

President's Message

Dr. Mike Goatley

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"Don't forget to remember"

I ACTUALLY SAID THIS AT A MEETING LAST MONTH, quite unintentionally, and soon after I had uttered such a thought provoking statement one of the attendees at the meeting told the moderator that he had a question for "Dr. Yogi Berra". Everyone laughed, and I told them that one had to be a deep thinker to truly understand what I was saying. The moderator, eager to chime in, quickly iterated that "deep" came to his mind too, but not in the context I was implying.

I start by remembering two great academicians: Kent Kurtz and Coleman Ward. Kent "Doc" Kurtz, who was remembered in the May issue of *SportsTurf* regarding the dedication of a field in his honor at Mt. San Antonio College in California field. Doc was a son of the Midwest, an internationally known academician, but I knew primarily of him from his prowess as a teacher and advisor of turf and ornamental horticulture students for more than 35 years at Cal Poly Pomona.

Dr. Kurtz played an important role as STMA's first executive director. Doc was cataloging the history of sports turf management and the STMA at the time of his passing in 2006, a task now undertaken by our Historical Committee. I never knew Dr. Kurtz the way that many of our "Founder's Generation" did, but when listening to STMA's early leaders, it does not take long to realize the impact Doc had on their lives and this profession.

Coleman Ward was an iconic figure in southern United States turf management and his research and outreach programs were the basis for many bermudagrass sports turf management programs. Dr. Ward started the turf program at Mississippi State, served as department head at the University of Florida, and went on to spend the majority of his professional career as Extension Turfgrass Specialist at Auburn University. There was no one who delivered a presentation like Dr. Ward—his distinctive drawl that drew upon his west Texas roots and all of his years in the south resulted in presentations that combined the best speaking traits of preachers, politicians, and educators.

As a young scientist, I found it thrilling and intimidating to share meeting platforms with Dr. Ward. Coleman continued to teach in his retirement years, and as presentations moved away from slides and overhead projectors toward PowerPoint, he called me asking if I would share my "modern" presentation notes. I was honored for his request. He sent me a hand-written thank you letter for the use of my notes that still resides on my bulletin board today. I lost track of Dr. Ward over the past few years and was saddened to recently learn that he had passed in February 2011. As indicated in his obituary, Dr. Ward was a "gentleman and a scholar".

The final thing to not forget to remember is the Regional Field Day in Cincinnati on June 26-27. The Ohio chapter and STMA HQ have developed another national-caliber educational program and exhibition at a regional level. Details are provided in this issue. Please join your peers in Cincinnati to renew acquaintances and make new friends.

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