

Making history



ERIC SCHRODER
Editor

eschroder@
m2media360.com
717-805-4197
P.O. Box 280,
Dauphin, PA 17018

The Sports Turf Managers Association will celebrate its 25th anniversary this month in Orlando at their annual Conference and Exhibition. *SportsTurf* will be featuring stories on the founding of the association and the men behind it throughout the first half of 2006.

One of those men is Dr. Kent Kurtz, who retired 1 1/2 years ago as Professor Emeritus from Cal Poly in Pomona after 35 years of teaching. After a heart attack in 2004, Kurtz took advantage of a "faculty early retirement program" that enables him to continue teaching one-third to one-half of the time. "I didn't want to sever ties with my students and research projects," he says.

Now, in addition to helping with community field renovations, he teaches from January to March only (eat your hearts out, Minner and Miller).

"In 1996 STMA President Mike Schiller appointed me as the Historian," says Kurtz. "I had worked with him for many years when he was a board member and he wanted to keep me active in the association.

"Mike recently reminded me of something (the late) Harry Gill once said, 'How do you know where you're going if you don't know where you've been?'"

Gill, groundskeeper for the Milwaukee Brewers, was at the meeting that essentially began STMA in 1981 at the Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City. Dick Ericson, groundskeeper for the Minnesota Twins and Vikings, the legendary George Toma from Kansas City, and Dr. Bill Daniels, from Purdue University, joined Gill. Toma credits Kent Kurtz with assisting greatly in the initial organization of STMA.

"In the 1967 I met Dr. Daniels as a student in one of his classes," Kurtz says. "I admired the man as my mentor.

"The first STMA meeting was at Purdue's Midwest Turf Conference in March 1981. Dr. Daniels was the first executive director and Erik Madison, Jr., of the National Institute on Park & Grounds Management was chosen Secretary," says Kurtz. "Seed money from the association enabled me to eventually begin a trade show and educational sessions here on the West Coast."

We asked Kurtz what he shares with students about his long history with STMA and the turf industry. "I tell them to treat people the way you want to be treated," he says. "And that when buying anything, whether it's seed, fertilizer, equipment, you only get what you pay for. Work hard and offer to assist your colleagues and peers when they need help to learn."

833 W. Jackson, 7th Floor
Chicago, IL 60607
Phone 312-846-4600
Fax 312-846-4638
www.greenmediaonline.com

The Official Publication Of The Sports Turf
Managers Association

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT Mike Trigg, CSFM
PAST PRESIDENT Bob Campbell, CSFM
PRESIDENT ELECT Mike Andresen, CSFM
COMMERCIAL V.P. Victoria Wallace
SECRETARY Abby McNeal, CSFM
TREASURER Chris Calcaterra, CSFM
STMA BOARD MEMBERS Tra Dubois,
Darlan Dally, Dr. Dave Minner,
Lance Tibbetts, George C. Trivett, CSFM,
Jay Warnick, CSFM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Kim Heck

STMA Office

805 New Hampshire Suite E
Lawrence, Ks 66044
Phone 800-323-3875 Fax 800-366-0391
Email stmainfo@sportsturfmanager.com
www.sportsturfmanager.org

Editorial

GROUP PUBLISHER Steve Brackett
EDITOR Eric Schroder
ART DIRECTOR Kathleen Sage

STMA Editorial Communications Committee

Mike Andresen, CSFM, Iowa State
Chris Calcaterra, CSFM, Peoria, Az
Jeff Fowler, Penn State Extension
Dr. Dave Minner, Iowa State
Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, Sylvania, Oh
Pam Sherratt, Ohio State Extension

SportsTurf (ISSN 1061-687X) (USPS 000-292) (Reg. U.S. Pat. & T.M. Off.) is published monthly by Bev-AI Communications, a m2media360 company at 833 W. Jackson, 7th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Sportsturf*, P.O. Box 2120, Skokie IL 60076-7820. For subscription information and requests, call Subscription Services at (847) 763-9565. Subscription rates: 1 year, \$40 US & Poss.; 2 years, \$65 US & Poss.; 1 year, \$65 Canada/Foreign Surface, 1 year, \$130 Airmail. All subscriptions are payable in advance in US funds. Send payments to *Sportsturf*, P.O. Box 2120, Skokie, IL 60076-7820. Phone: (847) 763-9565. Fax: (847) 763-9569. Single copies or back issues, \$6 each/US/Canada; \$9 Foreign. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, IL, and other mailing offices. COPYRIGHT 2006, *SportsTurf*. Material may not be reproduced or photocopied in any form without the written permission of the publisher.