

## STMA Highest Honors Presented

**S**TMA awarded its highest honors, The Founders' Awards, at the 17th annual STMA Conference and Exhibition, which was held in Orlando January 18-21. The awards, which are kept secret from the winners, were presented to four members during the annual awards banquet Friday, January 20. The awards are named in honor of STMA's founding members: Dick Ericson, Dr. William H. Daniel, George Toma and Harry C. Gill.

Floyd Perry, owner of Grounds Maintenance Services in Orlando, received the Dick Ericson award, which is given to a sports turf manager who positively impacts the sports turf industry and exhibits effective team leadership. Jeff Fowler from Penn State Cooperative Extension received the Dr. William H. Daniel Award, which acknowledges his significant contributions to the sports turf industry through research, teaching and extension outreach. The George Toma Golden Rake Award, which acknowledges an individual's strong work ethic and job performance, was presented to Jim Wiggins from the Tomball Texas Independent School District in Tomball, TX. The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was presented to Bob Christofferson of the Seattle Mariners. The Gill Award recognizes an individual for their hard work in the sports turf industry and acknowledges their dedication and service to STMA.

Perry has owned and operated Grounds Maintenance Services since 1992, and has devoted his time and energy to the motivation, education, and training of those involved in athletic field maintenance. Traveling to all 50 states to deliver presentations, Perry is much in



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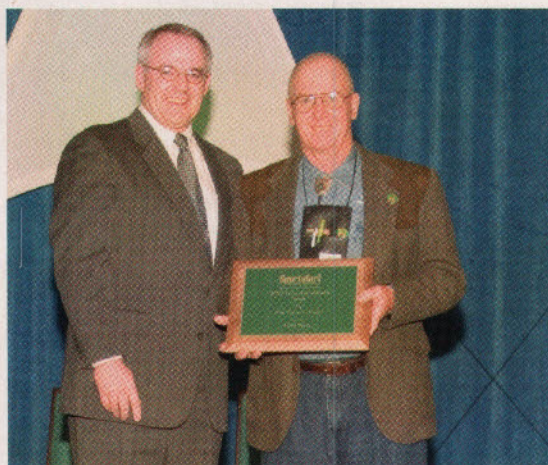


2005 Dr. William Daniels Award winner Dr. A.J. Powell presents this year's award to Jeff Fowler.

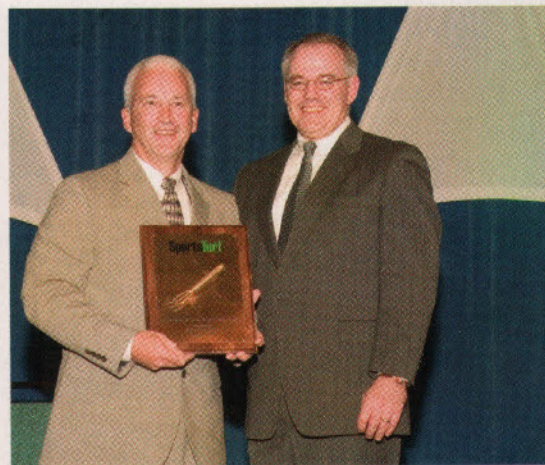
demand as a public speaker. He also serves as an athletic field consultant and is involved in contract service work for athletic field refurbishing in Central Florida. He served as the head groundskeeper for the softball venue for the 1996 Summer Olympics in Columbus, GA. Before forming his own company, Perry was employed for 5 years as the Director of Baseball for the Boardwalk and Baseball theme park in Baseball City, FL. From 1971 to 1987, he was the head baseball coach and facility coordinator at Valencia Community College in Orlando. He has authored four groundskeeping pictorial guides and produced a three-part video presentation that highlights timesaving techniques for baseball, softball, soccer and football field maintenance.

Fowler is the County Extension Director for Venango and Forest Counties in northwest Pennsylvania. He has been working for The Pennsylvania State University as a County Extension Educator since 1988. He has his Bachelors Degree from Delaware Valley College and his Masters Degree from Penn State. Fowler is the editor of the quarterly newsletter, "Between the Lines," which is published by the Pennsylvania Chapter of STMA. He serves on the Board of Directors for Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (Pennsylvania Chapter of STMA), as well as serving on many boards including the Red Cross and the United Way-Funds Distribution. He and his wife have one child, 11-year-old Evan. Fowler is a volunteer for his local Little League and also volunteers at the Little League World Series

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Ostma@aol.com. You can also visit our new website at [www.ostma.org](http://www.ostma.org). The new OSTMA address is PO Box 3426 Dublin, OH 43016.

**Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Matt Johns at 253/445-4538 or [mjohns@puyallup.wsu.edu](mailto:mjohns@puyallup.wsu.edu).

**Southern California Chapter:** For information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, call the Chapter Hotline at 888/578-STMA (578-7862) toll free in Southern California or 760/226-8873 or Michael Tarantino at 858/679-2526 or

by e-mail at [MTarantino@powayusd.com](mailto:MTarantino@powayusd.com).

**South Carolina Chapter of STMA:** For information on the South Carolina Chapter or upcoming events contact Trent Hale, Ph.D. at 843/662-3526 ext. 206 or by e-mail at [tchale@clmson.edu](mailto:tchale@clmson.edu) for more information or visit our website at [www.scstma.org](http://www.scstma.org).

**Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Texas Chapter contact T. J. Thompson, President-Elect at [txturfmanager@1scom.net](mailto:txturfmanager@1scom.net) or 972/670-2138 (m).

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVST-**

MA): For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, call Chapter President, Al Ray at 931/388-0303 or by e-mail at [ARay@maurycounty-tn.gov](mailto:ARay@maurycounty-tn.gov).

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Virginia Chapter or upcoming events, please contact VSTMA President Bob Studholme of the Fairfax County Park Authority at 703/324-8590 or [robert.studholme@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:robert.studholme@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Wisconsin Chapter or other pending events, contact Chris Brindley at

715/346-3622 or [cbrindle@uwsp.edu](mailto:cbrindle@uwsp.edu).

## FORMING CHAPTERS:

**North Florida STMA Chapter:** For information on the newly forming North Florida Chapter, contact Mark Clay at 904/633-6116 or Jay McCord at 904/448-2583.

**Idaho STMA:** For information, contact Greg Liggett, at 208/496-2421 or email him at [liggett@byu.i.edu](mailto:liggett@byu.i.edu).

**Nevada STMA Chapter:** For information, contact Corey Angelo at 702/433-3113 or by e-mail at [sls654ASCM@lesco.com](mailto:sls654ASCM@lesco.com).

## STMA in Action

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on the grounds crew. He is a Third-generation County Extension Educator, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. Fowler's educational programs and research are focused primarily in the area of turfgrass management and athletic field safety. He has visited hundreds of fields providing recommendations on making the playing surfaces safer, and has given presentations all over the Northeast. He serves as the chair of the editorial sub-committee for *SportsTurf*, has been on the program planning committee for the STMA annual conference, and is currently serving on the education committee.

A 15-year employee of the Tomball ISD, Wiggins has been the school district's athletic grounds supervisor for the past 4 years. He oversees the field and practice areas for football, baseball, softball, soccer and tennis. His softball and baseball fields received 2004 Field of the Year honors from the Texas Turfgrass Association. The softball field was also named the 2004 National Fastpitch Coaches Association/Turface High School Field of the Year. In 2005, the football field was honored as the Texas Turfgrass Association's Field of the Year. Wiggins also devotes time as the clock operator for football games and both boys and girls basketball games. He volunteers his time to community organizations by preparing the practice areas for the local Little League and for Tomball's developmental children's version of Special Olympics. He attended and played baseball at

Rose State College (formerly Oscar Rose Junior College) and also attended the University of Oklahoma. Jim and his wife, Cheryl, have two children, Shannon and Nick, who are his constant supporters.

Christofferson is entering his seventh season as head groundskeeper for the Seattle Mariners at Safeco Field. During his tenure, Safeco Field has been host to the 2001 All Star Game, American League Playoff games, an NCAA football bowl game, and World Cup qualifying soccer matches. Previously, he spent 20 years in the Pacific Coast League in Tacoma in a dual role as Stadium Manager and Head Groundskeeper at Cheney Stadium. In 1992, MLB presented Christofferson with its first-ever PCL Groundskeeper of the Year Award, which he received again in 1998 and 1999. He has been a member of STMA since 2001 and serves on the Conference Committee. He was instrumental in developing the Pacific Northwest Chapter of STMA and was its first president from 2001 through 2004.

The STMA Conference and Exhibition brought more than 1,000 conference attendees, an association record high, to Orlando for classroom and hands-on education. This was a 10 percent increase in attendance from the 2005 conference in Phoenix. Integral to the conference was the 86,000-square foot exhibition that showcased the sports turf industry's products, services, and equipment of more than 155 companies. ■