

Who is in your "Hall of Fame"?

As you dive into this issue, please pay attention to the call for nominations for the STMA Founders' Awards. The STMA Awards Banquet at the national conference is an extremely exciting night. The association recognizes many deserving members that evening. The night is capped off with the presentation of awards named in honor of the original four founders of STMA. Each award has its unique criteria reflective of the award name-sake's values or passions.

I encourage each member to take a few minutes, read through the criteria for the awards and reflect on someone in your career who made a difference to you. Consider submitting a nomination and maybe enlisting peers to nominate the same person. Each of us has that one professional who turned on the light bulb or challenged us to expand our dreams and goals.

Receiving a Founders' Award is as high an honor as STMA can bestow. Until STMA offers enshrinement in some version of a Hall of Fame, the Founders' Awards certainly identifies four new Hall of Famers to the membership each year. Nominate a special person and be in San José on January 16, 2009, where we'll all learn more about four people who have enriched this profession and association.

Let me take a minute to thank Eric Schroder, this magazine's editor. Word on the street says it's rare for an editor to stay at one magazine for as long as Eric has been with *SportsTurf*. Personally, I'm in no hurry to give him up. A few years ago, the STMA Board on behalf of membership challenged Eric and the publisher to make this magazine a better tool for sports turf managers. We wanted more science, more meat and potatoes, more gloss and less fluff. Because this is STMA's official magazine, we want it to be a primary instrument to deliver education to members. We left the vision to Eric with little other direction. Eric accepted the challenge, identified a better way for STMA members to be part of the solution and has delivered!

I'm never going to be satisfied with everything in the magazine. As Eric will attest since he is the first to know, there have been times when I've been disappointed in something I've seen or read in *SportsTurf*. If you pull out an old issue and compare it to the product in front of you today, well, it's easy to see Eric is a valuable member of our team.

Credit also goes to those who've stepped up to support STMA and *SportsTurf*, but for now, I thank you, Eric. Eric turns to baseball metaphors regularly so I'll use an old one. STMA asked you to step to the plate in a critical situation for us, and you hit it out of the park. Your job parallels ours in a way. We don't know what it takes to do a job like yours, but we can tell when the job's getting done. Thank you for doing a great job, Eric!



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