, Grounds Manager for the McFarland School District of McFarland, WI, was presented the 2003 George Toma Golden Rake Award.

This Award was 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, 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.

Crawford has been manager of the athletic fields in the McFarland School District for the past 20 years. He oversees a staff of four in the management and maintenance of the stadium facility, track facility, four baseball fields, two softball diamonds, three soccer fields, and four general practice areas.

Crawford takes pride in providing the athletes with safe, high quality playing areas that enhance performance. He is open to new ideas and input, from field users as well as his peers, and seeks information from a variety of sources to continually upgrade his management program. He also readily shares his expertise with others, serving as a mentor to other sports turf managers.

Pat White

The 2003 Dick Ericson Award was presented to Pat White, Recreation Maintenance Supervisor for the Recreation Maintenance Division of the City of Hollywood, FL. The Dick Ericson Founders Award is issued to someone who is planning and executing the sports turf management of their facility and represents the ideals he established.

White began his work with the City of Hollywood in 1990, quickly moving through the ranks as laborer, groundskeeper, equipment operator, and maintenance technician before being named Recreation Maintenance Supervisor in 1998. He currently oversees the maintenance, care and preservation of approximately 114 acres of parks, which include baseball, softball, football, and soccer fields. White continually demonstrates his expertise in not only providing sound grounds maintenance practices and procedures for existing fields but also in providing input and direction for field renovation projects.

White has built his staff of 16 into a team focused on managing their program in an efficient manner. He has developed written field procedures, checklists and field evaluation forms to create a system by which this team can continually meet the goal of providing the best possible conditions for athletes of all ages and skill levels.

Alpine Services, Inc.

Recipient of the Outstanding Commercial Affiliate Award for 2003 was Alpine Services, Inc. N. Grove Teates, Jr., company president, and Judith H. Teates, company vice president, accepted the Award.

The Award was presented to Alpine Services 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; is a Silver-Level Chapter Sponsor, and provides support to many of STMA's 26 affiliated Chapters. Alpine Services continues to promote professionalism within the sports turf industry through educational outreach and training programs and the participation of company personnel in local, regional and national conferences and workshops.

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