

## President's Message

# Our Hall of Fame

**T**he STMA National Conference is just around the corner! Abby McNeal, CSFM, and the Conference Committee significantly increased the amount of educational offerings over past years. What has always been a great value for sports turf management professionals is now even greater! You'll be hearing more in the near future.

The most exciting single point of the conference for me is attending the Awards Banquet. Seeing friends, colleagues, and crews being recognized for "jobs well done" is very gratifying. Most will be too shy to show the awards off back home, but showing our appreciation for their leadership is what the night is all about. The Banquet is now done in true awards show format, which allows full focus on our stars for that night. It is a privilege to just be in the room.

STMA's highest honors are the Founders Awards. Each of the four awards is named for one of our original founders: Dick Ericson, George Toma, Dr. Bill Daniel, and Harry C. Gill. Each award has specific criteria that reflect attributes of its namesake. The Founders Award winners are identified and nominated by you! What a great opportunity to shine STMA's brightest light on someone who has enriched you, your chapter, your association, and your profession. The Banquet is the one night we honor a few of the real giants that have made a positive impact on people. I would say "people in our industry," but with the Founders Awards we're honoring members who have

impacted far more than just our industry. It is with tremendous and often times tearful pride that we salute four individuals who have changed how the world views Sports Turf Managers. The Founders Award winners are our Hall of Famers!

Please visit the website ([www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org)) before November 1 to nominate an individual that has made a difference in your life. The



**Mike McDonald, CSFM, winner of the Dick Ericson Award, pictured with Mike Trigg, CSFM, at last year's STMA Banquet.**

criteria for each award are available with a single click of the mouse. Nominations can be done electronically and need to include your testament about why the nominee deserves the recognition. A simple name won't do! The Awards Banquet will be the highlight of your year – just as it is mine.



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