

Honor a peer

STMA's highest honors, the four Founders Awards, recognize those members who have made significant contributions to STMA and to the profession. Think about those who have made a difference in your career and the careers of your peers and nominate one or more for a Founders Award.

- The Dick Ericson Award is presented to someone who is actively involved in sports turf management, effectively leads their team to accomplish their goals, and who positively impacts the sports turf industry.

- The William H. Daniel Award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the sports turf industry through his or her research, teaching or extension outreach.

- The George Toma Golden Rake Award acknowledges the superior performance of a sports turf manager in "on the job" activities and in community service.

- 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.

To nominate an STMA member for a Founders Award, go to www.STMA.org, click on the Professionalism Tab, and then on Founders Awards. The nominations are due to STMA by October 16. The recipients of these awards are kept secret until announced at the STMA Annual Awards Banquet held at the annual conference and exhibition. This year's banquet will be on Friday, January 15, 2010 at the Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center in Lake Buena Vista, FL. ■

Field of the Year Awards application updated, available online

Now is the perfect time to begin preparing your STMA Field of the Year Application. The deadline for materials to be received at STMA headquarters is October 15. Visit www.stma.org to download a PDF of the application. It is also available in a Word document.

STMA's prestigious Field of the Year program is in its 18th year and is getting stronger every year. With record numbers of applicants the past 2 years, competition is stiff! But with hard work and diligence, each and every STMA member has a field that could become Field of the Year. STMA presents awards in baseball, softball, football, soccer, and sporting grounds categories at the Schools and Parks, College and University, and Professional levels.

Each Field of the Year Award winner is presented with a special plaque at the STMA Awards Banquet, held each year at the STMA Conference and Exhibition. This year, the Awards Banquet will be the evening of Friday, Jan. 15, 2010 in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. In addition to the plaque, each STMA Field of the Year winner will receive free conference registration, up to \$500 towards lodging at the conference, STMA signature apparel, and a feature article in the official publication of STMA, *SportsTurf*.

Take pride in your profession and submit your application for STMA Field of the Year and get recognition for your field and respect from your peers. Remember the deadline for materials to be received is October 15.

Feel free to contact Patrick Allen at STMA Headquarters, pallen@stma.org if you have questions about the STMA Field of the Year program. ■

Introducing a New Benefit that Keeps on Working for You

STMA is introducing a new membership benefit that extends your STMA membership for up to 6 months at no cost, if you lose your job. In this economy and with the national unemployment rate at a record high, we know that organizations are cutting back, which could adversely affect your job security.

STMA stands behind its members and will assist any member in any category that loses his or her job by continuing their STMA membership, at no charge for up to 6 months. This benefit relies on the honor system; if the member becomes employed during this 6-month period, the association assumes that he/she will pay the regular membership dues. This membership extension allows for continued access to very important job search benefits on the Members Only side of the website. You will be able to view job listings, post a résumé, access career information and actively network with peers using the on-line STMA Membership Directory. Your membership continues seamlessly, with all rights and privileges of your membership category.

There are very few rules. You must have been a member of STMA for at least 1 year. If you have not found employment after 6 months, STMA will offer to you an Affiliate Membership at the \$50 member rate.

STMA's membership year is calendar based, January through December. As this year draws to a close, if you are affected by a job loss, please call STMA to activate this benefit for the first 6 months of 2010.

The Membership Committee created this program and recommended its adoption to the STMA Board of Directors, who approved it at its Summer Board meeting. The Membership Committee members include Chairman David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, Darin Budak, CSFM, Joe Collins, CSFM, Stephen Crockett, CSFM, Alan Dungey, Dale Edmonds, Tony Leonard, Bob Marcotte, Nick McKenna, Marc Moran, David Reiss, Matt Tobin, and Jack Wasserbach. ■

STMA's Online Library is Growing

STMA has added several new publications to its collection of on-line resources. New to the collection are educational bulletins and website content.

- Educational Bulletins can be found at www.STMA.org, Members Only, Technical Resources

- Understanding Soil Tests. Soil test results can sometimes be confusing. STMA has developed a basic guide to help interpret what your soil's pH, nutrient requirements, CEC and base saturation all mean on the test results.

- Strategies for Managing Heavily Used Fields. Managing a heavily used athletic field can be a daunting task. While you may do your best to limit the number of events, the reality is that many times your field will host more activities than it can handle under your normal maintenance practices.

As athletic field managers, we are faced with maintaining quality playing conditions regardless of intensity of use. STMA has developed a resource to help you successfully manage heavily used fields.

- Field Management During a Drought. Managing turf during drought conditions can be extremely frustrating for sports turf managers. It is important to prepare your field and have a management plan for drought conditions before the weather turns dry. STMA has developed a technical bulletin that provides management techniques you can use to get your turf through drought conditions.

New website content can be found at www.STMA.org, Resources Tab, Technical Information

- Professional Resources. Staying organized and maintaining accurate records for all

aspects of your facility is essential for a successful program. John Netwal, CGCS, Director of Operations at North Scott Community School District, has created extensive records to keep track of field maintenance, equipment, budget, and employees. STMA has taken these records and created worksheets you can adapt to your facility to help organize daily and annual operations.

- Irrigation and Drainage. Irrigation and drainage are key components to any athletic field management program to maintain turf-grass health. STMA has added information to the website to help you understand how your field's rootzone affects water availability and water tables. Proper irrigation amounts and frequency, and drainage solutions are also provided. ■

STMA's international efforts are formalized

STMA has always had a small, but dedicated group of international members. These members have been seeking ways to organize their peers in their countries to better share information and advance the profession of sports turf management.

A Subcommittee of the STMA Chapter Relations Committee has been working this spring on a model that will allow STMA to recognize international groups. They developed an adaptation of an STMA chapter that allows these groups to operate in the spirit of an STMA chapter, but without the legal complexities of affiliating with STMA. Their recommendation to create International Affiliate Organizations was presented to the Board at its summer meeting and it was approved for implementation. International is defined as any country outside of the U.S. and its territories. To be recognized as an STMA International Affiliate Organization, the group:

- must be recognized as a business entity in their country and provide proof to STMA annually; develop

bylaws or other governing documents; and elect a Board of Directors.

STMA will not charge fees for this recognition, will share information and resources, list the organizations on the website, provide one membership to the President of each group, and will offer to these groups conference registration and education and training resources at STMA member rates.

STMA believes that reaching out to sports turf managers in other countries will strengthen the profession and provide a shared channel for learning that will benefit sports turf managers worldwide.

As part of the implementation process, the Board has asked the Membership Committee to explore developing an International Membership Category.

Members of the Chapter Relations Subcommittee include Chair Amy Fouty, CSFM, Chris Brindley, Dick Buelter, Mike Estlinbaum, Gerald Landby, Mark Lucas, Kevin Meredith, CSFM and Ben Polimer. ■

Alley joins DiVito in Minnesota

Albuquerque Isotopes Director of Field Operations Jarad Alley has accepted a position as Assistant Groundskeeper for the Minnesota Twins. Alley, who has been with the team since its inception in 2003, will join the Twins and be an instrumental part in the installation of the club's new field at Target Park, which is scheduled to open in Minneapolis next season.

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Through his seven years with the 'Topes, Alley oversaw all aspects of the field's maintenance, ensuring that the playing surface was one of the best in the Pacific Coast League. For his efforts, he was named PCL Sports Turf Manager of the Year in each of the last two seasons and last year was declared the best groundskeeper in Triple-A Baseball.

"We're extremely happy and proud that Jarad will get an opportunity to advance his career in Minnesota with the Twins," said Isotopes General Manager John Traub. "We're also extremely grateful for the hard work he put in through seven years to make sure the field at Isotopes Park was consistently pristine. His passion for his work and his attention to detail was a huge asset for our organization and we look forward to watching him excel in Minnesota." ■

Thank you, Class of 1998!

Congratulations to members celebrating 11 years of membership in STMA! It is with sincere appreciation that STMA acknowledges your support and commitment to the association.

Pablo Acevedo
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Larry Anderson
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Cheryl Naughton
cnaughton@m2media360.com
678-292-6054 Fax: 360-294-6054

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