

Remembering Dr. Henry Indyk

This past September STMA mourned the loss of Dr. Henry Indyk. Henry was instrumental in shaping many of today's STMA programs and services. You may recall the article by STMA Historian Dr. Kent Kurtz in the STMA's October Electronic Newsletter titled "Remembering Hank" in which he wrote, "It has been due to Henry's personal integrity and willingness to serve STMA for the benefits of others that made this man a legend."

Dr. Indyk was a professor at Rutgers University's Cook College in New Brunswick, NJ, for more than 30 years, retiring in 1990. During his tenure at Rutgers University, Henry was fully devoted to providing leadership in Extension activities relating to all facets of the turfgrass industry.

Dr. Indyk's impact on the Sports Turf Managers Association is immeasurable. In the early 1990s, Dr. Indyk was a true leader with vision and passion for this Association. He served as an STMA board member in many Board capacities. He received the prestigious STMA Henry Gill Award in 1994 and in 2000, STMA awarded him with an honorary lifetime membership. He was the inspiration for the STMA Certification program. Acting as the first chairman of the STMA Certification Committee, he led a team of sports field managers and educators to develop the Certified Sports Field Managers (CSFM) program.

Let me also share some personal experiences with Doc Indyk. He was a speaker at numerous state, national, and international conferences so he definitely was not a stranger to many STMA Conferences. I recall attending Dr. Indyk's presentations on soils and water and soil management and fertility at several of the STMA Conferences. I remember Dr. Indyk beginning his workshop saying, "I have two hours to present a semester of information on soils...so let's get started." And he did just that, the two-hour workshop flew by and you came away with a wealth of information.

Many who attended his presentations would comment, "Spoke with knowledge, enthusiasm, and love for his subjects. Very knowledgeable, with a good mix of technical, practical and humorous information."

Also, as Conference Chairman for two years, I always received in late February or early March a letter from Dr. Indyk first congratulating me on a terrific conference program, followed by two pages of suggestions on educational topics and presenters for the upcoming conference.

Earlier this year, I received a personal handwritten note from Henry congratulating me on my Presidency and saying, "May you have much success in your leadership efforts to advance the mission of STMA."



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For me Dr. Henry Indyk was a mentor, a colleague, an educator, a supporter, and also a friend. I am honored to have known Henry Indyk. Henry will be missed, but his legacy will forever be engraved in the Sports Turf Managers Association.



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