

Nominate a peer!

" ___ really helped me get my start in turf management."

"I consider ___ to be a strong supporter of the sports turf management profession."

"All I have to do is ask, and ___ is always willing to share ideas and field management practices with me."

More than likely, you could fill in the blanks above with names of those who have been influential in your professional career and have helped to make the industry stronger. The names that come readily to mind are ideal nominees for an STMA Founders' Award. The four Founders of STMA—Dick Ericson, George Toma, Dr. William Daniel, and Harry Gill—each brought unique qualities and perspectives to create a strong and enduring association. To recognize the contributions of these special men, an Award has been established in each Founder's name that reflects his interests and passions, and is awarded at the STMA Annual Conference. We invite you to nominate a deserving individual who meets the criteria noted below and to encourage your peers to nominate the same person.

The Dick Ericson Award

Dick Ericson served as STMA's first President in 1981-1982. He continues to have an impact in raising the level of professionalism within the industry. To honor all that Ericson has achieved and to continue the focus on effective management and increased professionalism within the sports turf industry, the Dick Ericson Award is given to someone who plans and executes the sports turf management of their facility, who effectively leads their team to accomplish their goals in field maintenance, and who positively impacts the sports turf industry.

Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- At least 5 years of service in a sports field-related position
- Member of STMA
- Job performance and work ethic that consistently meets or exceeds expectations
- Management techniques that make the most of existing resources
- Efficient and effective personnel management
- Constantly improves the management program, introducing creative and innovative ideas to enhance the field management program
- Receptive to ideas and creative skills of staff members and other industry professionals
- Supportive of and works to increase professionalism within the sports turf industry

Dick Ericson Award past recipients*

- 2007 - Donald Fowler, PSU Extension (Retired) (PA)
- 2006 - Mike McDonald, CSFM, Turf Manager, University of Minnesota
- 2005 - Floyd Perry, Owner, Grounds Maintenance Services, Orlando (FL)
- 2004 - Steve LeGros, GCA Service at the University of New Hampshire (NH)
- 2003 - Pat White, City of Hollywood (FL)
- 2002 - Eric Adkins, CSFM, Michigan State University (MI)
- 2001 - Heather Nabozny, Detroit Tigers (MI)
- 2000 - By Hanson, Jefferson County Public Schools (CO)

1999 - G.C. (George) Trivett, Granite Falls Middle School (NC)

1998 - Ross Kurcab, Denver Broncos (CO)

1997 - Merton Johnson, Cal State/Fullerton (CA)

*Facility listed is where employed at time of award. Check Roster for current listing

George Toma Golden Rake Award

George Toma continues to serve as a mentor for many of those in the sports turf industry. He emphasizes the importance of the entire crew in effective sports turf management. He also has proven that starting from the ground up, it's possible to achieve your highest goals—if you love what you do and give it your all—and then some. To honor all that Toma has achieved and to keep the "and then some" spirit growing and thriving within STMA, the George Toma Golden Rake Award has been established. The George Toma Golden Rake Awards acknowledges the superior performance of a sports turf crew member in "on the job" activities and in community service.

Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Member of STMA
- At least 2 years of service in a sports field-related position
- Job performance that consistently meets or exceeds expectations
- Work ethic that consistently meets or exceeds expectations
- Offers ideas and brings creative skills to the department in a professional manner
- Assists in additional non-job related sports events and activities for the community
- Is a true believer in the "and then some" tradition of grounds maintenance

George Toma Golden Rake Award past recipients*

- 2007 - Tony Diaz, Waukegan Park District (IL)
- 2006 - Todd Jeansonne, Louisiana State University and Jeff Kershaw, West Baton Rouge Parrish School
- 2005 - Jim Wiggins, Tomball ISD, Tomball (TX)
- 2004 - Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame (NY)
- 2003 - James Crawford, McFarland Schools (WI)
- 2002 - Jesse Cuevas, Rosenblatt Stadium (NE)
- 2001 - Terry Nance, Cape Fear High School (NC)
- 2000 - Connie Rudolph, CSFM, Midway Stadium (MN)
- 1999 - Boyd Montgomery, Sylvania Recreation (OH)
- 1998 - Don Kelly, City of Rocky River (OH)
- 1997 - Timothy Burke, Town of Bethel (CT)

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Dr. William H. Daniel Award

Dr. William H. Daniel set the pattern for educator/researcher involvement in the Association. The partnership between the educators and researchers in this industry and the sports turf managers who incorporate the knowledge, training, and research advances in practical, on-the-field applications is key to providing better and safer sports turf areas. To honor

all that he achieved, the Dr. William H. Daniel Award (formerly the Excellence in Research Award) recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the sports turf industry through his or her research, teaching or extension outreach. The influence of the individuals in this segment of the industry may be highly visible or behind-the-scenes.

Criteria in Research area:

- Member of STMA
- Conducted research relevant to the sports turf industry
- Research enhanced the understanding of the sports turf industry
- Research has practical implications
- Research was published in a professional journal

Criteria in Teaching area:

- Member of STMA
- Developed and/or executed teaching programs relevant to the sports turf industry
- Teaching programs enhanced the understanding of the sports turf industry
- Teaching programs provide technical background and/or practical training
- Teaching programs channel outstanding individuals to the sports turf industry

Criteria in Extension area:

- Member of STMA
- Developed and or executed extension programs relevant to the sports turf industry
- Extension programs enhanced the understanding of the sports turf industry
- Extension programs provide technical background and or practical training
- Extension programs assist in improving quality of sports turf areas

Dr. William H. Daniel Award past recipients*

- 2007 - Michael Goatley, Jr., Ph.D., Turfgrass Specialist, Virginia Tech University (VA)
- 2006 - James McAfee, Ph.D., Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Texas A&M (TX)
- 2005 - Jeff Fowler, Penn State Cooperative Extension (PA)
- 2004 - A.J. Powell, Jr., Ph.D., University of Kentucky (KY)
- 2003 - Pam Sherratt, Ohio State University (OH)
- 2002 - David Gilstrap, Ph.D., Michigan State University (MI)
- 2001 - Coleman Ward, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Auburn University (AL)
- 2000 - Andrew McNitt, Ph.D., Penn State University (PA)
- 1999 - Donald Waddington, Ph.D., Penn State University (PA)
- 1998 - Steve Cockerham, University of California/Riverside (CA)
- 1997 - James Beard, Ph.D., International Sports Turf Institute (TX)
- 1996 - Kent Kurtz, Ph.D., (deceased) Cal Poly Pomona (CA)
- 1994 - Dave Minner, Ph.D., Iowa State University (IA)
- 1993 - John N. "Trey" Rogers, III, Ph.D., Michigan State University (MI)
- 1992 - Henry Wilkinson, Ph.D., University of Illinois (IL)
- 1991 - Steve Cockerham, University of California/Riverside (CA)
- (Note: The William H. Daniel Award was known as the Excellence in Research Award before 1997.)

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Harry C. Gill Memorial Award

Harry C. Gill was STMA's second President, serving in that capacity in 1982-1983. His commitment to the sports turf profession and his desire and efforts to nurture the young STMA organization are legendary among those who were fortunate enough to have known him. The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was established to honor an individual for their hard work in the sports turf industry and to acknowledge their dedication to STMA. Harry himself became the first recipient of the Award. Traditionally, nominations for the Harry C. Gill Memorial Award have been made by STMA members other than the nominee to acknowledge an individual for "long-standing service to the STMA."

The award itself is a rather unique piece of art, depicting a groundskeeper armed with the tools of his trade: a rake of hope; a hose of determination; a shovel of passion; a hoe of dedication; and a smile of spirited uncertainty as he rides off into the unknown atop a horse named Desire.

Criteria for the award:

- STMA Membership
- Dedication to the improvement of sports turf
- Outstanding ability and commitment to the sports turf industry
- Professional involvement and service to STMA on a local, regional and national level
- Professional leadership in promoting STMA, its members and the sports turf industry
- Contribution of written communications in articles, magazines, manuals, legislation and/or research

Harry C. Gill Memorial Award: STMA Groundskeepers of the Year*

- 2007 - Bob Curry, Covermaster, Inc. (Ontario, Canada)
- 2006 - Boyd R. Montgomery, CSFM, The Toro Company (MN)
- 2005 - Bob Christofferson, Seattle Mariners, (WA)
- 2004 - Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries (CT)
- 2003 - Ken Mrock, Chicago Bears Football Club (IL)
- 2002 - Ross Kurcab, CSFM, Invesco Field at Mile High (CO)
- 2001 - Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies (PA)
- 2000 - Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts - Extension (MA)
- 1999 - *Dale Getz, University of Notre Dame (IN)
- 1998 - John Souter, Turfgrass Consultant, Perthshire, Scotland
- 1997 - *Eugene Mayer, The Scotts Company
- 1996 - Greg Petry, Waukegan Park District (IL)
- 1995 - Gil Landry, Ph.D., University of Georgia (GA)
- 1994 - Henry Indyk, Ph.D., (deceased), Turfcon (NJ)
- 1993 - *Mike Schiller, Schaumburg Park District (IL)
- 1992 - George Toma, Kansas City Royals & NFL (MO)
- 1991 - James Watson, Ph.D., The Toro Company (CO)
- 1990 - *David Frey, Cleveland Stadium (OH)
- 1989 - *David Frey, Cleveland Stadium (OH)
- 1988 - Dale Sandin, Orange Bowl (CA)
- 1987 - *Mark Hodnick, Cal Poly Pomona (CA)
- 1986 - Kent W. Kurtz, Ph.D., (deceased) Cal Poly Pomona (CA)
- 1985 - Anthony Burnett, RFK Stadium (DC)
- 1984 - *Steve Wightman, Mile High Stadium (CO)
- 1983 - William H. Daniel Ph.D., (deceased) Purdue University (IN)
- 1982 - Harry C. Gill, (deceased), Milwaukee County Stadium (WI)

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FOUNDERS' AWARD NOMINATION FORM



Select the applicable Founders' Award:

- Dick Ericson
- Dr. William H. Daniel
- George Toma
- Harry C. Gill

Nominee's Name _____
Facility _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____
Supervisor's Name _____

Your Name _____
Facility _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____
Email _____

How do you know the Nominee?

Describe how the Nominee meets or exceeds the specific award's criteria. Give examples.
(You may prefer to provide this information on a separate sheet)

Thank you for your submittal.

Please return via mail to STMA Headquarters, 805 New Hampshire,
Ste. E, Lawrence, KS 66044 or via fax to 800-366-0391 by November 1, 2008.



Oriole Park at Camden Yards, courtesy of Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association

STMA goes to Baltimore

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is hosting its annual Congress and Exhibition October 14-18 in Baltimore, and STMA is involved in several ways. STMA is presenting two educational sessions and meeting with attendees from its booth on the trade show floor.

The Exhibition kicks off Wednesday the 15th mid-morning and closes Friday the 17th mid-afternoon. Typically, STMA's task as an exhibitor is to explain the benefits of membership in the association and sign up new members. But at NRPA the association's role takes a different direction than membership recruitment. STMA uses this opportunity to talk with employers of members—Directors of Parks and Recreation—and help to reinforce the importance of the sports turf manager to the facility. STMA positions the sports turf manager as the key person in protecting the safety of the athletes, recreational participants and fans. This translates to helping to limit liability for municipalities.

The association also stresses the importance of allocating sufficient resources to field management and provides information on how to support sports turf managers' continuing education, at the national conference

and through the certification program. CEO Kim Heck has attended NRPA each year since 2004, when she was hired to manage STMA. She says that recognition of the association has grown. "In 2004, many NRPA participants thought we sold synthetic fields, but by last year, participants would stop by the booth to say that their sports turf manager is a member of STMA," says Heck. "I think that we have made some solid progress within NRPA for being known as the association that offers value to their athletic field manager segment."

In 2007, STMA submitted two proposed educational sessions to NRPA and both were selected to be presented at the Congress. David Schlotthauer, athletic field manager at Brigham Young University, will present "Managing Athletic Events: Implementing a Safety Audit" Thursday the 16th from 8:30 – 9:45 a.m. His presentation will explore the benefits of conducting a safety audit and will actually walk participants through the process of conducting one. Later that morning from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m., David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP will present "Developing Community-Based Environmental Programs for Sports Fields and Parks. ■