

## From the Sidelines

# "Doc" Kurtz, 1940-2006



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**K**ent "Doc" Kurtz died in February after a short and courageous battle with cancer. Dr. Kurtz was instrumental in developing what is today the Sports Turf Managers Association, and served as Official Historian of STMA. He was employed as professor of Ornamental Horticulture by California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, CA for 36 years and consulted on many sports fields and golf courses around the world. Mike Schiller, CSFM, former president of STMA and a close friend of Dr. Kurtz, writes a wonderful tribute to his mentor in this issue (p. 39).

Mike says if you wish to donate to a memorial in Doc's honor, please contact the College of Agriculture, Cal Poly Pomona, 3801 West Temple Avenue, Building 2, Pomona, CA 91768, 888-232-9724 or agriculture@csupomona.edu.

Renowned turfgrass breeder Dr. Wayne Hanna recently was awarded the prestigious Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) Honorary Member Award, which is infrequently presented only to those who have "improved the turfgrass industry in a significant way."

His TifSport bermudagrass, released in 1996, has become the grass of choice for golf course fairways, tees and roughs. Dr. Hanna has another legacy, perhaps just as important as his breeding work. He has always made sure his grasses are grown, inspected, and sold under a rigorous set of rules and guidelines designed to promote on-going purity and uniformity. Dr. Hanna is currently working diligently on a new shade-tolerant bermudagrass, which he hopes to release in 2007.

Grass Stains Productions now has available all of their music videos, starting with "Like a Rock" from 2003 through this year's "Summon the Hero." All proceeds above costs benefit the SAFE Foundation. Available for \$8 each or all four for \$25. If you have not seen these videos they wonderfully capture the challenges, triumphs, and professionalism of turf managers everywhere. Contact Steve LeGros at 603-828-2586 or steve.legros@unh.edu.

Correction Dept. In our March issue on page 55 we ran the same caption twice in error. The photo at lower left is actually of Floyd Perry accepting the Dick Ericson Award from STMA president Mike Trigg, CSFM. Congratulations, Floyd, and sorry for the mistake.

In January we tagged another mower "ZTR" which is a registered trademark of Dixon. We learned something and apologize for the error.

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