

are compensated at a higher rate than non-certified, especially at the higher salary levels. Eighteen percent of STMA members make more than \$75,000. Twenty-seven percent of certified members make more than \$75,000.

In addition to higher pay, Koski says, "As employers begin to recognize the benefits of employing a CSFM, competition for the best jobs will give an edge to those who are certified." ■

Are You Ready to Test?

Those pursuing certification first have to accumulate 40 points to be eligible to test. Points are earned from formal education and experience or from experience only. Once 40 points are attained, applicants take a four-part exam covering agronomics, sports specific, pest management, and administration. Those successfully completing each section at an 80% pass rate achieve the CSFM designation. Recertification is required every 3 years, and it requires continuing education and industry service.

Use these charts to determine if you have the 40 points to qualify to take the exam.

Education	Education Points
Advanced Degree	24
Bachelor's - Turf Related	16
Bachelor's - Other Non-Turf	8
Associate's - Turf Related	8
Associate's - Other Non-Turf	2
No Degree	0

Experience	Experience Points
Head Sports Turf Manager	6 pts./year
Asst. Sports Turf Manager	3 pts./year
Sports Turf Crew	1 pt./year
**Golf Course Supt.	3 pts./year
**Asst Golf Course Supt.	1.5 pts./year

If you have any questions on your readiness, please contact STMA Headquarters, 1-800-323-3875. STMA also has a practice exam on www.stma.org; click on "Certification" to take that exam.

STMA awards its most prestigious honors

The STMA presented its highest honors, the Founders Awards, during the January Conference's concluding banquet. The awards are named after the four founders of STMA: Dick Ericson, Dr. William H. Daniel, George Toma, and Harry Gill, and each award has separate and distinct judging criteria. Those nominated are evaluated confidentially and independently by the STMA Board of Directors, and winners are not notified until their name is announced during the banquet.

Mike Tarantino from Poway Unified School District in Poway, CA 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. His nomination referenced his professionalism, team leadership, a commitment to improving the industry, and his contributions to STMA committee service.

Founder Dr. William Daniel set the standard for educator and researcher involvement in the STMA, and created a partnership between sports turf managers and educators and researchers. This award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the sports turf industry through his or her research, teaching or extension outreach. Dr. Grady Miller, North Carolina State University was presented this honor in recognition for his substantial research on sports field management techniques during drought conditions, his accessibility to sports turf managers and his authorship of numerous books and scientific manuscripts dedicated to the profession.

The George Toma Golden Rake Award, which acknowledges an individual's strong work ethic and job performance, was presented to David Reiss from Wasatch County School District in Heber City, UT. He is described as an outstanding turf man, an advocate of excellence and accountability in his profession, and his nomination acclaimed his enthusiasm and dedication to providing high quality sports and practice fields.

The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was presented to former STMA board president Bob Campbell, CSFM, from the University of Tennessee. The Gill Award recognizes an individual for their hard work in the sports turf industry and acknowledges their dedication and service to the STMA. Campbell was honored for his extraordinary commitment to the profession. His sports field management practices have raised the bar for all sports turf managers, and he is lauded as a mentor to many in the industry. His leadership helped to navigate STMA through turbulent times, and it is through his leadership that the association is strong and vibrant today. ■

Playing Conditions Index ready for use

STMA rolled out the Playing Conditions Index (PCI) package at its annual conference in January. In development for 2 years and piloted during 2008, the instrument is ready for broad use by the STMA membership.

Developed to assess the playability of your fields, the PCI is used to provide a snapshot of your fields' playability at a specific point in time. The continued use of the assessment tool provides invaluable information to the sports turf manager and can help guide field management practices, assist with communication to user groups, can help to substantiate the need for more resources, and as needed provides a way to provide information to the media relations department. The package contains a Media Advisory Bulletin with instructions to help convey information on field conditions and its effect on athlete performance to sports information professionals on game days.

